

BRAZIL



Project description: Volunteers will spend the week building a cistern, a local technology for rainwater collection and storage, which will hold up to 16,000 liters. Activities will include cement preparation, construction of cement panels for the cistern structure, plastering, painting and installing water pumps. By the end of the week, you'll see the cistern to completion and families will be able to immediately begin using it to harvest and store water. This project is beginning-to-end, which makes it very special: on the first day, there's nothing but a hole in the ground, and through the work of the volunteers, the cistern is fully built by the end of the week. The impact on the lives of families is significant and long-lasting, as a well-maintained cistern can last between 20 and 30 years.

Why we build: Habitat Brazil has been working in this region for several years to help change the context of extreme vulnerability of the families. These families primarily engage in agricultural activities, earning significantly less than the minimum wage each month (about \$263 USD). The population requires comprehensive infrastructure improvements, with a particular emphasis on ensuring access to clean and usable water. The absence of water access compels women, children, and the elderly to undertake lengthy, several-times-a-week journeys to procure water for their households, which can span up to 2 hours each way. As a result of this situation, it is a common occurrence for women and children in the region to receive limited education, greatly diminishing their prospects for a more prosperous future. The use of contaminated water also significantly elevates the prevalence of diseases and other health-related issues. The Water for Lives project is dedicated to providing assistance to families in Pernambuco, enabling them to access safe and potable water through roof repairs/enlargements and the construction of cisterns.

Itinerary: Volunteers arrive at Recife International Airport (REC) on Sunday and drive for 2 hours to the city of Caruaru, where they will be accommodated. Each weekday, the team will make round trips of up to 1 hour to the build site, where they divide into small teams and work at different households. Learning exchange activities throughout the week may include visiting an eco farm in a community nearby. On Saturday, the volunteers will return to Recife to catch the flight back home.

