

Brazil: Servicio Anglicano de Diacono e Desenvolvimento (SADD) Project

The Challenge

In 2020, over one million cases of domestic violence and approximately 5,500 cases of femicide were pending before the Brazilian courts. Calls to a police hotline to report domestic violence increased by 16% and 3,913 women were reported killed.¹ Government policies that seriously threatened the rights of indigenous people while emboldening miners, loggers, and land-grabbers, meant indigenous territories continued to suffer illegal encroachment, with devastating consequences for communities and the environment.² In addition, while legal protections for LGBTIQ+ people are strong in Brazil, the country continues recording a high murder rate of LGBTIQ+ people as well as homophobia and transphobia across the country.

The Approach

Servicio Anglicano de Diacono e Desenvolvimento (SADD), the development arm of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil (IEAB) implements a project that trains and equips local leaders in preventing and responding to violence against women and children, while providing services for survivors. Focused on protecting the human rights of marginalized groups—including women and families experiencing violence, LGBTIQ+ people, indigenous people, and unhoused people—and elevating abuses, the project has a two-pronged approach:

1. Supporting community projects with marginalized groups, and
2. Advocacy within the Brazilian Church (IEAB).

Leveraging its local network of stakeholders, through community projects, SADD provides access to services, income-generating opportunities and support to survivors of violence. Community projects include vocational training and skills-building workshops geared at empowering and building long-term resilience of economically and socially marginalized groups. Support to survivors is done through referral to services as well as Casa Noeli, the project's support house.

Human-Rights Approach: *Safe Church*

SADD adopts a human rights framework, supporting projects to welcome unhoused people (right to food security), indigenous people (cultural and environmental preservation), women victims of domestic violence (right to life and security), people with HIV and STIs (right to health), and the wider community (the right to education and culture) with support for artisanal projects and income generation from the sale of what is produced.

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/brazil>

² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/09/brazil-indigenous-rights-under-serious-threat>

Through its advocacy work, SADD mobilizes faith leaders and communities to address and raise awareness on issues of gender, sexuality, and human rights in larger community settings and within the IEAB and ecumenical arena. It does so by training and mobilizing change agents, such as clergy and lay leaders, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, support LGBTIQ+ rights and speak up in order to end discrimination within their churches and communities—a concept SADD refers to as *Safe Church*. Through faith leader trainings and gatherings, as well as larger community mobilization and advocacy events, i.e., 16 Days of Activism, the project elevates the human rights and dignity of the most marginalized groups in Brazil.

2019-2022 Reach



2022 Results

- **3,200** people reached through community-based projects, i.e., opportunities for dialogue, coalition-building, and advocacy around preventing and responding to violence against women, upholding human rights, and inclusion and justice for LGBTIQ+ people
- **66** faith leaders completed the *Safe Church* training
- **120** women and families experiencing violence supported at the Casa Noeli shelter
- **390** VAWG survivors participating in food and/or income-generating activities, such as food production or handicrafts
- **139** VAWG survivors receiving counseling, medical care, legal and/or psycho-social support
- **280** women engaged in income-generating training and skill-development courses
- **568** people supported through social programs, including:
 - At-risk children and adolescents receive flute and violin lessons to prevent them from being on the streets
 - Unhoused people provided with food and hygiene inputs
 - Small-holder farmers, mostly from the Landless Movement, supported in income-generating activities, i.e., bakeries and other small shops.