

## BRAZIL

“The *quilombolas* of Brazil: Claiming a better future”

*Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal help fund this development effort in Brazil.*



In the *quilombola* communities of Brazil, the legacy of 350 years of slavery—and slavery resistance—lives on.

Between 1532 and 1888, millions of Africans were forced to work on Brazil’s sugar cane plantations. During that time, many slaves escaped and established autonomous communities in remote areas. Today their descendants, called *quilombolas*, still live together on the fringes of society. They do not own their land or houses, have little access to fresh water or electricity, are illiterate, and rely on subsistence farming and fishing to survive.

Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal are helping CAPA (the acronym for Family Agriculture Support Center) change lives in four *quilombola* communities.

Already they have achieved an important goal: claiming citizenship. Because most *quilombolas* lack the birth certificates and identity cards needed to be recognized as citizens of Brazil, accessing government resources has been difficult. Now, these four communities have formed councils to interact with government agencies. The councils have opened the doors to new housing, better sanitation, and supplies. *Quilombola* farmers are beginning to generate income by growing and selling organic potatoes and beans.

Working with CAPA, the communities’ next emphasis is capturing and strengthening their unique history and culture, honoring the legacy of the slavery-resisting *quilombolas*.

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