2025 Change Perception Survey Report

Habitat for Humanity® Brazil



2025




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JURASSIC PARK




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INTRODUCTION

Since 2021, Habitat for Humanity Brazil has been conducting the Change Perception Survey, which aims to assess the changes resulting from housing improvement interventions in the homes of beneficiary households across various projects implemented by the organization. The survey seeks to understand how households perceive changes related to the interventions made to their homes, encompassing both family dynamics and the household's daily routine.

Among the programs executed by Habitat Brazil is the "Water, Sanitation and Healthy Housing" program. Focused on upgrading living conditions in underserved communities and favelas, this initiative strives to expand access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and healthier and safer living environments. Under this program, we execute the Housing Improvements in Favelas and Water for Life projects. In urban areas, the primary interventions included: bathroom renovations, installation of new doors and windows and window/door frames, roof repairs, installation of water tanks, plastering, electrical system repairs, flooring installation, layout reconfiguration, wall waterproofing, and accessibility adaptations for persons with disabilities and individuals with reduced mobility. In rural areas, the focus was on constructing 16,000-liter cisterns and installing flooring.

Another key program is "Climate Adaptation and Disaster Response", through which we contribute to climate adaptation in communities and favelas, as well as disaster response, with a strong emphasis on restoring housing conditions to ensure safety and dignity. Complementarily, this initiative strengthens the public discourse by highlighting the critical role of adequate housing as a central element for building climate resilience in these areas. Within this framework, through the Socio-Environmental Disaster Response project, emergency housing repairs were carried out in the homes of beneficiary households affected by flooding and related disasters. We prioritize structural recovery, repair of floors uprooted by water pressure or swollen due to extremely saturated soil, repair of roofs damaged by strong winds and heavy rainfall, rehabilitation of water-damaged electrical systems, wall repair and waterproofing, replacement of damaged doors and windows, and painting. In wooden dwellings (a situation frequently encountered in Rio Grande do Sul), interventions included the replacement of wooden boards and cement boards, and repairing wooden walls, ensuring the sealing of gaps to provide thermal comfort.

METHODOLOGY

This report is based on an evaluative study utilizing a mixed-methods approach involving the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. Data collection took place between June 2025 and March 2026, with households being contacted between 3 to 5 months following the completion of the construction work.

- **Survey Scope and Nature:** Beneficiary households residing in urban or rural areas supported through Habitat Brazil during the 2025 cycle.
- **Instrument:** A structured form developed on the KoBoToolbox digital platform. Questions were customized and conditionally structured based on the specific type of intervention implemented in each property.
- **Procedure:** Structured interviews conducted via telephone contact by a team of contracted researchers.
- **Analyzed Variables:** Indicators were divided into four main axes:
    1. Environmental and individual health (housing conditions and residents' health);
    2. Functionality and infrastructure (access to water, hygiene, and cleaning habits);
    3. Psychosocial dimension (self-esteem, privacy, well-being, and security);
    4. Efficiency and accessibility (electricity savings, time optimization, and accessibility).

Data Processing and Analysis

A total of 430 surveys were administered. Upon collection, the responses were extracted from the platform for systematization and quantitative-qualitative analysis. This data processing aims to consolidate the annual change perception survey report, which serves as a tool for evaluating the potential impacts on the daily lives of beneficiary households supported by Habitat Brazil's programs.

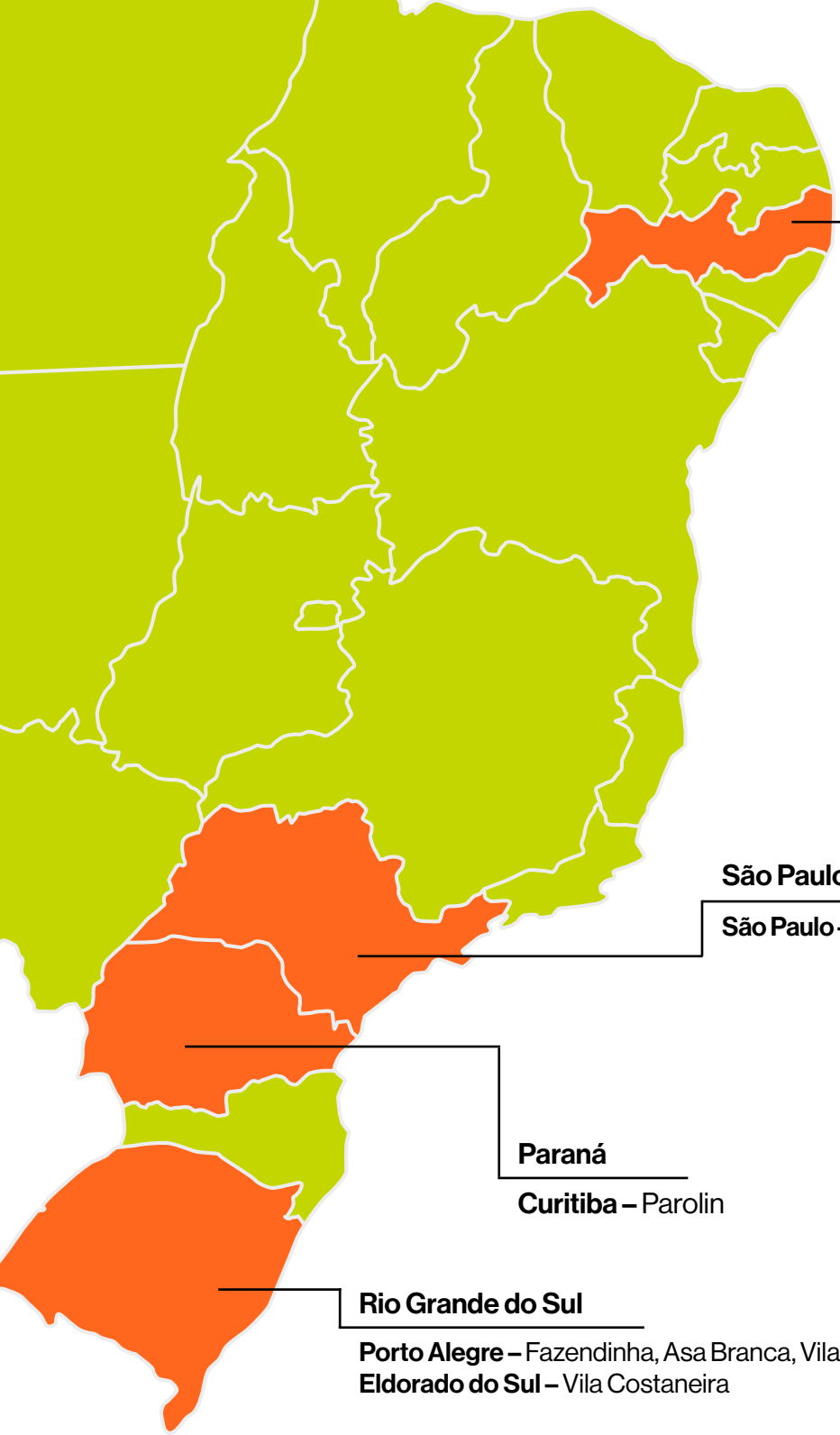
TECHNICAL DATA

Habitat Brazil Team Directly Involved in the Research:
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Surveyed Cities / Communities:
Porto Alegre – Fazendinha, Asa Branca, Vila Nazaré and Menino Deus – RS
Eldorado do Sul – Vila Costaneira – RS
Curitiba – Parolin - PR
São Paulo – Heliópolis and Boqueirão - SP
Recife – Coque and Passarinho – PE
Riacho das Almas – Sítio Xique-Xique, Sítio Areias, Sítio Barriguda - PE
Bom Jardim – Sítio Covoco and Sítio Pau Santo - PE
Salgadinho – Sítio Recreio, Sítio Melancia, Sítio Salobro I and II and Sítio Queimados - PE
Ipubi – Serra da Palma II and Serra do Valado - PE
Araripina – Serra do Simões - PE



Pernambuco

Recife – Coque and Passarinho
Riacho das Almas – Sítio Xique-Xique, Sítio Areias, Sítio Barriguda
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São Paulo

São Paulo – Heliópolis and Boqueirão

Paraná

Curitiba – Parolin

Rio Grande do Sul

Porto Alegre – Fazendinha, Asa Branca, Vila Nazaré and Menino Deus
Eldorado do Sul – Vila Costaneira

Surveyed Cities / Communities


ra vidas
na região do semiárido
MUNICÍPIO/ESTADO:
SALGADINHO/PE
LOCALIDADE:
SÍTIO RECREIO
ASA
1 Too Ma
2 Three
3 Ram On
Do you believe tha
Rock and Roll can
save your soul?
OK
9 Eat at
10 Ram On

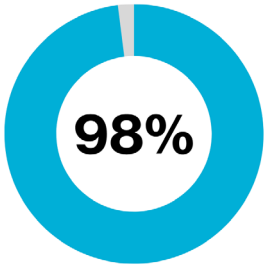
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

The survey analyzed **430 beneficiary households** and recorded a total of **2,067 interventions**. Virtually all households benefited from more than one intervention.

Main Interventions (By Category)

59% Doors, Windows and Ventilation: Installation of new doors and windows and window/door frames, and cobogós (hollow blocks) to increase natural light and airflow.
58% Painting: Renovation of internal and/or external environments.
45% Bathrooms: Construction or upgrading of existing bathrooms with new fixtures (toilet, shower, and sink), wall cladding, flooring, and electrical wiring.
44% Electrical installations: General repairs and network maintenance.
37% Roofs: Complete replacement or targeted repairs to eliminate rainwater infiltration.
31% Flooring: Installation and finishing.
29% Plastering: Application in internal or external areas.
21% Cisterns: Construction of rainwater harvesting and storage systems in rural territories.
10% Waterproofing: Treatment of walls and slabs against dampness and infiltrations.
7% Accessibility: Accessibility adaptations for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and individuals with reduced mobility, grab bars, handrails, and safety grilles.
92% Other housing improvements: Subfloor installation, layout reconfiguration, creation of new spaces, sanitary sewage solutions, ceiling installation, and water reservoirs and filters.

Out of the 430 responses analyzed, **98%** of the beneficiary households reported improvements to their homes post-intervention, and **94%** gave ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied) regarding the perceived change in their dwelling. These figures strongly point to the effectiveness of Habitat Brazil's housing programs in fulfilling their core objective of ensuring social protection, habitability, and the guarantee of rights for vulnerable households.



98% reported that their home improved after the intervention

94% gave ratings of 4 or 5 regarding the perceived change in their home

In terms of comfort and healthy living conditions, **96%** of participating households reported an increase in the property's levels of comfort and healthy living conditions. Housing conditions are a key social determinant of physical and mental health. Therefore, effective housing policies that promote safe, adequate, accessible, and quality housing are fundamental to promoting collective health in highly vulnerable territories.



96%

of participating households reported an increase in the levels of comfort and healthy living conditions

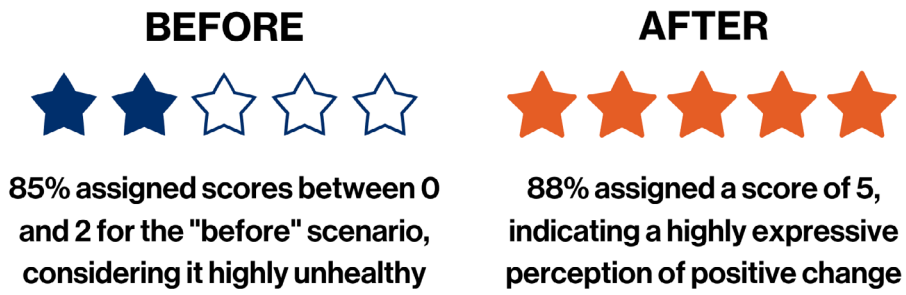
Among the 204 properties that received interventions related to the installation of new doors and windows and window/door frames, **96%** of households perceived an improvement in ventilation and natural lighting. This data is critical, as environments with mold, dampness, or inadequate ventilation are triggers for respiratory conditions such as asthma, rhinitis, and allergies.



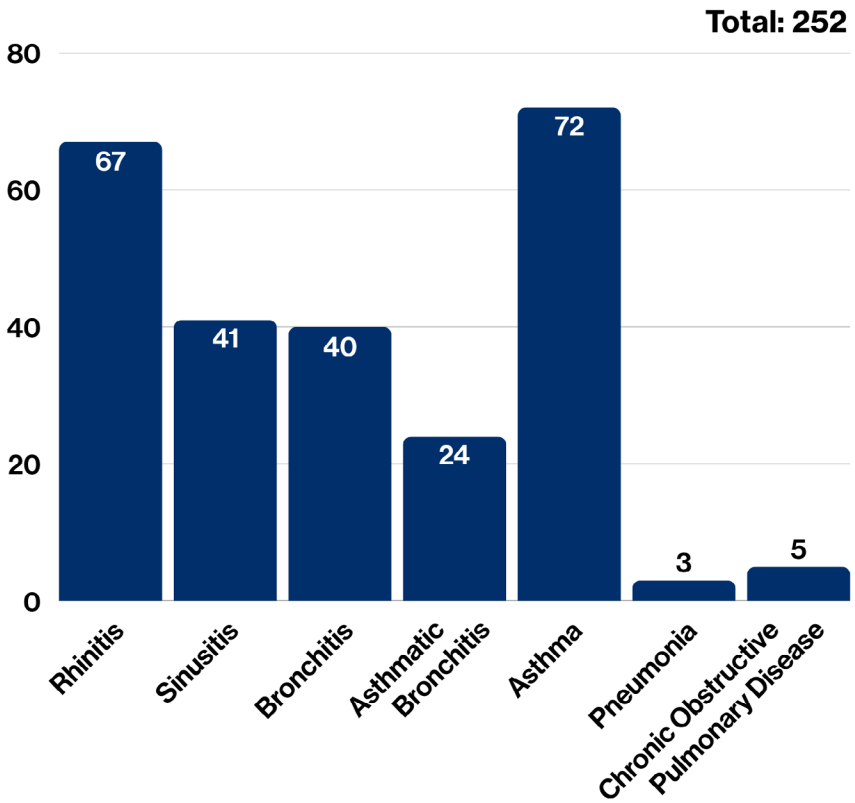
96%

perceived an improvement in ventilation and natural lighting

The heads of the surveyed households assessed their home environment before and after Habitat's interventions. **85%** assigned scores ranging from 0 to 2 for the "before" scenario — where 0 means highly unhealthy and 5 means highly healthy — and **88%** gave a score of 5 for the environment after the intervention, indicating a very strong perception of positive change.



We asked the heads of the participating households if they or any household member suffer from respiratory conditions: **41%** of the supported households have one or more members with respiratory problems. The main reported respiratory conditions are highlighted below:

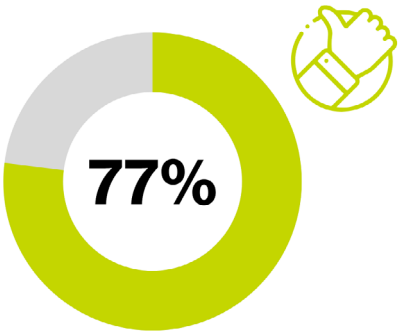


Among households with a history of respiratory conditions, **76%** reported improvements in respiratory symptoms following the completed interventions, with **91%** assigning ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied). A well-ventilated and illuminated environment, properly installed flooring, repaired internal plastering, and a functional roof are interventions that contribute to healthier living environments, which can promote health, especially regarding respiratory issues.

76% reported improvements in respiratory symptoms following the completed interventions

With 91% assigning ratings of 4 or 5 regarding the perceived improvement of symptoms

Among households with one or more members experiencing respiratory conditions, **77%** reported a perceived decrease in the frequency of symptoms caused by these conditions following the interventions. Furthermore, **92%** of participating households gave ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied) regarding the perceived decrease in symptom frequency.



77% reported a perceived decrease in the frequency of respiratory symptoms

gave ratings of 4 or 5 regarding the perceived decrease in symptom frequency.

The psychosocial impact was also significant: **96%** of participating households reported that the housing interventions contributed to improved self-esteem, primarily by providing a safer and more adequate environment for socializing and welcoming visitors. Enhancing housing conditions for the most vulnerable populations is not only a matter of social justice but also an essential means of promoting mental health and household well-being.



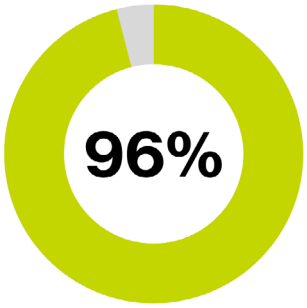
96% reported that the housing interventions contributed to improved self-esteem

Regarding the general perception of well-being post-intervention, **96%** of participating households gave ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied), indicating a highly positive impact on the beneficiaries' quality of life.

96%

gave ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied), indicating a highly positive impact on the beneficiaries' quality of life.

We asked if the interventions contributed to preventing certain types of communicable diseases: **96%** of beneficiaries believe the interventions helped prevent diseases linked to unhealthy living conditions. Among those who received cisterns, the perception of preventing waterborne diseases was **100%**. With a cistern, households can harvest rainwater, treat it at home, and thus access safer and higher-quality water, reducing the risk of illnesses transmitted by contaminated water.



96% believe the interventions helped prevent diseases linked to unhealthy living conditions.



Among those who received cisterns, the perception of preventing waterborne diseases was 100%

Of the 111 urban households who received water reservoirs, **100%** reported that access to reliable water improved. This resource is vital to mitigate the intermittent public supply, which is often irregular and scarce in many territories. The lack of water supply, coupled with the absence of a reservoir, leaves households more susceptible to certain types of diseases.



100%

reported that water availability and reliability improved

Household functionality also evolved: **94%** of participating households reported greater ease in maintaining and cleaning the property. Among those who benefited from bathroom improvement interventions, **97%** noted greater ease in executing personal hygiene activities.



94%

reported greater ease in maintaining and cleaning the property



97%

noted greater ease in executing personal hygiene activities

Of the 194 households benefiting from bathroom improvement interventions, the evaluation of the physical structure jumped from **89%** disapproval (scores 0 to 2) before the intervention to **95%** approval (ratings of 4 or 5) after the completion of the works.

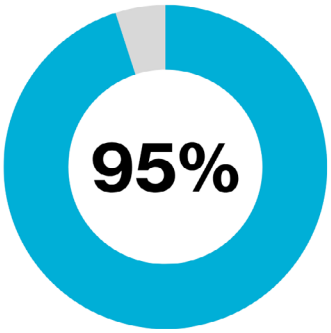


89% rated their bathroom structures with scores between 0 and 2 BEFORE the intervention



95% rated their bathroom structures with ratings of 4 or 5 AFTER the intervention

95% of heads of household reported that the completed interventions improved the perception of privacy within the household environment. The previous scenario was classified as critical by **85%** of participating households (scores 0 to 2). After the installation of new doors, functional frames, and layout reconfigurations (such as separating parents' and children's bedrooms), **90%** assigned the maximum score (5) to the new level of privacy. The absence of housing privacy is directly tied to the qualitative housing deficit.

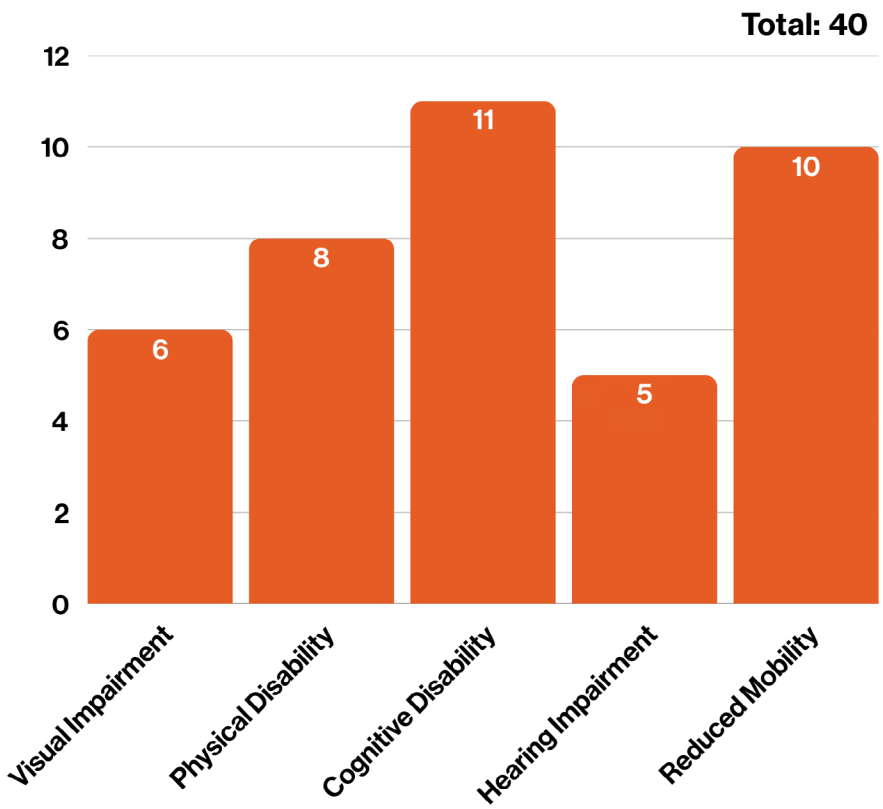


reported that the completed interventions improved the perception of privacy within the household environment



90% assigned the maximum score of 5 regarding their perception of privacy following the interventions

13% of households reported having one or more Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the household (totaling 40 cases across visual, physical, cognitive, auditory, and reduced mobility limitations).



Among participating households that received accessibility-related interventions, **91%** reported that the completed interventions improved the accessibility of the home. Of this group, **87%** assigned the maximum satisfaction rating (score 5).

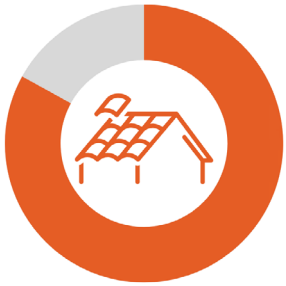


91% reported that the completed interventions improved the accessibility of the home



87% assigned the maximum satisfaction rating

Among the participating households that received interventions related to their property's roofing (repair or complete roof construction), **83%** gave ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied) regarding the improvement of their property's roofing, particularly concerning the containment of water seepage and leaks that worsen during the rainy season.



83% gave ratings of 4 or 5 (satisfied or very satisfied) regarding the improvement of their property's roofing

The 51 households that received interventions related to the creation of a new space and/or layout changes in their property were asked if the layout of their home had improved. **98%** reported an improved layout of their home relative to their household size. Within this same spatial reconfiguration group, **82%** indicated that the new environment generated more adequate spaces for studying.



98%

reported improved spatial distribution following the creation of a new space and/or layout changes in the property

82% indicated that the new environment generated more adequate spaces for studying



Among the 190 households that received electrical network interventions, **25%** have already noticed a reduction in their electricity bill. Of these, **64%** assigned the maximum rating (5) to the cost decrease, a decisive factor for the budget of households with a monthly household income of up to two minimum wages.



25% reported having already noticed a reduction in their electricity bill



64% assigned the maximum rating (5) to the cost decrease

In terms of security, **92%** of participating households reported that their homes became safer after the completed interventions. We asked those who reported a perceived improvement in home security to assign a rating from 0 to 5 (where 0 means no improvement and 5 means significant improvement); **90%** of these respondents assigned a rating of 5. Properties with adequate roofs, bathrooms in good working condition, functional electrical and plumbing systems, replacement of damaged doors and windows, implementation of water catchment systems with rural cisterns in semiarid areas, accessibility adaptations, flooring installation, grab bars, and handrails are some examples of interventions that provide households with safer, more functional, and dignified environments.



92% reported that their homes became safer after the completed interventions

90% assigned a maximum rating (5) regarding the property's security after the intervention



Among the participating households that received wall waterproofing interventions in their property, **78%** reported that the walls treated with waterproofing products remain damp-free. Dampness and mold stemming from infiltrations, whether from the ground or caused by flooding, leave the home in unhealthy conditions, particularly harming the health of individuals with respiratory conditions.



78% of households that received wall waterproofing interventions reported that the treated areas remain damp-free

For the 92 households residing in semiarid regions that received the construction of a cistern, **100%** reported gaining access to safer and higher-quality water, also indicating that this contributed to facilitating the performance of domestic chores. The closer availability of safe water facilitates household tasks, particularly in the kitchen and in the sanitation of environments, making the home more pleasant and creating healthier living environments.

100%

of households that received the construction of a cistern reported gaining access to safer and higher-quality water, also indicating that this facilitated domestic chores

A reduction in the travel time required to fetch water was also observed, as reported by **100%** of participating households. Previous data indicates that the task of fetching water from neighboring cisterns, wells, or reservoirs falls predominantly on the women within these households, consuming a considerable amount of time that could be reallocated to other activities. Many of these women wake up early, undertake long journeys, and sometimes must bring their

young children along. They frequently carry water up to twice a day from cisterns supplied by the Army or from neighboring properties. This improvement directly impacts the daily lives of the women historically responsible for this exhausting task in the semiarid region, freeing up time for self-care, education, and engagement in other activities, including income-generating employment. Furthermore, it promotes household well-being, security, and comfort for the individuals involved.



100%

of the families who received the construction of a cistern stated that the intervention reduced the time spent to fetch water from other locations

The water supply process in the semiarid region, which received a **93%** disapproval rating (scores 0 to 2) prior to the installation of the cisterns, recorded a **100%** maximum approval rating (score 5) following their construction. When this fundamental right is guaranteed, households feel respected and visible. Thus, promoting access to water is a critical step in ensuring dignity for these beneficiary households. Many reported that, in addition to the long journeys required to fetch water, they frequently found it in inadequate conditions, sourced from dams and reservoirs, invariably in unsanitary conditions. These sources are also utilized by animals, as community laundries, for bathing, and even for waste disposal. The consumption of unsafe water, in turn, increases the incidence of diseases and other adverse health outcomes.

BEFORE



93% assigned scores between 0 and 2 for the water supply process before the intervention

AFTER



100% assigned a maximum score of 5 to the water supply process after the intervention

Finally, **95%** of surveyed households reported a reduction in financial expenses related to purchasing drinking water. The income of these households is very low. Committing the household budget to the purchase of water further exacerbates their vulnerable situation.



95%

of households reported a reduction in financial expenses related to purchasing drinking water

CONCLUSION

This report has consolidated the results of the **Change Perception Survey** applied to beneficiary households supported in 2025. The collected data demonstrate a relevant degree of statistical significance regarding the efficacy of interventions in reducing qualitative housing deficits and promoting human dignity.

The multidimensional analysis of the results allows us to conclude that the provision of adequate housing acts as a social determinant of health and well-being. Among the primary impacts observed, the following stand out:

- **Health and Healthy Living Conditions:** There was a direct correlation between improved ventilation and building watertightness and the perceived reduction in respiratory crises. The elimination of unhealthiness vectors, such as mold and dampness, resulted in a positive perception of physical health for the majority of beneficiaries.
- **Housing Security and Privacy:** Internal layout reconfiguration, construction of new spaces, installation of new doors and windows and window/door frames, and the repair of electrical and plumbing systems improved physical safety and security and fostered environments with greater privacy.
- **Water Security and Citizenship:** In the semiarid region, the implementation of cisterns had a profound impact on the daily lives of these households. Beyond ensuring access to safer

and higher-quality water under more adequate conditions, the intervention optimized the productive time of households—especially women—and generated savings in domestic budgets. Households also perceived a contribution to their health, with a possible reduction in diseases related to the consumption of unsafe water.

- **Psychosocial Impact:** The improvement of self-esteem, well-being, and comfort demonstrates that housing is the foundation for social mobility and an opportunity for helping to break intergenerational cycles of poverty.

It is entirely possible to assist households living in housing considered inadequate through the implementation of Housing Improvement Programs.

The results presented in this report provide evidence that the model implemented by Habitat Brazil is an effective, scalable, and replicable solution for public housing and WASH policies. Adequate housing has a transformative impact on household well-being and quality of life, offering a stable environment that favors human development and social mobility.

The indicators collected from the beneficiaries reaffirm the urgent need for public policies that integrate basic sanitation and structural reforms, contributing to sustainable improvements in quality of life and ensuring the effective realization of the constitutional right to dignified housing.




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