

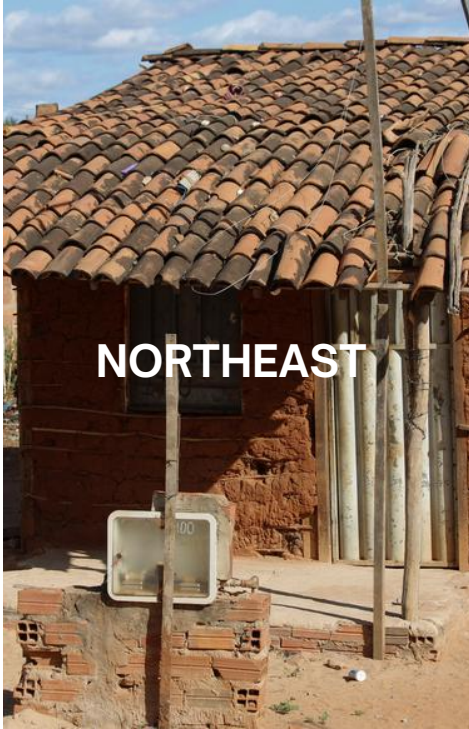


CHANGE A LIFE.  
CHANGE THE WORLD.

LIFE IMPACT  
INTERNATIONAL



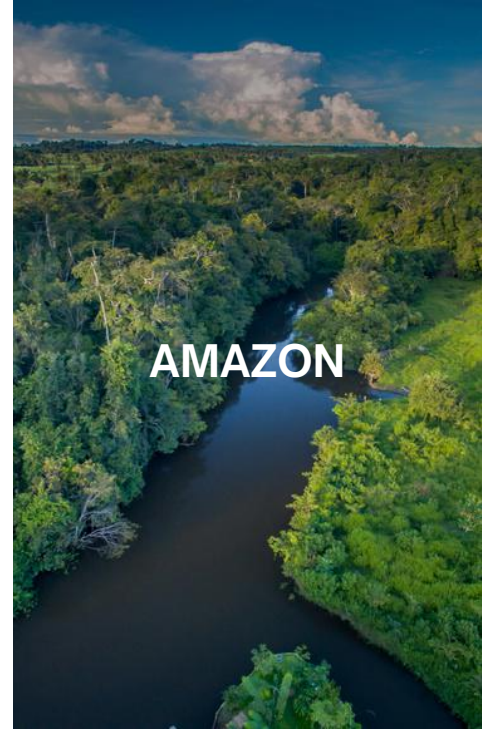
*Brazil*



**NORTHEAST**



**RIO DE JANEIRO**



**AMAZON**

**800 monthly**

people reached through prevention projects and outreaches

**850 weekly**

children kept off the streets and out of drug trafficking and prostitution

**19,940 pounds**

of food and cooking supplies provided to families and communities



**LARISSA ROCHA**

Northeast and Amazon  
Executive Director



**THAIS DÖHLER**

Rio de Janeiro  
Executive Director

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A young girl with her hair in braids, wearing a pink and blue floral dress and sandals, is looking out from a doorway. The background is dark, and the overall scene is set against a red background.

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## The *cries* of the *children* of Brazil reached the ear of God and Heaven!

LANA VASQUEZ | FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

When we first started looking into which cities to launch Life Impact Brazil, we traveled all over this vast country that is the size of America minus Alaska, seeing where we could make the most impact on behalf of vulnerable children. We drove and flew from city to city, with each story of child exploitation worse than the last. We were looking for the place where the need was the greatest, and the help was the least on behalf of the vulnerable.

***“I don't think Thailand is number one for children forced into prostitution. I think Brazil is.”***

At one point, one of our Thai Staff who came to help assess the problem said, "I don't think Thailand is number one for children forced into prostitution. I think Brazil is! At least in Thailand, we hide our problem, here it's out in the open."



We had the shocking revelation that if child exploitation is so out in the open, then what is going on behind closed doors?

We knew we couldn't wait any longer and that the cries of the children of Brazil had reached the ear of God and Heaven!

Our hearts and focus settled on Rio de Janeiro, Juazeiro do Norte, and the Amazon.

The favelas of Rio de Janeiro, the poverty of Northeastern Brazil, and the high rates of exploitation in the Amazon region got our attention and our hearts!

Experts say poverty remains the key driver for many of the challenges children face, with one NGO calling child labor deeply rooted in Brazilian society. Children perform street work, domestic labor, and even garbage scavenging. Tragically, one of the worst forms of child labor is forced commercial sexual exploitation.



## Here are some of the stories that we couldn't turn away from:



### The Northeast

A 13-year-old girl took us into her single mom's adobe hut and showed us her broken down, unplugged refrigerator filled with the food she made from selling her body.



### Rio's Favelas

The only hope and aspirations children have is to be a drug trafficker or the girlfriend of a drug trafficker or have a baby from one. Some children are recruited as young as ten years old.



### The Amazon

We traveled an hour and a half along the Amazon waters to a remote village where locals say yachts come and get the children for parties.

While there, I saw a large yacht pull up on the river bank next to a group of three little girls playing in the water. The music was loud. An older man not from Brazil came out wearing a speedo, calling to the little girls. We made our presence known and the boat pulled away.



Scan the QR code to watch how we are taking down the giant of child exploitation in Brazil.



NORTHEAST

# Northeast



**The Northeast of Brazil has the most critical cases of child sexual exploitation in the country, with the highest rates of sexual abuse against children in vulnerable communities.**

It is one of the places that caught our attention because we found children making bricks for \$1.50 a day. The area is also well-known by the locals for young girls being lured into sex tourism. Overlooked by the government, without running water or electricity, it's considered a place taxis won't even go at night! This is the area we targeted.

The need is desperate because the children here often wander the dusty roads alone, wearing only a diaper and very little clothes, unwatched and unattended. Our team members have even witnessed multiple attempted kidnappings of children as young as five years old. One of our team thwarted an attempt by screaming at a truck that tried to lure a child. This is why we are opening our first daycare in the community to focus on the most vulnerable children ages three to five.







In this region, over 400 children are enrolled in our weekly prevention projects. We went from 70 to 80 children gathering under a tree to 120 children in a small house to now over 250 in a renovated flip-flop factory turned children's prevention center, with our own school bus bringing them in from the community every day! This doesn't include the 194 children we reach each week in our two other prevention projects in two communities.

Launch Day at the new prevention center was filled with so much relief, joy, excitement, and anticipation, relief for our team who had worked so hard to make this day a reality, and joy and hope for the future of the children of that region! Over 400 people from the community came out to see how the old factory was transformed into a beautiful prevention center where the vulnerable come and find hope.



**Scan the QR code to see more on the monumental Launch Day of our Prevention Center!**



**We are literally transforming Northeast Brazil for the children!**



# Meet Julia

13 Years Old

I am 13 years old and one of 10 children. I don't even know all of my siblings. I live with my grandmother, her husband, and five of my siblings in a wood, mud, and plastic tarp house. All eight of us share one bed.

We used to live with my mom and stepfather, but because of my mother's drug debts, they murdered my stepfather in front of me and my siblings. I really liked him despite everything because he was like a father to me. After he was killed, my mom ran away so they wouldn't hunt her down, too. This is why I live with my grandmother.

I still love my family very much, and I'm glad my siblings and I get to attend Life Impact's prevention project. Before going there, I thought I could not dream. I didn't like to think of my future. Now, though, I do so many cool things and have learned so much. I now have dreams, one of them is to travel to Paris someday. The prevention project teachers help and support me in all areas of my life, including going to school and staying off the streets, where I used to go to beg.

RIO DE



JANEIRO

# Rio de Janeiro



Still, the work continues, with lives being changed every day because of our brave Life Impact nationals risking their lives for the sake of these children! Nearly 400 children attend our projects weekly!

Drug trafficking in the community creates an environment of poverty, violence, and vulnerability for the families living there. Girls as young as nine begin to engage in prostitution, and boys as young as 11 become involved in drug trafficking. These children see this as their only option and choice in life.

But we are changing that! We have found favor and protection with the right people. We were able to negotiate for the use of an old crack house and football field right in the heart of this violent community known as “City of God.”

Thanks to generous donors, we were able to renovate the building and make it into a children’s prevention center and turn a dirt field into a real soccer field, allowing us to not only transform these spaces but also to transform the lives of the children that come to them!

**The two favelas where our prevention projects are located may be some of the most notoriously dangerous in Rio de Janeiro and probably the world.**

**See here how a crack house turns into a dream center for children!**



These children would otherwise never have access to anything like this. They are learning to read and write, receiving tutoring, vocational training, ballet lessons, Bible study, and more at the old crack house-turned-prevention center.



When we prayed for the dedication of our building and soccer field in the “City of God” Favela, we remembered this scripture.

We believe that as we reach this generation, we will transform “City of God” into what it was always supposed to be: a City of God.

**“Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.” – Isaiah 60:18**



**Scan this QR code to see what happened when children prayed for grass in their dirt field!**

Soccer, or “futebol” as they refer to it in Brazil, is a favorite sport of children and teenagers, which makes it a perfect opportunity for us to show them that God has a better plan for them. We strategically target boys and teenagers who already idolize drug dealers and traffickers because they think they want to be just like them someday. Currently, we have 110 kids at our soccer prevention project. For most of the boys, our Life Impact coach is the only father figure they have ever had.



Our ballet room includes a mirrored wall so they can see themselves and know their worth and value is more than what is around them. Their self-esteem changes, and piece by piece, their dreams, childhood, and identity are being restored, all in this pink room where they are learning to be the princesses they really are.



# Meet Luiza

8 Years Old

I am eight years old. I've been going to Life Impact's prevention project since I was seven. My dad abandoned me a long time ago. He left me and my brother with my mom, but she struggled to take care of us. She even turned to prostitution to help feed us. Since life is hard without my dad, I had decided prostitution was the only way for me, too.

When I first went to Life Impact, I couldn't read or write, but today, I can, and my mom is learning to sew to support us. Life Impact also provides a food basket every month. I know now that God is my real Father, I have a different future to look forward to, and my family is healing through Life Impact's work.



# AMAZON

# Amazon



**We heard the Amazon was an underbelly world of illegal trafficking in a variety of ways, with the most heart-wrenching stories involving children.**

We would soon learn that because the Amazon River is vast and some villages difficult to get to, child exploitation in all forms is rampant but seen as a normal way of life. In one village where we boated, there was a room filled with 11 and 12-year-old girls and their babies.

Once again, our team knew we had to respond to this urgent need.







Our Amazon national team left their families, careers, churches, and friends to pioneer the first-ever safe home in the interior of the Amazon!

**Watch this video with Lana and Jewell about launching the first-ever safe home in the Amazon!**

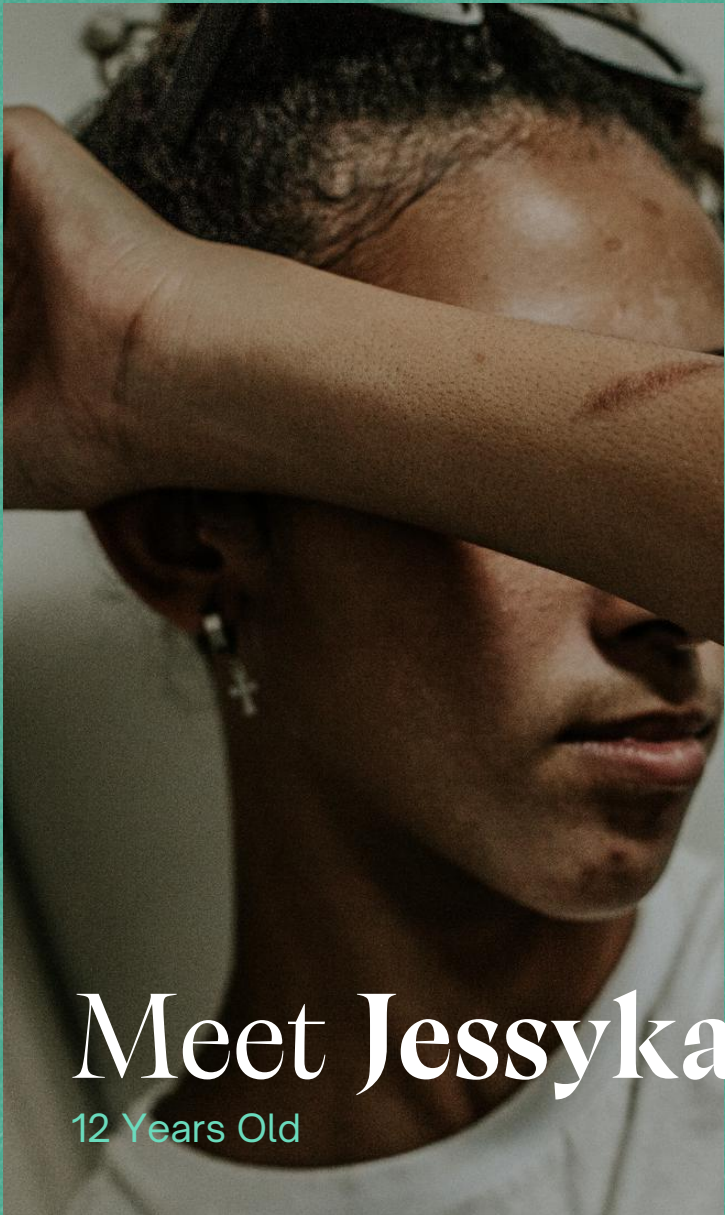


**We found the perfect location, a warm home furnished and prepared, which will soon have rooms filled with the sounds of freedom from these precious children.**



Our prevention project is next door to one of the largest red-light districts in the community. The children receive tutoring, counseling, soccer lessons, and more. We also go into schools to teach about safe touch and suicide prevention, something desperately needed in Brazil.

Around 150 children are enrolled in our weekly projects, but we have ministered to nearly 5,000 at the events we've held citywide!



# Meet Jessyka

12 Years Old

My story of abuse began before I was even born. My grandparents, who worked for a family at their home, passed away, leaving behind a son and a daughter. That daughter was my mother. Instead of helping my mom and uncle, the family enslaved them.

When my mom was 15, she ran away and ended up getting pregnant. I was born in a shelter where she lived at the time, but when she decided she couldn't take care of me, she gave me to a woman who was supposed to be my guardian. Instead, that woman abused me physically and psychologically. I was abused from the age of five until I turned 10. That's when my mom came back into my life and rescued me!

I'm enrolled now in Life Impact's prevention project, where I'm learning how much God cares for me. He's healing my soul and my relationship with my mom. I've also discovered my skills as an artist.

# You can *help* Jessyka, Luiza, Julia, and many other children just like them.

Join in the fight for these children through regular support, prayer, and telling others about the work of Life Impact International.

## TEXT

Text **IMPACT** to 28950

For example to give \$100,  
Text: **IMPACT100**

## SCAN



## MAIL

Life Impact International  
PO Box 1984  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013 USA

Please make checks payable to  
**Life Impact International**

[lifeimpactintl.org/get-involved/donate](https://lifeimpactintl.org/get-involved/donate)



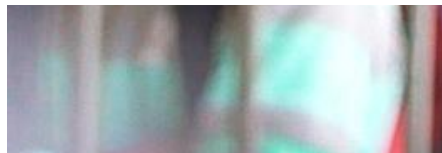


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[lifeimpactintl.org](http://lifeimpactintl.org)

An estimated 500,000 children and adolescents are *forced* into commercial exploitation in Brazil, *an invisible and partially normalized problem.*



## **We knew we needed to act fast!**

On the following pages, you will see where we are changing that reality and the end of the story for the children of Brazil. We will not stop until there is a new normal for these beautiful children!