

Combating Forced Labor in the Cattle Ranching Industry in Pará, Brazil



BACKGROUND

Cattle ranching is the biggest agricultural industry in Brazil, with approximately 2.5 million cattle ranching farmers operating in a pasture-based system. Brazil is also the largest producer of beef in the world, consumed both domestically and exported throughout the globe. Forced labor is prevalent in the beef production supply chain in Brazil. This is due in part to cattle ranching being concentrated in rural areas where it is difficult for Brazilian law enforcement to identify and enforce labor laws. Other factors also make ranching a difficult sector to regulate in Brazil, such as the illicit nature of clearing protected land for grazing cattle, and illegal land use, which in turn makes exploitative labor practices even harder to detect.

The Pan American Development Foundation's (PADF) program to end forced labor in the cattle ranching sector is focused on the northern Brazilian state of Pará. One of the first objectives of the project is conducting a prevalence study of forced labor in the beef production supply chain in the Brazilian state of Pará. Located in Northern Brazil, Pará is home to a section of the Amazon rainforest with an important concentration of Amazonian flora and fauna. Deforestation of protected lands in the Amazon rainforest in Pará has been linked to clandestine cattle ranching operations. Forced labor victims in the cattle ranching sector are often young men and domestic or indigenous migrants. Workers often work long hours in precarious and unsanitary conditions, without access to potable water, bathrooms, or cooking facilities.

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ABOUT PADF

PADF believes in creating a hemisphere of opportunity, for all. We work across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger—more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for current and future generations. For nearly 60 years, we have served the most vulnerable communities, investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private sector for the greater good of the region.

PADF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1962. As a strategic partner and proud affiliate of the OAS, PADF is part of the Inter-American System, while maintaining an independent status. PADF is committed to upholding OAS' values and supporting its mission of achieving more rights for more people.



OBJECTIVES

The Combatting Forced Labor in the Cattle Ranching Industry program, implemented by PADF, aims to improve institutional mechanisms to reduce the incidence of forced labor violations in the cattle ranching sector in the state of Pará, Brazil. PADF's theory of change focuses on three objectives:

- Improve the prevention of forced labor violations in the cattle ranching sector in Pará.
- Increase access to comprehensive, victim-centered protection for survivors of forced labor in Pará.
- Improve prosecution of forced labor crimes in the cattle ranching sector in Pará.

ACTIVITIES

The program's activities are vast and include prevention and protection of survivors of forced labor, community participation, and strengthening of mechanisms to prosecute forced labor in the state of Pará. Community outreach will be conducted through TV, print, and social media campaigns to raise public awareness of how to identify, prevent, and respond to forced labor in Pará. Workshops on labor rights in Brazil will target audiences of indigenous groups and migrants, who are susceptible to falling victim to forced labor in the cattle ranching sector. Meetings, trainings, and webinars between PADF and industry associates, farmer cooperatives, and chambers of commerce tied to Brazilian cattle ranching will engage the private sector as a critical stakeholder in reducing the prevalence of forced labor in Pará.

Additionally, the program will increase access to comprehensive, victim-centered protection for survivors and improve prosecution of forced labor trafficking crimes in the cattle ranching sector. PADF will work alongside Brazilian public sector agencies to strengthen the quality of existing federal and state protection services, executing workshops for federal and local police in Pará. At a national level, PADF will implement a training program to build capacity for judiciary personnel. PADF will also partner with nongovernmental organizations and local Brazilian government agencies to strengthen support services for survivors of forced labor to access shelter, victim advocacy, and legal representation services.

EXPECTED RESULTS

PADF and partners work to achieve the following results over the length of the project:



- **80** attorneys trained on legal assistance support for forced labor survivors.
- **80** labor inspectors trained on inspections of properties denounced for exploiting labor, investigations, and collection of evidence for cases of forced labor.
- **90** industry representatives participate in trainings to reduce forced labor in cattle ranching industry.



- **90** laborers trained in Know-Your-Rights labor workshops.
- **100** forced labor survivors or family members receive consultation or referrals.
- **120** judiciary personnel trained on best practices for the investigation, prosecution, adjudication, and sentencing of forced labor cases.
- **120** service providers for survivors of forced labor trained to improve referral networks and coordinated actions to assist survivors.



- **500** law enforcement officials trained on victim-centric approaches to investigating and collecting evidence for cases of forced labor.
- **700,000** individuals reached with public awareness-raising campaigns through communications media.

STAY CONNECTED!

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