

# BRAZIL

August 2023



Brazil's first releases of *Wolbachia* mosquitoes began in September 2014 in Rio de Janeiro, after government approval and support from the local community was established. Prior to the first release, our team in Brazil spent more than two years monitoring mosquitoes and working with the communities in our field trial sites.

The World Mosquito Program's *Wolbachia* method has been brought to Brazil by The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), under the guidance of the Ministry of Health.

Following encouraging small-scale trials, the World Mosquito Program began large-scale deployments in Brazil in 2017. We expect to reach approximately 2.38 million people across the municipalities of Rio de Janeiro, Niterói, Belo Horizonte, Petrolina and Campo Grande in 2023.

	Project start	Community engagement	First releases	Large-scale deployments and monitoring
<b>Rio de Janeiro</b>	2012	2014	2014	2017
<b>Niterói</b>	2012	2014	2015	2017
<b>Belo Horizonte</b>	2020		from 2020	Ongoing
<b>Campo Grande</b>	2020		from 2020	Ongoing
<b>Petrolina</b>	2021		from 2021	Ongoing

**5**  
project sites

size of the project  
**1,070 km<sup>2</sup>**

**3,230,000**  
Population reached

**532**  
Educational institutions

**PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE**  
measured by survey  
**79%** Rio de Janeiro  
**81%** Niterói  
**84%** Belo Horizonte

**81**  
Project staff

**2178**  
Field activities

**582**  
volunteers hosted  
BG traps

**6**  
Partners and  
supporters

## MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE BURDEN IN BRAZIL

After an absence of more than 20 years, dengue re-emerged in Brazil in 1981. Over the next 30 years, seven million cases were reported.

Today, Brazil has the greatest number of dengue cases in the world, with 3.2 million cases and 800 deaths reported from 2009–2014. Brazil has also been severely affected by outbreaks of Zika virus and chikungunya in the last few years.

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Dengue is a very dangerous disease. It kills! My greatest hope is that we no longer have these diseases here, and that this project is spread throughout Brazil and, perhaps, around the world.

- Luan  
Community member



## Wesley's hopeful journey towards a healthier future

Every morning at 6am, Wesley Oliveira says goodbye to his wife and six dogs to travel to work in Rio de Janeiro. It's a 2-hour trip along a dangerous route – theft and robbery, accidents and traffic jams are frequent. Why does he do it? Because he believes he is contributing to a healthier world for the next generation.

Wesley has been a member of the World Mosquito Program's Community Engagement team in Brazil for two years. Since the large-scale expansion in the municipalities of Rio and Niterói began, the community engagement team has carried out over 1600 community activities involving more than 200,000 people directly.

With so many activities, Wesley has experienced a few intense situations in sometimes violent areas.

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I understand that these people, if they had had contact with initiatives like the World Mosquito Program before, their path could have been changed. The presence of the project in these highly vulnerable neighbourhoods has the potential for transformation. That makes me come back.

### Partners and supporters



### Further information:

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## About us

The World Mosquito Program (WMP) is a not-for-profit group of companies owned by Monash University that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases. The World Mosquito Program uses naturally occurring bacteria called *Wolbachia* to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit viruses to humans.

Following decades of research and successful field trial results, the World Mosquito Program is currently partnering with communities in 14 countries around the world to implement our ground-breaking

solution. We have staff working in countries across Oceania, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and offices established in Australia, Vietnam, France and Panama.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we are making a difference to millions of lives.

A collaboration between:



Contact us

