

# Webinar on 18 March - 16:00 GMT (13:00 Brasilia)

## 'Addressing labour exploitation and modern slavery: Lessons from Brazil'

Dr Vitor Araújo Filgueiras, Universidade Federal da Bahia and Fundacentro (Ministry of Labor)

Registration: <https://labour-exploitation.eventbrite.co.uk>



Work and  
Equalities  
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# Addressing labour exploitation and modern slavery: Lessons from Brazil

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- multidisciplinary programs aiming at fighting labour exploitation and modern slavery in Brazil: Caminhos do Trabalho ('Paths to Work') and Vida Pós Resgate ('Life After Rescue') programs, coordinated by the Ministry of Labor through a network of Brazilian public institutions.



## Paths of the Work (Caminhos do Trabalho)

- **Tackling under-reporting of occupational accidents and illnesses:**
- **promoting public planning,**
- **protecting victimized workers**
- **seeking fair share payment from those responsible**
- **Carrying out academic investigations and preparing new professionals to deal with health and safety**



# Public policies are needed to protect injured workers

- Injured workers may face difficulties such as having no income in the following cases
  - Failure to meet standards to guarantee income or assistance (such as no guarantee of employment)
  - Failure to enforce public policies that should protect (such as social security)
  - **Failure to identify the fact itself – the issue of under-reporting**
- under-reporting is a world wide issue with Bad consequences for
  - Workers
  - planning (what keeps bad behavior from employers)
  - the public budget
  - fair competition

# The tax issue

- Companies pay social security taxes that vary between 0.5% and 6% of their payrolls, depending on the economic sector and the accident of the company itself. Depending on the accident in each company, it can benefit and pay half the tax, pay the contribution without discount or be obliged to contribute double the tax rate.
- According to the latest data available, R\$17.8 billion were paid.
  - But It turns out that 94% of companies operating in Brazil pay their tax rate at a reduced rate.
- Therefore, more than 90% of Social Security benefits are classified as common sickness benefits, and less than 10% as accident-related illnesses. The number of benefits actually related to work can be 2, 3, 4 times greater than the number currently calculated by the Social Security

# Attempts to tackle it

- From 2007 to 2009, the epidemiologic tool made reporting increase up to 30%
- But, since 2009, the percentage of work-related benefits has fallen practically uninterruptedly, going from 16.47% in that year to 8.07% in 2021, without any sign of improvement of health and safety conditions at work during the period.
  - This drop is also accentuated when comparing the amount of annual B91 itself, with a reduction of more than 33% between 2009 and 2021.
- Other stakeholder can report – but not enough

# The Brazilian case

- National Health Survey, which estimated that, in 2013, around 4.9 million people aged 18 or over suffered work accidents in Brazil, approximately 7 times more than the number captured by the Social Security, that is, an underreporting of around 85% of workplace accidents
- **Consequences**
- **Workers:** The repercussions differ particularly based on the length of time the workers have been away from their activities. If the absence is longer than 15 days, the injured party acquires one year of job stability when the social security benefit ends. Dismissing the injured employee as if he had suffered an injury outside of work does not, a priori, generate any expenses (the cost is socialized), also allowing the immediate dismissal of the worker upon his return from Social Security.
- **Planning:** Underreporting makes analysis, evaluation, planning and adoption of effective public policies difficult. Without knowing in which sectors, where, how the illness occurs, with what frequency, incidence, among other information, action to reduce this public health problem is extremely compromised. How can we determine the characteristics, related factors, social relevance and act on events if they are not identified?

# The call center case

- In 2019, one of the largest call-centers in the country, had 1773 employees with social security benefits, but only 85 classified as work-related (less than 5%). Of the total benefits, those related to mental illness made up 605, or 34% of the total, compared to 8.5% in the labor market as a whole (2017). Only 16 aids related to mental illness were considered accidental by the Social Security, and NONE of them was reported by the company.
- In 2021, another giant in the sector, had 2973 employees on sick pay, with only 100 considered work-related (3.3%). Of the total aid, 443 were due to mental illness (14.9%), but of these only 23 were supposedly due to work (5.1%), and NONE of them had was reported by the company.
- There is a huge disproportion between sickness benefits received by the employees of these companies and the benefits considered to be related to work, highlighting a concealment taken to the ultimate consequences for mental illness, the occupational link of which is completely refuted every year. In other words, the under-reporting of mental illness at work reaches 100% in these companies.
- Benefits reclassification and Social security admission of the need to change the sector's NTEP and include family F

# “Paths for work” (Caminhos do trabalho)”

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- Bringing together institutions
- Acting on the reporting
- Acting on the benefits transformation – social security miss classification
- Acting on the scope of protected Workers – formal and informal
- Providing input to Other institutions – Labor courts, etc.



## “APP” Workers, under-reporting and court cases

- “The court ordered that app delivery man Yuri de Jesus Monteiro, aged 24, receives wages from the company Ifood until he receives accident assistance. The Bahian lost the movement of his hands after being shot while working, in November last year, in Salvador.”



# MOU between FUNDACENTRO and EBSEERH

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- 20 Million people covered each year
  - In 2022, EBSEERH performed “around 16.3 million exams; 5.7 million consultations; 335 thousand hospitalizations; and 190 thousand surgeries” -, the company's engagement in reporting, with the support of Caminhos do Trabalho, will allow a structural change in the reporting of occupational illness in the country.
  - If 5% of those patients' care are related to work, the number of reports in the country will double
- In any country, tackling under-reporting is a precondition to improve working conditions and prevent people to be left behind



# Important Remarks

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- It must be more expensive (for employers) not to report than to report accidents
- Stakeholders other than the employer must be able to report
- State institutions need to coordinate report accidents





# Life after slavery: building social and environmental sustainability

# Contemporary slavery and other forms of extrem labor exploitation

- They are seen all over the world
- Brazil has tackled them for more than 30 Years
- Brazilian task force to tackle contemporary slavery: a public police for the demand side



# What is next for the rescued Workers?

- Research carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which interviewed people rescued between October 2006 and July 2007, found that 59.7 per cent of the workers had previously endured this type of situation
- The attempt of training programs to get back to labor market
- The need for a solid public police from the supply side: sustainable alternatives of life for rescued Workers

# Projeto “life after slavery” rescued Workers’ organizing to produce healthy food

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## **Environmental sustainable**

Not degrading nature and health



## **Socially sustainable**

not exploiting people – democratic  
organizations



# VIDA PÓS RESGATE

# Social Sustainability

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- Democracy at the workplace
- True entrepreneurship
- Financing with fines paid by offenders
- Food security
- Tackling rural exodus
- Institutional purchases
- Strengthening local economies



# Environmental sustainability: Preservation of health and the environment

- Organic or agroecological orientation
- Protecting workers' health
- Protecting consumers' health
- Integration between vegetable and animal production
- Use of rainwater – cisterns
- Use of renewable energy (solar)
- School meals





Recebimento dos materiais para a construção de aprisco, em Conceição do Coité/BA



Associação Vida Pós Resgate do Sertão durante a limpeza do terreno para a construção de aprisco em Monte Santo



Transporte dos materiais para os terrenos cedidos à Aagroab



Mudas de cacau entregues à Associação Vidacacau



Construção de aprisco em Monte Santo



Terreno 1 Fazenda Lagoa do Sal,  
coordenadas: 14,39236° S, 41,34419° O,  
Zona Rural, Aracatu/BA

- Dezembro de 2025
- Plantação irrigada
- 3 qualidades de feijão,  
abóbora, mandioca, milho e  
batata doce





Terreno 3: Terreno 3 -  
14°23'12.2"S 41°21'58.6"W  
Fazenda Morro, Zona Rural  
de Aracatu

Segunda semana de  
novembro de 2025 -  
produção de ovos superior a  
40 por dia





Terreno 2 - Fazenda Lagoa do Sal, coordenadas:  $14,28480^{\circ}$  S e  $41,42929^{\circ}$  O, Zona Rural de Aracatu/BA  
instalações de energia solar estão em pleno funcionamento nos 3 terrenos para movimentação do sistema de irrigação



Primeira semana de junho de 2025  
Chegada dos borregos e instalação  
da cisterna de 20 mil litros

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- 79 borregos foram entregues
  - Chegou cisterna de 20 mil litros. Com as duas de 5 mil já instaladas no local, cerca de 40 dias de autonomia nas condições mais adversas





# Conceição do Coité - dezembro de 2025

Produção e estoque de mucilagem do sisal  
para redução dos custos com alimentação  
dos animais

Terreno 2 –  
25/07/2025 Localização  
11°54'33.4"S  
41°14'45.0"W

- - construção da granja  
- tanque para utilização na granja e criação de peixes
- Já há plantação de café e maracujá em desenvolvimento





criação dos animais no terreno 2 -  
fevereiro de 2026

- Localização  $11^{\circ}54'33.4''\text{S}$   $41^{\circ}14'45.0''\text{W}$



Segunda semana de novembro de 2025  
Localização 11°54'33.4"S 41°14'45.0"W

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Plantação, cholheita, secagem do café no terreno II da Associação de Bonito