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.

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.

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.

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**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.
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.

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.

Dale Amtsberg
Senior Media Advisor
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About us

The World Mosquito Program is an international, not-for-profit initiative that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases including dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

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

Currently the World Mosquito Program works in 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. Our ambition is to protect 100 million people by 2023.

In addition to the Oceania Office in Melbourne, Australia, the World Mosquito Program has a regional Asian Hub in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and plans for an Americas Hub in Panama City, Panama.

These hubs support projects in their respective regions and contribute to core global operations.