



A key reflection for Climate Leaders in Brazil: The poorest don't have to pay the cost of the climate change impacts!

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The poorest contributed least to the problem but they are the most affected by climate changes, and lack the material resources to protect themselves from the impacts.

It is estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic will shrink the global economy by 5.2% this year, and the reflection of the recently released GDP in Brazil [pointed to a 9.7% drop compared to the same period in 2019](#). It will be very important to take into account the already weakened situation of the poorest 40% of its population. In Brazil, as in several other countries, the covid19 pandemic widened the inequality gap, increasing the level of poverty of populations already living in depressed socioeconomic conditions, deepening the great differences that already exist.

A survey / research carried out by the World Bank in April this year, projected that [about 5.4 million Brazilians would be launched at the level of extreme poverty](#). Add to that unemployment with the breakdown of hundreds of thousands of micro and small enterprises, and the fact that 60% of Brazilian

children, adolescents and young people, that are students in public schools, suffered direct impacts on their lives and their families, with the closing of schools due to the impossibility of conducting regular classes, and in this way they have further boosted these difficulties just because they do not eat daily in their schools.

It is important to reaffirm that more recent studies have covered a contingent of [approx. 50 million Brazilians living below the poverty line even before the pandemic.](#)

Researchers and experts linked to the climate issue have already designed some scenarios in which the effects of climate change associated with the devastation of the Amazon Forest, for example, lead to situations of high risk. In other ecosystems such as the Pampas in the south and the Brazilian Cerrado spread throughout its heart land portion, there is already an increase in periods of scarcity of rain, a fact that associated with burnings carried out by farmers and ranchers has harmed hundreds of native species of these natural biomes.

Therefore, the great challenge for current and new climate leaders in Brazil will be to bring the agenda into action and with a sound intention of taking our contribution through strategic and intelligent communication, smooth tuned with the different generational profiles and as ambassadors of this cause – a true emergency, as to mitigate and reverse this problem.

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**An updated 2020 list of cities considered sustainable you can find in <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/urban-expeditions/green-buildings/sustainable-cities-graphic-urban-expeditions/>

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