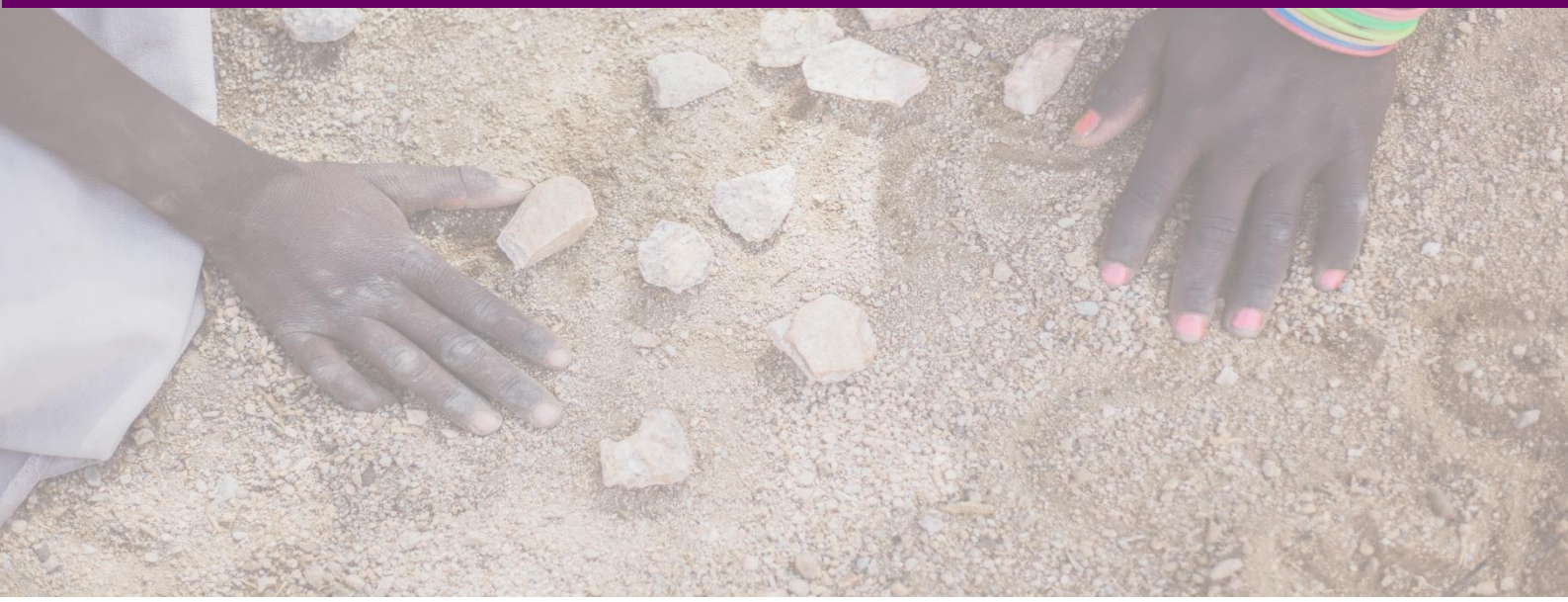

GBV, land rights and extractive industries in Brazil

Emma Bell and Fiona Hale

Query: What is the evidence on the intersection of GBV and land rights/ownership in Brazil? Some sub-questions include:

- What types of GBV are reported in relation to land rights/ownership? Please include a focus on mining and other extractive industries.
- How do land rights (or lack thereof) relate to women's exposure to or protection from GBV?
- Where possible, please identify any differences by formal (legal) and informal (customary or communal) land rights in Brazil.
- What types of women are disproportionately affected (e.g. Indigenous, rural or older women)?
- What policies, protections or community mechanisms exist to address these intersecting issues?

1. Overview

This rapid review examines the intersections between gender-based violence (GBV), land rights/ownership, and extractive industries in Brazil, with a particular focus on mining, agribusiness, and related land conflicts. It synthesises evidence from academic research, human rights reporting, and NGO documentation to answer four core questions:

1. What forms of GBV are linked to land rights and ownership, especially in extractive contexts?
2. How does secure or insecure land tenure affect women's exposure to GBV?
3. Which women are disproportionately impacted?
4. What laws, policies, and community mechanisms address these issues?

Where possible, the authors identified any differences by formal (legal) and informal (customary or communal) land rights in Brazil, noting that these differences in the legal status of rights are often unclear. Key findings are summarised below.

Multiple forms of GBV are linked to land rights and extractives, including:

- **Sexual violence & exploitation:** Common in mining zones (legal and illegal), agribusiness frontiers, and dam construction sites. Perpetrators include miners, armed militias, security forces, and organised criminal gangs. In 2022, Brazil's Amazon region recorded 49.4 cases of rape and sexual violence against vulnerable people per 100,000 residents—33.8% higher than the national average of 36.9%.
- **Patrimonial violence:** Denial or seizure of women's property rights, often following displacement, or because of lack of documentation or proof of rights in the case of informal unions without legal marriage or inheritance cases where formal entitlement is not established through marriage.
- **Femicide and threats to activists:** Women land and environmental defenders face targeted killings, harassment, and gendered intimidation.
- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):** Linked to women's loss of communal land rights and individual property economic dependency.
- **Environmental and occupational violence:** Exposure to mercury, pesticides, and poor working conditions in mining and agriculture causes physical and mental health harms.
- **Child, early and forced marriage:** More prevalent among poor, rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant girls, often exacerbated by displacement.

Land rights/ownership is both a driver and mitigator of GBV. Brazil's constitution and civil code grant equal property rights to women, and special provisions recognise Indigenous and Quilombola land rights. However, there is a gap between law and practice, and patriarchal norms, informal unions, lack of documentation, and political resistance limit women's actual land access. Only 5.5% of agricultural land is registered to women. This

query identified several areas of intersection between land rights and GBV, both in the wider literature and in Brazil specifically:

- **There are several ways in which customary land rights have been linked with increased risks of GBV**, including through:
  - Economic dependence: Without secure land, women rely on male relatives or partners for housing and income, limiting their ability to leave abuse, enabling economic violence, and reducing household bargaining power.
  - Dispossession through violence: GBV is used to enforce land/resource grabs, including threats, sexual violence, harassment, and sexual extortion.
  - Displacement impacts: Loss of land dismantles protective networks, increasing exposure to sexual violence, trafficking, and exploitation.
  - Customary discrimination: Gender-biased inheritance and governance norms exclude women from decision-making, with attempts to participate sometimes met with harassment or violence.
- **However, land security also provides protection from GBV**, both by increasing economic resilience and providing a legal safeguard. Secure tenure increases women's control over resources, income, and household needs. Land titles in a woman's name also strengthen claims in divorce/separation and reduce dispossession risk.

In Brazil, the intersection of social and environmental factors creates distinct risks for women, particularly Indigenous and Quilombola communities. These women face GBV linked to invasions of communal lands and gender inequalities in governance. The expansion of agribusiness, particularly of genetically engineered soy, has been associated with declines in female land ownership. At the same time, secure Indigenous forest tenure has been shown to reduce deforestation, which may indirectly lower GBV risk tied to extractive industry expansion. Evidence from Brazil, such as a survey by the feminist organisation *Espaço Feminista,* highlights the importance of land rights for women's safety and wellbeing, including community land rights and individual property titles. It also found that women with land in their own names have greater ability to leave abusive relationships. Studies and qualitative work with women in Brazil and elsewhere largely show that secure land rights are protective for GBV, however they often lack the examination of intersections with extractive industries, and do not cover all the different types of GBV, tending to focus on IPV.

Groups disproportionately affected include:

- **Indigenous women:** Face intersecting discrimination, loss of ancestral territories, and targeted violence by miners, agribusiness, and criminal networks, as well as high rates of IPV.
- **Quilombola women:** Leaders in territorial defence but subject to threats, eviction, and violence.
- **Rural women:** Limited access to formal land titles, economic exclusion, and vulnerability to eviction.

- **Migrant and refugee women and girls:** Lacking legal status, highly exposed to trafficking and exploitation, e.g. women and girls fleeing the crisis in Venezuela.
- **Urban poor women:** Often lack formal housing titles, making them vulnerable to eviction during urban development, floods, or evictions linked to mega-events (e.g., the Olympics).
- **Afro-Brazilian women:** Disproportionately victims of femicide and sexual violence.
- **LGBTQIA+ individuals:** Particularly trans women in rural areas experience extreme violence and exclusion.
- **Widows and divorced women:** Often lose land or property rights due to weak legal protections and lack of formal marriage or succession documents. They can face land grabbing, homelessness, and economic violence, with little support to contest disputes.
- **Children, adolescents and young women:** Youth aged 18–25 face significantly higher land insecurity, often delaying inheritance and reducing farm productivity. Rural, poor, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant girls and young women are vulnerable to sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking.

A range of policies, protections, and mechanisms exist to address these intersecting issues, including:

- **National laws,** particularly the *Maria da Penha Law* (2006) which criminalises domestic violence, including patrimonial abuse, and the *Feminicídio Law* (2015) which categorises femicide as aggravated homicide. Also important is the formalisation of Indigenous and Quilombola community land rights, and land titling reforms prioritising joint or women-led ownership in agrarian settlements.
- **Recent Federal actions:** The Lula government reinstated the *Women Living Without Violence* programme, expanded shelters, integrated land rights into femicide prevention strategies, and reversed policies enabling mining in Indigenous territories.
- **Community and civil society initiatives** including women's collectives that link land defence with GBV activism (e.g. Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST), Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu (MIQCB), the Coordenação Nacional de Articulação de Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ) Women's Collective). Indigenous women's mapping projects can also be effective in documenting violence and threats. In addition, legal empowerment programmes (e.g. by Espaço Feminista, THEMIS - Gender, Justice and Human Rights) raise awareness of land rights.
- **Responsible business and corporate accountability:** Social License to Operate (SLO), Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Loss and Damage, and independent audits to address gender inequality, ensure community participation, and mitigate harassment and trafficking risks, with companies like Rio Tinto's gender-sensitive security training and human rights education for personnel.
- **International engagement:** UN agencies and NGOs support anti-trafficking operations, training, Indigenous women's inclusion in decision-making, and policy development.

2. Introduction and background

This rapid report (9 days) explores the links between GBV and land rights in Brazil, with particular attention to extractive industries like mining and agribusiness (See Annex 1 for methodology). Drawing on existing evidence, the report investigates:

- **Forms of GBV linked with land access and ownership**, including sexual violence and exploitation, patrimonial violence, violence against activists, and violence linked to health and land dispossession, especially prevalent in contexts involving environmental degradation and land exploitation.
- **How formal (legal) and informal (customary or communal) land rights shape women's vulnerability to GBV**, examining both legal entitlements and social, economic, and cultural constraints hampering women's actual ability to claim land even where laws exist, as well facilitating factors.
- **Populations most disproportionately affected**, notably Indigenous women, Quilombola communities, rural and low-income women, who face compounded risks from both land dispossession, lack of titles and violence.
- **Policy, legal, and community mechanisms**, including Brazil's constitutional provisions, the *Maria da Penha Law* (2006) against domestic violence and patrimonial violence, and grassroots initiatives like women-led land regularisation.

The report aims to highlight how GBV, land rights and ownership, and extractive industries converge. It also underscores areas of resilience and opportunity, highlighting policies, programmes and community-led responses that hold promise for redressing inequalities.

Background:

Land Rights: Brazil has one of the most advanced legal frameworks for recognition of land and property rights in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Indigenous, Quilombola and non-Indigenous traditional populations are guaranteed land rights, access and use of resources,[1] and women have equal land and property rights under the law. Yet the situation on the ground differs significantly from the legal provisions, and there are many challenges to implementation, for women, Indigenous and Quilombola communities.[2] In 2024, the country ranked 80th globally and 10th regionally on the International Property Rights Index world map.[3] This reflects weak legal stability, poor property rights perception, and bureaucratic barriers. Scores remain especially low in property registration and judicial independence.[4] The most recent Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals[5] shows that for land rights and gender equality, there is either an absence of data, or negative progress. (See Annex 2)

Extractive industries: The rapid growth of mining and agribusiness in Brazil has intensified land seizures, violence and environmental degradation, and deepened social, gender and race/ethnicity inequalities, putting land rights under the spotlight as a key factor related to women and Indigenous rights and championed by their movements.[6] (See Annex 3 for a table that illustrates the range of mining and agribusiness that takes place in Brazil).

3. Types of GBV

3.1 Introduction

The intersection of GBV and land rights and land ownership in Brazil is most acute in contexts of mining, illegal mining, agribusiness, dam construction and land grabbing, particularly within Indigenous and Quilombola territories. Women and girls in these regions are at risk of sexual violence, patrimonial abuse, harassment, and health-related harms, and are disproportionately targeted as land and environmental defenders as well as carrying out daily tasks. These violations are compounded by institutional neglect, systemic racism, and entrenched power asymmetries, especially in extractive zones. (see Annex 4 for a list of extractive industries, communities affected and types of GBV associated)

> *"As outlined in the Kunãngue Aty Guasu's reports [of the VII Great Assembly of Kaiowá e Guarani Women[7]], the violence affecting Indigenous women is a broad and complex phenomenon, rooted in the historical marginalisation that they continue to face on a daily basis and operating at the intersection of their ethnicity, gender, and chronic economic precarity. They point out how the only law aimed at protecting female victims of violence – Law 11.340, better known as the Maria da Penha Law – does not grasp the complexity of the Guarani and Kaiowá context, and therefore fails to fully protect Indigenous women."*[8]

Women and gender-diverse individuals who are poor, rural, Afro-descendants (Black or mixed-race (pretos and pardos, collectively referred to as *negros* in Brazilian statistics)), Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, migrants, or living in informal or disputed territories are also vulnerable to different types of GBV at the intersection of land rights and property insecurity (see section 5).

In Brazil levels of different types of GBV are high and increasing

Data from the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety's The Public Security Annuary 2025, including rape, sexual harassment, and stalking.

- Notably, **femicide** rates in Brazil have reached the highest levels since the enactment of the law defining the crime in 2015, with 1,492 femicides recorded - an increase of 0.7% on the previous year. 63.6% of these femicides were of Black women and 64.3% occurred at home. There were 3,870 attempted femicides (up 19% from the previous year).
- There were 257,659 cases of **physical violence** against women in 2024 (compared to 256,584 in 2023), 95,026 cases of **stalking** (increase of 18.2%), and 747,683 **threats** of violence (down 0.8%). A total of 634,987 **emergency protective measures** were granted (compared to 589,920 in 2023)
- **Sexual violence** also increased, with 87,545 rapes (compared to 86,379 in 2023) of which 87.7% were against women and girls, 55.6% against Black people, and 61.3% against children under 13 years old.

3.2 Sexual Violence and Exploitation

Sexual violence: In the context of land conflicts, women and girls have faced increased risks of sexual violence from the miners and the heavy military, hired militias and gang presence accompanying extractive activities from illegal mining to deforestation projects.[9] The Amazon region of Brazil has higher rates of sexual violence than the rest of the country. The regional statistic for rape and rape of vulnerable people (those unable to consent (i.e. children under the age of 14, people with certain disabilities, intoxicated by alcohol and other drugs, etc), was 49.4 victims per 100,000 people in 2022, 33.8% higher than the national average, which was 36.9 per 100,000 in the same period.[10]

In the Tapajós River basin, particularly near gold mining sites (garimpos), sexual exploitation and trafficking cases are often underreported or misclassified, due to a lack of recognition that these cases are a crime.

This ambiguity leads to underreporting and misclassification of sexual exploitation cases, many of which are not recognized as human trafficking.

Sexual violence:

In 2022:

- Brazil's national rape rate was 36.9 per 100,000.
- Pará exceeded that with 56.1 per 100,000 (a 23.5% increase from 2021).
- The Tapajós basin reported 336 rapes, or 55.9 per 100,000 – close to the state average but well above the national rate.

Sexual exploitation:

- From 2018 to 2022, the Federal Police registered only 11 cases of human trafficking in Pará, with unclear purposes.
- From 2020 to 2022, 84 cases of sexual exploitation of children were reported (~28/year).
- 115 cases of 'favouring prostitution'[11] were recorded over five years, an 87% decrease from earlier in the period.
- The Federal Highway Police identified six high-risk areas for child sexual exploitation on BR-163, a key route to mining areas.

Qualitative data reveals a disconnect between community perception and institutional awareness. Local residents, especially in Jacareacanga and Itaituba, report frequent false promises to women and girls, leading to exploitation. Interviewees also noted frequent rape and sexual violence, particularly against vulnerable women and children.

There are challenges around identifying sex trafficking and SEA as a crime. Brazil has ratified and adopted the Palermo Protocol which determines that the victim's consent is irrelevant. It recognises that abuse of people in situations of vulnerability, and individual, circumstantial or situational characteristics that limit individual choices and put the person at risk, facilitate exploitation by human trafficking agents. However, in the Tapajós River basin where there is an intrinsic relationship between gold mining, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and girls, different understandings of consent and vulnerability mean that cases of sexual exploitation that take place in informal mining areas in the Tapajós River basin region are not always understood as a crime, and are rarely reported/recorded as cases of trafficking in persons.

Source; UNODC (2024) Intersection Of Criminal Activities In The Gold Mining Sector In The Brazilian Amazon

In Yanomami Indigenous Territory, residents of Apiaú reported scenes of sexual abuse of Indigenous women and girls to the Hutukara Yanomami Association. According to their report, a miner who works in the region offered drugs and drinks to the Indigenous people and when they were all 'drunk and inert', raped one of the community's children. It is also reportedly common practice for miners to bring food to the Yanomami girls a few times to gain their trust and as soon as the girls drop their guard, the miners abuse them sexually.[12] In one instance, a Yanomami teenage girl had an arranged "marriage" with a miner for the promise of payment for goods, which was never fulfilled. Villagers report that miners walk around armed, so Indigenous people no longer offer resistance to harassment because they are afraid of being attacked. In the view of Indigenous women interviewed for the Hutukara Yanomami Association investigation, miners represent a significant threat. *'They are lustful and violent, producing a permanent climate of terror and anguish in the villages.'*[13]

The federal government opened investigations into reports of illegal adoptions and systemic sexual abuse against Yanomami children.[14] In February 2023, Ariel de Castro from the National Secretary for the Rights of Children and Adolescents reported that at least 30 Yanomami girls and adolescents in Roraima were pregnant, victims of abuse committed by illegal gold miners (garimpeiros).[15]

Sexual exploitation and trafficking: In Brazil, an estimated 500,000 children and adolescents are forced into commercial sexual exploitation.[16] Land dispossession and associated livelihoods and security can lead to displacement and marginalisation, exacerbating existing gender inequalities and exposing them to heightened risks of sexual exploitation and abuse.[17] Displacement and environmental destruction caused by extraction have left Indigenous women and girls (and their families) with few economic opportunities, often forcing them into sex work.[18]

A BBC documentary Sex for Gold highlights how women feel that their only option is to work (including sex work) in the illegal mining areas in the Amazon basin (with the risk of violence it exposes them to). Many of the women working at the mines are following in the footsteps of their mothers and grandmothers; wanting to break this generational cycle, the gold mining sector is their only chance at saving their daughters from a similar future.[19]

In Yanomami Indigenous Territory, girls as young as 11 have been lured into sex work by illegal miners offering food, clothes, or false promises of employment. Women and girls have been sexually exploited and, in some cases, trapped in debt bondage or enslaved conditions in remote camps, particularly Indigenous and Venezuelan refugee women.[20]

> *'"They [the miners] ask the adult women for their daughters, and also ask the old men for their daughters. They speak like this to the Yanomami: "If you have a daughter and you give her to me, I will land a large amount of food that you will eat! You will feed yourself!"*[21]

Women and girls are drawn in when they are told they will earn about three grams of gold for each sexual encounter (the equivalent of about $185), or a monthly salary of 5,000 reais [$1,025] to be a cook, but they are unaware of what they will find when they get out to the camps in the rainforest. Since these workers have to pay their own way to get to the mining sites, for which they may be charged more than $2,000, often the situation ends up being

one of debt bondage. There are reports of cooks who are coerced into sex work, who cannot afford to buy tickets back home because of the costs in the camps like medication to treat infections, rent, food and personal hygiene products. Many of these women and girls are refugees from across the border in Venezuela, fleeing the economic crisis there.[22]

Sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of women and minors is often facilitated or ignored by illegal mining operations. These forms of violence are frequently unreported and under-prosecuted, contributing to a climate of impunity:

> *"A principal cause of violence against Brazilian Indigenous women is illegal mining… yet perpetrators are not being punished."*[23]

Brazil's most powerful criminal organisation, the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC), has extended its reach deep into the Amazon, engaging in illegal gold mining, logging, drug smuggling, and other environmental crimes. By 2024, PCC was generating around US$1 billion in annual revenue and overseeing roughly 42,000 members, enabling it to operate as a formidable force challenging state authority.[24] According to Carolina Ricardo, executive director of the Instituto Sou da Paz, a Brazilian peace think tank, '*Wherever these groups establish themselves, other forms of violence follows, including sexual violence, femicide, and child exploitation.*'[25] There are reports that the criminals seek out victims who are in a situation of socioeconomic or emotional vulnerability, poverty, family breakdown, or domestic or sexual violence, and using deception and fraud, exploit their victims.[26] Criminal networks operating illegal gold mines along the Brazil–Guyana border are driving sex trafficking by coercing women and girls, especially migrants and Indigenous individuals, into sexual exploitation under conditions of extreme vulnerability and economic dependency. The isolation of these mining zones, combined with weak state oversight, enables organised crime to profit from both illicit gold extraction and human trafficking. It is likely underreported, as families are too fearful to speak out in case of violent retribution.[27]

Sex-trafficking and exploitation is not only present in mining and agriculture exploitations. In Brazil, women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the construction of dams, resulting in various cases of forced prostitution and sex trafficking. The Movement of Dam-Affected peoples in Brazil (MAB, by its Portuguese acronym) reported that dam construction companies are complicit in sex trafficking of women, including minors. In one construction site in Belo Monte, they found women and girls, living in enslaved conditions in brothels, where they are treated as pure commodities for the male workforce.[28]

3.3 Loss of land, property and patrimonial violence

Patrimonial violence refers to the violation of women's property rights. It encompasses actions that deprive women of their assets, income, or access to resources, hindering their economic autonomy and perpetuating their dependence on men. This can manifest as denial of access to joint property, withholding of income, or manipulation that leads to a loss of property rights.[29] This form of GBV is recognised under Brazilian law but remains underreported and poorly addressed by institutions.[30] Patrimonial violence is explored further in Section 4.

Loss of ancestral lands: Agribusiness, logging and (illegal) mining contributes to deforestation and the displacement of Indigenous communities, increasing their vulnerability to GBV. In 2022, 5,600 persons were displaced due to violence related to land ownership by land-grabbers and farmers, mainly in the state of Goiás.[31] Land grabbing, measured by the crime of invasion to occupy federal, state and municipal property/land (Art. 20 of Law 4,947/1966), grew by 275.7%, with a peak of 139 instances of land grabbing in 2022 concentrated in the states of Maranhão, Pará and Roraima. Large-scale infrastructure projects such as dams and agribusiness expansion also often involve displacement, militarisation, and environmental harm, leading to a "triple crisis" of health inequities, deforestation, and GBV.[32]

Loss of ancestral lands also occurs through deforestation and environmental degradation, which has also risen sharply as evidenced by infraction notices issues by IBAMA, Brazil's federal environmental protection agency. In the nine states of the Legal Amazon[33], between 2018 and 2022 there was a 40.1% increase in infraction notices over the period, with 7,979 in 2022. The ten municipalities in the region with the most environmental infractions in 2022 are concentrated in three states: Pará, Rondônia and Amazonas, with 810 notices in Novo Progresso, in Pará, and the mining hub of Pará, Itaituba, in 6th place with 197 notices of infraction.[34] This dispossession and destruction of ancestral land is identified by Indigenous women as a form of (state-supported) violence.[35] The issue of land rights and ancestral lands is explored further in Section 4.

3.4 Femicide, death threats and violence against women by those linked to extractive industries and land conflicts

Femicide: Although most femicides are perpetrated by an intimate or former intimate partner there are reports of women, including from Indigenous communities being murdered while defending their land and human rights. Rates of femicide in areas that are particularly affected by insecure land rights, land grabbing, extractive industries, illegal logging and deforestation, and high presence of organised crime, are indicative of the links. The femicide rate in Amazonian municipalities was 1.8 per 100,000 women, 30.8% higher than the national average, which was 1.4 per 100,000. The rate of intentional violent deaths of women was 5.2 per 100,000 women, 34% higher than the national average of 3.9 per 100,000.[36]

There are also records of killings of prominent activists in Brazil, including[37]:

Date of Murder	Name	Role / Focus
14 February 2005	Dorothy Stang	Land rights and forest defender in Pará (Catholic nun)
24 May 2011	Maria do Espírito Santo	Environmental and land rights activist in Pará
12 August 2011	Patrícia Acioli	Feminist judge and advocate against police violence
7 January 2016 *(body found 21 June)*	Nilce de Souza Magalhães ("Nicinha")	Amazon community leader, Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB) activist
24 May 2017	Jane Julia de Oliveira	Rural workers' rights activist in Pará

14 March 2018	Marielle Franco	Black, LGBTQ+, favela-born human rights city councillor
8 December 2020	Jane Beatriz da Silva Nunes	Black feminist and community human rights defender
21 January 2024	Maria Fátima Muniz de Andrade, known as "Nega Pataxó"	An Indigenous woman who was a spiritual leader, was killed by farmers from the 'Zero Invasion' movement in the South of Bahia.[38]

In 2023, there was a series of territorial conflicts and murders involving fights or disagreements. Of the total, 68 of the victims were men and 17 were women; 31% of the deaths recorded by the Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI) were by firearms, 29% by piercing weapons, and 12% by battering.[39]

Examples of land conflicts since 2010[40]:

Year(s)	Data on women and girls in land conflicts
2024	222 women and 182 minors experienced land-related violence (overall decrease compared to previous year).
2023	7 women killed in land conflicts (16% increase from previous year). Victims included Mãe Bernadete.
2022	6 women killed in land conflicts.
2012–2020	48 women murdered in land conflicts in Amazônia (out of 356 total murders). In the same period, 36 women activists were killed in land disputes with land grabbers and farmers.
2010–2020	77 attempted murders of women reported by CPT—most victims were Indigenous women, landless rural workers, and Quilombolas.

The killing of male relatives: Women do not account for the largest number of people murdered in the countryside. However, as Lucineia Freitas, a key leader within Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) points out, women are also heavily impacted when men are murdered: "*We think of violence in a broad sense, including expulsion from land, torture and threats. When murders [of men] happen, women are the ones left with the children, low state assistance and in the midst of the conflict, which continues.*"[41] When police killed 39 people - all men - in Vila dos Pescadores, there was a protest against police violence by relatives of the victims, in which all the demonstrators were women.[42]

Harassment, violence, intimidation and criminalisation: The Comissão Pastoral da Terra recorded a wide range of other forms of violence against women, such as assaults, arrests, rapes, bodily injuries, humiliation, and intimidation.[43]

Women environmental activists are more likely to experience sexual harassment, gendered intimidation, sexual abuse as torture, and rape.[44] Women defending land and environmental rights are also frequently targeted with death threats and harassment. Leaders like Judite Guajajara and Gloria Belford (herself in government protection after receiving death threats)

have highlighted the targeting of Indigenous women due to their roles in defending territory and natural resources.[45]

Groups of Guarani and Kaiowá have been responding to land grabs with 'retomadas', or reappropriation of lands that have already been identified as part of their territory, but are still in possession of farmers. These attempts have been met with 'ruthless' violence and evictions.[46] Women land defenders - including Quilombola women[47] - who protest land grabs or environmental harm face social stigma, threats, or exclusion from decision-making spaces.

> *"Women experienced dispossession not just of land, but of voice, agency, and livelihood, as agribusiness interests overrode local claims."*[48]

Brazilian Indigenous and environmental women activists who have faced threats, intimidation, or violence in defence of land and environmental rights[49]

Name	Role / Identity	Threats and Attacks Faced
Juma Xipaia	Xipaya Indigenous leader	Opposed Belo Monte Dam; received death threats and survived assassination attempt; fled Brazil in 2017.
Txai Suruí	Indigenous climate activist	Spoke at COP26; faced online threats; kidnapped in 2023 alongside her mother and film crew by armed men.
Alessandra Korap Munduruku	Munduruku leader	Anti-mining activist; received death threats; home was raided after COP26 speech.
Osvalinda Alves Pereira	Amazon forest defender	Threatened by loggers since 2012; forced into hiding with her family.
Rosane Kaingang	Indigenous leader, co-founder of Conami	Faced years of threats; died in 2016 under contested circumstances.
Antonia Melo	Anti-Belo Monte environmentalist	Pistol held to her head; included on hit lists; lives under surveillance.
Evani Lisboa	Manager, Gurupi Biological Reserve	Threatened by criminal groups seeking to exploit reserve; lives in fear.
Nilcilene Miguel de Lima	Forest defender, Amazonas	Beaten by loggers; home burned; relocated to temporary refuge.
Claudelice Silva dos Santos	Environmental and human rights activist and sister of murdered activists	Received direct death threats post-assassination of her brother and sister-in-law; later relocated for protection.
Gloria Belford	Environmental activist	Reportedly under government protection after receiving death threats for her activism.

Women's leadership in Quilombola territory

According to Berg et al (2025), the history of struggle in the Amazon region has led to the leadership of Quilombola women shepherding the continuity of the traditional knowledge unique to their way of life, whether in the roça de toco [a traditional approach to clearing land to prepare it for planting] or in the territorial struggle, and women are now the political leaders representing their community's interests. While most Mata Cavalo community founders were men (with the exception of Ribeirão da Mutuca), women emerged as leaders during the retaking of the territory in the 1990s, and have passed this legacy to their daughters and granddaughters. Women also remain the guardians of creole seeds and traditional agricultural knowledge, now seen as a mainstay for survival. In the face of territorial expropriation, women and their daughters play a key role in fending off police or jagunços (thugs) who had arrived to pressure them to leave the territory, knowing that their male relatives would be killed.

Source; Berg, T., Nieto, E.A., Moura, S. *et al.* (2025) Socio-ecological conflict in Quilombola territory: land titling and ecosystem health. *Sustain Sci* 20, 903–918 (2025).

Women addressing GBV also face violence. For example, Indigenous women including Guarani and Kaiowá women who are part of the Violence Mapping project, 'Corpos Silenciados, Vozes Presentes', describe how researching and collecting data on violence against women has exposed them to further harassment and violence, both physical and psychological.[50]

The Indigenist Missionary Council (2024) highlights the increasing criminalisation and incarceration of Indigenous land defenders in Brazil, including women, who face legal charges and imprisonment for defending their territories. This trend reflects broader systemic attempts to suppress Indigenous resistance against illegal land grabbing, deforestation, and extractive activities.[51]

Women going about their lives are also subjected to beatings, verbal and sexual harassment, rape, and killings by forest guards or mine owners while they amass forest products in protected areas.[52] Groups like the Interstate Movement of Babaçu Nut Breaker Women (MIQCB) have documented how actions by ranchers particularly target women, including the erection of electric fences that block access to food sources.[53] There are also reports of drunken miners invading houses and harassing women.[54]

On July 8, 2021, a miners' boat fired four shots at women who were searching for a missing relative in the river near the Korekorema community.[55]

3.5 Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Femicide: Brazil has the highest rate of femicide in Latin America. The Brazilian Forum on Public Safety reported that in 2024, for the second year, the country has recorded the highest number of women killed for gender-related reasons since the publication of Law No. 13,104/2015, which introduced the concept of femicide into the penal code. It is not known what role interpersonal disputes over property and land plays.[56]

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): According to the National Survey on Violence against Women 2023 statistics, 48% of Brazilian women have experienced domestic violence (women who reported having suffered some type of domestic or family violence caused by a man -

note the timeframe is not specified so it is not clear if this is lifetime or in the last 12 months).[57] In 2021, at least one person called the national police emergency number in Brazil every minute to report domestic violence.[58]

Research confirms high rates of IPV within rural Quilombola communities, exacerbated by racial and economic inequalities. Of 219 women who participated in a study in Spírito Santo State, 59.0% reported psychological violence; 41% physical violence; and 8.2% sexual violence.[59]

> As Espaço Feminista states '*to have land in her name means women who are chief income earners can take better care of children and the elderly. It also means women do not have to stay in abusive relationships because they lack independent access to shelter and livelihoods.*'[60]

3.6 Environmental and occupational violence and impacts on health

Agribusiness and pesticide use: The Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) reports that '*the agribusiness production model has been using pesticides as veritable chemical weapons, which affect water, soil and air, but also thousands of human beings, especially rural and forest communities, ignoring their ways of life and imposing widespread contamination on children, women and the elderly, who should have specific protection from public authorities and actors in the justice system*'[61]

The heavy use of chemicals has had a negative impact on the health of women workers in large-scale oil palm plantations. In a survey in Baixo Jaguaribe, a region of the Ceará state in North-eastern Brazil, women identified multiple effects on their bodies, including throat and eye irritations, impact on their respiratory system, repetitive strain injury, increased occurrences of cancer cases, cases of congenital malformation and 'early puberty'. These are all health problems which have grown exponentially since the arrival of agribusiness companies in the area. Impacts on women's mental health were also mentioned, as women workers have had to cope with the traumatising experience of land dispossession, exposure to pesticides and chemicals, exploitative working conditions, and sexual and gender violence.[62]

Pollutants used in mining: The mining action also impacted the environmental and health conditions inside the Yanomami territory. The rivers used for fishing and water consumption were contaminated with mercury, impacting the health of those who ingested it. Studies have shown that four rivers inside the Yanomami territory had mercury levels 8,600 per cent higher than what is considered safe for human consumption, and that, in certain parts of the territory, 56 per cent of Yanomami women and children presented unsafe levels of mercury in their bodies, increasing their risk of neurological disorders, cerebral palsy, and lifelong disabilities.[63]

3.7 Child, early and forced marriage

Around a quarter (26 percent) of Brazilian girls marry or enter a union before age 18 and 6% are married or enter a union before age 15. In Brazil, child, early, and forced marriage and unions take the form of legal, formally registered civil or religious marriages, informal unions or cohabitation. Distinctions between the three are often blurred.[64] Most child marriages in

Brazil are informal. Without formal marriage, women often have no joint registration or recognised property rights. Black, Indigenous, or poor girls who marry early face multiple layers of disadvantage, making it harder to claim land, even where constitutional rights nominally exist.[65]

There are also cases of Yanomami teenage girls being in arranged marriages with miners in exchange for promises of payment for goods.[66]

3.7 Structural violence: A weak institutional response

Structural or systemic violence towards Indigenous communities has been facilitated both by a 'pliant judiciary' and a succession of national governments that have been dominated by the '*ruralista* front', a voting bloc representing the interests of large landowners, as well as US-based agribusiness multinationals.[67]

State neglect and judicial failures also compound GBV; for instance, courts have ignored evidence or relied on gender and racial stereotypes, weakening protection for GBV survivors.[68] Despite high numbers of women and girls experiencing GBV, the National Gender Violence Map found that 61% of incidents go unreported.[69]

Brazil has only about 70 domestic violence shelters for a population of over 200 million. There are no effective housing programmes for women escaping domestic violence. Moreover, police stations and domestic violence courts focus mainly on physical and sexual violence, giving less attention to property-related abuse. Property division is handled by civil courts, not domestic violence courts, which disconnects it from the context of gender-based violence.[70]

Under Bolsonaro's presidency, state complicity and deregulation worsened violence against women, especially in Amazonian Indigenous communities. The FUNAI (National Indigenous People's Foundation), a Brazilian governmental protection agency for Indigenous interests and culture set up in 1967, actively supported illegal industrial activities and agribusiness on certain reservations.[71]

Brazil's current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva introduced a comprehensive package of over 25 gender-focused measures, ranging from equal-pay legislation to substantial funding for domestic violence shelters and science initiatives led by women, to reverse setbacks under the previous administration.[72]

Lula also revoked decrees and measures imposed by Bolsonaro's administration relating to the environment, including the annulment of a decree that encouraged mining in Indigenous lands and protected areas, the resumption of plans to combat deforestation in the Amazon and Cerrado biomes and the resumption of the Amazon Fund, a pool of funding provided to Brazil by developed nations to finance a variety of programmes aimed at halting deforestation that was stalled under Bolsonaro.[73]

However, challenges remain, for example, the Indigenous territory's proximity to the humanitarian situation in Venezuela, which is also home to Yanomami communities and where illegal mining continues to boom.[74] There is also evidence of state support for violations. In 2023, in the south of Mato Grosso do Sul, in the municipality of Naviraí, the Guarani Kaiowá community of the Kurupi tekoha was attacked by Military Police officers who

were escorting farmers. Shots were fired at the Indigenous people, while officers surrounded the community in pickup trucks and a helicopter flew over the area, forcing women and children to hide in the forest.[75]

In August 2025 Lulu signed into law a controversial bill that scientists and environmentalists had dubbed the "devastation bill", but vetoed key articles that would have in effect dismantled the country's environmental licensing system.. The bill's controversial clauses—including self-declared environmental licensing for medium-impact projects and excluding Indigenous and Quilombola communities from consultations—were vetoed. However, Lula kept a provision letting the government fast-track "strategic" projects, potentially enabling oil exploration at mouth of the Amazon River, drawing strong environmental criticism.[76] Additionally in August 2025, one of the key agreements for Amazon rainforest protection, the soy moratorium, was suspended by Brazilian authorities, potentially opening up an area the size of Portugal to destruction by farmers.[77]

4. Land rights

4.1 Women's land rights in Brazil

In Brazil, while women have equal legal rights to land and property ownership, they face significant challenges in practice. Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, discriminatory norms and customs, particularly in rural areas, limit women's ability to acquire, manage, and retain property. This disparity highlights a gap between formal legal rights and the lived realities of women in Brazil. Challenges include:

- **Formal equality vs. informal practices:** The Brazilian Constitution and Civil Code grant men and women equal property rights. However, traditional practices, particularly in inheritance and land distribution, often favour men, leading to women facing barriers in exercising their rights. Insecure land tenure undermines women's financial autonomy and exposes them to domestic and communal violence. Qualitative stories of rural women (e.g. in Pernambuco, Maranhão) explore the impact of insecure land tenure, stemming from informality, lack of formal marriage status, and institutional biases.[78]
- **Inheritance challenges:** Women may face difficulties inheriting land, especially in rural areas, due to factors like lack of documentation, high costs associated with legal processes, and informal inheritance practices that favour men. When relationships are not formalised, women's rights are not protected. Most women, especially in the rural areas, receive their land through inheritance from their husbands, fathers, and other members of the family. When marriages and successions are not formally documented, women find they have no legal claim to family assets after the deaths of their husbands or family members.[79] According to a survey by the NGO Espaco Feminista, 55% of women interviewed in Bonito cohabit with their partners without formalising their relationships. In Caruaru, the percentage is 51.5%. Not having marriage papers has left many women in very fragile situations in terms of land and claims to other shared assets.[80]

- **Little access to land through formal markets:** In Brazil, women tend to access land mainly through inheritance and through state programmes, while access to land through formal markets is less common. A recent analysis shows that Brazil's agrarian reforms carried out by progressive governments after 2000 not only strengthened women's formal land rights, but it also resulted in a significant share and number of female beneficiaries. Brazilian women have benefited through the priority given to female household heads as well as the mandatory joint allocation of land to couples in the agrarian reform settlements.[81]
- **Registered land tenure:** According to the country's most recent Census of Agriculture from 2017, men manage 81.3% of agricultural establishments, particularly dominating medium and large-scale ones. A small percentage of land in Brazil is registered in women's names. The NGO Espaco Feminista found that only 5.5% of total agricultural land is registered under women's names.[82]
- **Gender bias in land rights formalisation campaigns:** A key aspect appears to be the high prevalence of marriage informality in areas of land rights formalisation. Even where laws provide equal land rights to informal spouses, claiming these rights is far from easy in the context of a land rights formalization campaign, where implementers may never even know that an informal spouse exists or has a co-ownership claim to a particular parcel of land.[83]
- **Lack of awareness:** Women may lack awareness of their rights to land ownership and inheritance, further compounding the challenges they face.[84] Women themselves often do not know they have rights as informal spouses, and may not view themselves as 'informal spouses', but rather as partners who may not have any spouse-like rights. Women often lack access to justice to make a timely claim if their rights have not been recognised, social norms may discourage informal spouses from making a claim, and data metrics and feedback loops are inadequate to catch problems as they arise during implementation.[85]
- **Intersectionality:** The challenges are further compounded by race and class, with Afro-Brazilian women experiencing the most significant barriers to accessing resources and services, according to the World Bank. Drawing on the 2017 Agricultural Census (the most recent such census), 19.7% of family farming establishments are managed by women, of which 62% are 'Black and mixed race', 35% are 'white', 2% are Indigenous, and 1% are 'East Asian'.[86]
- **Censuses and household surveys often overlook intra-family inequalities between men and women**:[87] This is an important information and knowledge gap which must be acknowledged by governments, researchers and activists alike, in understanding and addressing women's land rights.[88]
- **Political resistance** from powerful landowning interests continues to block systemic reform.[89]

4.2 Intersections of land rights with GBV and extractive industries

In Brazil, women's land rights are deeply intertwined with their exposure to and protection from GBV. It is widely recognised that the loss of ancestral lands and land rights has left women and girls vulnerable to different forms of sexual violence, as displacement and dispossession often dismantle community protection networks and livelihoods, force women and girls into precarious living conditions, and increase their exposure to armed actors, extractive industry workers, and other outsiders who may exploit their heightened insecurity.[90]

Lack of secure land tenure and access to related livelihoods can also increase women's vulnerability to IPV by limiting their economic independence, making them more susceptible to domestic violence, and hindering their ability to leave abusive situations.[91]

Women rights activists recognise that initiatives that focus on granting land titles to women, raising awareness about women's land rights, and addressing harmful gender norms are crucial for reducing GBV and promoting women's empowerment in Brazil.[92] (See section 5 for examples).

The intersections globally between GBV, land and extractive industries (including legal and illegal activities) were the subject of a review of over 1000 resources by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.[93] While this report does not focus on Brazil, it is a rare study that addresses intersections between land rights, GBV (beyond IPV) and also includes a focus on extractive industries. It provides useful framing on GBV in relation to:

- access, use and control of natural resources, including land
- inequitable tenure rights and customary norms
- illicit natural resource exploitation, including illegal logging and mining
- extractive industries, large-scale infrastructure projects, and agribusiness
- environmental action by women to defend land, territories and the environment
- women's restricted access to natural resource decision-making spheres and information as a form of exclusion, with women risking violent repercussions if they try to access these spaces.

Key findings include:

1. GBV as a Tool for Control Over Land and Resources

- **Land used as a form of security**: Women's access to land is not just about livelihoods—it also underpins their safety and autonomy. However, when women's land rights are insecure or denied, they become vulnerable to violence.
- **Violence to enforce land/resource grabs**: GBV is often used deliberately to dispossess women of land, with acts ranging from physical eviction to coercive tactics.
- **Sexual extortion in land access**: Women may be subjected to sexual coercion by officials or power-holders to gain or retain agricultural land or land titles.
- **Discrimination against Indigenous women**: Due to intersecting prejudices and historically weak tenure frameworks, Indigenous women face heightened risks of land grabbing, accompanied by GBV.

2. Securing Land Rights Can Offer Protective Benefits

- **Positive impacts of enhanced land rights**: When women secure land tenure, they often experience improvements in food security, economic opportunities, decision-making, and—even reduced intimate partner violence in some situations.
- **Context matters**: However, altering gendered power dynamics can sometimes provoke backlash. In certain contexts, men may feel their authority is threatened, potentially increasing GBV incidents.

Violence connected to land rights and extractive industries is often perpetrated at a **communal level** in the form of conflicts over customary or ancestral land that lead to gender inequalities and further forms of GBV.

- **Women and girls in rural land conflicts face targeted violence:** these include threats, arson of the home, sexual violence, shootings, forced evictions by paramilitary or jagunço groups, and economic destitution tied to losing land access (see Section 2 for more information).
- **Prevention of the fulfilment of their rights as Indigenous peoples:** Indigenous women, who have long fought for their right to ancestral territory, along with the Indigenous men in their community. In addition, they face barriers to access and control over their own ancestral lands, thereby implying the prevention of the fulfilment of their rights as Indigenous peoples towards self-determination, as well as of their access to food, water and medicinal plants.[94]
- **Violations of land rights a form of violence:** For Indigenous women including Guarani and Kaiowá women who are part of the Violence Mapping project, 'Corpos Silenciados, Vozes Presentes', the land is central to their cultural, spiritual, and physical survival. In this respect, the state's refusal to demarcate Indigenous lands is considered a major source of violence.[95] Quilombola women also face barriers in terms of land ownership and are victims of expulsion from their land.[96]
- **Gendered responsibility for food can heighten women's vulnerability to violence:** For example, in northeastern Brazil, the *quebradeiras de coco babaçu*—women who have harvested and broken babaçu nuts for generations—are defending their livelihoods, cultural identity, and communal access to the palms against deforestation, land grabs, and agricultural expansion; organized under the Interstate Movement of Babaçu Coconut Breakers (MIQCB), they have won "Free Babaçu" laws guaranteeing access even on private lands, yet continue to face escalating threats and enforcement challenges.[97]
- **Social breakdown leaving women and girls vulnerable to further forms of GBV:** Social breakdown associated with land dispossession, mining, logging and agribusiness has led to escalating domestic violence, substance abuse, and heightened sexual violence and exploitation in related zones, disproportionately affecting women and girls.[98] At a virtual event during the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Indigenous women and activists from Brazil and other LAC countries highlighted how legal and territorial insecurity magnifies their vulnerability to GBV.[99]

- **Disruption of domestic and community life:** As illustrated in Section 2, homes are attacked and livelihoods (like livestock or crops) destroyed. These actions are often experienced and narrated by women as attacks on their belonging and on their roles in family/community reproduction.
- **Dependency on men:** When women lack access to land, they may rely on male relatives or partners for access to resources which can create a power imbalance and make them more vulnerable to violence. This dependence can leave them with limited options to escape abusive relationships and can be a form of economic violence. Women may struggle to find housing, support themselves and their children, and may be financially unable to leave an abusive relationship.[100]
- **Limited livelihood options:** The erosion of land-based livelihoods can also push women and girls into informal or exploitative labour markets, heightening risks of trafficking and transactional sex.[101]
- **Lack of gender justice:** Indigenous leaders are asking why perpetrators of crimes against Indigenous women related to illegal mining are not being punished.[102] Women have to fight two battles at once: for community land rights against state and corporate actors, and for gender equality within their own movements to ensure women's names are on collective titles and women's priorities are reflected in land governance, including GBV.[103]
- **Intersectionality:** The impact of land rights on GBV is further complicated by other factors like racism, discrimination against Indigenous people and socioeconomic status. (see Section 4)

There are evidence gaps on how formal and informal land rights differently intersect with GBV in Brazil. There is substantial variation of property right security across Indigenous territories due to different regimes and different programs that were tried over time. Different types of violence are differently affected by property rights.[104]

However, there are some indications of associations and intersections:

- **Where land rights are granted to a collective or a community** (as is the case with the 1988 Constitution's land rights provisions for Indigenous and Quilombola communities[105]), women in these communities face compound threats, from the precarious legal status of community land, large-scale invasions by agribusiness or miners, and gendered forms of violence tied to enforced dispossession.[106]
- **Women's land ownership decreases where agribusiness increases:** Research on how the agricultural transition driven by newly developed genetically engineered soy seeds affected women's land ownership in Brazil found that regions more exposed to potential gains from genetically engineered soy experienced larger declines in female landownership.[107]
- **Deforestation rates are lower in tenure-secure Indigenous land:** A study by the World Resources Institute found that annual deforestation rates in the tenure-secure Indigenous forestlands are significantly lower than on other lands in Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia, suggesting that securing Indigenous forestland tenure contributed to reducing deforestation in these areas.[108] Given the links between deforestation, legal and illegal

logging, extractive industries and GBV,[109] this suggests that secure Indigenous tenure of forest land in Brazil could have a protective effect on GBV. However, this is not clearly established in the literature.

- **Women play a key role in 'retomadas' and informal occupations,[110] but this role exposes them to GBV.** The murder of Maria Fátima Muniz de Andrade provides a stark example of this.

A 2023 research paper[111] emphasises the deep interconnections between GBV and environmental injustice in the lives of Indigenous women in Brazil, especially in the Amazon region, and the interplay between formal and customary land rights enshrined in the 1988 Constitution, and later policies which reversed these. Key points include:

- Indigenous women face multiple vulnerabilities - gender, race, ethnicity, and geography - exacerbated by extractive industries and patriarchal norms.
- Environmental degradation (e.g. deforestation, mining) increases GBV, including sexual violence, trafficking, and femicide.
- The Bolsonaro era worsened the situation with aggressive extractive policies, rollback of protections, and state complicity. Bolsonaro's reversal of Brazil's 1988 constitutional guarantee for Indigenous land rights on ancestral lands released 38,000 square miles for permitted use by loggers, ranchers, and other landgrabbers. Femicide increased by 44%. Illegal logging and mining intensified, often with FUNAI complicity. Violence against Indigenous women more than doubled.
- GBV is both a cause and consequence of environmental destruction.
- Power imbalances in resource access and decision-making worsen outcomes for women.
- Policy and data blind spots underpin a lack of responsive legal and institutional mechanisms.

Despite the lack of systemic and reliable data on the intersections between GBV, land conflict and formal and informal land tenure, and mining and other extractive industries, it is clear that GBV is generally prevalent, women's land rights are commonly undermined, and extractive industries (both legal and illegal) bring with them militarisation and a culture of hypermasculinity.

There are studies from Latin America and from Brazil (see box below) that illustrate that secure land tenure for women can potentially decrease the prevalence of GBV through increased status within the household and community; enhance legal rights and access to justice; ensure greater economic independence and bargaining power; and decrease incidence of child marriage. However, their focus is mainly on IPV rather than other types of violence and does not cover communal rights to land.

Examples of studies linking IPV and land rights:

Latin America:

- PRIndex's regional report on land tenure security in Latin America indicates that women's lack of secure property rights increases their vulnerability to poverty and GBV. The report emphasises that

when women have secure property and inheritance rights, their income and overall well-being improve, reducing the likelihood of experiencing violence.[112]

- Nationally representative data for four LAC countries (Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras) finds that joint ownership (house/land) is associated with significantly lower domestic violence (38% lower odds). Sole ownership by women shows mixed/no protective association. However, this study only focuses on IPV.[113]
- Cross-country DHS analysis (includes several LAC settings but not Brazil) finds context-specific links between women's asset ownership and past-year IPV.[114] It concludes that on the one hand, women's asset ownership may be protective against IPV, signalling sufficient economic independence or credible threat for women to discourage IPV or leave abusive situations. On the other hand, in societies in which asset ownership is a marker of men's dominance, or when violence is used to control victims, women's property ownership may transgress historical or rigid gender norms, leading male partners to assert their control through violence perpetration. The lessons for land rights in Brazil are not clear.
- Analysis of Ecuador's national asset survey shows women's share of couple wealth is associated with lower odds of physical IPV in Ecuador.[115]
- Impact evaluation of land administration/regularization; while focused on empowerment/food security, it explicitly situates women's tenure security as protection against dispossession in separation/divorce and cites evidence connecting tenure to reduced domestic conflict/violence.[116]
- A mixed-methods study of 492 women from Nicaragua and Tanzania, examining how land ownership relates to women's relationship power and experiences of GBV. Quantitative results showed that women who owned land had significantly greater power within their relationships and were less likely to experience physical and psychological violence, while qualitative narratives revealed that owning land shifted household dynamics, enhanced autonomy, and challenged entrenched gender hierarchies. The findings suggest that securing women's land rights can be a structural intervention to reduce vulnerability to violence by altering power relations in intimate partnerships.[117]

Brazil:

- A survey conducted by Espaço Feminista in Brazil underscores the significant link between women's land rights and reduced vulnerability to domestic violence. While the authors of this report were not able to locate the survey results, the findings suggest that securing land in a woman's name can empower her economically and socially, providing the autonomy needed to leave abusive relationships. This empowerment is particularly crucial for women who are the primary income earners and caregivers, as it offers them the means to support themselves and their families independently.[118] Espaço Feminista found that the most challenging and complex issue to untangle was the overlap between land and housing security and domestic violence. When they prepared their survey questionnaire, they took great care to ask about domestic violence indirectly, yet women in abusive relationships were still reluctant to reveal their situation. They witnessed how often women unequivocally denied experiencing violence despite obvious evidence of it.[119]
- A qualitative study of "violência patrimonial" (economic/property abuse) in Brazil's housing context linked asset inequalities, housing insecurity, and domestic abuse dynamics.[120] Focusing on housing struggles amidst urban poverty, this study explores violation of women's property rights which is recognised by Latin American legal systems as 'patrimonial violence against women'. It shows how women are likely to experience gendered evictions and dispossession, and why patrimonial

violence against women remains largely misunderstood and underreported, despite legal progress. It follows 56 low-income Brazilian women and documents how insecurity of tenure and property loss intersect with domestic violence before/during/after abuse.[121]

5. Who is most affected

In Brazil, Indigenous, Afro-Brazilian, rural, and low-income women and girls are among the most vulnerable to GBV related to land and property. This vulnerability is shaped by a key distinction: land rights often involve collective, customary, or informal tenure systems, especially in rural and Indigenous territories. In contrast, property ownership typically refers to formal, individual legal titles, which are more accessible in urban areas and often exclude marginalised women from legal protection and inheritance rights.[122] (see section 4 for further information on the distinction)

There is a lack of data that links experiences of GBV for different groups of women and girls particularly as they are affected by land and property rights,

5.1 Indigenous and Quilombola women and girls

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, globally Indigenous women are three times more likely to experience sexual violence than non-Indigenous women.[123] In 2023, data obtained by Cimi from the Mortality Information System (SIM) and the Secretariat of Indigenous Health (Sesai) reported at least 208 murders of Indigenous people in Brazil. As in previous years, the states with the highest numbers of murders were Roraima (47), Mato Grosso do Sul (43) and Amazonas (36), which account for 39 per cent of the total. The crimes occurred in 26 states in the country, with 179 men and 30 women killed. 19 of the murders were of people aged 19 or younger.[124]

For Indigenous, Quilombola, and rural women, GBV is often inseparable from broader patterns of land insecurity, gender and racial inequality, and environmental degradation. Women in Indigenous and Quilombola territories experience sexual violence, patrimonial abuse, harassment, and health-related harms, and are disproportionately targeted as land and environmental defenders. These violations are compounded by institutional neglect, systemic racism, and entrenched power asymmetries, especially in extractive zones (see Section 2).

The UN Women's Rights Committee (2023) expressed concern about the intersecting forms of discrimination faced by Indigenous and Quilombola women and women of African descent who are economically and socially disadvantaged. The Committee pointed out that their lack of land titles and the risk of forced removals and exploitation by private, non-State actors such as extractive industries and infrastructure developers without their consultation and free, prior and informed consent. It urged Brazil to protect Indigenous women, Quilombola women and women of African descent from any illegal occupation of and forced evictions from lands traditionally occupied or used by them, strengthen procedural safeguards against forced evictions and reparations for victims, provide adequate sanctions,

and require free, prior and informed consent of their communities and adequate benefit sharing arrangements.[125]

5.2 Rural women, girls and peasant farmers

Rural women in Brazil frequently lack formal land titles. Fewer than 12% of total registered land and only 5.5% of agricultural land is under women's names, due to patriarchal inheritance norms, male-biased agrarian reform policies, and inadequate legal recognition of their labour and land use, all of which expose them to eviction, economic abuse, and gender-based violence.[126]

5.3 Urban poor women (e.g. favela residents)

While urban women are not the focus of this query, rural to urban migration is a significant issue in Brazil.[127] Urban poor women often lack formal housing titles, making them vulnerable to eviction during urban development, floods, or evictions linked to mega-events (e.g. the Olympics and World Cup). Domestic and community violence is higher in informal settlements with poor infrastructure and limited legal protections.[128]

5.4 Migrant and refugee women

Lack of documentation and legal status undermines access to property rights and shelters, and can increase women's exposure to GBV, as can economic dependency, lack of access to justice, and insecure housing.

Migrants – especially Bolivian, Filipino, Haitian, Paraguayan, Chinese, and Venezuelan migrants – and people living near Brazil's border areas (especially Maranhão) are also vulnerable to sex and labour trafficking.[129] According to an investigation by the Hutukara Yanomami Association (2022), women and girls who are refugees from across the border in Venezuela, fleeing the economic crisis there are being sexually exploited by miners in the Yanomami communities.[130]

5.5 Afro-Brazilian women (outside of Quilombola communities)

Structural racism intersects with gender and class to deny Afro-Brazilian women access to property, land and economic security.[131] They face discrimination in land ownership, displacement by urban development or agribusiness, and economic abuse.[132]

The UN Women's Rights Committee (2024) was gravely concerned about the sharp increase in femicides, cases of rape, assault and other sexual crimes, domestic violence, as well as disappearances of women and girls increasingly targeting Afro-Brazilian women and girls.[133] Data from the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety's Public Security Annuary for 2024 (referring to data from 2023) highlights that of the 1,467 recorded femicides, 63% were of Black women and 52% of rapes.[134]

Afro-descendant women and girls are also at risk for trafficking. In Brazil, most identified trafficking victims are people of colour, and many are Afro-Brazilian or otherwise of African descent; among trafficking victims served at state-level anti-trafficking offices in 2020, 63 percent identified as Black or Brown.[135]

5.6 LGBTQIA+ individuals (especially trans women)

In 2022, 256 LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, and others) people died violent deaths in Brazil. Among these cases, 242 were homicides and 14 were suicides.[136] Assaults rose by 35.2%, homicides by 7.2%, and rapes by 88.4%.[137]

More transgender people were killed in Brazil than anywhere else in the world. By October the National Ombudsperson of Human Rights' Office had registered 3,873 human rights violations affecting transgender people, such as physical violence, discrimination and racism, compared with 3,309 cases in 2022.[138] Transgender women are one of the Brazilian populations most vulnerable to trafficking. According to a 2019 study, 90 percent of transgender women in Brazil engage in commercial sex and, of those in Rio de Janeiro, more than half are in a situation at high risk for human trafficking.[139]

The CPT now includes anti-LGBT violence in rural areas in its reports on land conflicts. Among the most brutal of these crimes was the attack on Aline Silva, a trans activist from the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST), who was beheaded in Pernambuco state in 2019.[140]

5.7 Widows and divorced women

In many legal and customary systems, women lose land or property rights upon the death of a spouse or divorce. They can face land grabbing by in-laws or ex-partners, homelessness, and economic violence leaving them potentially vulnerable to other forms of violence. They may lack the resources or support to challenge property disputes.[141]

When marriages and successions are not formally documented, women find they have no legal claim to family assets after the deaths of their husbands or family members.[142] According to a survey by the NGO Espaco Feminista, 55% of women interviewed in Bonito cohabit with their partners without formalizing their relationships. In Caruaru, the percentage is 51.5%. Not having marriage papers has left many women in very fragile situations in terms of land and claims to other shared assets.[143]

5.8 Children, girls and young women

Young people between the ages of 18 and 25 are almost twice as likely to experience tenure insecurity as people over the age of 65. Due mainly to increases in life expectancy, young people inherit land much later than in previous generations. Inheritance often leads to the division of farmland into smaller and smaller parcels, affecting their productivity.[144]

Data from the Brazilian Forum on Public Safety's Public Security Annuary for 2024 (referring to data from 2023) highlights that of 83,988 rapes, 76% are against children under 13 years old.[145] Thirty-five percent of young people before age 19 have experienced GBV.[146] Perpetrators of sexual violence and sexual exploitation often target girls (as outlined in section 2). Those who are at risk of GBV tend to have intersecting vulnerabilities, particularly children, adolescent girls and young women who are rural, poor, Indigenous and/or Afro-descendant.

5.9 Women mine and agriculture workers

When women lose access to productive and communal land, it can push them into informal or precarious labour, often without legal protections. Women in Brazil still do not have parity with men in salary, work stability, or work conditions. For example, women in value chains in the fruit industry are usually hired for activities such as fruit cleaning and packing that are only in demand during specific seasons of the year. For this reason, women, more so than men, are hired for short periods of time and dismissed multiple times over the year, causing them to live in conditions of constant insecurity.[147]

Women form part of the large-scale mining industry – for example women represent 10% in Brazil.[148] It is unclear whether this figure includes those who support mining operations such as cooks. Women working in male-dominated environments including mining, as well as large-scale oil operations, face high risks of workplace sexual harassment and abuse. They are often temporary or contract workers with little job security, and may be afraid to report abuse due to fear of losing employment.[149] 30% of people working in artisanal and small-scale mining are women, often in supporting roles with very low incomes.[150,151] They commonly experience harassment, sexual violence, and domestic violence.[152]

6. Policies, protection and community mechanisms

Brazil has implemented a wide-ranging framework of national policies, legal instruments, community-based initiatives, and international collaborations to combat GBV, promote women's rights, and ensure land access and autonomy, especially for Indigenous, Quilombola, and rural women. It is beyond the scope of this query to assess the effectiveness of these different approaches, but it is likely that a combination of targeted approaches from the national to community level are likely to be most effective.

See Annex 5 for more information on each initiative (with references).

National and regional-level policies and budget allocation

- Women Living Without Violence Programme: Reinstated in 2023; includes Dial 180 hotline and 15 Women's Houses serving 197,000+ women.
- National Pact to Prevent Femicide: Integrates land rights into anti-violence strategies; promotes joint land titling and secure tenure.
- Yanomami Emergency Response: Health teams, food aid, and crackdown on illegal mining; improved conditions but challenges persist.
- Targeted Credit (Pronaf Mulher): Low-interest loans for rural women; 57% of microcredit operations now led by women.
- Operação Acolhida: Humanitarian response to Venezuelan migration; offers shelter, legal aid, and voluntary relocation.
- Special Mobile Inspection Groups (GEFM): Investigate trafficking and forced labour; joint operations uncover sexual exploitation.

Legal frameworks against GBV

- Maria da Penha Law (2006): Criminalises domestic violence; recognizes patrimonial abuse.
- Feminicídio Law (2015): Femicide classified as aggravated homicide; penalties increased to 40 years.
- Law No. 13,344 (2016): Tackles trafficking with victim support and stricter penalties.
- Joint Land Titling (2007): Ensures women's access to land and public funding.
- Women's Police Stations (2023): 24/7 specialized stations offering private, trained support for GBV victims.

Civil society engagement and legal education

- Espaço Feminista: Empowers women through training and advocacy on land/housing rights.
- THEMIS: Trains paralegals to support women's legal rights and GBV response.
- UNFPA/PAHO workshops: Reached 36,000+ women with GBV prevention and legal education.
- Community focal points: Ensure women's inclusion in extractive industry consultations.

Women's collectives and rural movements

- MST Gender Sector: Links land rights with GBV resistance; organizes national campaigns and training.
- Marcha das Margaridas: Largest rural women's movement; influenced national femicide prevention policies.
- MIQCB (Babassu Nutcrackers): Defends forest access and documents land-related GBV.
- CONAQ Women's Collective: Advocates for Quilombola women's rights and land titling.

Women leaders and Indigenous advocacy

- Prominent Figures: Leaders like Sônia Guajajara and Alessandra Korap confront GBV and environmental crimes.
- Instituto Juma & Podáali Fund: Support Indigenous autonomy and land protection with gender focus.

Land regulation and gender equality

- Minha Casa é Legal (Espaço Feminista): Land regularisation in informal settlements; majority of titles go to women.
- Tenure Facility & MIQCB: Titling of 17,000 hectares of women's lands; enforcement of Free Babassu laws.

GBV Crisis Support Tech

- Mapa do Acolhimento: Tech platform connecting 19,000+ survivors to volunteer lawyers and psychologists.

Monitoring and media

- Violence Mapping (Guarani & Kaiowá): Indigenous women document GBV and visualize data via interactive maps.
- SUMAÚMA Journalism: Reports on GBV and land threats from Indigenous and ecological perspectives.
- National GBV Map: Consolidates official data but lacks regular updates.

Responsible business & corporate accountability

- Social License to Operate (SLO) Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and independent auditing for companies: address gender inequality, community involvement, harassment and trafficking risks.
- Rio Tinto Training: Gender-sensitive security protocols and human rights education for personnel.

International & UN engagement

- UN Special Rapporteur & NGOs: Highlight systemic sexual violence and land grabs.
- UNFPA & UN Women: Support policy development, workshops, and Indigenous women's inclusion.
- Tapajós Project (UNODC): Targets trafficking in mining zones with evidence-based interventions.
- IACHR Reports: Document GBV in extractive zones across Brazil.

Annex 1: Methodology

This research query has been conducted as systematically as possible, under tight time constraints. The review prioritised research studies, articles by and about activists and human rights reports from recognised human rights bodies as well as newspaper articles and NGO and CBO reports. Searches were conducted through online searches using Google and relevant electronic databases. ChatGPT was used to generate lists of resources and 'facts' on sub-topics and triangulated with Google searches.

We developed a table of key resources and went through each systematically including mining the bibliographies (if present) or reports mentioned for further relevant texts.

Query areas of focus:

Brazil	**Land rights (formal and informal) Property ownership**	**Informal and illegal mining**	**Large-scale extractive industry**	**Agribusiness**
GBV	• Types of GBV • Most affected groups • Prevention and response			

Search terms: "Brazil" AND "GBV" or "sexual exploitation" or "sexual violence" or "harassment" or "child / early marriage" or "trafficking" or "property violence" or "IPV" or "structural violence" AND "women" or "girls" or "gender" or "women's activists / rights defenders / environmentalists" AND "extractive industries" or "mining" or "agribusiness / rubber / soya / sugar" AND "land rights" or "land insecurity" or "property rights" or "land / property ownership"

Inclusion criteria: Evidence needed to fulfil the following criteria:

- Focus: GBV, land rights and property ownership, and mining, agribusiness and extractive industries
- Countries: Brazil
- Time period for written research and evidence: Primarily information on websites or documents from 2020, noting that some of the resources included drew on data and examples from before 2020.
- Language: searches were conducted primarily in English. However, we included a number of key resources in Portuguese.

Limitations:

- **Complexity of land rights** – The complex nature of Brazil's land laws, combined with different legal frameworks for Indigenous, Qilombola, and rural populations, makes it time-consuming to interpret and compare sources.

- **Changing political context and temporality of resources** – In recent years there have been dramatic changes to the political situation in Brazil with Jair Bolsonaro's presidency from January 2019 to January 2023, followed by the election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, with his focus on GBV, rights of Indigenous communities, and land rights. The date of a report, article or study is vital, given the contextual changes that have happened within the last five or six years.
- **Limited studies addressing the range of types of GBV**, with studies often focusing on a limited definition of violence (sexual violence, IPV, and femicide).
- **Few resources address how the focus issues intersect** – There is a scarcity of integrated sources on the intersections of land rights, extractive industries, and GBV in Brazil. Testimonies from activists and those working directly with communities provide vital insights into the combined and intersecting impact of these issues on women's lives, and are important to take seriously.

Annex 2: Land rights and gender equality in Brazil's 2024 Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs recognise land rights as key to sustainable development, with land and property rights indicators under targets on ending poverty and hunger, and achieving gender equality.

In 2024, Brazil was one of 36 countries that submitted a Voluntary National Review (VNR) for the High-Level Political Forum.[153] The VNR highlights one of the challenges of addressing the intersections of land rights and GBV in the country - a lack of data and a lack of reporting on land rights, as shown in the table below.

SDG Target	Indicator	Progress reported in Brazil's 2024 VNR
Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	Indicator 1.4.2: Proportion of the total adult population with guaranteed land tenure rights, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their land rights as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.	No indicators or short or interrupted series
Target 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, Indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.	Indicator 2.3.1: Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size. Indicator 2.3.2: Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and Indigenous status	No indicators or short or interrupted series
Target 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national law.	Indicator 5.a.1: (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure. Indicator 5.a.2: Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.	Negative evaluation.

Annex 3: The range of mining and agribusiness that takes place in Brazil

Main types of mining in Brazil (including Large-Scale Extractive Industries and Informal and Illegal Mining):

- Nickel mining and processing: Niquelandia, Goias.
- Iron ore mining: Minas Gerais
- Gold Mining: Predominantly in the Amazon region, often on Indigenous lands.
- Gem Mining: Including diamonds and other precious stones
- Oil and Gas: Brazil is a major player in offshore oil production, with significant fields like the Tupi oil field.
- Other critical minerals: Brazil produces nearly 80 different mineral commodities, including manganese, bauxite, copper, and tantalum in addition to those listed above.

Main types of agribusiness in Brazil:

- Soybean Production: Brazil is the world's top soybean producer and exporter. Grown mostly in the Cerrado and Amazon frontier states (e.g., Mato Grosso, Goiás, Pará). Soy is a major driver of deforestation and land conflict, especially in Indigenous and traditional territories. Used for animal feed, biodiesel, and exports (mainly to China and the EU).
- Cattle Ranching (Beef Production): Brazil is the world's largest beef exporter. Extensive cattle ranching, particularly in the Amazon and Cerrado, is one of the leading causes of deforestation and land grabbing. Often associated with labor violations and environmental degradation.
- Sugarcane Production: Used for both sugar and ethanol (biofuel). Concentrated in the Southeast (São Paulo, Minas Gerais). Brazil is a global leader in sugar and ethanol exports. Less deforestation-linked than soy/beef, but concerns remain around labor exploitation and monocultures.
- Corn Production: Grown alongside soy in rotation systems, mainly in the Midwest and South. Used for animal feed and ethanol; a growing export commodity. Corn farming supports the expanding poultry and pork sectors.
- Poultry and Pork Production: Brazil is one of the largest exporters of chicken and pork, particularly to China, the Middle East, and Europe. Concentrated in Southern states like Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul.
- Citrus (especially Orange Juice): Brazil is the world's largest exporter of orange juice. São Paulo is the primary orange-producing region. The industry has faced scrutiny over worker conditions and pesticide use.
- Palm Oil: Expanding mainly in northern Brazil (Pará). Promoted as a biodiesel crop, but linked to deforestation and land conflicts with Indigenous communities.
- Cocoa: Grown in Bahia and expanding in the Amazon region (e.g., Pará).
- Considered a strategic crop for reforestation and agroforestry, but small-scale.
- Timber and Forestry Plantations: Eucalyptus and pine plantations for pulp and paper (especially for export). Major companies include Suzano and Klabin. Often criticized for water depletion, displacement of communities, and soil degradation.

Source: ChatGPT - our extensive literature review validates these main forms of extractive industries.

Annex 4: GBV linked to Mining and Agribusiness in Brazil[cliv]

Activity (Mining / Agriculture)	Impacted Community	Examples of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
Illegal Gold Mining ("Garimpo") – Yanomami Indigenous Territory (Roraima/Amazonas)	Yanomami	Sexual exploitation in exchange for food/gold; rape; child pregnancy; disappearances; mercury poisoning causing miscarriages.
Gold & Cassiterite Mining – Tapajós / Sawré Muybu Region (Pará)	Munduruku wmen (e.g. Maria Leusa Kaba Munduruku)	Death threats; arson; destruction of homes; targeted violence against women leaders opposing mining.
Agribusiness (Soy/Cattle) – Mato Grosso do Sul	Guarani-Kaiowá	Threats, shootings, murders during land conflicts; sexual violence linked to forced evictions; criminalization and incarceration of land defenders, including women.
Soy Leasing Schemes – Rio Grande do Sul (Serrinha/Nonoai ILs)	Kaingang and Guarani	Armed conflict over land leasing; internal tension and violence against women activists; death threats to female leaders.
Palm Oil Expansion – Vale do Acará (Pará)	Tembé Indigenous and Quilombola	Armed attacks by private security; beatings and injury; women threatened and prevented from accessing land.
Retomadas (Land Reoccupations) – Paraná & MS	Guarani-Mbya and Avá-Guarani	Hired gunmen (jagunços) attacking camps; intimidation of women defenders; risk of rape during evictions; criminalization of women's protests.
Historical Genocide – Cinta Larga (1963, Mato Grosso)	Cinta Larga	Mutilation, sexual torture of women and girls; infants killed; bodies mutilated—used as a genocidal tool.
Soy Agribusiness / Deforestation – Cerrado (Bahia, Piauí)	Geraizeiras and other groups	Death threats, physical assault during protests, forced displacement, marginalization of women leaders.
Illegal Mining – Trincheira/Bacajá Indigenous Territory (Pará)	Asurini, Araweté	Child rape, coerced sex, disappearances of girls; uncontacted groups at risk; threats from organized crime linked to mining.

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Annex 5: Policies, protection and community mechanisms

Prevention / Response Mechanism	Specific Example(s)	Details & Re ferences
1. National-level policy and budget allocation	**The women living without violence programme**	Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva introduced a comprehensive package of over 25 gender-focused measures, ranging from equal-pay legislation to substantial funding for domestic violence shelters and science initiatives led by women, to reverse setbacks under the previous administration. To combat all forms of gender-based violence the women living without violence programme was resumed in 2023. Its two priority axes were the dial 180 hotline and Brazilian Women's Houses, instituted to implement the Maria da Penha law. Dial 180 hotline offers information, guidance and referrals nationwide. As of 2023-24, there were 15 Women's Houses serving over 197,000 women, plus 306 Women's Reference Centres in smaller municipalities, including Indigenous-specific protocols in Dourados. The Federal Government allocated 10 per cent of the National Public Security Fund to combat violence against women. In 2023, 100 million reais were transferred to the Fund. The delegation added that the Federal Government had developed a National Compact against Femicide (see below) and sought to develop a new policy on maternity and health care that would prevent obstetric violence. Source: United Nations (2024) Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women praise Brazil's Maria da Penha Law on gender-based violence, ask about measures to address violence against women and promote Indigenous and Quilombola women's land rights; Martins, L. Women's Day measures by Brazil's Lula Take Aim at Setbacks. *Associated Press News*; 2025
	Ministry of Women & National Pact to Prevent Femicide	The Pact integrates strategies that promote women's access to land and secure tenure as essential tools in preventing violence. The Ministry works in coordination with agencies such as INCRA and the Ministry of Agrarian Development to strengthen joint land titling policies and ensure legal recognition of women's land rights, especially in agrarian reform settlements and rural territories. This approach is informed by the understanding that patrimonial violence, as recognised under the Maria da Penha Law, often involves the destruction, dispossession, or control of women's property as a method of coercion and abuse. By integrating land and property security into national anti-violence strategies, the Ministry of Women reinforces a holistic, intersectional framework for combating feminicide and promoting women's autonomy. Source: Ministério das Mulheres (2023) Pacto Nacional de Prevenção aos Feminicídios

	Emergency multisectoral operation	In response to a severe Indigenous humanitarian emergency among the Yanomami in early 2023, President Lula mobilised a national operation involving emergency health services, food aid, and federal crackdowns on illegal mining. The intervention has led to notable declines in hunger and infant mortality, offering renewed hope to communities long afflicted by neglect and violence. Yet, persistent challenges, including disease, logistics failures, and ongoing miner incursions, underscore the need for sustained government presence and structural reforms to ensure long-term recovery. This included: ● Rapid deployment of health teams (over 1,850 health workers), mobile hospitals, and mobile clinics ("CASAI") across the territory. ● Distribution of emergency food kits, roughly 5,000 immediate kits sent in late January, and restoration of drinking water access via boreholes and cisterns. ● Aggressive law enforcement and eviction of illegal miners: destroying hundreds of mining camps, airstrips, boats, and equipment, led by the Specialized Inspection Group backed by federal forces. Sources: Wikipedia (date) Yanomami humanitarian crisis; Perobelli A and Boadle A (2024) Brazil says it has nearly cleared gold miners from Amazon Yanomami reservation. Reuters; Gonzales J (2023) Lula government scrambles to overcome Yanomami crisis, but hurdles remain. Mongabay

	Targeted credit initiatives: Pronaf Mulher, dedicated microcredit streams within the Plano Safra framework and the Inclusão Produtiva programme.	Launched in mid-2023, Pronaf Mulher offers exclusive financing—up to R$ 25,000 per year at about 4 % annual interest. for female smallholder farmers with annual household incomes below R$ 100,000. In the Pronaf B (microcredit) bracket, limits double (up to R$ 1,000) with 25%–40% discounts on interest for borrowers who repay on time, with enhanced benefits (80–90% discounts) offered to quilombola and agrarian reform settler women. The Plano Safra 2025–2026 implements the Novo Pronaf B Quintais Produtivos line, microcredit of up to R$ 20,000 at just 0.5% annual interest, plus up to 40% adimplência bonus, geared toward agroecological and household-plot production led by women. By June 2025, women accounted for 57% of Pronaf microcredit operations, handling an estimated R$ 12.6 billion in rural financing. Additional support mechanisms such as the Inclusão Produtiva programme (from mid-2024) allow rural families to access up to three combined credit lines (women, youth, family), totalling R$ 35 000 per family, with women entitled to R$ 15,000 at 0.5 % annual interest, repayable over three years and bolstered by 25–40% compliance bonuses. These targeted rural credit policies, requested and shaped by Brazil's largest rural women's movements, including the Marcha das Margaridas, have expanded economic autonomy and enabled more sustainable production led by women in agrarian reform areas and family farming contexts. Source: Schaedler (2025) Inside Latin America's largest rural women's movement; Government of Brazil (2025) Plano Safra 2025/2026: Governo Federal investe R$ 89 bilhões na agricultura familiar; Ramos V (2025) *Pronaf Mulher: governo lança linha de crédito específica para pequenas agricultoras*. Canal Rural; Government of Brazil (2024) Plano Safra Da Agricultura Familiar 2024/2025: Inclusão Produtiva: Mais incentivos para mulheres e jovens rurais

	Operação Acolhida (Operation Welcome)	Launched by the Brazilian Army in February 2018, Operação Acolhida is Brazil's humanitarian response to the Venezuelan migration crisis. It is coordinated by the Civil House of the Presidency, under the Federal Emergency Assistance Committee (CFAE), and involves over 115 federal, UN, civil society, and private partners. There are three core components: 1. Border management: initial reception at Roraima border crossings, including identification, documentation, medical triage, vaccination, and food aid. 2. Reception & sheltering: temporary shelters offering meals, education, healthcare, psychosocial support, and legal assistance (including special care for women, elderly, Indigenous persons, and survivors of domestic violence) 3. Interiorisation (voluntary relocation): migrants are voluntarily relocated from border areas to other cities in Brazil, enabling better access to jobs, housing, and stability. Note: the programme is under threat as a result of the US funding freeze. Source: PAHO (2022) PAHO, UNFPA and Intersectoral Protection Network in Brazil train Indigenous, trans, migrant and refugee women on gender-based violence prevention; AVSI – People for Development (2024) International Migrants Day 2024: in Brazil, Venezuelans find inclusion through work
	Special Mobile Inspection Groups (GEFM)	GEFM within the Ministry of Labor investigate human trafficking and forced labour, including in mining areas. The unit has rescued thousands of people from trafficking situations. Complex trafficking cases are often handled by multi-agency mobile operations that combine GEFM's labour inspectors with Federal Police, Labour Prosecutors, and victim assistance teams. These can target areas where labour exploitation and sexual exploitation co-exist — for example, in *garimpos* (illegal mining camps) or along truck routes where brothels and labour exploitation overlap. For example, joint task force operations in illegal gold mining in Pará and Roraima have uncovered *both* debt bondage in mining and sexual exploitation in brothels serving miners. Source: UNODC (2020) TRACK4TIP supports Brazil's Special Mobile Inspection Group of the Division of Inspection for the Eradication of Slave Labour (DETRAE) in its celebration of 25 years in the fight against slave labour
	National Policy to Combat Human Trafficking (Decree No. 5,948/2006)	National Policy to Combat Human Trafficking (Decree No. 5,948/2006) establishes guidelines for preventing and suppressing human trafficking, with strategies pertinent to regions impacted by extractive operations. Source: Presidência da República Casa Civil, Subchefia para Assuntos Jurídicos: DECRETO Nº 5.948, DE 26 DE OUTUBRO DE 2006.

	Actions by the Supreme Court to protect Indigenous communities	On Yanomami Indigenous Land, threats and attacks with firearms have become routine. On June 17 and 18, 2021, the Hutukara Association denounced new attacks by groups of hooded illegal miners who attacked Indigenous people in the communities of Korekorema and Tipolei, in the state of Roraima. The Supreme Court unanimously ordered the protection of the Munduruku and Yanomami Indigenous peoples to prevent further massacres, in a ruling in the petition filed by APIB (Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil) for the urgent removal of intruders, and for guaranteeing the physical integrity of the threatened people in these locations. Source: Conectas Human Rights (2021) Supreme Court unanimously orders immediate protection for Munduruku and Yanomami peoples.
	Women's Police Stations ("Delegacias da Mulher")	Law No. 14,541/2023, signed by President Lula, mandates the creation of 24/7 specialised police stations for women across Brazil. In addition to the functions of specialised police assistance and judicial police for women, the government must provide psychological and legal assistance to female victims of violence through the women's police stations. The women's police stations are intended to assist all women who have been victims of domestic and family violence and crimes against 'sexual dignity', and must function around the clock, including on holidays and weekends. (Art. 3.) The assistance to women at the specialised police stations will be carried out in a private room and, preferably, by female police officers. The police officers responsible for the assistance must receive adequate training to allow for the reception of victims in an effective and humanitarian manner. (Art. 3(§ 2).) The women's police stations must provide a telephone number or other electronic messenger for immediately alerting the police in cases of violence against women. Source: Soares E (2023) Brazil: New Law Creates Specialized Police Stations for Women. Library of Congress
2. Legal frameworks against GBV (see annex 6 for Constitutional land rights for Indigenous, Quilombola and other traditional	**Lei Maria da Penha (Law 11,340/2006)**	The Maria da Penha Law (Law No. 11.340/2006), in effect since 2006, transformed domestic violence in Brazil from a private matter into a human rights violation, mandating state action to protect victims and punish offenders. It criminalises abuse, enables protective measures, and recognises patrimonial violence, though rural access to justice remains uneven. Source: Equal measures 2030 website
	The Feminicídio Law"(Law No. 13.104/2015)	The concept of femicide in Brazil was first introduced into the Brazilian Penal Code in 2015, with the approval of Law No. 13.104/2015, classifying the murder of women motivated by gender as a more severe crime with harsher penalties. Through its most recent mobilisation campaign called National Mobilisation for Zero Femicide, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed into law a new bill raising prison terms for femicide to up to 20 to 40 years (up from 12 to 30 years of imprisonment), the longest sentence under Brazil's Penal Code.

populations)		Source: Agencia Brasilia (2024) Lula sanctions law increasing femicide sentences to up to 40 years
	Normative Instruction No. 49/2007	The government authorised joint land titling in 2007 and made it a prerequisite to access public funding for family farming, a victory that ensures stability and security for women, especially in case of separation. Source: Schaedler (2025) Inside Latin America's largest rural women's movement
	Law No. 13,344 (2016)	Law No. 13,344 (2016) provides comprehensive measures against human trafficking, including provisions for victim assistance and stricter penalties for traffickers. It acknowledges the link between trafficking and areas with significant economic activities, such as mining. Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Ministry of Justice and Public Security (2021) Information Booklet on Brazil's National Framework for Combating Trafficking in Persons and International Cooperation Procedures.

4. Civil society engagement, empowerment & legal education	**Espaço Feminista**	Founded in 2008 in Recife, Pernambuco, Espaço Feminista works to empower women—especially Black and low-income women—through feminist training, research, and advocacy, with a strong focus on gender and racial equity and access to land and housing rights. The organisation develops participatory methodologies and promotes women's leadership in public policymaking and social control Core activities include: ● Conducts studies, publications, and knowledge production about women's living conditions ● Political training focused on women's autonomy and public civic participation ● Advocacy work both regionally and internationally to push gender justice, particularly in relation to land, race, and housing rights. Source: Espaço Feminista website: espacofeminista.org

	THEMIS (Gender Justice and Human Rights)	THEMIS has operated for over 30 years, training women paralegals ("promotoras legais populares") to advocate for their legal rights at local, national, and international levels. This program builds legal literacy, fosters leadership, and directly supports women facing GBV, discrimination, and obstacles in property claims. Source: Reach Alliance (2024-2025) Access to Justice for Women in Brazil: The Role of Paralegals
	Training by UNFPA and PAHO	With financial support from the United States Agency for International Development, UNFPA implemented projects across Brazil's northern states of Amazonas and Roraima to strengthen the local capacities in preventing and confronting GBV. In 2022, more than 36,000 women and girls benefited from the initiative, with increased access to services such as shelters and safe spaces for survivors, as well as workshops that also engaged men and boys. Workshops, run by UNFPA, explored different types of violence and explained how to access local social support networks and available legal protection mechanisms. Source: UN News (2023) 'We are not afraid': Indigenous Brazilian women stand up to gender violence In 2022, PAHO and UNFPA held a workshop in Boa Vista, state of Roraima, Brazil, in partnership with the Intersectoral Protection Network to train women multipliers to prevent GBV. The initiative brought together 20 community leaders, including Venezuelan migrant and refugee women, Indigenous women from the Warao and Eñepa ethnic groups, and Brazilian women. Through active methodologies, such as dialogue circle and group dynamics, the participants were able to share experiences, knowledge, and tools for the implementation of actions to prevent violence against women in the community. Source: PAHO (2022) PAHO, UNFPA and Intersectoral Protection Network in Brazil train Indigenous, trans, migrant and refugee women on gender-based violence prevention
	Women community focal points	In Brazil, Oxfam America supported women community focal points were established to increase women's participation in consultation processes related to extractive industries, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIA). These are crucial for successful community engagement and minimisation of corporate-community conflict. International human rights law sets clear requirements for FPIC, including engagement with Indigenous communities. Failure to meet these principles during engagement processes can specifically harm women. Focal points are sensitive to involving those from other economic groups, ethnicities, in consultations. Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019) Towards gender-responsive implementation of extractive industries projects

Women's Collectives and Rural Movements	**Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (Movimento Nacional dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra – MST) gender sector**	MST) has a dedicated Gender Sector ("Setor de Gênero") focused on women's land rights and combatting GBV among rural and landless communities. The Gender Sector is formally established to: ● Integrate gender equality into all education and leadership trainings. ● Ensure 50% women's participation in courses, leadership and decision-making bodies. ● Promote shared land access, advocating for *joint land-use titles and credit in both partners' names*. ● Guarantee childcare at all events and permanent childcare in camps/settlements to facilitate women's full participation. ● Include one male and one female coordinator in all bases to ensure balanced leadership. ● Organise campaigns like "No Rural Woman Worker Without Legal Documents" to secure legal rights. GBV: ● MST regularly mobilises women in national campaigns, especially around March 8 (International Women's Day), to confront patriarchal violence and femicide, acknowledging that rural Black and Indigenous women face heightened risks. ● The Movement conducts workshops in camps and settlements specifically focused on confronting violence against women, linking bodily security with land and territorial rights. ● National actions such as the "Landless Women's Day of Struggle" (Jornada das Mulheres Sem Terra, March 2025) include protests, occupations (e.g. against eucalyptus monocultures), training camps, and denunciations of agribusiness violence, highlighting the links between environmental destruction, land grabs, and gender violence. ● Jornada das Mulheres Sem Terra 2025 (March 11–14): Peasant women across Brazil engaged in assemblies, planting, training, and protest actions—frontlining demands for agrarian reform, territory, bodily autonomy and against GBV. ● On March 13, 2025, approximately 1,000 MST women carried out occupation actions in Espírito Santo targeting Suzano's eucalyptus plantations, underlining that agribusiness violence disproportionately impacts women and that agrarian reform is needed as a pathway to social justice. ● In 2024, the MST Gender Sector launched the campaign "For our bodies and territories, none less!" underlining that women's bodies and land are inseparable fronts in the struggle, and centered demands on territory demarcation, credit access, health, education, and GBV services. Led by Lucineia Freitas of MST's National Directorate Gender Sector. Source: Via Campesina (2023) Landless women's struggle denounces agribusiness violence. La Via Campesina; World Rainforest Movement (2025) MST Women's Struggle 2025: Against the violence of capital and agribusiness; MST Brazil (2024) Campaign: Landless women highlight the struggle for land, body, and territory. MST Brazil

	Union of Indigenous Women of the Brazilian Amazon (UMIAB) / Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB)	Together, COIAB and UMIAB support initiatives like the Amazon Indigenous Networks project, which strengthens Indigenous governance and leadership with a strong gender focus, enhancing women's participation in land management and policy advocacy across nine Amazonian states. Additionally, COIAB and UMIAB contribute to the Podáali Fund, Brazil's first Indigenous-led funding mechanism, which channels resources directly to Indigenous communities for land demarcation, protection, and socio-environmental projects, further securing women's access to ancestral lands. COIAB and UMIAB work jointly to document and address violence faced by Indigenous women, particularly in territories affected by illegal logging, mining, and state neglect. Through the Amazon Indigenous Rights Clinic, coordinated with AmazôniAlerta, they provide legal training to Indigenous lawyers and support strategic litigation involving women's rights and territorial violations. UMIAB also plays a lead role in raising awareness of GBV and fostering Indigenous feminist leadership. Events like *"Female Warriors and Guardians"*, co-organised with CESE, offer safe spaces for dialogue on memory, political participation, and violence, building collective strategies for resistance (CESE). Through such collaborations, COIAB and UMIAB center Indigenous women's voices in the broader struggle for land, justice, and autonomy. Source: Amazon Fund. Amazon Indigenous Networks (2025) Brasília: Amazon Fund; The Tenure Facility (2025) Ensuring the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Brazilian Amazon. Stockholm: The Tenure Facility; AmazôniAlerta (2022) Amazon Indigenous Rights Clinic, in partnership with AmazôniAlerta, strengthens the legal defense of the people of the Amazon. Manaus: AmazôniAlerta; CESE (2022) Training provided by CESE and COIAB discusses political participation, memory, communication and violence with Indigenous women. Salvador: CESE
	Marcha das Margaridas (March of the Daisies)	The Marcha das Margaridas is Brazil's largest rural women's movement, with over 100,000 participants representing agrarian workers, Indigenous peoples, quilombolas, fisherwomen, and more, and it places GBV at the heart of its agenda. In August 2023, the March highlighted systemic violence faced by rural, Indigenous, and quilombola women, addressing femicide, domestic abuse, and land-related violence, through public debates and advocacy. One of its 13 core demands is "a life free from all forms of violence, racism, and sexism." In response, the Brazilian government launched a National Pact to Prevent Femicide, including mobile support units and a national forum for rural women survivors. The March also serves as a space to demand structural change linking GBV to land, race, and social injustice. Sources: Borghoff Maia, A., & Teixeira, M. A. (2021). Food movements, agrifood systems, and social change at the level of the national state: The Brazilian Marcha das Margaridas. *The Sociological Review*, *69*(3), 626-646; Motta, R. (2021). Feminist Solidarities and Coalitional Identity: The Popular Feminism of the Marcha das Margaridas. *Latin American Perspectives*, *48*(5), 25-41; Agência Brasil (2023) Margaridas debatem impactos da violência contra mulheres rurais; Ministério da Mulherda Família e dos Direitos Humanos

		(2023) Ministério das Mulheres anuncia Pacto Nacional de Prevenção aos Feminicídios na Marcha das Margaridas; Land Coalition (2023) Women march for their rights at 7th Marcha das Margaridas
	Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu (MIQCB)	MIQCB mobilises babaçu nut-breaking women to defend access to forest lands traditionally used by rural women. A milestone for the MIQCB is the acceptance of the Babassu Access Act (*Lei Babaçu Livre*) by some states and municipalities, allowing babassu nut extraction and the right to its use as a community-held natural resource that cannot be privatized. Their work includes documenting GBV linked to land fences, threats, and physical barriers set up by landowners. For example, MIQCB reported violence including a pregnant woman injured by an electric fence and women receiving death threats for reporting land invasions. Their work includes documenting GBV linked to land fences, threats, and physical barriers set up by landowners. For example, MIQCB reported violence including a pregnant woman injured by an electric fence and women receiving death threats for reporting land invasions. Source: Dominguez, S (2024) Women Babassu Nutcrackers Demand Compliance with Legislation Protecting this Traditional Activity. InfoAmazonia
	CONAQ and their Women's Collective	CONAQ is Brazil's most influential Quilombola network. In partnership with quilombola organisations, different funds, state and federal land agencies in various states including Amazonas, Amapá, and Maranhão, to advance the titling of more than 1 million hectares. Activities will include mapping; preparation of studies for titling and quilombola territorial management and environmental plans; and submitting requests for Environmental Registry Certificates (CARs). CONAQ Women's Collective, which advocates for women's rights and against GBV both within their communities and in the face of institutional racism. They document and report instances of racial discrimination and violence against quilombola women, including political violence and the denial of their rights. Source: OAS MESECVI (2025) Thematic report: Gender-Based Violence Against Afro-descendant Women in Latin America
	Women leaders	Examples of women leaders focused on land rights and GBV in Brazil: ● Alessandra Korap Munduruku and Judite Guajajara: publicly confront the government and mining companies for GBV and environmental crimes. They use both international platforms and domestic advocacy to draw attention to the violence against land defenders. ● Juma Xipaia: the first female chief (cacica) of the Middle Xingu, founded Instituto Juma which advocates for Indigenous autonomy, resistance to mining and development, and the protection of her people's land and safety. Her work underscores the dual threats of land dispossession and gendered violence/ ● Edilena Krikati : has been advocating for the sovereignty of women's bodies, lands, and territories, collecting evidence on the harm done by land grabbing and proposing alternatives that protect them and their ecosystems.

		• Sônia Guajajara: Brazil's first ever minister of Indigenous peoples is promoting Indigenous women to organize and mobilize to really provide elements to the fight against climate change. Leader of the Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), representing around 300 Indigenous groups. She is renowned for her defence of Indigenous territories and has taken part in feminist and environmental campaigns. • Célia Xakriabá: An Indigenous educator and activist of the Xakriabá people, Célia champions Indigenous land rights, education, and the status of Indigenous women. Since her youth, she has held lectures and debates in universities promoting these causes. • Valdelice Veron: A member of the Guarani-Kaiowá community, Valdelice actively defends Indigenous land rights and serves as a woman human rights defender. Her story is featured in an Oxfam piece spotlighting her community's struggle for land. • Miriam Nobre: Coordinator with Sempreviva Organização Feminista (SOF) in São Paulo state. Her work integrates women farmers' access to land, agroecological practices, and resistance against gender-based violence, under the concept of "body-territory." • Lutana Ribeiro: The only female chief of "Parque das Tribos" in Manaus (an Indigenous neighbourhood), she champions GBV prevention, using UNFPA-supported workshops to empower survivors through her authority and community leadership. • Geovânia Machado Aires: A Quilombola (Afro-Brazilian traditional community) leader in Maranhão state. She defends land access (notably babassu nut-processing territories), gender equality, and climate resilience among women in traditional communities. • DoCarmo: recently honoured by the local government in Caruaru for her work. She advocates for the right of women to decent housing as well as their right to build their own houses. Through her efforts, the group she set up obtained land in the centre of Caruaru and also the necessary financing to build a social housing state for 135 families. This initiative also involved securing the right of 9,000 families to remain in a central, well-serviced area of the city. Source: Syed, A (2023) Brazil's Minister of Indigenous Peoples on Land Rights: Interview with Sônia Guajajara. Gret. (n.d.) *Agroecology and feminism: fighting for equality and access to rights in Brazil*.: (Accessed: 12 August 2025); Oxfam. (2018) *Indigenous land rights in Brazil and the women defending them: An encounter with Valdelice Veron*; UNFPA. (2022) *'Men will no longer do what they want to them': Indigenous women in Brazil say enough to gender-based violence*.; United Nations Women. (2022) *Mujeres Quilombolas de Brasil protagonizan acciones para poner fin al cambio climático, lograr la igualdad de género y garantizar un futuro sostenible.* ; Vogue. (2019) *Sônia Guajajara and Samela Sateré Mawé Are Fighting for the Amazon and the Rights of Brazil's Indigenous People*; OHCHR (2024) UN women's rights committee publishes findings on Brazil, Estonia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Montenegro, Republic of Korea, Rwanda and Singapore; Source: Queiroz Chaves PM (2028) Benchmarking Real Change for women to Secure Land by Bridging Data and Social Movement. Land Portal

5. Land regulation and gender equality	**Espaço Feminista – "Minha Casa é Legal" Land Regularization Program**	Grassroots campaigns by Espaço Feminista in urban and rural Brazil, linking land regularisation directly to empowerment of women and reduced vulnerability to violence. Espaço Feminista partnered with Habitat for Humanity on projects in Bonito to address critical housing security ("Minha Casa é Legal") to prevent patrimonial violence, ensure women's agency over property, and reduce vulnerability tied to insecure housing: ● Focused on formalising land titles in 15 informal settlements in Bonito (mobilization by Espaço Feminista and data-driven advocacy using geospatial tools like Cadasta) ● Women's group trained 30 women leaders. ● Between 2021 and 2022 over 5,000 families reached; in several multiple zones the majority of new land titles are held by women, often over 70% of recipients are women. Source: espacofeminista.org; Feminist Land Platform (2023) The best resilience practices of Espaço Feminista (Brazil) For five years between 2010 and 2015, Espaço Feminista also ensured gender equality in the land regularization of an area called Ponte do Maduro. Since land regularization had been promised many times but never accomplished, women fought a hard-won battle to guarantee its final completion. It ensured the right of 9,000 families to remain in a central and well serviced area of the city. Source: Queiroz Chaves PM (2028) Benchmarking Real Change for women to Secure Land by Bridging Data and Social Movement. Land Portal
	Tenure Facility–supported Quilombola titling in Amazonas, Maranhão, Pará	The Tenure Facility is supporting Quilombola communities in Brazil, particularly in the states of Amazonas, Maranhão, and Pará, to secure their land rights and access babassu forests. This includes implementing Free Babassu laws and promoting the titling of women's lands. The MIQCB (Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu), a movement of babassu nutcrackers, is a key partner in this initiative, advocating for the rights of these women and the sustainable use of babassu resources. MIQCB represents some 350,000 (mostly Afro-descendent) women babassu coconut breakers in the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado. MIQCB will promote the enforcement of three state and 18 municipals "free babassu" laws, which protect babassu palms and give women the rights to harvest them anywhere. These laws cover more than 11 million hectares of babassu forests. MIQCB, in partnership with land governmental agencies, will contribute to titling 17,000 hectares of women's lands. The MIQCB's Babassu Fund will channel funds to women's groups and service providers. Strengthening the fund is a central objective. The project will work principally in 29 municipalities with 1.1 million hectares of babassu forests in the states of Maranhão, Piaui, Tocantins and Pará. Source: Ensure Facility (2023) Free Babassu, Free Quebradeiras: in defence of the climate, women and territories

7. GBV crisis support tech & volunteer response	**Mapa do Acolhimento (via Nossas/SVRI)**	Feminist tech platform linking survivors to volunteer lawyers/psychologists nationwide. Scaled to more than 19,000 women supported by 15,000 volunteers. Research shows survivors using this network gain access to legal aid, emotional support, and capacity to engage claim processes, including property claims in land cases linked to GBV. At Mapa do Acolhimento, their ability to scale programmes and deliver more effective solutions for GBV survivors in Brazil is a direct result of a co-constructed process involving practitioners, funders, and researchers. Initially incubated by Nossas, a Brazilian nonprofit that works to strengthen the democracy in Brazil, advocating for climate, racial, and gender justice, Mapa do Acolhimento responded to an urgent need for qualified services to tackle GBV in Brazil. From its inception, Mapa do Acolhimento has been critical in addressing these gaps, creating a nationwide solidarity network, helping tackle the short-term need, using cutting edge technology that allows to instantly connect women who suffered GBV with volunteer psychologists and/or lawyers who provide their services free of charge. And, also, impacting GBV-related public services, helping tackle the medium/long term need, using collective action and cooperation with governmental institutions to safeguard and improve existing public service infrastructures that support GBV survivors at great scale. Source: SVRI website Integrating research and practice: Collaborative approach to deliver effective solutions for GBV survivors
9. Monitoring and the media	**Violence Mapping project, 'Corpos Silenciados, Vozes Presentes**	In November 2020 the Guarani and Kaiowá Women's Council, Kuñangue Aty Guasu, shared the first comprehensive report documenting the initial outcomes of their Violence Mapping project, 'Corpos Silenciados, Vozes Presentes'. Located in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, since 2006 the Kuñangue Aty Guasu has been working with their local communities to collect reports on the specific ways violence affects the lives of Indigenous Guarani and Kaiowá women.Historic and systemic violations against the Guarani and Kaiowá communities have led them to live in a context of extreme precarity, often described as the most severe humanitarian crisis faced by Indigenous people in Brazil. Decades of aggressive appropriation of their traditional territories (tekohá) for agricultural expansion, and the ongoing delays in delivering the official demarcation of Guarani lands by the federal government, have forced these communities into small, overcrowded, poverty-ridden reserves. The 'Violence Mapping' project aims to support local women as they turn this silence into a narrative, to make violence visible so that it can finally be identified and addressed. To do so, the Guarani and Kaiowá women have now joined efforts with Dr Jerome Lewis at University College London (UCL) Anthropology, Fabiana Fernandes at the Institute for the Development of Art and Culture (IDAC), and the UCL Multimedia Anthropology Lab (MAL). This partnership, supported by the UCL Global Engagement Fund, aims to visualise the data gathered by Indigenous women and present it as an interactive map, documenting the incidence and geographical distribution of such violence. Source: Multimedia Anthropology lab website Making Violence Visible: Mapping Violence Against Guarani and Kaiowá women

	SUMAÚMA	SUMAÚMA is a trilingual (Portuguese, English, Spanishl) digital journalism platform founded in 2022 in Altamira, Pará, Brazil. It was co-founded by journalists Eliane Brum, Carla Jimenez, Talita Bedinelli, Jonathan Watts, and Verónica Goyzueta. The platform rejects conventional Western journalism. Instead, it emphasises a "more-than-human" worldview, reporting not just on people, but from the perspectives of animals, plants, fungi, and ecosystems. It builds on ideas like Amerindian perspectivism to challenge racist and speciesist narratives. Their journalism often highlights the threats facing Indigenous territories, particularly from illegal miners and land grabbers, and the role of women within those struggles. For instance, SUMAÚMA's early investigative reporting included coverage of Yanomami women being raped by illegal miners, underscoring how violence against women is linked to broader threats to Indigenous land sovereignty and autonomy. SUMAÚMA's Micélio co-training programme, which centres women (nine out of fourteen participants in the first cohort), supports their inclusion as storytellers reporting on environmental threats, including land invasions, in their home territories This strengthens women's agency in defending their communities and communicating about these threats, even if it stops short of formal rights advocacy. Source: Covering Climate Now website Q&A: Sumaúma Covers the Amazon Like It's "the Center of the World"
	The National Gender-Based Violence Map	The National Gender-Based Violence Map consolidates official public data on violence against women from the Federal Senate, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the National Justice Council (CNJ), and the Unified Health System (SUS). It is aligned with Article 38 of the Maria da Penha Law (2006), which provides for the systematisation of data to be unified nationally, as well as the periodic evaluation of the results of the measures implemented. However, despite some progress in data collection, there is a lack of regularly produced centralised national data, which results in a distorted understanding of the real issue. Source: The National Gender-Based Violence Map website
5. Responsible Business	**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) & Ethical Mining Initiatives**	**Independent auditing for companies:** The Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) establishes independent audits for mining companies, requiring them to address sexual harassment, labour rights, and human trafficking risks. Gender dimensions are built into IRMA's standards: IRMA's Standard for Responsible Mining includes requirements on gender equality and gender-based protections across multiple chapters (Chapters 1–3). Companies like Anglo American and Newmont have adopted IRMA standards, for example, 'the operating company shall not use corporal punishment, harsh or degrading treatment, sexual or physical harassment, mental, physical or verbal abuse, coercion or intimidation of workers during disciplinary actions.' Use in Brazil: ● Gerdau's Miguel Burnier Mine: In March 2025, IRMA announced Gerdau's Miguel Burnier iron ore mine in Minas Gerais, Brazil. ● Anglo American's Minas-Rio and Barro Alto Mines: In February 2024, both the Minas-Rio (iron ore) and Barro Alto (nickel) operations became the first of their respective types globally to complete an IRMA audit.

		• ArcelorMittal's Andrade Operation: The company has committed to a third-party audit of its Andrade iron ore operation in Minas Gerais against the IRMA Standard. Source: IRMA website **Social License to Operate (SLO)** is becoming increasingly prominent in the discourse of the mining sector as a central element of corporate responsibility strategy in order to minimise the risks to business. Its central idea is that the community can give or withhold support for a project. The 2024 FPIC guide highlights how Indigenous communities in Brazil can craft their own consultation protocols, emphasising inclusion of elders, women, youth, community members in decision-making, and strategies to build self-determination. Use in Brazil: • Canaã dos Carajás, Pará (S11D Iron Ore Project): A study measured SLO in this Amazonian mining town and found a level of "Acceptance". The key positive influences were procedural fairness, community-company engagement, and social infrastructure improvements, while environmental and economic drawbacks, along with distrust in local governance, negatively affected acceptance. • Parauapebas and Canaã dos Carajás Comparative Study: A separate analysis confirmed that in both municipalities, SLO is shaped significantly by procedural fairness, communication, infrastructure improvements, environmental/economic impacts, and trust (or lack thereof) in institutions and industry actors. Source: Cruz, T. L.; Matlaba, V. J.; Mota, J. A.; Santos, J. M. F(2021) .Measuring The Social License To Operate Of The Mining Industry In An Amazonian Town: A Case Study Of Canaã Dos Carajás, Brazil. Resources Policy, V. 74; Cruz, T.L. (2021). The Social License to Operate as a Tool to Promote Sustainability and Social Responsibility in Mining Industry: Case Study of Parauapebas and Canaã dos Carajás (Pará, Brazil). In: Leal Filho, W., Tortato, U., Frankenberger, F. (eds) Integrating Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development. World Sustainability Series. Springer, Cham . **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** - An Indigenous Peoples' right and a good practice for local communities. • Brazil Potash Project and the Mura People: In April 2024, federal prosecutors questioned the authorization of a potash mine in Amazonas, noting a lack of consultation with the Mura Indigenous community. This raised serious FPIC-related concerns, as required consultations had not taken place, despite the mine overlapping ancestral territory. Source: Boadle P (2024) Potash mine in Amazon to go ahead with state license, says CEO. Reuters Nb: There are numerous tools on social responsibility related to gender and women listed in The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019) Towards Gender Responsive Implementation of Extractive Industries Projects.

	Gender-Sensitive Security and Human Rights Training at Rio Tinto:	Rio Tinto integrates Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) into its security operations, ensuring that all site and private security personnel receive context-specific training. The VPSHR guides companies in the extractive industry to maintain security while respecting human rights. 1. Recognises that human rights apply equally to men and women. 2. Highlights specific risks faced by women, children, and victims of crime. 3. Ensures security personnel understand their responsibility to protect vulnerable groups. 4. Covers gender-sensitive handling of human trafficking and crime victims. Training content included multimedia and activity-based learning materials. It covers UN standards on human trafficking and human rights and instructs security personnel on proper crime reporting, victim support, and investigative cooperation. Implementation measures include annual refresher training for private security personnel, hiring both men and women for security roles, ensuring same-gender searches when necessary, and encouraging local public security forces to participate in training. Source: The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019) Towards Gender Responsive Implementation of Extractive Industries Projects.
United Nations response	**The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and NGOs**	The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and NGOs like the Indian Law Resource Center have reported systemic sexual violence and land grabs, particularly in the Yanomami and Munduruku territories. These processes are used to pressure the Brazilian state to act and to support global campaigns for Indigenous women's rights. One Expert said Indigenous peoples lacked titles to most of their ancestral lands. Quilombola women also faced barriers in terms of land ownership and were victims of expulsion from their land. They asked what measures were in place to ensure the inclusion of Indigenous and Quilombola women in planning policies that affected them? Other relevant UN Documents: ● SDG Report (Goal 5, 2025) – Global data analysis including Brazil's legal gaps in women's land ownership/protection ● UNCCD "Her Land. Her Rights." Campaign (June 2023) – Global UN campaign with relevance to Brazil and case of land rights for women. Source: United Nations (2024) Experts Of The Committee On The Elimination Of Discrimination Against Women Praise Brazil's Maria Da Penha Law On Gender-Based Violence, Ask About Measures To Address Violence Against Women And Promote Indigenous And Quilombola Women's Land Rights,

	The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) reporting	Through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Organization of American States (OAS) has investigated and reported on the harms experienced by women and children in extractive zones, including sexual violence, trafficking and exploitation. One key resource is the IACHR report on Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and extractive industries in the Americas (2016) which often includes case studies and data from Brazil. Including: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2021) Situation of human rights in Brazil. Approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on February 12, 2021. This report discusses human rights violations, including sexual violence and exploitation, in territories affected by mining, logging, and other extractive activities in countries including Brazil.
	TUNFPA Workshops for Indigenous Women	UNFPA, with USAID support, has trained Indigenous Brazilian women (especially in Amazonas and Roraima) through workshops, safe spaces, and legal rights education. In 2022 alone, over 36,000 women and girls benefited from access to services and protective mechanisms under the *Maria da Penha Law*. Source: United Nations News (2023) 'We are not afraid': Indigenous Brazilian women stand up to gender violence; UNFPA (2023) "Men will no longer do what they want with them": Indigenous women in Brazil say enough to gender-based violence.
	UN Women's Technical Support & System Building	UN Women's Technical Support & System Building includes: ● CEDAW Review: UN Women supported Brazil's engagement with the CEDAW review, raising issues like land rights and intersectional GBV, including for Quilombola and Indigenous women. ● National Pact & Emergency Measures: They helped shape the National Pact for Preventing Femicide, offered guidance on protective legal tools, and supported services like *Casa da Mulher Brasileira* for survivors. ● Political Inclusion: A National Conference for Indigenous Women was organized, ensuring their perspectives influence policies—a first in blending Indigenous and gendered approaches. Source: UN Women Transparency Portal.
	The Tapajós Project	**TAPAJÓ**S is a project implemented since 2021 by UNODC Brazil, as part of its mandate to assist countries in the implementation of the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (TiP), with funding from the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J-TIP). The first phase of the project (2021-2023) aimed to calculate the prevalence of human trafficking and slave labour in gold mines in the Tapajós river basin, in the state of Pará. Based on this evidence, the second phase (2023-26) of the project plans to implement a series of activities and interventions - co-produced with local partners - to prevent and reduce these

		crimes. Source: Nações Unidas website. TAPAJÓS – Projeto de Prevalência para Redução do Tráfico de Pessoas e Trabalho Escravo no Estado do Pará, Brasil

Annex 6: Constitutional land rights for Indigenous, Quilombola and other traditional populations

The following table shows the different land rights under the 1988 Constitution in relation to Indigenous and non-Indigenous traditional populations in Brazil.

Type of traditional population	**Legislation**	**Land rights**
Indigenous population	Federal Constitution 1988 (articles 20, XI, and 231(7)); Indigenous Act 1973 (Lei nº 6001/73)	Indigenous land belongs to the Federal Union, but Indigenous communities have permanent possession of those lands and the right to the exclusive use of surface resources
Quilombolas	Federal Constitution 1988 (Transitory Dispositions, article 68)	Collective property titles granted from the Federal Union, States or Municipalities; the land cannot be divided; the property register must contain a clause establishing that it cannot be alienated
Non Indigenous traditional populations	Atlantic Forest Act (Law nº 11.428/06); Conservation Units Act (Law nº 9985/00)	Rights to collect firewood or wood for construction from the forest without an authorization; right to remain in full protection conservation units until they are transferred to another area

Source: Leuzinger & Lyngard, 2016

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