A House to Call Your Own!

Submitted By: Municipality of Parobé - Municipal Department of Planning and Housing



Organization Profile

Organization Name: Municipality of Parobé - Municipal Department of Planning and Housing

Organization Type: Subnational government

Website: https://parobe.atende.net/

Practice Details

Country(ies): Brazil

City(ies): Vila Nova Neighborhood (City of Parobé)

Start Year: 2023 **Ongoing:** Yes **End Year:** N/A

Main Adequate Housing Components:



Housing Thematic Areas:



Relevant SDGs:



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Problem & Context

In the municipality of Parobé (RS), many families in vulnerable social situations live in irregular settlements in the XV de Junho neighborhood, on the banks of the Paranhana River, leaving them exposed to floods and other natural hazards. The recurring rains exacerbate this situation, especially affecting families in extreme poverty. In response, the municipal protection network carries out emergency evacuations, relocations to shelters, provides food, healthcare, psychological support, hygiene kits, and clothing. Even so, children are the most impacted: they fall ill, suffer emotional losses, face family breakdown, and interruption of their school life—since schools are also affected by the floods. The lack of basic infrastructure and essential services—potable water, sanitation, stable energy, safe transportation, and urban amenities—highlights serious gaps in local social housing policy and urban planning.

Solution Developed

The housing practice being implemented in Parobé aims to address the challenges of housing in at-risk areas and irregular occupation, providing safe and adequate housing for families in situations of social vulnerability, especially those residing on Natal and Divo Gentil Streets, near the Paranhana River. The project includes the construction of 75 housing units in the Vila Nova neighborhood, ensuring safe relocation, access to essential services, and improved quality of life for the beneficiary families. In addition, it incorporates the perspective of Urban95 Brazil, promoting urban environments that meet the needs of young children and their caregivers, with safety, adequate mobility, and healthy living spaces.

The main objectives of implementing this project are:Reduce natural hazards and strengthen urban resilience.

Ensure adequate infrastructure and access to essential services.

Integrate housing into urban planning, promoting inclusive neighborhoods.

Prioritize the comprehensive development of children and adolescents affected by disasters or housing instability.

Apply the principles of Urban95, placing the perspective of young children at the center of urban planning.

Implementation

A housing solution involved identifying socially vulnerable families currently living in high-risk areas, followed by selecting and regularising a safer site for relocation, with the construction of 75 housing units. Integrated urban planning was implemented: basic infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport), land-regularisation with parceling of lots, housing unit designs tailored to family needs, and creation of safe spaces for young children, aligned with the

Urban95 principles. Construction used climate-resilient techniques to ensure protection against floods and other natural hazards. The project, led by the Municipal Secretariat for Planning and Housing, is supported by the Secretariats of Public Works, Education, Health and Social Assistance. A practical timeline includes: identifying families and mapping climate-risk in the territory; selecting a site with hazard safety and service access; developing urbanisation and housing designs; raising funds through the State of Rio Grande do Sul and the Municipality of Parobé (which provided the land and financial investment); social engagement with families; executing land-regularisation; building infrastructure and urban works; constructing housing units; relocating families into new homes; and providing ongoing social support to ensure family insertion into the labour market and access to public services (schools, health, transport).

Enablers & Obstacles

The implementation of the housing project in Parobé was backed by strong municipal political support, active engagement of beneficiary families and availability of data on high-risk areas and social vulnerability for safe and efficient planning. Clear regulatory frameworks for social housing and resettlement sped the process. The main challenges were budget constraints and synchronizing construction timelines with safe relocations. Through partnerships, adjusted schedules and continuous technical and social follow-up the units were delivered safely, adequately and inclusively, meeting the needs of families and young children. In a trafficking-controlled zone, families feared leaving children alone and often took them to waste-picking jobs, causing absenteeism, child labour and compromised learning. They experienced fear when it rained, along with anxiety, insomnia and stress. Some policy gaps persist.

Results & Impact

The housing initiative in Parobé has relocated 75 families into completed units in the Vila Nova neighborhood, offering safe, adequate housing for households previously living in high-risk zones near the Rio Paranhana. Seventeen more units are under construction with delivery scheduled for December 2025, and nine additional units planned for April 2026. Each home includes full infrastructure—potable water, sanitation, electricity, and proper lighting—ensuring access to essential services. Results include improved quality of life, enhanced safety and stability for families, and stronger community cohesion and engagement. The project benefits low-income and marginalized groups by providing protection from evictions and natural hazards and dignified living conditions. For young children and their caregivers, the design offers safe, accessible, healthy urban environments that foster early childhood development and family wellbeing. The relocation site features paved roads, storm drainage, electricity supply, and potable water, and is near essential public services—a health clinic, a school—and free municipal bus transit, replacing the former twice-longer distances that contributed to absenteeism and learning difficulties.

Replication & Scale Up

Regarding the replication of this project in other locations, the availability of a suitable land area where the housing project can be implemented is essential, as well as sufficient financial resources for the execution of the works. We are currently seeking funding for the construction of an additional 20 housing units in the Municipality of Parobé, following the guidelines of the previously implemented housing project.

The housing initiative in Parobé offers strong potential for replication and expansion, both locally and in similar cities. It demonstrates that relocating families from risk areas is viable while providing safe homes, proper infrastructure and resilient, inclusive urban environments. To scale up, the model can be adapted to new neighborhoods, integrating essential services, climate-aware planning and early childhood support. Expansion is achievable through partnerships with state governments, the private sector and civil society.

Policy Uptake

This housing practice has been fully adopted into formal policy frameworks and legislation, and is being implemented at scale with institutional support.

The housing initiative in Parobé is fully integrated into municipal legislation, coordinated by the City Hall and the Secretariat of Planning and Housing, and aligned with urban planning, resettlement and social housing laws. Legal inclusion ensures land-tenure regularization, eviction protection and secure possession for families while meeting resilience and infrastructure standards. With broad institutional support and expert teams, the model can be replicated elsewhere to benefit more vulnerable families and build safer, inclusive, sustainable cities.

Lessons & Takeaways

In retrospect, the housing practice could strengthen participatory processes by increasing family involvement from the planning stage. It would be important to enhance integration between housing, environment and social assistance for greater efficiency and coordination. Continuous monitoring of outcomes with social, environmental and early-childhood well-being indicators is another key improvement. Additionally, reinforcing communication and community engagement actions would expand the initiative's recognition and reach.