Morar Carioca Program: Aço Community

Submitted By: Prefeitura da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro – PCRJ



Organization Profile

Organization Name: Municipal Department of Infrastructure

Organization Type: Subnational government

Website: https://prefeitura.rio/

Practice Details

Country(ies): Brazil

City(ies): Rio de Janeiro

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

Main Adequate Housing Components:



Housing Thematic Areas:



Relevant SDGs:



UN-HABITAT

Problem & Context

In the 1960s, around 61 families were relocated to a housing complex in Vila Paciência. It consisted of ten blocks, totaling 400 masonry homes, with combined bedroom and living room, kitchen, bathroom, and laundry area, accommodating up to 6 people.

However, the lack of sewage, water, and electricity has always been part of the residents' lives, who still paid a monthly fee for the building.

In the early 1970s, a new wave of removals brought more families to the Provisional Housing Complex known as CHP7, in "wagon houses," giving rise to the Favela do Aço.

What was meant to be temporary became permanent, with the current approximately 10,000 families still facing the same problems as before.

Solution Developed

1) The neighborhood ranks eighth among the worst HDIs in the capital of Rio de Janeiro (0.74).

The current public administration, recognizing the extreme social vulnerability, proposed the requalification of the area and improvement of living conditions for that population, announcing the works in May 2023 with investments of R$ 243 million.

2) In addition to new housing, there will be urbanization along 1.1 thousand meters, more than 70 thousand square meters of paved roads, 2.2 km of bike paths, 720 new public lighting points, nine kilometers of sewage network and pumping station, 10 kilometers of water supply networks, and a reservoir with 3.3 million liters.

There will also be a leisure area of 28 thousand square meters with squares, playgrounds, sports courts, skate park, stage, Carioca gym, social areas, and gardens.

3) Residents are accompanied by a dedicated social team before, during, and after the interventions.

When resettlement occurs, the old home is demolished, making way for the construction of new housing units—which are delivered fully furnished, ensuring a dignified new beginning for families.

Implementation

1) On-site resettlement, maintaining the local sense of belonging; maintenance of a dedicated support team throughout all phases of the project; community engagement for the sustainability of the development; design of social housing units with larger spaces, balconies, acoustic and thermal insulation, of higher quality than typical projects developed in the country.

2) Municipal Secretariat of Infrastructure, Municipal Secretariat of Government Coordination, and RIO-URBE (coordination and implementation of the works), Municipal Secretariat of Housing and Special Secretariat for Community Action (housing and titling of families), Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance (inclusion in the Single Registry and Social Tariff), Instituto Pereira Passos and Municipal Health Secretariat (data and information), Residents' Association (mobilization and social participation in project phases), Dimensional Engenharia (winning construction company).

3) 2021: preliminary intervention study; 2022: basic project designs completed and tendered; 2023: start of urban interventions, with construction of 25 blocks in free areas of the community; 2024: 6 blocks delivered; 2025: 8 blocks delivered and another 11 to be delivered by the end of the year; 2027: 11 blocks under construction, expected to be completed by the end of the works.

4) Municipal resources reached R$ 243 million.

Enablers & Obstacles

1) Political support, territorial coordination, community engagement, use of local labor, control in registration and family follow-up.

2) Adjustment in the disbursement schedule, resolved in milestone meetings; electoral process and continuity of public administration.

Results & Impact

1) Currently, 224 housing units have been delivered to resettled families, with access to drinking water, sewage system, regular garbage collection, and access to social assistance goods and services.

2) During resident registration, the local diagnosis indicated the percentage of people with disabilities, ensuring not only prioritization in unit selection but also modification of apartment designs to accommodate amputees, across the entire resettlement population.

3) The diagnosis also identified existing commerce, allowing customization of a commercial center to ensure family sustainability. Due to community demand and requests, the project included construction of a Municipal School and a Child Development Center. There were no leisure areas in the region, which now can be used by residents.

Replication & Scale Up

This is an innovative initiative currently under execution and will soon be replicated in other vulnerable areas of the city.

Studies and projects are underway for other areas of the city.

By building a participatory diagnosis, securing investments, and maintaining good governance, we will achieve results similar to the Morar Carioca do Aço Program.

Policy Uptake

This housing practice has informed or been partially integrated into policy discussions, strategies, or pilot-level policy instruments.

The experience is being included in the Strategic Planning of the City.

Lessons & Takeaways

Improve maintenance services and condominium management.

Note

The original submission was received in Portuguese. An automated translation was prepared using Copilot to enable broader multilingual access.