Slums in Times of Crisis: pre, during and post coronavirus pandemics

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Content

- 1. Pre-crisis situation
- 2. During the crisis: zooming-in the reality of a slum in Sao Paulo
- 3. Post-crisis ways forward



A profound impact on cities and the life of slum residents.



The city, housing, slums in Times of Crisis

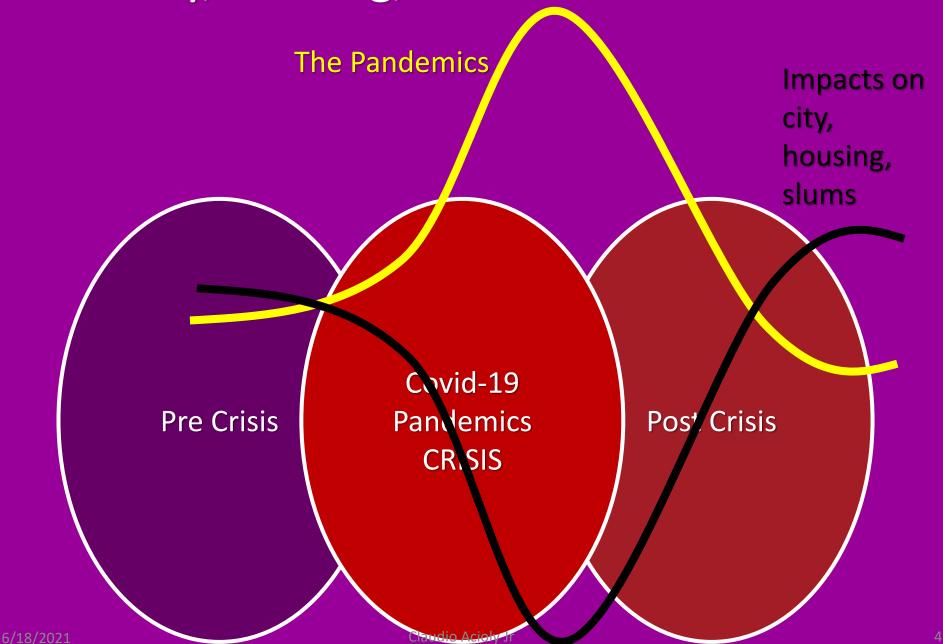
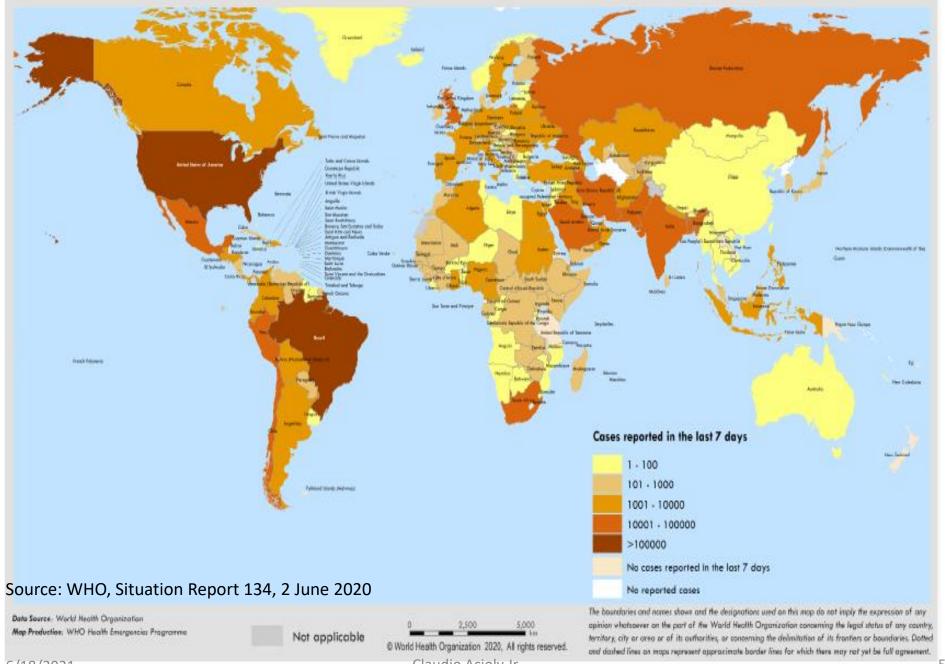
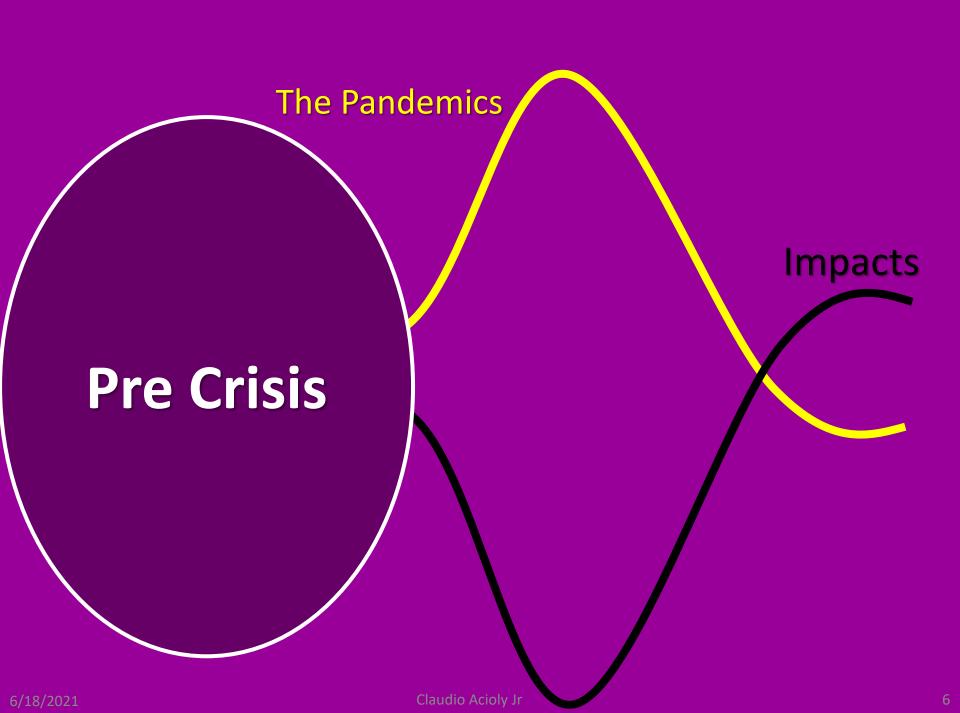


Figure 1. Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in the last seven days by country, territory or area, 27 May to 02 June**



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Statistically representing the global urban universe. A Cooperation between UN-Habitat, New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Before the Covid-19 Pandemics Housing Affordability Crisis

Consistent findings by UN-Habitat Global Sample of Cities, MGI Blueprint to Address Global Affordable Housing and the Demographia 2019 Survey

- 1. Housing not affordable in cities
- 2. Rent beyond levels of affordability.
- 3. The housing sector very restricted.
- 4. Distortions reflected in the space and structure of cities: informal housing, slums, overcrowding, high land price...

Lack of Affordable Housing



informal urbanization growth of slums:



- physical and spatial manifestation in the urban landscape of cities
- 2. dynamic informal land and housing markets
- 3. geography of inequality and segregation











2



A crisis, an armed conflict, a epidemiological crisis, a pandemic mobilizes capacities, creativity and transformative solidarity of people to face a common enemy.

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The Context

Pre-Pandemics

- Informal Urbanization
- Accessibility & Affordability Crisis
- Residential exclusion
- Informal production
- Vulnerability and precarious housing
- Excluding markets

During the Pandemics

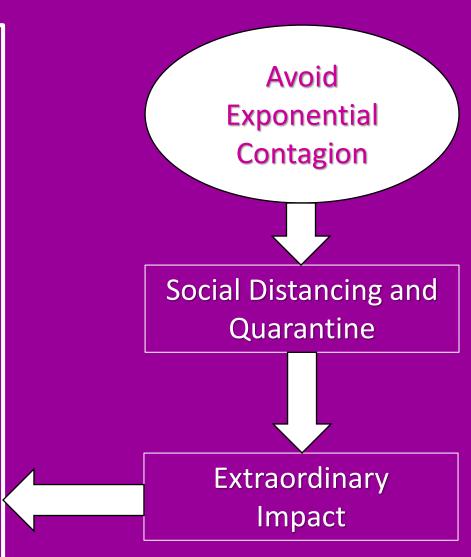
- War regime
- Paralysis of markets
- Supply and Demand in rupture
- Unemployment
- Slum residents in desperate lifethreatening situation + virus transmission
- Retraction of investments and retreat of financing

Post-Pandemics



10 points in informal settlements - favelas: challenges and opportunities

- Agglomeration and economy of scale
- Density
- 3. Overcrowded housing
- 4. Precarious housing
- 5. Poverty
- 6. Women-headed households
- 7. Accessibility due to location
- Networks of security and solidarity
- Economic and urbanistic informality: income, job, access to land
- 10. Insecurity of Tenure



Pre-Pandemics What problems do we encounter inside the favelas?

- a. Irregular or no income at all
- b. Dependence on school meals to feed the children
- Many families in conditions of vulnerability, extreme poverty
- d. Overcrowding at the household level
- e. Pressure for being a tenant paying rent
- f. Dependence on subsidy to meet daily needs ('bolsa familia')

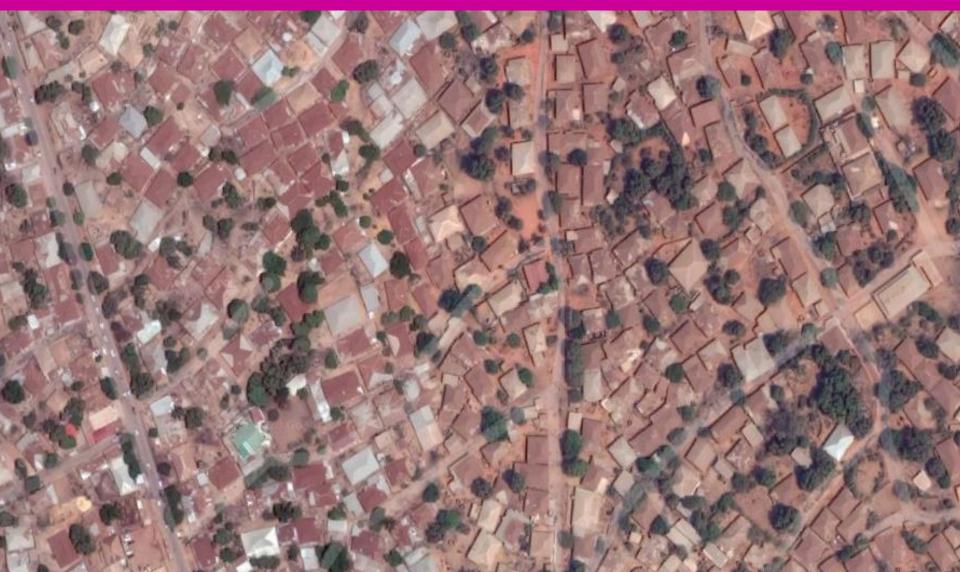
3.

Revisiting my own experience in Guinea-Bissau:

An epidemic of measles taking lives of children under 5 and mothers, with a longitudinal study showing recurrent and worrisome situations in the informal barrios of the city.



Measles Epidemics in a Informal Barrio: housing, density, morbidity and mortality



Response to the Epidemic

Practices and Habits

Decrease Overcrowding

Preventive
Measures
within the
private space of
the household
and the context
of the housing
unit

Goal is to decrease and end the transmisión and contamination Housing Policy
Measures to
foment housing
supply in scale,
diversity and
access to
planned
serviced land

Short-term

Mid and Long-term

4.

Favelas in Brazil in a nutshell:

An economy of US\$24 billion and a population of nearly 14 million people (nearly double the population of Sweden).

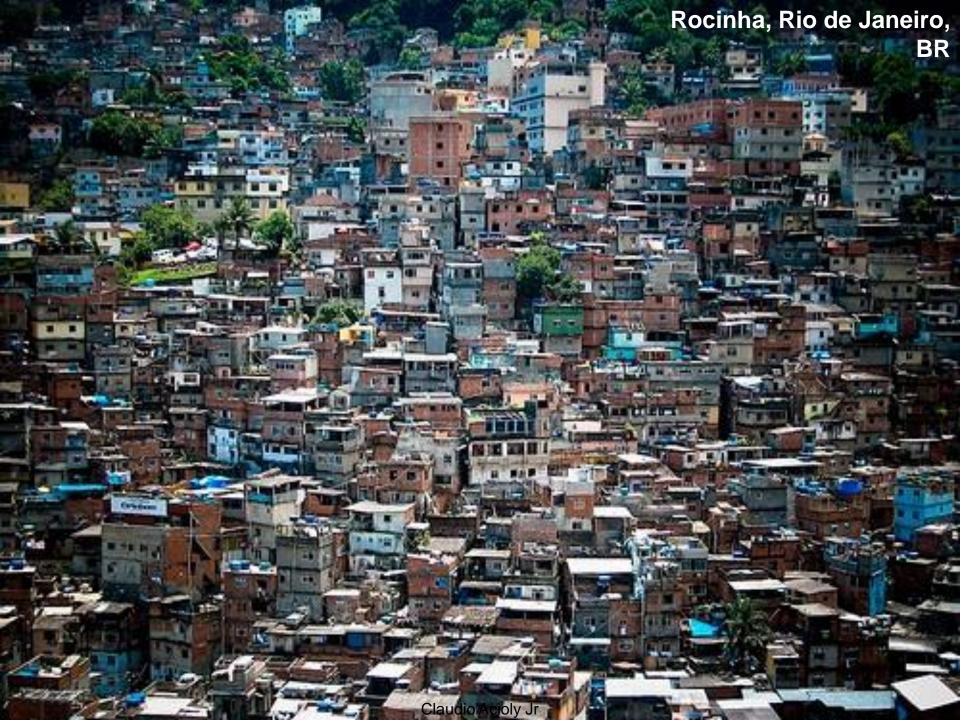






Brazil Favelas: some facts and figures 2019

- a. 13,6 million people living in favelas;
- b. 89% located in state capitals and metropolitan areas;
- c. 67% of favela residents are of African origins
- d. 49% of households are headed by women.
- e. Favela residents mobilize 24 USD Billion annually
- f. Only 2 out of 10 residentes manage to have a financial reserve;





Brazil

Favelas: some facts and figures 2019

- g. Favela residents are genuinely entrepreneurs
- 64% of residents believe that life will be better as a result of their own personal effort and initiatives
- i. In 2013, 94% of residents gave a score of 8 to 10 for their happiness, but in 2019 it fell to 74%.
- j. 87% of adults access the internet at least once a week and 97% of the youth access it regularly.
- k. 31% of residents do not have a bank account.
- 39% buys through the internet but only one third manage to receive the goods at home.



Informal Settlements and neighbourhoods of self-built socially produced housing:

Quarantine and social distancing measures deeply affecting income, food security, safety nets and solidarity and surviving strategies.



Paraisópolis, facts and figures

- 2nd largest favela of São Paulo and 5th of Brazil
- 10 km² de área
- 100,000 inhabitants
- 21,000 housing units
- 12,000 residents are illiterate or nearly-illiterate
- 31% of the population between 15 and 29 years old
- 42% of families are headed by women
- Average income of 87% of heads of households: up to US\$ 627,00
- 21% of the employed population works in the local commerce
- Approximately 10,000 local shops





Favela Paraisopolis, Sao Paulo, Brazil









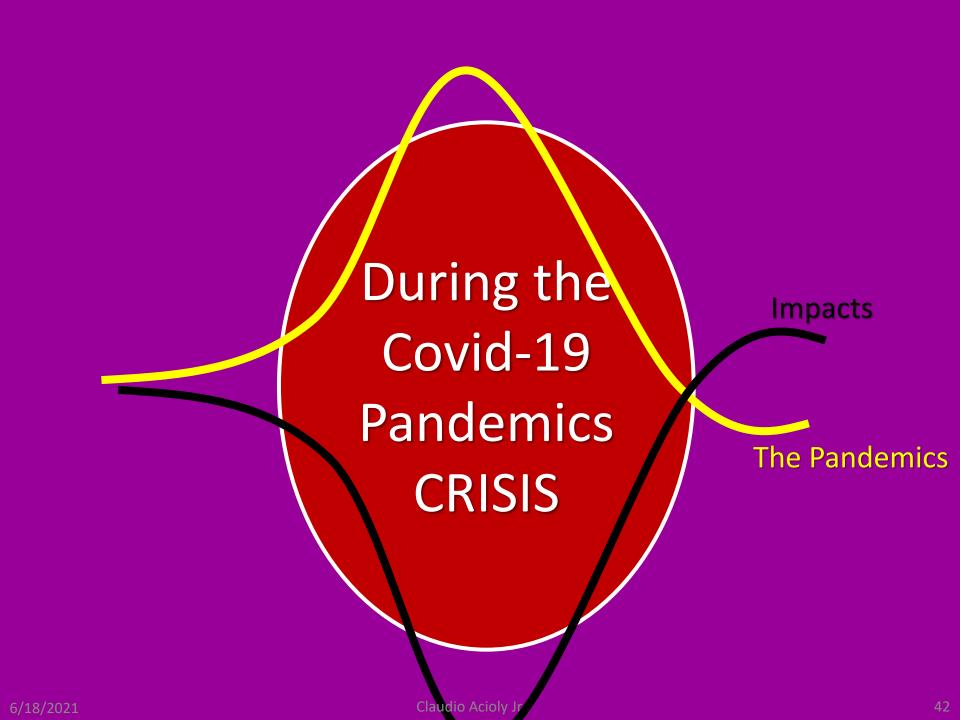






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Paraisópolis

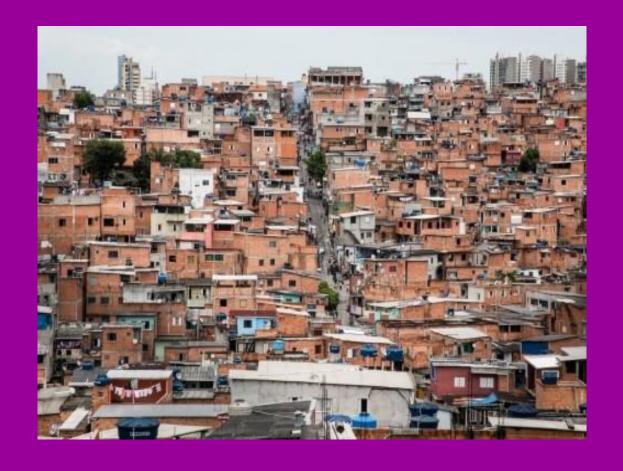
Challenge during the Covid Crisis:

a densely occupied community in an area of 10 Km2 with more than 100,000 residents who needs to seek their income outside their settlement to pay his/her rent and put food on the table.

Community-based and self-organizing response

- Leadership (Gilson Rodrigues, coordenador national G10 Favelas)
- Technical Support (Faculty of Medicine of Eistein Hospital, Syrian-Lebanese Hospital and the NGO Partners in Education)





Aerial View of Paraisopolis

https://www.shutterstock.com/video/clip-1024057559-s%C3%A3o-paulo--brazil---01262019-aerial

Paraisópolis 10 points: Approach and Solutions

- 1. Every Street an elected president (voluntary): 50 houses
- 2. Inventory and household survey by the president to define the health status of household members and decide on the need of rapid medical response
- 3. One Coordinator of the President of the Street: organize, information Flow, coordinate actions
- 4. Rapid Emergency whatsapp system
- 5. Prepare rapid response with volunteers

Paraisópolis 10 points: Approach and Solutions

- 6. Two schools vacant due to pandemics/quarentine transformed into isolation lodge with capacity to accommodate 500 people to avoid contamination of family
- 7. Three (3) private ambulances contracted by the community-based organization (R\$6,000/month)
- Seven (7) health professionals contracted by the CBO on a
 24 hours duty
- 9. Training of 240 residents in first help assistance
- 10. Support and trainers by the Fire Brigade



MAES DA FAVELA PROGRAMME Mothers of Favelas Programme www.maesdafavela.com.br

- a. Implemented by the CUFA-Central Unica das Favelas
- b. Support to mothers in two ways:
- c. The Digital basic food basket: 80,000 delivered to date
- d. The Basic Food basket delivery: 601,240 delivered to date
- e. Number of people involved in delivering: 65,000
- f. Number of favelas as recipients: 5,000 favelas
- g. Partnership with private companies (IT and Digital Identification)
- h. Donations goods/food from different companies
- i. Local leaders and community volunteers assembling and distributing into the communities



Mothers of the Favela













#favelacontraovirus





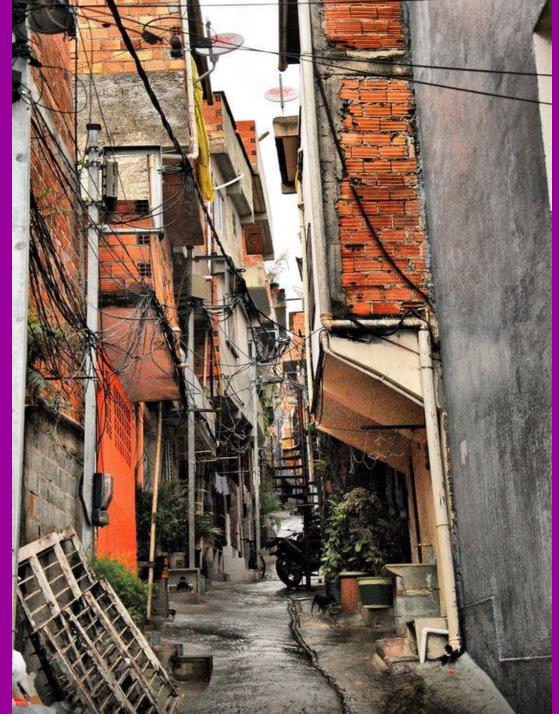
Fundo solidário COVID-19 para Mães das Favelas

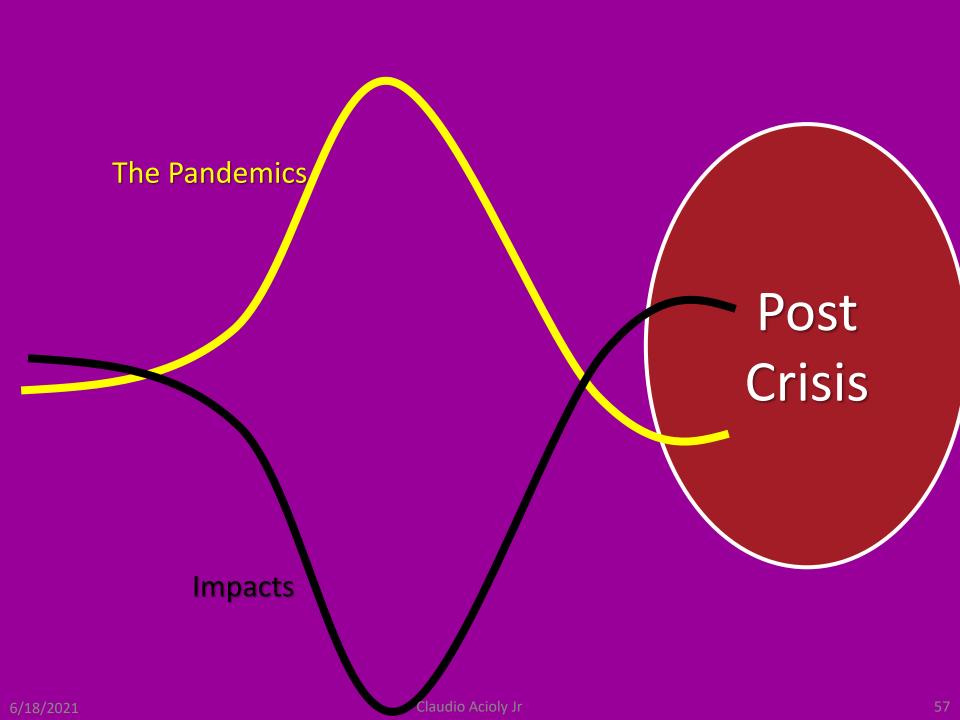
COVID Solidarity Fund for the Mothers of Favelas





Empresas Parceiras

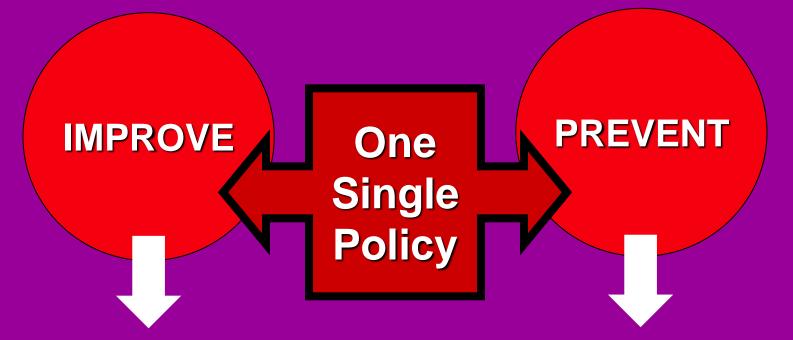




The post-crisis period can become a transformative opportunity:

Take advantage of the colapse of various systems to restart recovery in different forms of production and accessibility to housing and its atributes under a social pact amongst the various private and public stakeholders which includes full integration and upgrading of slums.

5/18/2021



- 1. Citywide approach
- 2. Social pact
- 3. A deep dive into the settlements
- 4. Consider all options to fully integrate slums into the city: upgrading, redevelopment, demolition

- 1. Affordable housing options
- 2. Scale and diversity
- 3. Supply of serviced land at scale
- 4. Fiscal instruments to generate continuous funding
- 5. Infrastructure investment

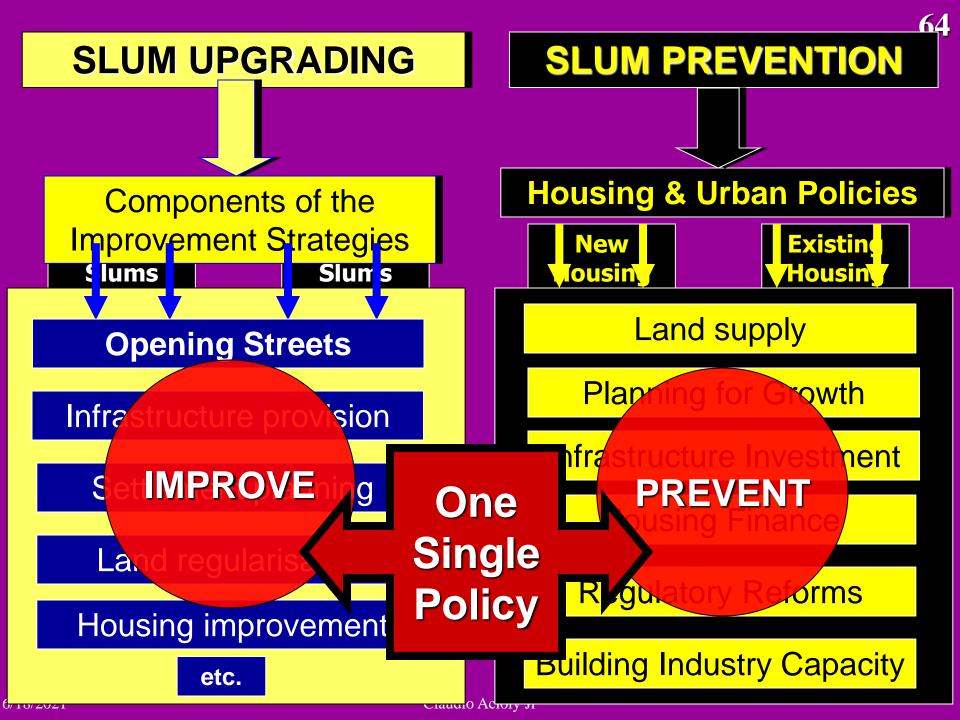




The Twin-track approach:

Citywide slum upgrading is implemented simultaneously to policies that bring housing opportunities to scale.









Street-led citywide Slum Upgrading:

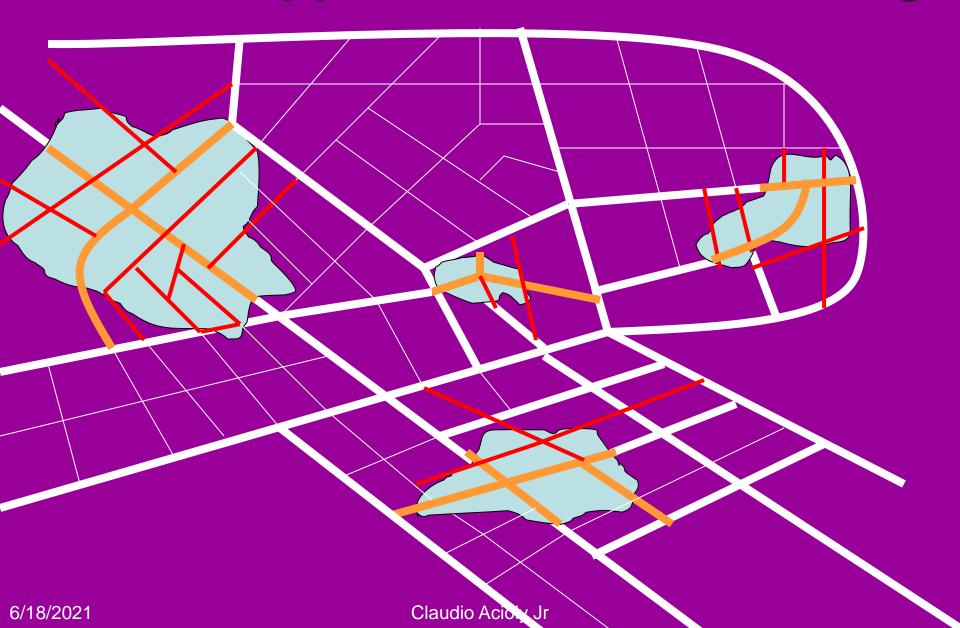
A gradual process of street-making and the execution of the area-based plan that enables an optimal use of scarce resources.

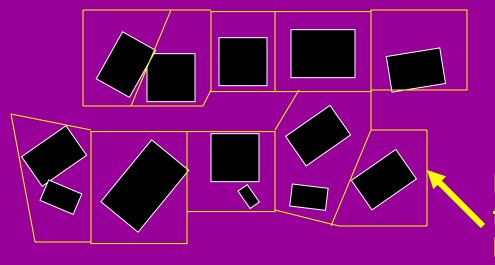


Street-led Citywide Slum Upgrading



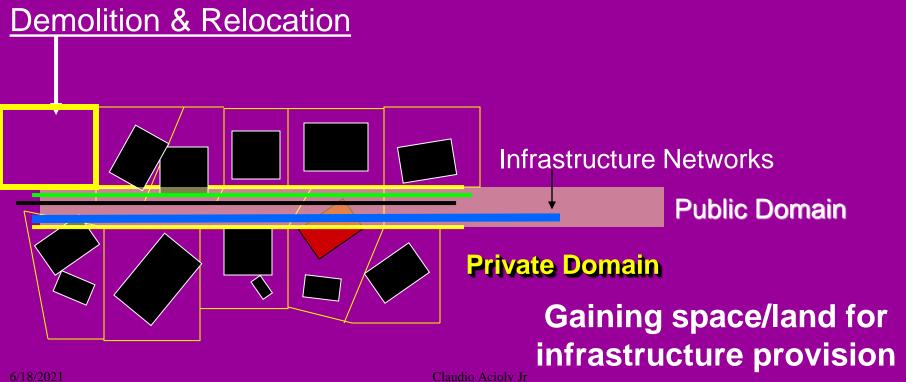
Phased Approach to Street-making





Getting the Planning right

Defining the existing and future private domain housing unit + land parcel





The Lusaka Slum Upgrading and Sites & Services Project, Zambia:

Pioneering the planning & regularisation of informal settlements in Africa using street-based planning teams

PLANNING OUR OWN ROADS

- Community Participation -

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

DECENTRALISATION DIVISION
Chalimbana Training Institute
LUSAKA P.O. BOX 50027
ZAMBIA

Drawings by: Les Eliphas APRIL 1990



Plate 3.2 The Road Planning Group, together with community development staff and technical advisers, walks along a potential route for a road in Lusaka.

Source: Martin, R.J. 1983. Upgrading. In Skinner and Rodell (eds) People Poverty and Shelter: Problems of Self-help Housing in the Third world. 1983:251–78.



Plate 3.3 The Road Planning Group's proposals are put down on paper and discussed before a final commitment is made. Here they are shown being presented by the chief engineer, the architect and the chief community development officer.



One of the consequences of participation in decision-making. Residents demolished their own houses, almost for the fun of it. No one had to be evicted by force.
Source: Martin, R.J. 1983. Upgrading. In Skinner and Rodell (eds) People Poverty and Shelter: Problems of Self-help Housing in the Third world. 1983:251–78.

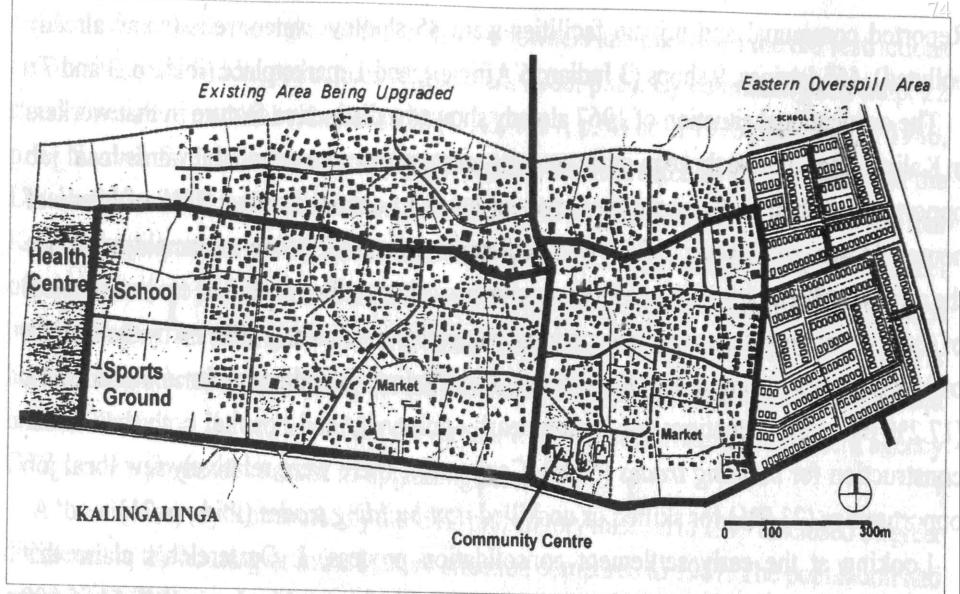
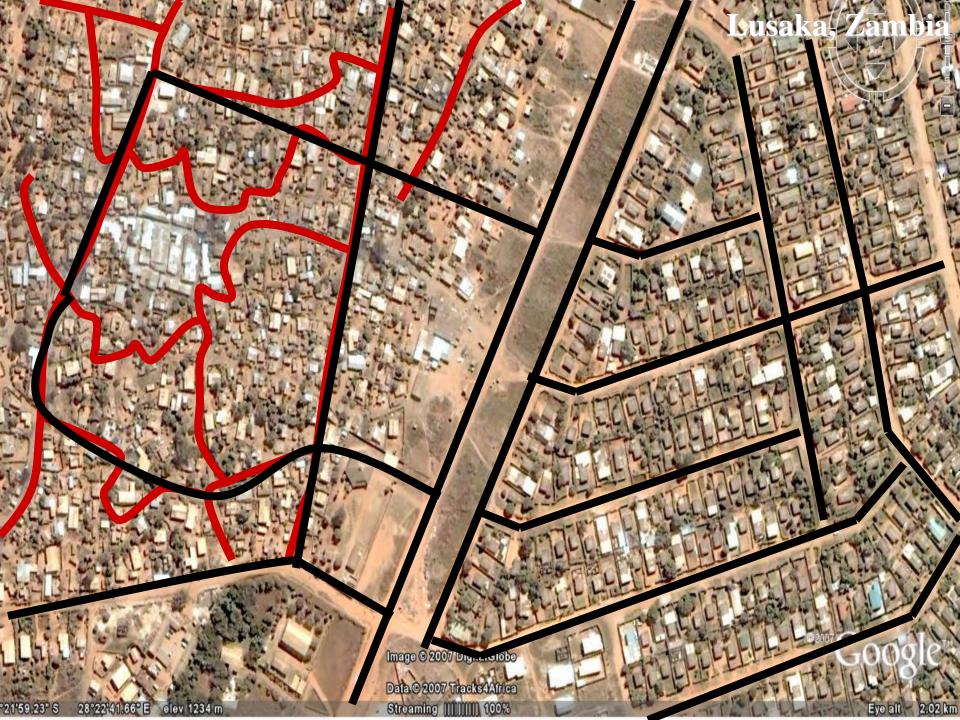


Figure 11.1 Map of Kalingalinga

Source: GRZ Survey Department and Goethert/Oestereich, 1987

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São Paulo, Brazil





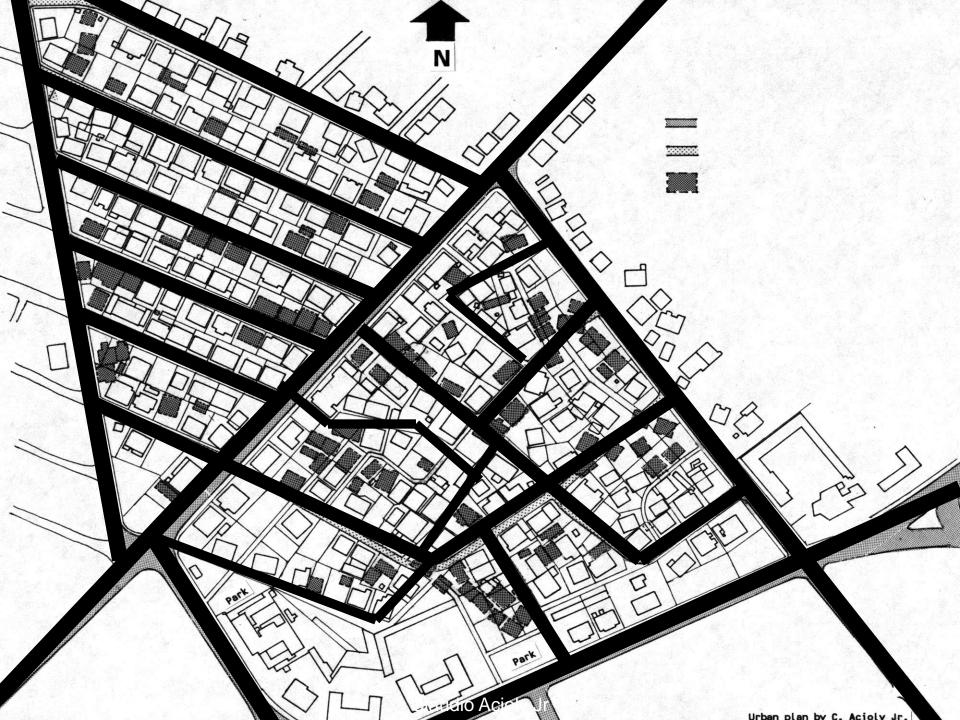


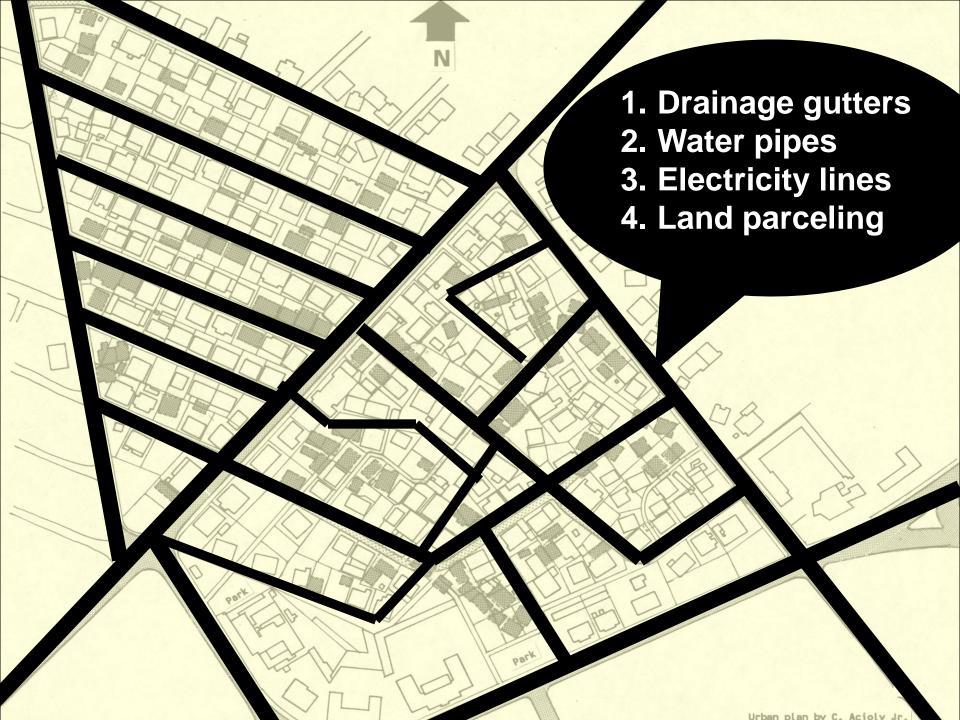


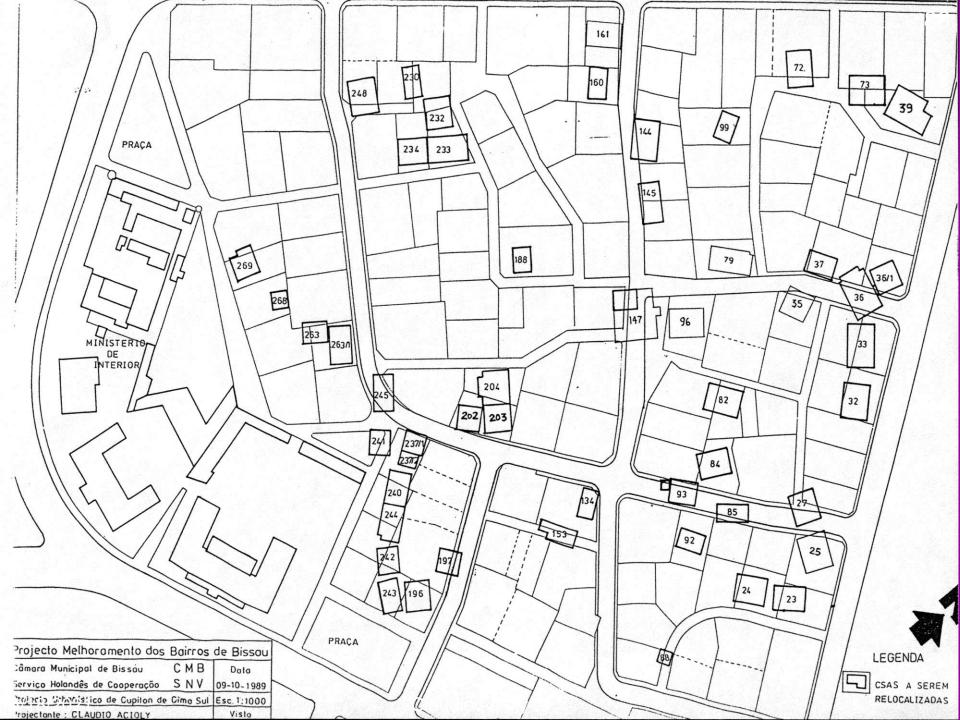




Bissau, Guinea-Bissau













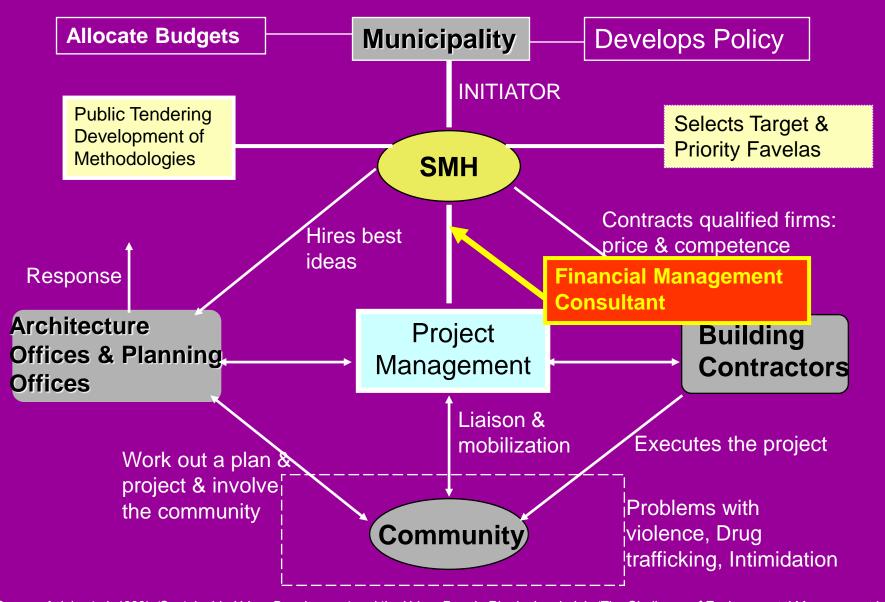


ZIZIZ BAIRRO

Managing a citywide Slum Upgrading Programme

The institutional, organisational and management aspect of the Favela-Bairro Programme.

Rio de Janeiro's Upgrading Program - Favela Bairro



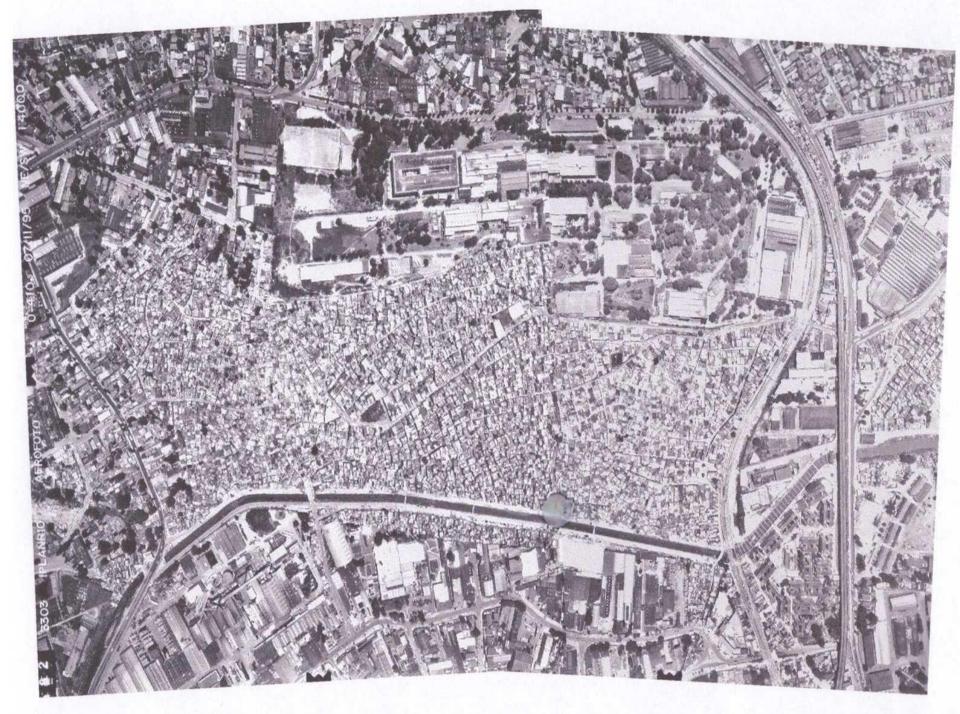
Source: Acioly et al, 1999). 'Sustainable Urban Development and the Urban Poor in Rio de Janeiro', in 'The Challenge of Environmental Management in Urban Areas', M. Mattingly, E. Fernandes, J. Davila and A. Atkinson (eds), Ashgate, London, UK, 1999. (pp. 127-138). Acioly, Claudio. (2001) "Reviewing Urban Revitalisation Strategies in Rio de Janeiro: from urban project to urban management approaches", in GeoForum, Special Issue on Urban Brazil, Volume 32, Number 4. November 2001. UK. Elsevier. pp. 509-520.

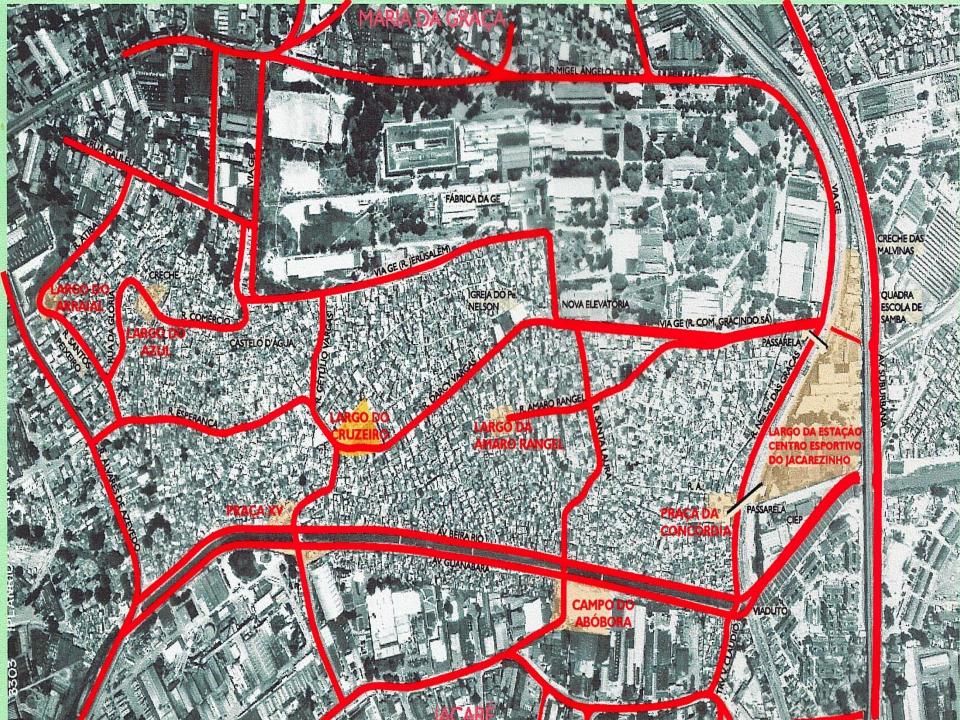
Favela Jacarezinho

JACAREZINHO



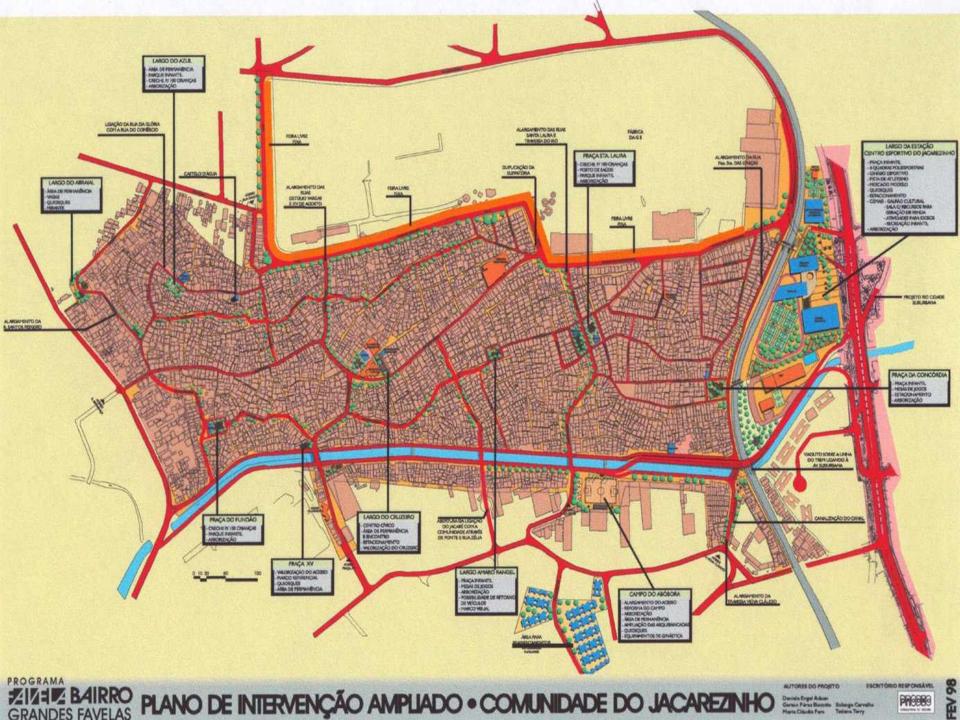


























Conclusions: for the post crisis

- 1. No business as usual
- Public policy and strong state engament in recovery
- 3. A programme of stimulus and incentives (fiscal, wealth tax-solidarity, land value capture, municipal funds, global-local linkages) to mobilize heavy investments
- 4. Research and development for clean/green/carbon neutral solutions
- 5. Technology and employment at the Forefront: innovation
- 6. Support to micro-entreprises
- 7. A shift towards solidarity economy



Thank you.

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