

# Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## A large favela-to-neighborhood project with an integrated approach to formalizing urban settlements

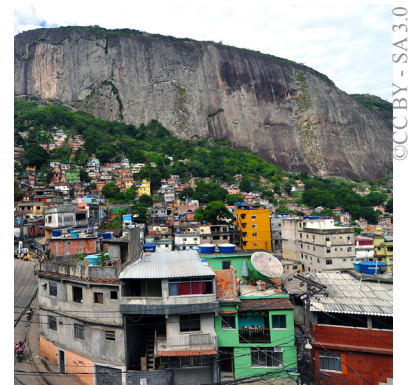
Rather than tearing existing favelas down, the City of Rio de Janeiro integrated them into the city fabric. The upgrading approach, co-funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, focuses on the provision of infrastructural and social services.

Urban NEXUS Case Story 2014 - 09

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### The project in brief

In 1994, the City of Rio de Janeiro launched the Favela Bairro program which aimed at the upgrading and inclusion of informal settlements into the city. The first phase, (Favela-Bairro I) mainly focused on the provision of infrastructural improvements including drainage and road systems in the area. The second phase (Favela-Bairro II) took a more integrated approach with an additional emphasis on social services, such as leisure facilities, public spaces and health improvements. This is being furthered in the follow-up program *Morar Carioca* - referred to as "Favela-Bairro phase III", which aims to upgrade all of the favelas in Rio by 2020 together with an integrated set of social actions for the promotion of education, training and citizen security, in order to ensure a social legacy of the 2016 Olympics.



### What makes it "Urban NEXUS"?

The program is supervised by the “Municipal Housing Secretariat”, established prior to the Project’s start. The Secretariat collaborates with the municipal waste collection company (COMLURB) and the state water company (CEDAE) to ensure the integration of systems and services to improve the health of Favela Bairro’s residents. Prior to every project phase, the City held a competition for urban design proposals amongst architectural offices to be applied to the favelas. In addition, efforts are made to include local communities and resident organizations into the upgrading and design processes. So called, “agentes comunitários”, or community agents, are trained in matters of hygiene, education and community development to serve as local contacts and multipliers.

<b>Date</b>	1994-2020
<b>NEXUS Sectors</b>	Social-Housing-Infrastructure
<b>NEXUS Innovations</b>	Law + Policy; Delivery Models; Institutions, Communications and User Behaviors
<b>Scale</b>	City-wide (more than 200 favelas)
<b>Budget</b>	US\$ 900 million

## Urban NEXUS Definition

The Urban NEXUS is an approach to the design of sustainable urban development solutions. The approach guides stakeholders to identify and pursue possible synergies between sectors, jurisdictions, and technical domains, so as to increase institutional performance, optimize resource management, and service quality.

It counters traditional sectoral thinking, trade-offs, and divided responsibilities that often result in poorly coordinated investments, increased costs, and underutilized infrastructures and facilities. The ultimate goal of the Urban NEXUS approach is to accelerate access to services, and to increase service quality and the quality of life within our planetary boundaries.

ICLEI / GIZ 2014

## Further Reading

City of Rio de Janeiro, Project Presentation:  
[http://www0.rio.rj.gov.br/habitacao/favela\\_bairro.htm](http://www0.rio.rj.gov.br/habitacao/favela_bairro.htm)

Soares, F. and Y. Soares, 2005, The Socio-Economic Impact of Favela-Bairro: What do the data say?: [http://ww2.itauc.com.br/itausocial/site\\_fundacao/Biblioteca/Apresentacoes/apresentacao\\_fabio\\_veras.pdf](http://ww2.itauc.com.br/itausocial/site_fundacao/Biblioteca/Apresentacoes/apresentacao_fabio_veras.pdf) (20 Aug 2014)

IDB, 2011, Improving living conditions in low-income neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro, IDB details impact of second phase of Favela-Bairro program: <http://www.iadb.org/en/news/webstories/2011-03-23/idb-favela-bairro-rio-slum-project,9164.html> (20 Aug 2014)

Osborn, C., 2012, A history of favela upgrades, (describing Phases I-III), 27 September: <http://rioonwatch.org/?p=5295> (20 Aug 2014)

GIZ and ICLEI, 2014, Operationalizing the Urban NEXUS: towards resource efficient and integrated cities and metropolitan regions, GIZ Study: [www.iclei.org/urbannexus](http://www.iclei.org/urbannexus)

## Scope for improvement

According to reports, a portion of the initially set objectives, such as the creation of jobs or health risk reductions, have not yet been achieved. A broader inclusion of institutions, for example from the health sector, may have incurred greater success.

## Replication

The Favela-Bairro project encompasses an intensive Urban NEXUS collaboration between governmental departments, private architectural firms and the local community, and is therefore replicable in other cities facing similar problems with informal settlements. In the case of Rio de Janeiro, funding was shared between the local government and the Inter-American Development Bank. Since a project of such scale requires major investments, similar means of co-funding could be pursued by cities facing similar challenges, as well.

## Acknowledgements

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On behalf of:



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