

Food Baskets and Baskets of Indicators: proposals and actions by Casa Fluminense's network to face the pandemic in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro

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In the light of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which have a global scope, Casa Fluminense has been supporting the construction of Local Agendas, together with grassroots organizations in the peripheries of the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area. The idea is to discuss and document challenges faced by municipalities, neighborhoods and favelas and align them with proposed solutions based on the localization of SDGs.

This way, the NGO seeks to inspire, mobilize and empower social leaders and residents to act towards promoting social participation and the monitoring of public policies in their territories. Through the sharing of methodologies and resources, Casa Fluminense's network has been growing and advancing its purpose of fighting for an inclusive, democratic and sustainable metropolis.

The five local agendas produced are the Santa Cruz 2030 Plan, the 2030 Commitment Letter for Basic Sanitation in Maré, the Japeri, the Queimados and the São Gonçalo 2030 Agendas, which were all pre-launched in an online meeting on Casa Fluminense's Facebook. They are unprecedented in their respective territories and will greatly contribute to the public discussion around social justice at municipal and local levels. Elaboration of the booklet "How to Make a Local Agenda" is also expected in 2021 to multiply the impacts of the efforts carried out in 2020, which will present guidelines and methodologies for building documents aligned with the SDGs for the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda and the expansion of a culture of citizen participation and monitoring of public policies.

The process of developing a diagnosis of the challenges faced by residents and of choosing the priorities to be tackled in each of the five agendas was made in partnership with grassroots organizations and led by black women and/or LGBTQI+ people in all five cases. It incorporated technological innovations, including the use of online questionnaires in the diagnosis, the digital collection and analysis both of official and of citizen generated data (CGD), the use of digital communication tools for the dissemination of results, etc. Casa Fluminense is currently seeking resources for the improvement and multiplication of the agendas, which will include the distribution of printed materials. This is important in face of the low levels of digital literacy and access to speedy internet in these territories, in addition to promoting trust in the work developed and ownership by local residents.

It is important to note that all five organizations responsible for the Local Agendas had to reorganize their activities in 2020 to coordinate distribution of basic food baskets during the pandemic in order to support families in their territories. Engaging people in the discussion about sustainable development demands that they are properly fed and healthy in the first place.

Throughout 2020, Casa Fluminense called attention to the need for strengthening a giving culture in Rio de Janeiro (an ecosystem in which individuals and institutions have the habit of financially supporting organizations and projects). As a supporting organization, Casa Fluminense raises and distributes financial resources to local organizations, as a form of multiplying and territorializing impacts. These resources are destined both for the immediate purchase of food, cleaning and personal hygiene materials, as well as for fostering political incidence in their territories. The strengthening of grassroots organizations is sought not only for its political impact, but also for the potential income that might be generated from the promotion of local development and solidarity economy.

An intersectoral approach to guarantee fundamental rights, combined with an intersectional approach to guarantee the rights of priority groups, are being constantly sought by Casa Fluminense and its partners. Casa Fluminense advocates for the fight against poverty, racism, misogyny and environmental degradation through concrete proposals. These form the basis of the proposals made in the local agendas and greatly contribute to the public debate in municipalities, neighborhoods and favelas in Rio de Janeiro and the whole country.