



Mission and Overview

The Center for Health Promotion (Centro de Promoção da Saúde, or CEDAPS) is YouthBuild International's implementing partner in Brazil. Founded in 1993, CEDAPS partners with vulnerable communities and builds the capacity of local stakeholders to solve challenges, enhance their local quality of life, and to contribute to more inclusive public health policies. In 2001, the organization established the National Communities Network to promote public health in partnership with 187 communities in Rio's metropolitan area, and then helped six other states replicate and sustain this model. In 2011, UNICEF selected CEDAPS as its technical partner to help implement its Urban Platform Centers initiative, focused on reducing inequality and protecting the rights of children and adolescents, with 51 communities in Rio and to help expand the initiative to São Paulo. CEDAPS' program priorities include strengthening public health services, facilitating public health prevention and care initiatives, and creating economic, social, and leadership opportunities for opportunity youth.

With support from Prudential Financial, YouthBuild International and CEDAPS established a partnership in 2010 and successfully adapted the YouthBuild program model for implementation in Rio de Janeiro. The goal of the YouthBuild program, known as Jovens Construtores, is to provide pathways to productive livelihoods for unemployed, gang-vulnerable youth living in favelas, or local communities, that lack basic infrastructure, decent schools, and security. The first five pilot YouthBuild programs served 162 youth in five local communities. YouthBuild students renovated two homes to make them universally accessible for children and youth living with disabilities. CEDAPS and its local YouthBuild implementing partners placed 76% of these youth into jobs, internships, and self-employment.

YouthBuild International and CEDAPS secured a significant investment from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to systematize the YouthBuild program model, expand the program to new communities, and to build CEDAPS capacity to function as a national intermediary for the YouthBuild program in Brazil. The YouthBuild Brazil proposal was selected by the IDB among a pool of 500 applications in Latin America. The investment allowed CEDAPS to implement seven YouthBuild programs serving 216 youth in three communities. The IDB also funded an impact evaluation of the YouthBuild program (see below).

CEDAPS has worked closely with private sector employers to expand the Jovens Construtores to additional locations in Rio and to other Brazilian states. These partnerships include ones with Oi, the largest telecommunications company in Brazil and South America; MetroRio, the agency which runs Rio's mass transit subway system;

Invepar Institute, one of the largest private managers of urban transit and transportation infrastructure in Latin America; and with the Industry Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN). While most of the programs have served young people in urban communities, CEDAPS has partnered with the Vale Foundation and Vale, the world's largest producer of iron ore, to adapt the program to remote and rural communities, with a focus on health promotion, youth leadership development, and community asset building (CAB) projects.

Scope, Scale, and Impact

To date, Jovens Construtores programs have enrolled 640 youth in five states – Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Pará, and Maranhão. The success of the Jovens Construtores program is driven by strategic partnerships with private and public sector stakeholders as well as with community leaders and municipal officials.

- ***Intensive Training Program***

The intensive training program provides employment training and educational opportunities for youth ages 16-25 who have left school and are unemployed, and who live in communities impacted by violence. In partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs), CEDAPS has implemented this intensive program (which engages youth four hours a day, five days a week in a five-month program) in ten communities in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The technical training has focused on construction, telecommunications, customer service, public transportation, and video production and web design. CEDAPS also trained young people to help design props and costumes for Rio's famous annual Carnival.

- ***Jovens Construtores em Saúde (YouthBuild in Health)***

Based on a MOU between YouthBuild International, CEDAPS, and the Vale Foundation, the YouthBuild in Health program promotes community health by providing technical and leadership training so that youth can organize public health initiatives for their peers. Municipal health agencies serve as key partners to this program, which has served 267 youth from rural communities in nine Brazilian cities in the states of Pará, Espírito Santo, and Minas Gerais.

- ***Jovens Construtores Youth Council***

In 2016, CEDAPS created a National Youth Council, comprised of Jovens Construtores graduates, to represent the program and to advocate for the needs of opportunity youth.

- ***Global Opportunity Youth Network***

YouthBuild International is one of the founding members of the Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN), along with the Aspen Institute, Prudential Financial, Global Development Incubator, and Accenture. The GOYN aims to catalyze systems shifts for opportunity youth in communities around the world through the creation of sustainable economic pathways. CEDAPS has partnered

with YBI to support the GOYN initiative by offering training and building the capacity of youth leaders in São Paulo. CEDAPS has also partnered with UNICEF on two initiatives – Chama na Solução and Fazer Chegar – to provide opportunity youth with leadership opportunities to advocate for sustainable livelihoods and more effective public policies.

To date, the Jovens Construtores program in Brazil has served a total of 640 youth through 30 programs implemented in 24 communities in the states of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Pará, and Maranhão. Over 90% of the youth have completed the program, and 61% of the graduates have been placed into jobs, internships, self-employment, and/or further education and technical training. YouthBuild students have conceived of, organized, and implemented 114 community asset building (CAB) projects, including improving facilities at community centers, renovating public areas, and producing videos to reduce bullying. The young people have also completed 212 renovation projects in their own homes. Since 2016, CEDAPS has also helped 140 youth obtain vital official documents that are required for formal employment, enabling youth to overcome a time-consuming, bureaucratic obstacle.

The Jovens Construtores program was evaluated through a randomized control trial study conducted by the IDB. The authors concluded that “the most substantive impacts of Jovens Construtores were found in the insertion of youth in the job market.” Regarding placement, while 75% of the program group were engaged in school or in the job market, such engagement fell to 65.6% for the control group. This outcome is especially significant when considering the high percentage of “out-of-school-and-out-of-work” youth in Brazil (23%). The evaluation found that the Jovens Construtores program was particularly helpful in enabling young people to secure their first job. The young people reported that the program had had a significant impact on their lives and that they appreciated a program where they were not only trained but also heard.

Innovations

YouthBuild Exchange. In partnership with YouthBuild International, CEDAPS hosted the first YouthBuild Exchange, with YouthBuild students from Brazil traveling to the States, and YouthBuild students from Massachusetts traveling to Rio de Janeiro.

Jovem Aprendiz (Youth Apprenticeship). Leveraging Brazil's youth apprenticeship law, CEDAPS is creating job opportunities for Jovens Construtores graduates in the formal employment market. CEDAPS has hired seven Jovens Construtores alumni for 18-month apprenticeships, and the young people have led job placement and youth mobilization initiatives for the Jovens Construtores program.

Alternative Education. In partnership with a youth and adult education program in Rio de Janeiro, CEDAPS adapted the YouthBuild program model to serve vulnerable youth in a school setting. This was the first step in piloting how YouthBuild methodologies, created and tested in YouthBuild high schools in the U.S. and Mexico, could support opportunity youth in collaboration with the Brazilian public education system.

Key Partners

The Prudential Foundation, InterAmerican I Development Bank (IDB), Vale Company, Vale Foundation, Invepar Institute, Oi Institute, MetroRio, Industry Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN), UNICEF, community-based organizations, among others.

Links

Web page: <https://cedaps.org.br/projetos/jovens-construtores/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CEDAPS>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cedapsbrasil/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CEDAPS>

TikTok: [@cedapsbrasil](https://www.tiktok.com/@cedapsbrasil)

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vBxOMJMq10>