

City, Gender and Climate Changes: Parelheiros as a case study in the capital of São Paulo

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Abstract: This article discusses the results of a study completed in zones with social and territorial vulnerability in Parelheiros, south region of the city of São Paulo SP, through the partnership between existing communities of the area and two civil society organizations: CPCD – Popular Center of Culture and Development and Ibeac - Brazilian Institute of Studies and Community Support. The context for the analysis was to recognize that populations settled in situations of incomplete urbanization are more exposed to risks arising from the effects of climate change and, for this reason, should receive attention from initiatives capable of strengthening them socially and economically to face these risks. In this scenario, women and children are identified as the most vulnerable groups among the vulnerable. By paying attention to their specific conditions, important demands from the entire community are also addressed.

Keywords: Vulnerable urban territories; climate changes; women; children; São Paulo.

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1. Introduction

The current climate crisis is part of a broader complex that includes economic models, social structures, sociopolitical relations, the functioning of institutions and the civilizing process itself (SOLÓN, 2019, p. 13). In this scenario, the main groups and regions responsible for harmful activities are not always those who suffer the losses, such as those seen on a large scale in the Global South (FREY; GUTBERLET, 2019). As Taleb (2012) stated, we are watching the ascent of dominant powerful groups that run few risks and upon which the burden of their responsibilities does not fall proportionally. Having access to resources and technologies, they have extended their capacity of appropriation and exploitation of natural resources, in line with an economic model which is only made viable by transferring socio-environmental costs to the more fragile groups, such as small family farmers and communities settled for generations in their regions (CARNEIRO; RIGOTTO; PIGNATTI, 2012, p. 12). Thus, it is worth highlighting the importance of giving voice to the groups most vulnerable to climate changes emphasizing projects that encourage these populations adaptation skills and mitigates the environmental damage effects (FREY; GUTBERLET, 2019, p. 29).

In this context, we discuss the women and children vulnerable situation in the district of Parelheiros, in south São Paulo-SP, analyzing the projects that focus on mitigating the negative impact derived from the condition of their gender, poverty and mobility. We position this discussion within the sphere of the debates on the cities role in facing climate change and the social inequality in their territories. Since women constitute the majority of poor people in cities, we emphasize the need of attending their specificities.

The selected projects are being developed in cooperation between the Popular Center for Culture and Development - CPCD and the Brazilian Institute for Studies and Community Support – IBEAC. The former, a non-governmental organization founded in 1984, is active in popular education and sustainable development (CPCD, undated). The latter, created in São Paulo in 1981, acts to strengthen education, human rights culture, participatory and supportive citizenship (IBEAC, undated).

Engaging women from socially and territorially vulnerable communities, these projects build knowledge in practical situations, in the vulnerable communities contexts, articulating these people's know-how to the notions of environmental balance and sustainability. They correspond to what Schmidt et al. (2019, p. 19) described as investigation-action participatory models, where the central concerns are the knowledge co-production and the investment in agents that facilitate knowledge communication. Local level actions produce results connected to their geographic, historical, cultural and economic specificities. Integrating the know-how and practices of these often underappreciated communities and groups plays an indispensable role in the traditional bases of knowledge review. (KLENK, apud SCHMIDT et al. 2019, p. 22). In this study, the contribution to this review lies in focusing on the specific conditions of women and children in situations of social and territorial vulnerability.

2. Research Issue

The research issue lies in the articulation among cities contributions to climate change, poverty as a factor of greater vulnerability to its effects and the specific conditions of women and children within this context. Based on these factors, the study has constructed project analyses criteria that correspond to this approach, as described below.

2.1. The Cities Contribution to Climate Change

Cities are key elements in contributing to climate change. Globally, civil construction and buildings account for 36% of energy consumption and 39% of total CO₂ emissions; transport is responsible for 28% of energy consumption and 23% of CO₂ emissions (UNITED NATIONS, 2018). Cities consume from 60 to 80% of global energy and natural resources and account for about 70% of CO₂ emissions (KAMAL-CAHOUI; ROBERT, 2009). The emissions of this gas account for 60% of the greenhouse effect, and it survives in the atmosphere for at least 100 years. Natural systems absorb a certain amount of this gas, but they do not have the ability to absorb the entire volume thrown annually in the atmosphere, a situation which is worsened by deforestation (CETESB, 2020).

As Rocha et al. (2005) pointed out, from the 1980s on, with increasing environmental damage - resulting from the growing population in large metropolises, the agribusiness territorial expansion, the soil degradation processes, deforestation and damages to biodiversity - have become more widely discussed worldwide. The 2nd World Conference for Environment and Development – Eco-92, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, was a milestone, resulting in official documents related to the world climate change, among them Agenda 21. It is worth highlighting the women’s organization role, such as the Brazilian Human Development Network – REDEH (Portuguese acronym), and the Women’s Environment & Development Organization (WEDO). They got together to participate in the Eco-92, resulting from this the “Agenda 21 for Women’s Action”, which has been the basis for including “173 particular recommendations on gender in the sustainable development platform, the final version of Agenda 21” (ARQUIVO NACIONAL, 2020).

As for the growth of the urban population, according to the United Nations and World Bank, in 2016, global urban population reached 54 percent of the planet’s total inhabitants (NAÇÕES UNIDAS BRASIL, 2016). In Latin America, nearly 80 percent of its population lives in cities (CEPAL, 2019). In Brazil, in 2016, the index reached 84.72 percent (IBGE, 2016).

As a consequence of the world urban population’s demand for food, Escher and Wilkinson (2019), show that in the first decade of 2000s, the planted areas and soybean productivity in Brazil expanded at an average annual rate of 6.7% between the 2000/01 and 2015/16 crops, “with grain volume jumping from 38.4 to 95.4 million tons in the period”, corresponding to an increase in planted areas of 6.2% per year, from 14 million hectares to 33.2 million. In 2013, 47.4% of Brazilian soybean was directed to domestic market, by three major factors: replacement of butter and animal fat by margarine; biodiesel produc-

tion; feed for chickens and pigs. The production of food for urban consumption is today considered the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Meat consumption accounts for 75% of these emissions, while vegetable-based food accounts for 25% (C40CITIES, 2019).

2.2. Poverty and Social and Territory Vulnerability

The urban poorest groups face major risks, as they inhabit regions of precarious social and urban infrastructure, more susceptible to the effects of storms, floods, gales, landslides, heat and cold waves, and less subject to institutional forms of protection. (TRAVASSOS; MOMM; TORRES, 2019, p. 142). In turn, climate change is more and more linked to the increased quantity and intensity of natural disasters (IPCC, 2019).

The analysis of inequalities in conditions of vulnerability implies the recognition of the difference between the idea of skills and that of capacity as social groups potentials. Each individual's skills establish circumstantial limits for developing their own resources to deal with difficult situations, and these resources can always be improved. Capacities as potentialities, in turn, are not only each person's skills, but mainly the freedom and the opportunities provided by all these political, social, economic, and personal skills (NUSS-BAUM, 2011). Hence, vulnerability emerges from denying – by the economic, social and political structures – the population access to a more positive environment to exercise their potentialities, one that lets them advance towards prosperity (WISNER, 2016).

2.3. Women in Social and Territorial Vulnerability

Women, today, represent the majority of poor people in the planet. (UN Women, 2017). One of the factors that contribute to this situation is the lack of access to reproductive rights, which include not only the ability and freedom to decide how often and when to reproduce, but also topics such as “abortion, homosexuality, maternal conception and contraception”, within the human rights sphere (LEMOS, 2014, p. 245).

Each year, in developing countries, 89 million unintentional pregnancies occur, around 43% of which are unplanned. The survey, carried out by UN-Women in partnership with the World Bank, reported in 2017 showed that women's poverty is likely to be higher during their fertile years, and can be linked to the decrease or loss of their income due to time and effort related to taking care of their children, household chores and home. (UN WOMEN, 2017).

In this structure, the so-called sexual division of labor causes women to do most of unpaid work, such as taking care of family members – children, elderly, disabled, sick (BANDEIRA; PRETURLAN, 2016). The increased time devoted to unpaid domestic work limits women's participation in educational and training programs and even their access to leisure (UN WOMEN, 2017). As a consequence of this overload, women have their professional development impaired, which causes impacts on irregular engagement in their careers, lower salaries and worse jobs. (Sousa; Guedes, 2016). In Brazil, women are the majority of those responsible for parenting and child care. In 2015, out of 10.3

million Brazilian children, aged under 4, 83.6% of them had a woman, mainly between 18 and 29 years old, as their main responsible adult (PNAD, 2017).

This picture is exacerbated by the data connecting gender violence and poverty. According to Action Aid (2018), violence against women and girls is considered a barrier to fighting their conditions of poverty. Violence against girls in schools, for example, is directly linked to low performance, absenteeism and dropping out of school. The lower a girl's education level is, the more likely she is to marry too early, not complete her studies and not qualify for good jobs and, therefore, good earnings; the younger the wife is, the higher the chance to suffer violence by her partner; children born out from very young mothers are less likely to receive a proper education and are more subject to poverty (CORNISH-SPENCER, 2018).

Poor women and girls are more financially dependent on men. Without autonomy to leave undesirable situations and make a living on their own, they become stuck in abusive relationships and are more prone to be coerced into becoming pregnant, which reduces even more their ability to become independent. Women who are physically abused by their partners have less freedom to find or keep their jobs, in addition to losing workdays due to damage from the aggressions. Likewise, they are the most frequent target of sexual harassment at their work places and more exposed to rape, sexual and traffic exploitation, since poor girls and women have to take long walks alone to go to work or school. Physical and emotional damage resulting from these aggressions make it difficult for them to keep their jobs and develop in their careers (Idem).

The consequences women suffer because of poverty, gender violence, and sexual division of labor affect intensely their children's lives. According to recent scientific studies on early childhood (NELSON et al., 2006; SHONKOFF, 2011; BERLINSKI; SCHADY, 2016), there is strong evidence that a safe environment during the first six months of children's lives brings better health, a greater ability to learn and work with others, and better performance throughout their lives. Among the risk factors in early childhood development, the most recurring is poverty, caretaker's mental disease, mistreatment, parents' low schooling, toxic substances abuse by the parents and violence in the community (BERLINSKI; SCHADY, 2016).

3. Study Development

3.1. Context of the Analysis: Parelheiros

Image 1 – Jardim Nova América, Parelheiros



Source: Rodrigo Mindlin Loeb, 2018 (Collection of the Brasiliana Institute).

In conducting the research, case studies have been selected in the city of São Paulo - SP in order to allow the analysis and discussion of women and children conditions in vulnerable urban territories and also to identify and analyze projects that are mobilizing these communities women and their knowledges into environmentally responsible actions.

The second largest district in territorial expansion of the city of São Paulo, Parelheiros shows significant fragments of the Mata Atlântica, and counts with some of the most preserved green areas in the city. Although its entire territory is located in a protected area for water sources, and the existence of environmental preservation legislation, the intensity of disordered urbanization has resulted in silting and contamination of the waters, excessive soil waterproofing and deforestation. This situation affects the region role of in balancing thermal currents with lower temperatures, and in the rainfall regime, with the highest pluviometric indexes in the city. Its water network covers three hydrographic basins: Capivari, Guarapiranga and Billings. Its two dams provide water for around 25% of the Metropolitan Region (PMSP, 2019).

Displaying one of the smallest demographic densities among all districts in São Paulo (920,24 hab./km²) compared to the densest as Bela Vista, (25.806,16 hab./km²) in the central region of the city, Parelheiros houses one of the highest amounts of people under 15, around 21%. It shows a high homicide rate, being the most violent district in 2017, according to the São Paulo State Public Safety Department, with the highest percentages of non-natural deaths, high death rates of people aged from 0 to 14, and violation of human rights (REDE NOSSA SÃO PAULO, 2018; NEV/CEPID/USP, undated).

The district of Parelheiros records travel times for its 139,441 residents at rates above the city average, more than an hour, with the public transport being the main mode of transportation, followed by individual modes or on foot (PREFEITURA DE SÃO PAULO, 2016). According to Nunes (2019), in 2018, only six bus lines served the district and of these, only three reached downtown, a nearly three-hour trip.

Parelheiros ranks among the four worst among 96 administrative divisions with respect to violence against women, along with Jardim Ângela, Jardim São Luís – the worst region – also in the south area of the city, and Itaim Paulista, in the east area. It occupies first place in adolescent pregnancy, without hospitals or beds; among the 40 worst in prenatal care; among the 10 worst in average age at death and low employment rate. In the district, 17% of live births are to mothers aged 19 or younger (SEADE, 2014).

3.2. Social Projects Focusing on Women in Parelheiros

The selection of case studies in Parelheiros District adopted as a cutout the projects developed with the inhabitants by the civil society organizations CPCD and Ibeac.¹ The studied projects are focused on the actions of the “Mães Mobilizadoras” (Mobilizing Mothers) collective, a group of young women (aged from 18 to 23), whose commitment is essential to these projects viability. Therefore, they receive proper conditions to carry out their activities: support for their children, flexible timetables, monthly allowance, and activities organized so that they can walk along the paths on foot and in groups.

1 - Information on these projects, except when mentioned, was provided by Vera Lion, coordinator of the Ibeac projects, and Tião Rocha, CEO of CPCD, in visits to the place along 2018 and 2019.

Image 2 - Two Mobilizing Mothers and aspects of the paths they walk



Source: Ana Gabriela Godinho Lima and Rodrigo Mindlin Loeb, 2018 (Collection of the Brasileira Institute).

Centro de Excelência da Primeira Infância (Early Childhood Excellence Center)

It acts in six neighbourhoods of Parelheiros: Barragem, Colônia, Jardim Silveira, Nova América, São Norberto, Vargem Grande, and addresses the issue of pregnancy in very young mothers, sponsoring workshops on early childhood care, maternity and pregnancy, culinary and healthy eating habits, agroecology and permaculture. It also organizes an exchange market.

Casa do Meio do Caminho (Midway Home)

The project addresses the issue of the distance between Parelheiros and the Interlagos Maternity Hospital, the closest in the region. It takes at least two hours to get there by car. Pregnant women examined at the maternity are frequently discharged late at night or during the night. With no transport option they wait on the sidewalks near the maternity until someone picks them up or they are able to take the public transport in the early morning. When they go into labor on their way back home, and until they come back and are served by the hospital, pregnant women and their fetuses run several risks which can result in maternal or child death. When mothers and their newborn babies are discharged late at night or during the night, often alone and without transport options, they also wait on the sidewalk. The “Casa do Meio do Caminho” (Midway Home) is installed in a rented house, very close to the maternity hospital, where women, their partners and babies can bathe, eat, breastfeed and even stay overnight.

Comunidade Saudável Vargem Grande (Vargem Grande Healthy Community) and Cozinha Amara (Amara Kitchen)

In 2018, in its report “Latin-America Social Panorama”, CEPAL (2019) acknowledged that a larger integration of women to the job market will have a strong impact to reduce global poverty. In Parelheiros, two sides of poverty are the difficulties women

face to access job market and the population health problems as a result of malnutrition. Even being one of São Paulo's main regions to provide organic food, its families do not benefit from what they produce as a consequence of its high cost. Health problems such as hypertension and high cholesterol have an extremely high incidence in the region, which does not have a fresh food supply system for its population. In 2015 the Southern Region Health Survey (São Paulo, 2016) showed 21.8% of the population over 20 reported high pressure diagnosis, 17.9% reported obesity in the 12- year-old population, and 31.6%, overweight in the 12-year-old population.

The Healthy Vargem Grande Project (*Vargem Grande Saudável*) addresses the high occurrence of health problems linked to bad nutrition habits in the district, promoting culinary and healthy nutrition, agroecology and permaculture workshops for men and women of all ages. Women represent the majority engaged in the project and, via the industrial kitchen, they develop recipes and make products that can be traded and generate revenue. There is a specific space for that, with an industrial kitchen, refectory, library and computer room.

The Cozinha Amara Project (Amara Kitchen) focuses on women's financial independence, creating alternatives to increase the families' income, and means of escape from situations of domestic abuse and violence. The goal is to increase their income through entrepreneurship in nutrition services, such as producing sales and services (catering). It was totally created and structured by community leaders with the support of CPCD and IBEAC, with a focus on healthy vegetarian nutrition (Ibeac, 2020).

Image 3 – Cozinha Amara and Healthy Vargem Grande Project



Source: Rodrigo Mindlin Loeb and Valdirene Rocha, 2018 (Collection of the Brasileira Institute and Ibeac).

Stories House

The project addresses the issue of childcare outside of school hours, also providing physical and emotional support to mothers, and the availability of a space for “mobilizing mothers” collective activities. The Center for Excellence in Early Childhood and the

Cozinha Amara activities can be accommodated in this space, which has a small library and a playroom for children.

Image 4: Casa das Histórias (Stories House)



Source: Rodrigo Mindlin Loeb, 2018 (Collection of the Brasileira Institute).

Caminhos da Leitura Community Library

The Caminhos da Leitura (Reading Paths) Community Library functions to encourage education and culture, offering a space for reading, meetings, soirées, cooperation and community dialogue activities, reading circles and incentives to read and write (IBEAC, 2020). The project provides training and support activities for other initiatives. It is one of the places where the “mães mobilizadoras” do their activities. Library management is carried out by the group “Jovens Escritores”, adolescents and young people who receive training on human rights, mediation, literary criticism and creative writing. The library is part of the state network LiteraSampa, which integrates the National Network of Community Libraries (Idem).

Image 5 - Caminhos da Leitura Community Library



Source - Rodrigo Mindlin Loeb and Valdirene Rocha, 2018 (Collection of the Brasiliana Institute and Ibeac).

Adopted Streets

The project addresses the issue of women and girls' safety on empty roads. An activity promoted by the “mobilizing mothers” in day care centers and the region first-grade schools, it promotes the closing of streets to cars for one day, so that children can play outdoors and carry out small appropriation interventions, such as painting walls and sidewalks. The aim is to bring life and movement to the streets, making them more beautiful, usable and, therefore, safer.

Architecture in the Periphery

This project addresses the construction's precariousness, which can be mitigated with small repairs and renovations. Organized by IBEAC along with the Architecture in the Periphery Project promoted by architect Carina Guedes Mendonça, the project enables women to do small repairs and renovations in their homes, including the organization of its planning and budget.

3.3. Interconnected Projects: the role of the “mães mobilizadoras”

The projects described above are all interconnected, and one of the main connecting points are the mobilizing mothers, because they identify demands, make contacts and carry out or monitor projects development. This way, gradually these women gain autonomy with respect to the CPCD and IBEAC support and supervision, and at the same time they contribute to the training of larger groups that foster and develop other projects for the regions.

The reading circles, organized at community project headquarters, have already foreseen that common challenges faced by women be identified and alternative solutions be developed and shared to face the forms of violence. Women's awareness of the problem and the construction of educational processes for the new generations provide opportuni-

ties for improving their situation. Expanding the reach and impact of the projects, boys and men started to come closer and begin a process of engagement in care activities.

4. Key results

The research main results consisted in identifying, describing and analyzing the projects contributions according to the following criteria: a. Specifics of the women who inhabit the social and territorially vulnerable areas; b. Strategies to combat and mitigate these women's poverty conditions; c. Challenges and alternatives for these women's urban mobility.

Those analyses were carried out to provide input for elaborating strategies and action projects aimed at mitigating the vulnerable conditions for women and children in these precarious urban areas, having in view the participation of the communities, allied to principles of respect for the environment and sustainability.

In the context of the research project, we sought to identify aspects of the actions studied in Parelheiros concerning the engagement of women and attention to their needs, mitigating their poverty conditions and mobility limitations due to their gender and to the precarious transport infrastructure in the region.

a. Specificities of The Women Inhabiting these Socially and Territorially Vulnerable Areas

The projects studied have a strong activity in strategies to mitigate violence against women, based on the following empowering strategies: education on women's and children's human rights, women's health, health during pregnancy, childhood care, healthy nutrition, cooking and earnings.

Support networks for babies and children as well as emotional and physical support for women, in particular the Casa das Histórias and the Casa no Meio do Caminho help to compensate for the overload of housework and care imposed on women, as well as vulnerability related to pregnancy, childbirth and the period of care for the newborn. Education and cultural projects contribute to forming healthy ideas about masculinity, marriage and parenting, engaging boys and men.

The project dynamics makes women's participation viable, since it allows for flexible timetables, meetings in easily accessed places, offering support to babies and children care.

b. Strategies for Combating and Mitigating Women's Poverty

The active participation of the "mães mobilizadoras" is paid with allowances offered in the context of the partnership between CPCD and IBEAC. Income opportunities are produced by activities linked to permaculture and cooking in the Cozinhas Amara and in the Healthy Vargem Grande Project. Professional training via courses and workshops promoted within the projects, connected to the support and care of children offered by the Casa das Histórias and the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood offer training

and job search opportunities, as well as conditions for constancy in the job.

c. Challenges and Alternatives for Women's Urban Mobility

In the communities served by the projects, the network of “*mães mobilizadoras*” articulates through communication strategies, so that the paths they usually travel on foot, without pavement or lighting, usually in steep terrain and in the midst of scrub, be transposed in a safer way, both to avoid situations of sexual nature attacks and aggressions, as well as in the information or help in paths that frequently cross flooded areas and slippery stretches.

The project dynamics are organized in such a way that the routes traveled by the “mobilizing mothers” and participant women be done in groups and on foot. WhatsApp groups connect people that own private vehicles and can help in transporting them for group activities or transporting pregnant women for routine tests, emergencies or labor hospitalization.

4.1. Projects Mobilizing Communities and Civil Society Organizations: Possibilities and Limits

The three criteria employed in the projects analysis – attention to women's specificities, the strategies to fight poverty, and mobility solutions – are at the base of their execution feasibility and results, and the relationships between organizations – CPCD and IBEAC – and the community. Mainly, the Vargem Grande Healthy Community and the Cozinha Amara projects have strategic roles for environmental preservation and strengthening the community in face of the negative impacts of climate change. Adopting organic planting practices, without the use of pesticides, prevents contamination of soils and water sources. The creation of home gardens in backyards and small open spaces on the plots of land of the houses leads to the production of fresh and organic food accessible to families. These initiatives are the subject of training in permaculture, which also includes the technologies for bed plant formation, composting, organic soil preparation, allowing small cultivated areas to produce a substantial amount of food, capable of feeding several families. The Cozinha Amara engages women, offering opportunities to increase household income, and facilitating the preparation of vegetarian-based meals from local production, fostering the community's improved health and nutritious habits.

It seems possible to align aspects of the skills approach, which according to Amartya Sen (In: Juliano e Alves, 2015, p. 45), seeks to establish forms of analyzing individual freedom in pursuit of achieving their goals and choices among several possible options – with the “3 work ethics” that permeate the CPCD actions, aiming at strengthening the community abilities to deal with risks and damage caused, mainly to housing, by the impact of climate change as a result of gusts, extreme temperatures, among others. These abilities lie mainly in planning and managing risk situation strategies – focusing on developing skills and income generation – and recovery after the damage, emphasizing relations of sympathy and care. They are: permaculture ethics – care for the soil, care for

the planet; human ethics – care for the people, focusing on girls and pregnant women; sharing ethics – share the surplus, in either production or knowledge. (Betinho, 2018, n.p.)

On the other hand, the three criteria also circumscribe public authorities' action limits; they are very far from being properly contemplated, as the data related to the violence against women, income and transport in Parelheiros demonstrate. As discussed by Loeb (2019), the viability of strategies for the mitigation of vulnerability in social spheres and the territory demands integrated action among five instances: the community; civil society (including the non-profit civil society organizations); private initiative; the university, and public authorities.

The projects studied in Parelheiros show the association between community and civil society organizations as their central *core*. In some moments, partnerships are made with public agencies, as in the case of the Caminhos da leitura Community Library that ended up integrating a municipal network. Contributions from civil society and the university are also mobilized and represent important sources of support for other activities. However, the systematic and long-lasting commitment among the five instances still has a long way to go. In particular, the absence of more enduring commitments between public authorities and these projects represents a significant loss of opportunity to collect and communicate information and knowledge that could be relevant to regional cooperation networks for actions, meant to adapt to climate change and mitigate their impacts.

Final Remarks

In adopting the new Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS, in the Brazilian acronym) in 2015, a commitment was made to eradicate poverty and to attain gender equality by 2030. However, given the scale of the challenge, unless efficient initiatives are set in motion, by 2030 almost 70 million children may die in the world before age 5 (on average, 7 million children worldwide die annually under the age of 5), over 60 million children in elementary school age will be out of school, and approximately 750 million women will have married while they are still in their childhood, an astonishing number of three quarters of a billion infant brides. (UNICEF, 2007; NAÇÕES UNIDAS, 2015).

It is not expected, however, that these goals are to be reached in a context of maintenance or intensification of the systems of natural resources exploitation and consumption which, as we see, are leading to climate change that seriously affect the environmental balance and the viability of human life on earth (CETESB, 2020; C40CITIES, 2020; FAO, 2011; IPCC, 2019; KAMAL-CHAOUÏ; ROBERT, 2009).

Building systemic alternatives that link different kinds of knowledge about how to produce food in balance with the environment, at the same time developing collaborative and non-exploitative economic systems, and social transformations towards non-oppression and non-violence against women and girls have been gradually glimpsed as a result of initiatives on the micro and small scale.

The projects in Parelheiros discussed here start off from the mapping of social, economic and gender inequalities, from the main points of vulnerability, such as violence

and insufficient urban infrastructure and services, prioritizing prevention and mitigation of these precariousness conditions. Such strategies attribute protagonism to these groups, as reflected by Frey and Gutberlet (2019, p. 29), in affirming that the “principles of climate justice” should necessarily connect the several social groups in governmental practices.

The main limitations point to the gap between practical knowledge, mobilized by communities and civil society organizations, and the formulation and implementation of public policies, especially with respect to women and children’s specific conditions, in order to address the aspects contemplated in the three analysis criteria used in the projects, in relation to women’s specific needs and demands, including means to combat female poverty. This necessarily involves finding solutions for women and children’s mobility.

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Cidade, Gênero e mudanças climáticas: Parelheiros como estudo de caso na capital paulista

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Artigo Original

Resumo: Este artigo discute os resultados de pesquisa realizada em territórios de vulnerabilidade social e territorial em Parelheiros, região sul da cidade de São Paulo SP, por meio da articulação entre comunidades da região e duas organizações da sociedade civil em parceria: CPCD - Centro Popular de Cultura e Desenvolvimento e Ibeac - Instituto Brasileiro de Estudos e Apoio Comunitário. O contexto da análise foi o reconhecimento de que as populações acomodadas em situações de urbanização incompleta são mais expostas aos riscos advindos dos efeitos das mudanças climáticas e, por essa razão, devem receber atenção de iniciativas que as fortaleçam social e economicamente para enfrentá-los. Neste cenário, identificam-se as mulheres e as crianças como pertencentes aos grupos mais vulneráveis dentre os vulneráveis. Ao atentar para suas condições específicas, importantes demandas de toda a comunidade são também abordadas.

Palavras-chave: São Paulo; territórios urbanos vulneráveis; mudanças climáticas; mulheres; crianças.

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Ciudad, género y cambio climático: Parelheiros como estudio de caso en la capital paulista

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Artículo original

Resumen: Este artículo analiza los resultados de investigación desarrollada en contextos de vulnerabilidad social y territorial en Parelheiros, en la región sur de la ciudad de São Paulo SP, a través de la articulación entre las comunidades de la región y dos organizadores de la sociedad civil en asociación: CPCD - Centro Popular de Cultura y Desarrollo e Ibeac - Instituto Brasileño de Estudios y Apoyo Comunitario. El contexto del análisis fue el reconocimiento de que las poblaciones acomodadas en situaciones de urbanización incompleta están más expuestas a los riesgos derivados de los efectos del cambio climático y, por lo tanto, deben recibir atención de iniciativas que las fortalecen social y económicamente para enfrentarlos. En este escenario, las mujeres y los niños son identificados como los grupos más vulnerables entre los vulnerables. Al prestar atención a sus condiciones específicas, también se abordan importantes demandas de toda la comunidad.

Palabras-clave: São Paulo; territorios urbanos vulnerables; cambios climáticos; mujeres; niños.

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