LOCAL CHALLENGE PROJECT 2020: Accelerating the SDGs

WORLD CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE
BRASÍLIA - BRAZIL

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Fourteen years ago the program "Brasilia, Cultural and Environmental Heritage of Humanity" was created. It is a work of heritage and environmental education. In early 2019, the program introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NAU) in a pilot area in central Brasilia called the 'Superquadra' (Superblock). The choice was due to the fact that it is a high-income residential place with multi-family housing, diversified commerce, school, nearby transportation, and community goals of achieving zero waste. In this scenario, there are workers and students who live far away. At distances of up to 50 kilometers in a straight line. Public transportation and road conditions to their homes are poor and unsafe. Most have low socioeconomic status. This framework makes it an inviting space for the methodological exercise of creating SDGs and NAU indicators within the heritage and environmental education program.

The specific objectives of the project are: 1) to disseminate and evaluate people’s knowledge of the SDG and NAU agendas; 2) develop a pre-test of SDG Indicators, which can be adapted and replicated to the other Brasilia Superquadras; 3) apply the SDG questionnaire to residents, workers, teachers and schools of Superquadra through the use of the internet; evaluate the degree of response of this ‘self census’ to see the possibility of the project gaining scale; seek to measure the degree of sustainability of the pilot area; and estimate the level of information and appreciation of people about the two main heritage sites, Brasilia and the Cerrado biome.

Brasilia, Capital of Brazil, is a Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognized by UNESCO. It is a unique and harmonious set, representative of the materialization of functionalist concepts in urbanism and architecture. From an environmental point of view, the capital is within the Cerrado biome, a type of savannah with high biodiversity that is threatened to disappear. The Cerrado is considered a biodiversity hotspot. This dual qualification can be expanded to become a place of excellence in sustainability. After all, the Federal District is part of UNESCO’s scientific program, Man and the Biosphere, in a part of the Cerrado Biosphere Reserves (CBR). Thus, it can be said that the Cerrado is a world environmental heritage.

Since 2016, the World Biosphere Reserves have been recognized as living laboratories for implementing climate change-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, there is a great opportunity to integrate the preservation of the heritage of Brasilia and Cerrado, increase their synergy and accelerate the insertion of the territory in the context of sustainability, from the SDGs and NAU. As a pilot area, Superblock South 113 (SGS 113) was selected for its social mobilization and advanced recycling of solid waste. Then, this work search for data about the Superquadra’s degree of inclusion, security and sustainability.

METHODOLOGY
This work is a methodological pre-test to know the level of information about the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda within Brasilia, Cultural and Environmental Heritage, by residents, traders, neighborhood units, apartment managers, employees, concierges and school managers. Seven different types of questionnaires were developed and applied to these groups through the use of the internet. The results were aggregated into four types of responses: level of inclusion, degree of security and resilience of the Superquadra to climate change and level of sustainability of the Superquadra.

Group-specific questions were developed according to the SDGs. The New Urban Agenda was mainly used to generate indicators related to the cultural part. The questionnaires were made in the Google Forms program. About 25 types of questions were developed on average for each group. All made within each of the SDGs and their respective goals. At various times, it was necessary to create specific indicators for the work. There were more than 220 questions addressed to the seven groups. The pre-test results were from 162 answered questionnaires.

INCLUSION - valuing workers / quality of housing of workers / distance from young people to go to school within the Superquadra.

SAFETY - The degree of safety of residents, concierges, employees, school managers, apartment managers and neighborhood units around the Superquadra, day and night and coming and going to the bus and subway stops.

RESILIENCE - What residents, buildings, businesses and schools adopt to improve thermal comfort in the face of climate change. As there was a water crisis in the Federal District in 2017-2018, there was concern about whether the community took definitive action to prepare for another crisis.

SUSTAINABILITY - This item was worked from the verification of the eating habits of the residents. If there are workers in the residence and what is the type of contract. If trees are planted in the Superquadra and if there is bird watching. How a store that works with organic products, among others, conducts its business. If the neighborhood unit works policies to introduce the SDGs and NAU, besides the theme of solid waste.

PROJECT EDUCATION

SDGS CONSIDERED:
- 2 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 11 - 12
- 13 - 15 - 16

STATUS: FULLY DEVELOPED

Workers, 82.9% use public transportation

High School Students, median play at environment and cultural heritage

Buildings, 50% invested in equipment after the water crisis

Building Workers, 71.4% believe there would be no difference between man and woman in this kind of work