

Safer access for Essential Public Services - Brazilian experience with municipal authorities

OUR SELECTED EXPERIENCE



Safer Access for essential public services in Brazil is the result of a long learning process that begun during Project Rio. ICRC created Project Rio in 2009 in order to find ways to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence in urban settings.

To develop the Project Rio, ICRC built valuable partnerships with governmental institutions that cooperated with the design and the implementation of the pilot: Rio's Municipal Bureau of Health (SMS), State Bureau of Education (SEEDUC) and State Bureau of Security (SESEG). ***Community involvement was also an important differential in the project, as it assured the Project acceptance in the favelas.*** Considering the partners and the results, different programs were created. Such as;

In order to support health professional's three programs were developed in partnership with the Municipal Bureau of Health (SMS), Safer Access, Mental Health and Violence and Adolescent Mothers and their Children

Other programs such as *Creating Humanitarian Spaces* and *Safer Behavior* were designed to prevent and reduce the consequences of violence on the school community in partnership with the State Secretariat for Education (SEEDUC).

In Brazil, the main objective of the Safer Access for essential public services is; *"To reduce, mitigate and respond to the consequences of risk for the public service professionals and the population who use the public services in areas highly exposed to the risk of armed violence, primarily aiming to increase their safe access to essential public".*

In 2009, the ICRC Project in RIO covered the municipality of Rio de Janeiro, and included specific actions in the most affected armed violence communities. As part of it, in order to minimize the effects of armed violence in urban setting, the ICRC developed the *Safer Access for Essential Public Services methodology.*

This methodology of Safer Access for Essential Public Services was adapted from the one developed for National Societies mainly to work with essential public services and harmonized with policies and guidelines of the International Organization for Standardization ISO 31.000

(Risk Management). This parameterization had the objective of ensuring that the work developed will be replicated elsewhere guaranteeing the use of the same parameters for the implementation.

This experience resulted in integrated actions in health care and education, aiming to protect public services and to develop resilience of people who live and work in communities affected by armed violence. The ICRC focused on providing technical support to government partners, ensuring the sustainability and promoting the expansion to other areas in the city. Since 2013, upon rigorous request from authorities, this methodology of Safer Access was successfully implemented in other municipalities (*such as Duque de Caxias _Rio de Janeiro State; Florianopolis_ Santa Catarina State; Porto Alegre_ Rio Grande do Sul State and Fortaleza_ Ceará State*).

The implementation through partnership with local authorities included raising awareness among managers and / or decision makers of the security situation of workers who operate in violent and insecure environment daily. In this way, the ICRC staff conducted specific programs / partnerships, adapted to the local needs and capacities of each public department.

Furthermore, the ICRC team collaborated on the identification and analysis of risks, helped local authorities design action plans tailored to the facilities and staff; organized support groups that are responsible for the day-to-day risk management; trained multiplying agents to ensure that local workers are qualified to follow the implementation; provided technical support to them for the development and implementation; carried out follow-up technical visits to ensure sustainability.

In order to improve the partner's ownership and progress, in 2015 the ICRC established the Safer Access Network. It is a platform for exchanging experiences and improving their work. The primary objective is to provide a joint learning environment by sharing good practices and disseminate overall guidelines, innovative and successful experiences. The ICRC SAF team is an active member of the network and takes into consideration all comments and suggestions made by officials and workers from the municipalities. These technical meetings are held twice a year and are fundamental to ensure that safer access approach is carried forward in a sustainable, qualified and participatory manner. The Network also enables buy-in from relevant workers at the political and strategic levels, even when implementation is in its early stages.

The relevance and effectiveness of the methodology are recognized by the partners since urban violence is a phenomenon that requires tailored approaches and responses to reduce and mitigate the humanitarian consequences. Armed violence affects access to public essential services and has a high impact and cost to municipalities. In addition, implementing Safer Access for public services protects lives, foster safe environments and strengthen staff's resilience, enhance efficiency of services and expands the population access to public essential services.

Safer access for Public Essential Services - Brazilian experience with municipal authorities in Action

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|   | <p>2013-10-Brazil-Rio-Complexo da Mare Safer Behaviour-video stills-Fabio Serfaty</p> <p>General Captions: Brazil. Rio de Janeiro. Complexo da Maré. Workshop in Safer Behaviour (Comportamento Mais Seguro) to high school students of CE César Pernetá. Still of the video about the programs and activities developed by the ICRC, together with state and municipal institutions, as well as other local partners, to respond to the humanitarian problems generated by the armed violence. The Safer Behaviour Program (Comportamento Mais Seguro) enables the education professionals, high school students, NGO's and health professionals and community residents, to develop behaviors that reduce their vulnerability to armed violence.</p> <p>People in the pictures: high school students ICRC members</p> <p>Date: 10/2013</p> |
|    | <p>2012-06-01-Brazil-Rio-Teresopolis-Safer Acess_Training of Trainers - Patricia Santos</p> <p>Brazil. Rio de Janeiro. Teresópolis, Le Canton Hotel. Safer Access Training of Trainers. During four days, from 28.05 – 01.06 2012, ToT of professionals from six Coordination Planning Areas of Municipal Health Secretariat of Rio de Janeiro (SMS), from the SMS Central level, the operational level employees who make supervision units Health The goal was the appropriation by SMS methodology Safer Access from the Health Access Program. The Health Access Programme (Acesso à Saúde) is developed in partnership with the Municipal Secretariat of Health (SMS), the program aims at facilitating access for the community residents to public primary health care, such as the Family Health Program (FHP).</p> <p>People in the pictures: professionals of Municipal Health Secretariat of Rio de Janeiro (SMS) ICRC members</p> <p>Date: 01/06/2012</p> |