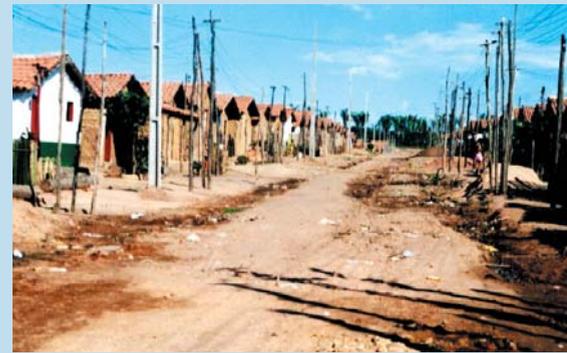


BRAZIL

POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN TERESINA

This programme demonstrates how an integrated, multi-sectoral approach based on partnerships can improve basic housing conditions of the residents of villages, peri-urban areas and slums, and can contribute to their socio-economic development.

Teresina City is the capital of Piauí Province in north-eastern Brazil, one of the poorer regions of Brazil. Approximately 17.7% of Teresina's total population of 700,000 consists of unemployed individuals living in sub-standard conditions and concentrated in the peri-urban areas of the city, villages and slums.



The main aim of the programme, launched in January 1997, is to integrate and consolidate existing peri-urban areas, villages and slums into formally recognised neighbourhoods with basic urban infrastructure and services, and to contribute to the overall social and economic development of low-income communities in the city. The programme consists of an integrated, multi-sectoral interventions as realised by means of a partnership between the government, the private sector and the communities.

The general objectives of the programme are three-fold: to prevent the growth of precarious housing conditions in poor areas; to develop a productive process and awareness that values the economic potential and the development of human resources; and to promote sustainable use of urban space while preserving the environment. These objectives are being pursued through actions which include: physical upgrading of housing (land regularisation, provision of basic services, and improvement and construction of housing), provision of community

infrastructure (day-care centres, sports courts, schools, health units, and integral attention to children and adolescents), education programmes, income and employment generation (building yards, community laundries, vegetable gardens, training and production centres). The programme has been tailored to the specific needs of 155 villages in Teresina.

Due to the large scope and multi-sectoral character of the programme, financial support has come from several sources. The total cost of the programme (US\$ 36.74 million) is being met by the financial contributions of national and local actors, including the National Saving Bank (46%), the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (32%), the Union General Budget (12%) and the Teresina City Government (10%), as well as local communities. Part of the funds from national sources is lent to individuals, families and communities in the form of loans to be repaid over time. Other parts are provided as subsidies (both direct and indirect), which reduced the final cost of the operations.

The programme is being implemented following collaboration between the federal and local governments, local communities and the private construction sector. Considering their scarce resources and the wide scope of the programme, municipal authorities have concentrated on the promotion of effective partnerships, between the various actors by setting up the appropriate institutional frameworks. In the light of the numerous sectors involved and the plurality of partners, the management of the programme has remained with the municipal authorities through the Secretariat of Planning.

Throughout the programme, the involvement of local communities has been crucial. Local communities have been engaged in continuous discussions over programme activities. Involvement of the communities in the implementation programme have also taken place in the monitoring of construction work carried out by small contractors. The participation of the communities has been made possible with the support provided by the social technical team (prima-

rily social workers) in the form of information and guidance, particularly on the working of institutions.

The results achieved to date include: the implementation of a suburban renewal plan, including infrastructure community development, education, employment and income generation; the establishment of a co-responsibility model enabling the involvement of civil society organisations and public authorities in the design and implementation of programmes; changes in urban land-use through the upgrading of areas; changes in attitudes and behaviour of population, the empowerment of community leaders and the promotion of human resource development.



The initiative has resulted in the improvement of the living conditions of 116,000 inhabitants. These results are attributable to a capable public, entrepreneurial and integrated management that has promoted effective partnerships between the local communities, the private sector, the local authorities and other levels of government.

Particular emphasis is given to the capacity of programme managers to operate the complex financial arrangements. The initiative demonstrates a way of expanding the scale of urban development in a relatively poor society and the means of establishing a distinct identity in human settlement development.



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Teresina City Government.
Housing, Infrastructure &
Eradication of Poverty in
Shanty-Towns of Teresina,
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