

## AtivAção promotes a month of activities in Brazilian favelas and peripheries during Red December

Health and prevention in relationships, bullying against people of different orientations, HIV prevention methods and the relationship between religions and sexual education were the common thread among the activities that brought information and activism to nearly 7,000 throughout December.

After strengthening its planning, community organizing and local action processes, the AtivAção

Project: Sexual Rights and Inclusive Communication for Prevention and Health Promotion entered a new phase in December, 2021, with Red December actions carried out to mark the national mobilization month in the fight against HIV.

With preparations in full force during the previous months, these actions joined forces with other national and international initiatives and took place within the context of Red December.



In total, **20 activities** put **45 strategies** into practice, impacting **1,513 individuals directly** and **7,000 indirectly**.

In several communities of Rio de Janeiro, Salvador (Bahia) and Suzano (São Paulo), these strategies were geared towards public spaces in events that invited broad and collective participation.

### Suzano (São Paulo State)

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In São Paulo, the *Bailão da Prevenção* promoted by **Coletivo Megê** focused on taking information to schools, parks, dance parties and squares. With self-care and self-esteem as central themes, the Makeup Workshop played a key role in empowering

girls and women. Thematic workshops welcomed 20 participants to discuss topics such as sexual education, people living with HIV, combined prevention, regular testing, mother-to-child transmission and harm reduction.



Activity promoted by Coletivo Megé in Suzano - São Paulo State

## Magé (Rio de Janeiro State)

Led by the **CCBA - Comitê Cidadania Bem-Aventurado**, the Open-Air Conversation Circle at the **Nova Marília Station Plaza** offered an open and straightforward talk about the handling of condoms and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.



## Mesquita (Rio de Janeiro State)

In parallel, the “Information Day” campaign, organized by the **Centro Social Fusão**, also took to the streets and offered HIV, Siphylis and Hepatitis rapid tests in addition to internal and external condoms at the **Elisabeth Paixão** public square in **downtown Mesquita**. The prevention campaign counted with the participation of partner artists including the poet Soares, WSO and JK do Complexo, MC Marcinho, Mulher Banana and Karine da Provi. In Campo Grande, the arts were also present in the Music & Information Action, which counted with the Makulelê percussion group Bake Mulher and emphasized gender non-violence.



## Salvador (Bahia)

In the heart of Bahia, the **Coletivo Mulheres de Fibra Calabar** promoted the Health and Rights Fair, which welcomed residents from the **Calabar** neighborhood to talk about an important topic: valuing the life and health of young people in their community. The action offered services including testing, issuance of documents and the extremely important Covid-19 vaccine for adolescents.



## Morro do Urubu (City of Rio de Janeiro)

The women's association AMAMU – Associação de Mulheres do Morro do Urubu implemented strategies such as the “Camelô Educativo”(roughly translated as “The Educational Pedlar”) to raise the debate on tuberculosis and violence and against women and girls.

## Duque de Caxias (Rio de Janeiro State)

A With the help of local partnerships, the initiative led by **AMIRES - Associação Missão Resplandecer** held the LGBTQIA+ community at the heart of the debates, along with all kinds of violence in relationships, and was able to offer rapid tests, self-tests and condoms.



## ATTENTION, TRAINING AND CHALLENGES

Among the initiatives created within the scope of the Project were also those that aimed to train information multipliers and provide personalized attention. The thematic workshops and conversation circles received small groups and took special care to use the opportunity to dive deeper in topics such as stigma and prejudice, gender diversity and sexual education.

At Maré, a community that over the course of its history has built a broad space for social activism, F.A.R.O Maré – Força Assistencial Rio Organizado took a step beyond. Parallel to a conversation circle on prevention, the organization carried out activities that offered individual attention, including referrals to health units and partner organizations based on the specific needs and situations of each individual.

With information circulating, goals were met – but the engagement of local leaders throughout the entire process and all of the technical support given were not enough to prevent challenges from arising. According to several stakeholders, local health departments and social services showed little engagement with the initiatives. In addition, there was a general lack of informational material and availability of health services with humanized attention and care.

For the future, the leaders who will participate in the planned stages during the next months will carry a valuable baggage of lessons learned, such as what kind of language and approaches are needed when working with young people, the importance of listening and practicing empathy to understand different realities and how they fit into each activity, and the significant role of the State in preventing and fighting against HIV.

**“If we from organized civil society can do something with so little, imagine what the Government might do with all that it has,”**

the leaders pointed out.