

UPGRADED

VILLAS
FAVELAS

BARRIOS?

TUGURIOS
ASENTAMIENTO

Participatory integral upgrading programs for informal settlements in Latin America

29,2%

World Bank (2018)

of the global population resides in informal settlements (2018)

81,2%

World Economic Forum (2020)

lives in urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean (2020)

24%

Vicente & Sarmiento (2018)

of urban households in LAC lives in informal settlements

Problem

Latin America is currently the most urbanized region on the planet, with 80% of its inhabitants living in cities, and an estimated quarter of its population living in informal settlements. These settlements fulfill vital functions for cities, despite being characterized by inadequate infrastructure and low quality of life. For this reason, during the last 30 years the governments have been implementing upgrading programs in informal settlements with the aim of improving the physical, social, economic, and environmental conditions of the population. In Latin America, these programs were developed through integral neighborhood upgrading programs, where a key factor to guarantee their success was active citizen participation throughout all stages of the project to generate quality and sustainable spaces over time. Here we present 7 successful case studies.

Aim

To study the impact and success of integral urban upgrading programs in LAC to learn from the past and inform future informal settlement regeneration in the region and the world. Considering that the future will be increasingly urban, a comparative analysis between different countries with similar urban realities allows us to understand the most appropriate strategies for the urban regeneration of informal settlements. The first objective is to evaluate the current state of the intervened neighborhoods by means of direct observation. The success of the program is then analyzed through in-depth interviews, both with the professionals involved and with the families who benefited from the program. In this way, we seek to find design lessons and strategies applicable to future urban upgrading projects for informal settlements in Latin America.

Personal motivation

Throughout my years of research and engagement in urban studies, I have come to realize that informal settlements are not simply problems to be solved, but opportunities for transformation and growth within emerging economies. The fellowship would turn these aspirations into actions for, not only personal and professional growth, but to generate a better understanding of the programs undertaken in my region: their design, impact, sustainability over time and how people have appropriated these. By immersing myself in these communities, I will gain insight into their experiences, challenges and aspirations. This first-hand knowledge will lay the foundation for meaningful research, based on the voices of those most benefited.

Methods

The study is divided into 4 phases, where the travelling scholarship would be crucial in the **fieldwork**.

- Literature review about the main topics: Citizen participation, informal settlements and integral upgrading programs
- Identify the most successful similar cases which are selected based on an evaluation matrix according to intervention area, social impact, cost, and sponsors.
- Analyze the current state of the upgraded slum through the following variables: Maintenance, citizen participation, space appropriation and place attachment.
Tools: Surveys, fieldwork observation, semi-structured interviews with benefited people
- Formulate specific recommendations for future participatory integral upgrading programs in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Habitat Program

México D.F., México (8,8 million inh.)

Area: 1495 km²
Impact: 50 000 inhabitants
Years: 2007 - 2013
Cost: 51 million USD
Sponsors: Government of Mexico and World Bank

It's estimated that **18%** of the population in Mexico D.F. lives in slums.

Source: World Bank (2020). Population living in slums (% of urban population). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.SLUM.UR.ZS>

Proyecto Urbano Integral- PUI project

Medellín, Colombia (2,5 million inh.)

Area: 382 km²
Impact: 230 000 inhabitants
Years: 2004 - 2011
Cost: 250 million USD
Sponsors: Municipality of Medellín and World Bank

It's estimated that **53%** of the population in Medellín lives in slums.

Source: Velásquez-Castañeda, C. A. (2013). Intervenciones estatales en sectores informales de Medellín. Experiencias en mejoramiento barrial urbano. Revista Bitácora Urbano Territorial, 23(2), 139-146.

Barrio Mio project

Lima, Perú (11 million inh.)

Area: 2 672 km²
Impact: 13 000 inhabitants
Years: 2012-2014
Cost: 107 million USD
Sponsors: Government of Peru and BID

It's estimated that **33%** of the population in Lima lives in slums.

Proyecto Ciudades Focales (2012) Una Aproximación al Estudio de Vulnerabilidad ante Desastres en Lima Metropolitana. Lima: CENCA, IMP, IDRC, CDR

Barrios de verdad project

La Paz, Bolivia (3 million inh.)

Area: 475 km²
Impact: 100 000 inhabitants
Years: 2005 - 2020
Cost: 500 million USD
Sponsors: Government of Bolivia and World Bank

It's estimated that **47%** of the population in La Paz lives in slums.

Source: World Bank (2020). Population living in slums (% of urban population). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.SLUM.UR.ZS>

Quiero mi barrio project

Santiago de Chile, Chile (6,2 million inh.)

Area: 838 km²
Impact: 116 656 inhabitants
Years: 2006 - 2010 (1st stage)
Cost: 111 millions USD
Sponsors: Government of Chile

It's estimated that **41%** of the population in Santiago de Chile lives in slums.

Techo & Fundación Vivienda (2021). Catastro Nacional de Campamentos 2020-2021.

Rosario Habitat project

Rosario, Argentina (1,3 million inh.)

Area: 178 km²
Impact: 20 000 inhabitants
Years: 2002 - 2007
Cost: 71million USD
Sponsors: Government of Argentina and BID

It's estimated that **10%** of the population in Rosario lives in slums.

Castagna, A. L., Riposo, L. M., & Mosillón, M. L. (2010). Evolución de los asentamientos irregulares en Rosario. Análisis de una problemática compleja de revertir en el ámbito local. Scripta Nova. Revista Electrónica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales, 14.

Favela Bairro project

Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (6,7 million inh.)

Area: 1200 km²
Impact: 500 000 inhabitants
Years: 1993 - 2008
Cost: 600 million USD
Sponsors: Prefeitura do Rio and BID

It's estimated that **15%** of the population in Rio de Janeiro lives in slums.

Source: World Bank (2020). Population living in slums (% of urban population). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.SLUM.UR.ZS>

Budget

Travel	£ 2300
Accommodation	£ 2400
Travel allowance	£ 1600
Travel insurance	£ 150
Equipment	£ 550
Total	£ 7000

7 CITIES
8 WEEKS
54 DAYS