

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



LUTA PELA PAZ



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Luta pela Paz and Fight for Peace work in partnership and share mission, methodology, values and strategic approaches but are two separate legal entities with independent boards and executive staff teams. Luta pela Paz, founded in 2000, is a non-profit organisation registered in Brazil (CNPJ 09.300.383/0001-98), and Fight for Peace, founded in 2007, is a UK registered charity (Charity no. 1137636).

CONTENTS

MESSAGE.....	4
OUR THEORY OF CHANGE.....	6
1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR	8
2 ACADEMY	10
3 ALLIANCE	28
4 COLLECTIVE	32
5 STRUCTURING THEMES.....	40
AUCTION AND DINNER IN SUPPORT OF LUTA PELA PAZ.....	41
WHO'S BEHIND LUTA PELA PAZ.....	42
BOARD.....	46
PARTNERS.....	47

Luta pela Paz (LPP) was founded in Maré, a neighbourhood of 16 favelas in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the aim of promoting the development of children and young people living in areas impacted by violence and social inequality. We deliver activities directly at our Academies, have an Alliance of partners around the world trained in our methodologies, and coordinate community-wide interventions through our Collectives. Since 2000, we've impacted over 250,000 people in pursuit of a safer and more inclusive society.



Luke Dowdney
Founding President

MESSAGE



In 2023, we made a dream come true: celebrating hundreds of young people from Rio's favelas who practice combat sports. Favela Champions, a boxing and martial arts tournament, brought together around 250 athletes aged 14 to 17 at the Rio Olympic Park. The event got great press coverage and was graced by Whindersson Nunes — fighter, actor, comedian, and influencer — who served as master of ceremonies for the finals, handed out medals on the podium, and became a Luta pela Paz Ambassador. A big thanks to the Rio de Janeiro State Government's Department of Sports and Leisure, the Ministry of Sports, and Petrobras for helping make this event possible, and to Grupo Bandeirantes for being our official media partner.

It was a fantastic event with huge potential to become a permanent fixture in our calendar. In addition to the competitions in four disciplines — boxing, jiu-jitsu, freestyle wrestling, and muay thai — judo demonstrations were also held, as were inclusive activities for people with disabilities, and a performance by the Dance Maré crew, led by local influencer Raphael Vicente.

Outside of Rio, our work continues to grow across Brazil and internationally. We ran projects in Ceará and São Paulo, and provided training to community organisations in Espírito Santo, Pará, and Cape Verde, in partnership with the country's National Olympic Committee. We also launched a collaboration with the University of Coimbra's Center for Social Studies to train physical education teachers in Portugal, Spain, and Croatia, funded by the European Union. By the end of the year, we were working in El Salvador and look forward to supporting more young people globally through our Alliance partners in the future — either by training partner organisations in our methodologies or directly supporting educators delivering programmes.

Of course, our work isn't only about victories and celebrations. We continue to face major challenges related to public safety and human rights, especially in the Maré Complex, where our headquarters is located. Violence there continues to severely impact children's lives, disrupting schools that serve over 20,000 students. Our Academy had to close its doors for a total of 21 days in 2023 due to police operations. Shootouts between armed groups and law enforcement, along with armoured vehicles and low-flying helicopters, created panic and restricted residents' movement. This isn't just a local problem—according to Instituto Fogo Cruzado, Brazil saw 2,953 shootouts in cities in 2023, with victims in 41% of cases¹. Maré² alone experienced 34 operations. This is a deeply complex issue for society as a whole but especially for families living in affected communities. We firmly believe the solution doesn't lie in more weapons and more violence, but in investing in and supporting the next generation to thrive.

Despite these challenges, Luta pela Paz remains a space for unity, inclusion, hope, and achievement. Over our 24 years, we've reached many milestones and helped realise countless individual and collective dreams. We're deeply grateful to our partners, staff, and the community of children, young people, and families who make this journey worthwhile and inspire us to keep pushing for even greater impact.

¹ Survey by Fogo Cruzado Institute providing an overview of armed violence in the metropolitan regions of Rio, Recife and Salvador in 2023. <https://fogocruzado.org.br/dados/relatorios/relatorio-anual-2023>

² Right to Public Safety at Maré Bulletin – 8th edition - 2023. https://www.redesdamare.org.br/media/downloads/arquivos/boletim_dados_2023.pdf



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Luta pela Paz operates in communities impacted by social inequality and violence through three strategies:



ALLIANCE

We use what we learn at our Academies to train and support other community-based organisations around the world.

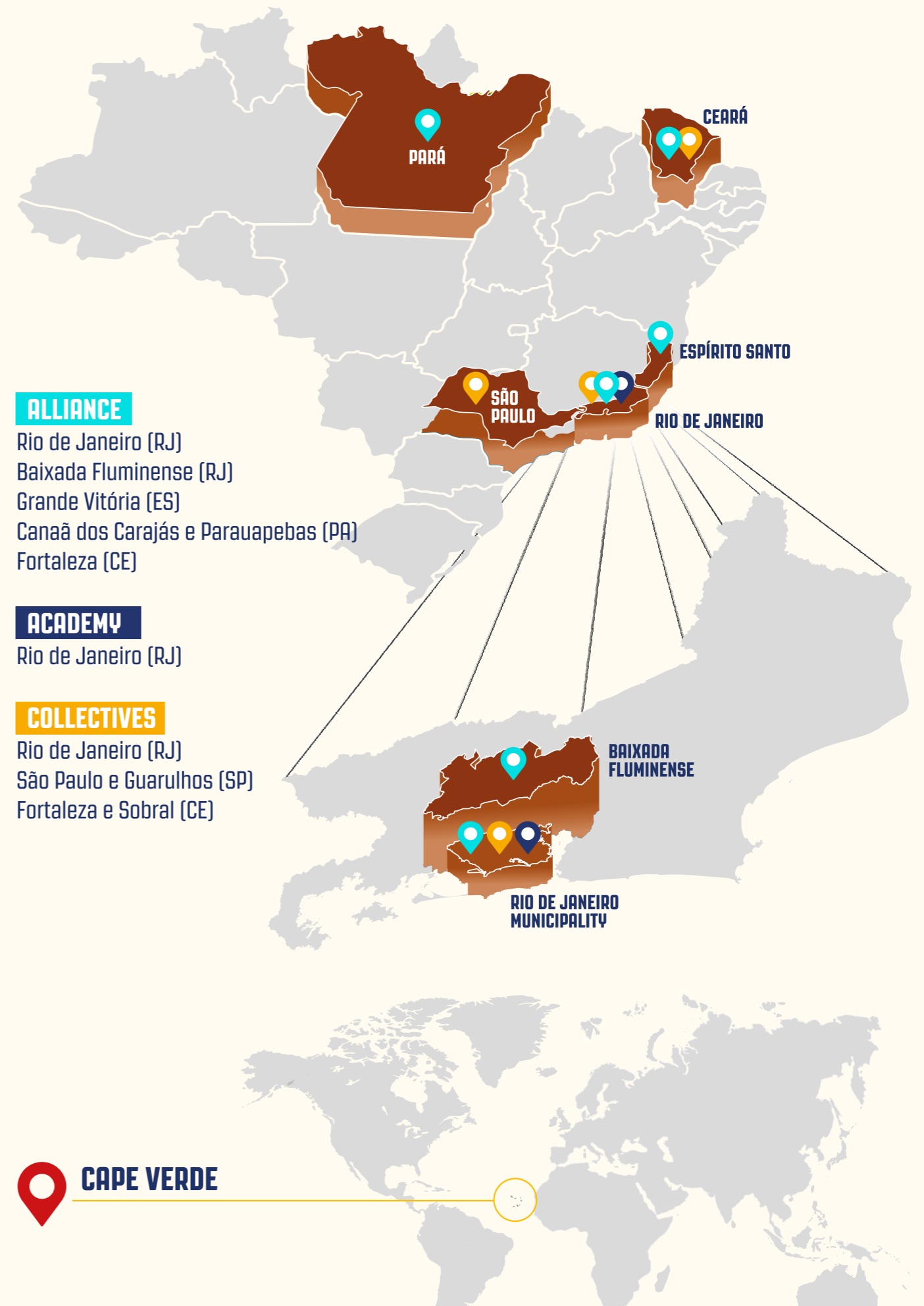
ACADEMY

At our Academies in Rio de Janeiro and London, we directly support young people, delivering programmes and services based on our Five Pillars methodology.

COLLECTIVES

We use a collective impact methodology to integrate multiple actors and community services in supporting young people.

In 2023, Luta Pela Paz implemented activities across its three strategic axes of action – Academy, Alliance and Collectives – in Rio de Janeiro (RJ) and other state municipalities: São Paulo and Guarulhos (SP); Fortaleza and Sobral (Ceará - CE); Cariacica, Serra, Vitória and Vila Velha (Espírito Santo - ES); Canaã dos Carajás and Parauapebas (Pará - PA), as well as three islands in Cape Verde.



ALLIANCE

- Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
- Baixada Fluminense (RJ)
- Grande Vitória (ES)
- Canaã dos Carajás e Parauapebas (PA)
- Fortaleza (CE)

ACADEMY

- Rio de Janeiro (RJ)

COLLECTIVES

- Rio de Janeiro (RJ)
- São Paulo e Guarulhos (SP)
- Fortaleza e Sobral (CE)

CAPE VERDE

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

In 2023 there were **3,226** participants in direct activities for children and young people through our Academies axis at our headquarters in Maré, Rio de Janeiro, and in our areas of operation in São Paulo and Ceará. Through our Alliance, **158** organisations and/or coaches/youth workers took part in training and capacity building. Through our Collectives strategy axis there were a total of **1,479** individuals directly impacted through our support.



MARÉ ACADEMY

- 1,781** participants attended our Academy in Maré
- 1,226** psycho-social support sessions delivered
- 908** personal development sessions
- 257** employability sessions to improve access to the formal job market
- 75** participants in educational activities
- 25** young people elected to the Youth council



ALLIANCE

- 47** active organisations in our Community of Practice
- 158** organisations and coaches trained: **133** in Brazil and **25** in Cape Verde
- 43** consultation meetings for **35** organisations
- 458** hours of consultations and training sessions for organisations and sports coaches



COLLECTIVES

- 979** people impacted through the Comunidade Segura (Safer Communities Programme) (SP)
- 466** participants and their families supported through the Novas Trilhas (New Pathways Project) (CE)
- 34** people supported in Pavuna (RJ), including 15 participants in youth leadership training
- 2.505** Children and teenagers indirectly supported through the training of 19 professionals (schoolteachers, social services) from the Pavuna (RJ) child protection network trained in the Diários de Cuidado (Care Diaries) methodology, with a focus on improving youth mental health



2. ACADEMYO



In 2023 we had **2,420** participants across our **83** sports classes in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Ceará, including **74** boxing and martial arts classes and **9** football classes. This participants included **37%** women, **69,3%** Black participants and **58** people with disabilities. Our social support team conducted **5,548** sessions, including **889** referrals to the protection network and **240** psychosocial support sessions. At our headquarters in Maré alone, we had **1,781** participants in direct activities for children and young people through our Five Pillars methodology.



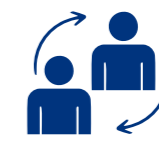
Boxing and Martial Arts



Education



Employability



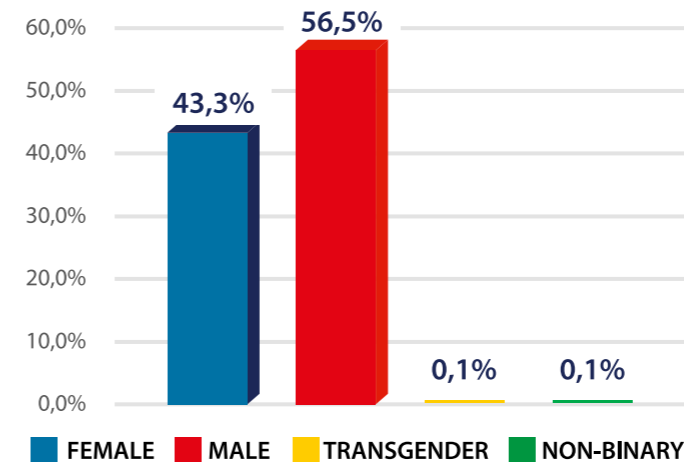
Support Services



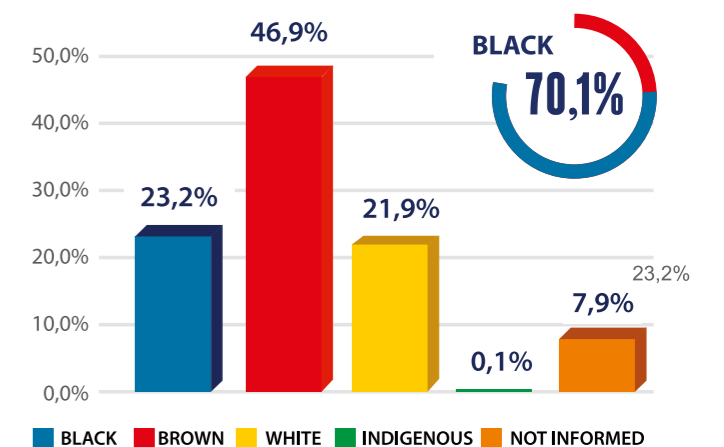
Youth Leadership

RIO DE JANEIRO

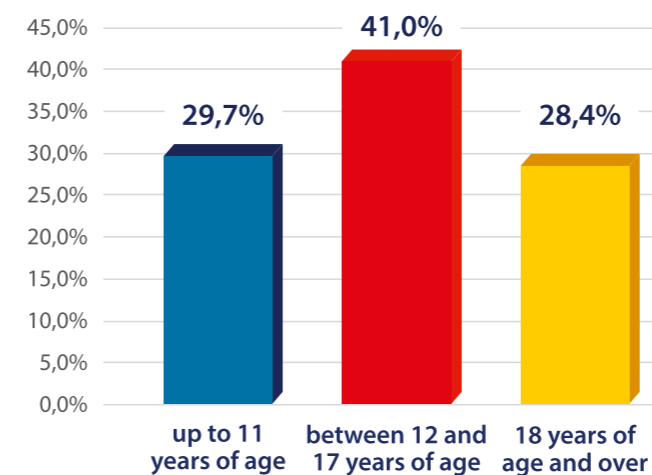
Gender



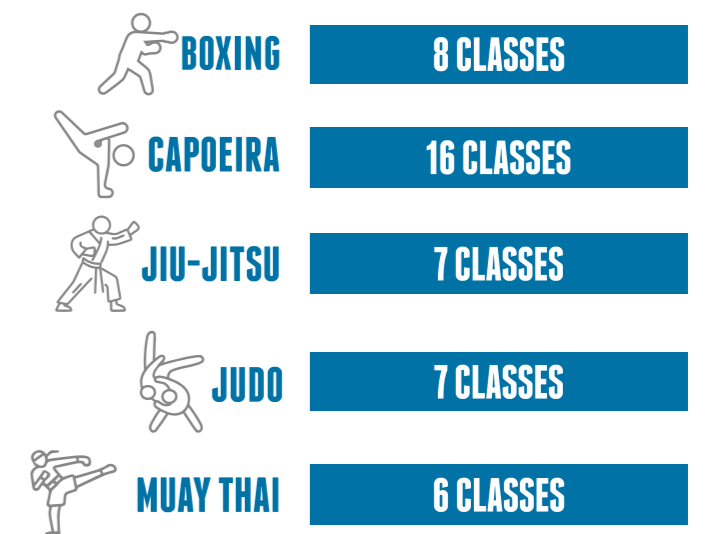
Colour/Race



Age group



Sports Disciplines



What has changed the most in your life since you started participating in Luta Pela Paz activities?

"I learned to be who I am, before I was stressed, and now I'm calm and patient."

(participant aged 14)

"It helped me improve my body acceptance issues, gain knowledge of other cultures, and improve my relationship with new people."

(participant aged 16)

"It helped my self-confidence, the development of my body and mind."

(participant aged 19)

"To have more energy, more patience with those around me, and to know how to handle problems in the best way within my reach."

(participant aged 16)

"I have more willingness to tackle my problems"

(participant aged 14)

"I started to trust myself more, what I can and am capable of doing."

(participant aged 15)

"It helped me gain more confidence, and get closer to my family and friends, and it also brought me new friendships."

(participant aged 14)

"It's helping me to de-stress, makes me confident about myself, makes me think I'm a winner!"

(participant aged 15)

"It helped me become a better person, outside and at home, and helped me overcome my fears not only in the competition, [but] in everything."

(participant aged 17)

"I stopped being constantly angry, I can solve issues more easily, I have more willingness."

(participant aged 14)

"I evolved a lot as a person, mentally and physically. I learned more about respect, maturity."

(participant aged 14)

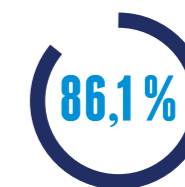
SELF-PERCEPTION



noticed an improvement in their self-esteem



feel more independent



feel more motivated

HOW LPP IS PERCEIVED



state that it is a safe space regarding racism



state that it is a safe space regarding gender and sexuality



state that it is a safe space regarding disabilities

LIFE PLAN



report a better relationship with others



have a better perspective about the future



LPP ACADEMY IN MARÉ

BOXING AND MARTIAL ARTS

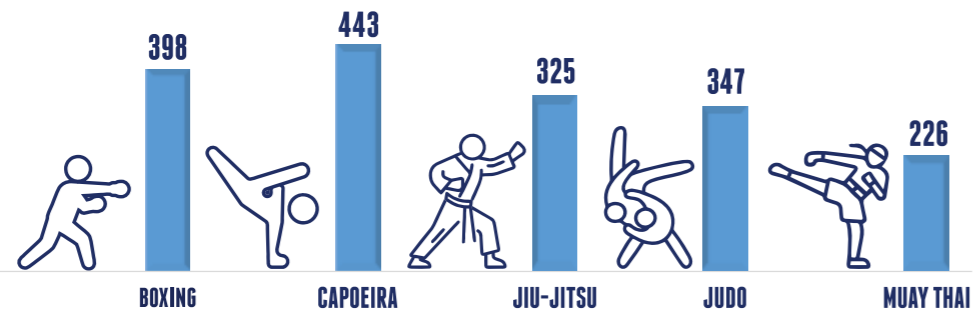
In 2023, there were **1,631** participants in **46** Boxing and Martial Arts classes, and a significant highlight was the classes' diversity: **41,4%** of participants were women, **70,3%** identified as black, and **47** were individuals with disabilities.

In total, we delivered **2,185** sessions of our five disciplines: Boxing, Capoeira, Judo, Jiu-Jitsu and Muay Thai. In addition, through a partnership with five local schools, we offered Capoeira classes for **292** public schools students.

1.631 participants **41,4%** women

47 people with disabilities participating in sports activities

ACTIVITIES



MARÉ UNITED

Held in October 2023, Favela Champions, the first Boxing and Martial Arts championship for young people from the favelas of Rio, was the major highlight of the Maré United project for the year. The mega event brought together around **250 girls and boys aged 14 to 17** at the Carioca Arena in Rio de Janeiro's Olympic Park, featuring competitions in the following disciplines: Boxing, Jiu-Jitsu, Freestyle Fighting and Muay Thai.



Whindersson Nunes, digital influencer, actor, comedian and boxer, was the Favela Champions Master of Ceremony

"We gathered together young people from different communities, all bringing positive energy, supporting their friends and teammates. I already have several ideas for, who knows, creating an even larger event in the future. Certainly, this Favela Champions event was the first of many. Having Whindersson Nunes join us here was very important, as well as all the supporters, sponsors and this fantastic crowd from Maré that came here to support as they always do."

(Luke Dowdney, Luta pela Paz Founding President).



The actor, comedian, influencer and fighter Whindersson Nunes became an ambassador for Luta Pela Paz in 2023, and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Favela Champions. Whindersson entered the combat sports world at the beginning of 2022. His first challenge was a boxing match against none other than the former world boxing champion, Acelino "Popó" Freitas. Following that, the comedian participated in High Stakes, an international boxing tournament featuring YouTube influencers. He holds four fights on his record: One draw with Popó, one victory over Polish fighter Filipek and loses to Englishman King Kenny and the American My Mate Nate.

Sponsored by Petrobrás through their Social-Environmental Petrobrás Programme, and Rio de Janeiro's Sports Incentive Laws, the Maré United project offers boxing and martial arts activities to nurture the development of children and young people in the Maré Favela.

Besides the sports activities at LPP's Academy, participants also receive support from a multi-disciplinary team that offers social support services to both participants and their families. To expand the reach of its initiatives, the project brought capoeira to children aged 4 to 14 at: primary schools in Maré, and Early Childhood Development Centres (EDIs) in the region.



DESTEMIDAS (FEARLESS)

The *Destemidas* project, fruit of a collaboration between Luta Pela Paz and journalist Carol Barcellos, aims to promote the potential of girls and young women in Maré by using running as a tool for personal development and women's empowerment. The methodology involves weekly training sessions, runs, cultural outings and discussion circles to encourage sports practice, debate and promote girls and women's rights to the city and access to leisure and entertainment spaces, as well as strengthen bonds and promote dialogue among young women.

In 2023, the *Destemidas* project was sponsored by Carrefour Group, Verde Asset, GPS Group, Mathos Filho, Bahia Asset Management, Truxt, BOCOM and Sportv, through the Sports Incentive Law.

- 84** women, including **2** transgender women
- 247** total sessions
- 152** sports sessions
- 49** activities with facilitators
- 46** personal development classes
- 146** monitoring sessions by a healthcare professional



feel more motivated



are aware of the available support network for women in Maré



state that the project helped them enjoy practicing sports and physical exercise



EDUCATION

In 2023, the educational support program had **75 participants** enrolled between the 5th and 9th grades of primary schools in Maré, of which **45.3% were girls**.

"The Class is very good. I have learned many things here, I'm very grateful to the teachers for treating me so well."

(Student, aged 12)



SELF-PERCEPTION



improved their self-esteem



feel more autonomous



feel more confident learning new things

EMPLOYABILITY

In 2023, **76 participants** took part in activities and support services focused on professional training and access to the job market for themselves or close family members, with **56,6% being women and 6 individuals with disabilities**. We made **87 referrals** to formal job market recruitment processes, resulting in **12 people being hired**.

76 participants engaged in professional training activities

52 people referred to recruitment processes

12 people hired



SOCIAL SUPPORT

With specialised teams and a network of partners, we support young people and their families in overcoming the barriers and problems they may be facing in their lives.



1,226 consultations for young people and their relatives.

257 needs assessment interviews.

607 social and psychosocial consultations.

170 referrals of participants to external services (such as health and social care facilities, schools, document issuing agencies etc.).

192 benefits provided, including staple food baskets and "Gas Kit".

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

We support the development of young leaders who can be active and have decision-making power not only in the activities they take part in, but also in their wider community.

Youth Council

In 2023, the elected Youth Council consisted of **25 members**, of which **60% were women**, **64% were black** and **2 were people with disabilities**. The Youth Council participated in 27 recruitment processes for hiring staff, **30** meetings and training sessions, **9** external activities and hosted **6** visits to Luta Pela Paz.



The Youth Council is made up of participants from Luta Pela Paz activities, aged between 13 and 29, with two members representing each sport offered by the Academy and also two representatives from each LPP Pillar/programme. Youth councillors serve a one-year term and are elected through a selection process that includes all young people at Luta Pela Paz. The Council's main responsibilities are to bring young people's demands to LPP management, suggest institutional policies, and participate in recruitment processes.



MEET TWO OF OUR COUNCILLORS IN 2023



Luta pela Paz | Matheus de Araujo

Kauanny Silveira Nascimento

Aged 14, Boxing participant and Youth Councillor for LPP Rio de Janeiro

"The Youth Council engages in collective work through weekly meetings with various departments of Luta Pela Paz. In these meetings, we learn about the organisation's whole structure, and have a consultative role in decision-making. Councillors participate in lectures, seminars and events that contribute to our growth and involvement within the organisation and the wider community.

In addition, the Youth Council also participates in the interviews that are part of the recruitment process for new staff. Playing a role in the hiring decision-making process is very important, as we help build the present and future of Luta Pela Paz through the people who contribute to LPP every day. It's a big responsibility!

My dream for the future is to be a lawyer or judge, and to be part of the Youth Council reflects my journey. In the weekly meetings, I've learned to speak in public, to respect other's voices and to work collectively towards a common purpose."

Alex Abraão

Aged 26, Judo participant and LPP Youth Councillor in 2023

"At Luta Pela Paz I experienced things that I hadn't had anywhere else, like a surprise party, for example. When I lost my first fight, everyone supported me so I wouldn't give up and when I won my first one, everyone celebrated with me.

When I tried to join other gyms, they judged me, and said that I couldn't attend the classes because they wouldn't be able to teach me properly. They claimed the space wasn't prepared to welcome people with disabilities.

Today, I'm just a human being who encourages other human beings. I know that I'm strong enough to move forward in my life, and I want others to know that they are too."



Luta pela Paz | Créditos: Matheus de Araújo

3. ALLIANCE



The Alliance strategy is responsible for transferring the methodologies of Luta Pela Paz to partner organisations and coaches in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking countries around the world.



AMÉRICA LATINA E CABO VERDE



43 ORGANISATIONS TRAINED IN BRAZIL

Baixada Fluminense (RJ)

- Campeões da Baixada

Cariacica, Serra, Vitória e Vila Velha (ES)

- Nós com Elas

Canaã dos Carajás e Parauapebas (PA)

- Inspirando Campeões

Fortaleza (CE)

- Campeões na Vida - Rede Cuca

Sobral (CE)

- Campeões na Vida

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

In 2023, **25** coaches were trained in Cape Verde. In the final evaluation, **97,3%** of participants considered the topics covered to be relevant to their practices, **83,6%** stated that they had gained new knowledge and **95,5%** stated that they were already planning changes to their practices based on what they've learned in the training.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALLIANCE STRATEGY BRAZIL

43 organisations and

94 coaches/youth workers from

5 states - CE, ES, PA, RJ and SP and

25 trained from Cape Verde

43 consultation sessions for

35 organisations

458 hours of consultations and training for organisations and sports coaches

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING

NÓS COM ELAS (ES)

In 2023, the highlight of the *Nós Com Elas* (Backing Women) project, sponsored by Vale through the Federal Sports Incentive Law, was the 1st *Nós com Elas* Best Practices Seminar, focusing on the engagement and retention of girls and women in sports.

The event aimed to deepen the discussion about the topic, and to share the experiences and practices developed by the participants during the project, which were systematised in the *Nós com Elas* Guide to Best Practices.



RESULTS



organisations began to include women coaches in their staff



trained women coaches implemented activities to discuss topics related to gender inequality in sports

INSPIRANDO CAMPEÕES (PA)

Through the *Inspirando Campeões* (Inspiring Champions) Training Programme, sponsored by Vale through the Federal Sports Incentive Law, LPP shared its methodology for the engagement and retention of girls and women in sports and for the prevention of violence. The class included the participation of 21 sports coaches, of which 14 were women, from two municipalities in the Carajás region of southeastern Pará, indirectly impacting over 1.000 young people in the region.



RESULTS



participants implemented or improved their methodology for supporting young people

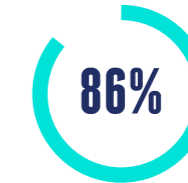
More than two-thirds of the coaches shared practices learned in the training with other coaches in their area.

CAMPEÕES NA BAIXADA (RJ)

The *Campeões da Baixada* (Champions of Lower Fluminense) Training Programme, sponsored by Nova Transportadora do Sudeste (NTS) through the Federal Sports Incentive Law, trained 8 community organisations, collectives, and sports coaches from Duque de Caxias, Magé, Nova Iguaçu and Nilópolis. Promoting the use of combat sports disciplines as a tool to promote the personal development of children and young people in regions marked by inequality and violence, the programme offered various workshops to share LPP's holistic support communities.



RESULTS



organisations began to organise activities for the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in sports



implemented new pedagogical practices in their activities



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

In partnership with Fight for Peace, LPP is part of a global community of practice consisting of community-based organisations and sports coaches that have already participated in Luta Pela Paz training.

In 2023, **23 organisations** and **10 coaches** who participated in our training remained active, contributing to the sharing of experiences and learning for the continuous development of each participant – including Luta Pela Paz.

24 Brazil

6 Colombia

6 Mexico

1 Peru

4. COLLECTIVES

Luta Pela Paz Collectives operate by integrating services and local youth work practitioners in areas affected by high levels of violence. In 2023, Collectives activities ranged from training public service professionals to participating in proposed legislation.

NOVAS TRILHAS CEARÁ, BRASIL

The Novas Trilhas (New Pathways) project, carried out by Luta Pela Paz in partnership with the government of the State of Ceará, had an impact on the lives of over 500 young people in the juvenile justice system in the cities of Fortaleza and Sobral (CE). A result of the partnership between Luta Pela Paz and the Opportunities and Citizenship Programme of the State Superintendency of the Social-Educational system of Ceará. Novas Trilhas offered psychosocial support, awareness workshops, life project development, document regularisation, and educational support. Over a period of 2 years, the project supported around 800 young people and their family members. Throughout the project, 5,613 services were provided to young people and their families, 462 referrals to school, courses and job opportunities were made, and 338 young people created life projects. Additionally, 714 financial aid scholarships were granted to the young participants. By supporting the education and holistic development of these young people, Novas Trilhas provided them with opportunities to exercise their citizenship and access fundamental rights, aiming to prevent and reduce reoffending.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,025 Social Support sessions delivered in São Paulo

3,489 Sessions provided to participants and their relatives in Ceará

15 Young people from Pavuna, Rio de Janeiro, trained in youth leadership

466 participants, including young people and their families

3,875 total services delivered

505 referrals to the protection network

57 psychosocial support services delivered by the team

At the end of the project cycle:

100% reported that the team offered support whenever necessary, including issues such as acute food insecurity, severe mental health episodes, and conflicts with family members.

91,4%

felt capable of overcoming difficulties

85,7%

stated that they were confident about their own future

88,6%

stated that they have clarity about their goals



"My thinking changed; I started to see things from a different perspective, I learned many things."

(Student, aged 18)



"I started to get along well with people, I saw the world in a different way."

(Student, aged 15)



STRENGTHENING NETWORKS

In 2023, the Strengthening Networks 3 project, in a partnership between Luta Pela Paz and UNICEF, addressed strategies for disseminating the Community of Care methodology (which focuses on strengthening local protection networks) to professionals who provide direct support to young people in Pavuna; mobilisation and training of professionals to strengthen the Protected Listening Law (guaranteeing the rights of children victims or witnesses of violence); and youth leadership and engagement actions in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

The participation of 15 young people from Pavuna, who

identify themselves as “Youth in Action”, thereby creating their own brand for their activities within the project, focused on studying and disseminating the State Policy for the Prevention and Combat of Homicides of Children and Teenagers, developed by the CEDCA (State Council for the Rights of Children and Teenagers). Our Youth in Action represented young people with moving speeches at the discussion panels of the public hearing, where topics such as police violence, public security policy, transparency in public data, and the precarious access to services and justice were addressed.

RESULTS

COMMUNITY OF CARE METHODOLOGY

- **22** hours of training in 4 in-person meetings;
- Delivery of the Care Diaries Methodological Guide to the participants;
- **19** professionals from the protection network trained through the Methodological Journey;
- **2,505** children reached by the trained professionals;
- **5** facilities in Pavuna mobilised.

PROTECTIVE LISTENING LAWS

- Mobilisation, creation, and monitoring of the Collaborative Management Committee of the Social Protection Network, with the delivery of a collectively agreed action plan;
- Implementation of the Training Journey on the Protected Listening Law, in 4 meetings, for 30 professionals from the Child Rights Assurance System;
- Development of the General Integrated Assistance Support Flow with 15 technical support meetings for professionals in health, social care, and education;

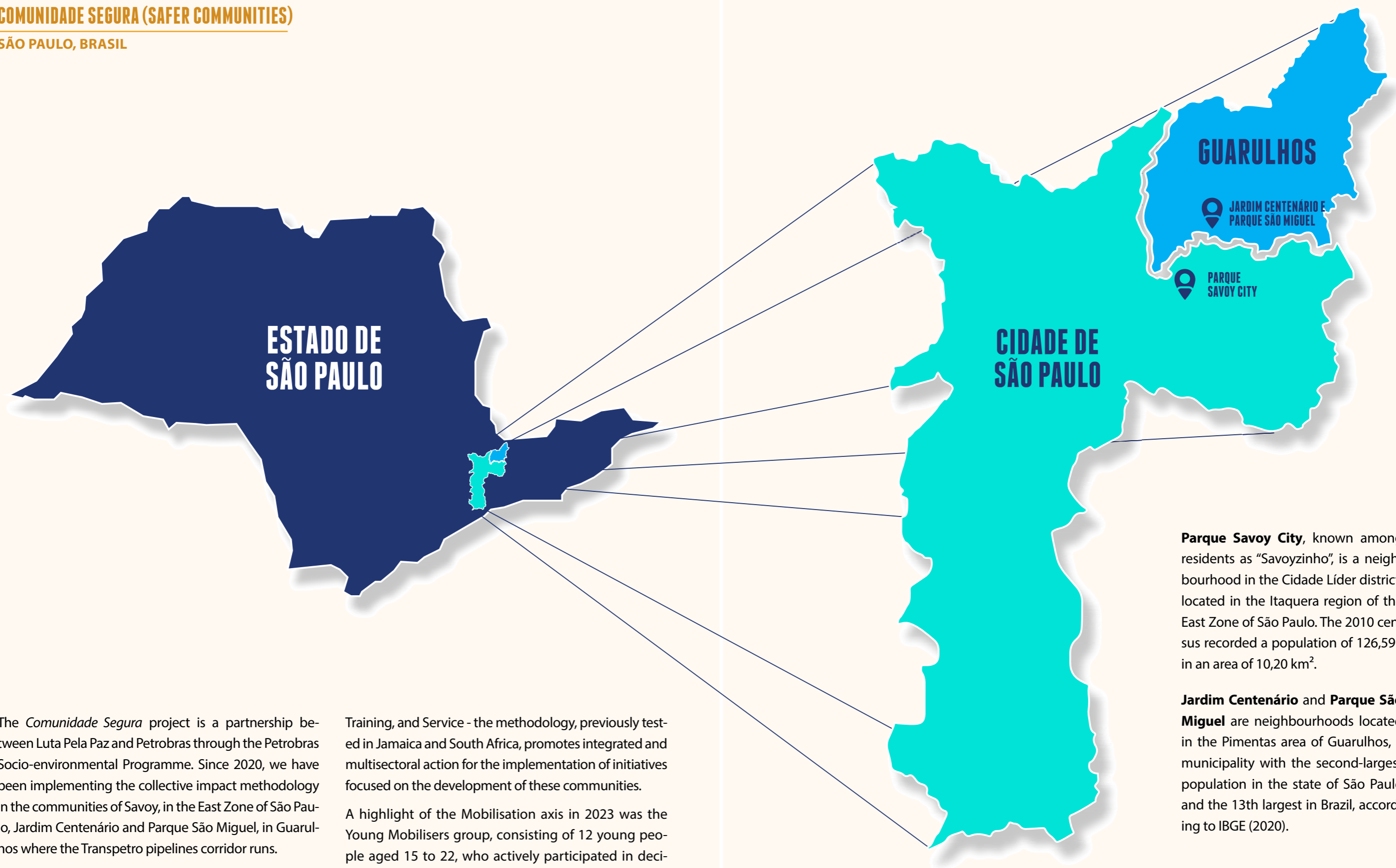
YOUTH IN ACTION

- **15** young people trained;
- Advocacy Plan developed and Implemented;
- **9** consultation meetings held with professionals from the protection and social support network, and **3** consultation meetings with young people and local leaders conducted;
- Booklet containing the results of the local listening initiative, prepared and disseminated with around **100 copies** distributed and two presentation events held in schools, reaching approximately **90 teenagers**;



COMUNIDADE SEGURA (SAFER COMMUNITIES)

SÃO PAULO, BRASIL



The *Comunidade Segura* project is a partnership between Luta Pela Paz and Petrobras through the Petrobras Socio-environmental Programme. Since 2020, we have been implementing the collective impact methodology in the communities of Savoy, in the East Zone of São Paulo, Jardim Centenário and Parque São Miguel, in Guarulhos where the Transpetro pipelines corridor runs.

2023 was a year of growth, in which we supported 979 children and young people with sports and employability sessions.

Through three strategic axes of action - Mobilisation,

Training, and Service - the methodology, previously tested in Jamaica and South Africa, promotes integrated and multisectoral action for the implementation of initiatives focused on the development of these communities.

A highlight of the Mobilisation axis in 2023 was the Young Mobilisers group, consisting of 12 young people aged 15 to 22, who actively participated in decision-making and delivered various awareness actions regarding the need to preserve the Petrobras pipelines corridor to prevent socio-environmental damage to the communities.

Parque Savoy City, known among residents as “Savoyzinho”, is a neighbourhood in the Cidade Líder district, located in the Itaquera region of the East Zone of São Paulo. The 2010 census recorded a population of 126,597 in an area of 10,20 km².

Jardim Centenário and **Parque São Miguel** are neighbourhoods located in the Pimentas area of Guarulhos, a municipality with the second-largest population in the state of São Paulo and the 13th largest in Brazil, according to IBGE (2020).

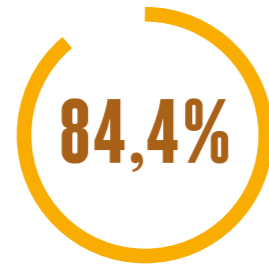
979 participants

789 participants in sports activities

131 participants in employability sessions

1.025 social support services

IMPACT



state that they have a better perception of themselves



state that they find it easier to get along with others



state they have a better outlook for their future





5. STRUCTURING THEMES

In 2023, the AAGIR (Affirmative Actions in Gender, Inclusion and Race) group conducted activities in collaboration with Working Groups on Race and Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality, and Disability that directly mobilised 95 participants, of whom 89,5% were women and 11 individuals with disabilities.

One of the main highlights of the year's agenda at Luta pela Paz was the Sankofa fair, which has become an LPP tradition. According to Abdias do Nascimento, Sankofa means to look back and learn from the past, bringing those teachings into the present in order to envision new possibilities for the future. This year, the fair's central theme was the urban quilombos and how Maré and other favelas have learned from the quilombos to be spaces of resistance and to fight on a daily basis.



Envisioned and produced by the Race and Ethnicity Working Group (GT) the fair showcased work related to promoting an antiracist culture, including essays, models, games, image and drawing exhibitions, poetry, and other forms of expression. Afrofuturism, the verb 'aquilombar', and historical figures from the abolitionist and antiracist movements were some of the themes addressed.

"Thinking of Maré as a reproduction of a quilombo, is to establish collective spaces of welcome, listening, and sociability that draw from ancestry and memory", emphasised Fernanda França, Coordinator of Personal Development, and a member of the Race and Ethnicity Working Group, during the opening of the event. Afrofuturism, the verb 'aquilombar', and historical figures from the abolitionist and antiracist movements were some of the themes addressed.

AUCTION AND DINNER IN SUPPORT OF LUTA PELA PAZ

In October 2023, Luta pela Paz gathered guests for a dinner and charity auction at Oteque restaurant, owned by Chef Alberto Landgraf, in Rio de Janeiro. Alberto, named one of the 50 best chefs in the world by The Best Chef Awards, not only hosted the event but also contributed to the auction by offering a home-cooked dinner for 10 people.



Presented by journalist Carol Barcellos and our advisor Arthur Carvalho, attendees had the opportunity to bid on items such as a special autographed shirt from the personal collection of former football player Zico; a meeting with Real Madrid player Vini JR, which included watching a match at the Bernabéu Stadium and receiving an autographed shirt; and a dinner at the Alma restaurant with chef Henrique Sá Pessoa, along with accommodation at the Flora Chiado Apartments—where the restaurant is located—in Lisbon. It was a special and rewarding evening, as we brought together people who believe in and support our work, and are committed to providing opportunities and a better future for the children and young people of Maré.



WHO'S BEHIND LUTA PELA PAZ

Throughout 2023, 206 staff supported and delivered our work in the states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Ceará.



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