Rio de Janeiro

Rio, which had already developed relatively advanced data practices to serve its population of more than 6 million people, leveraged CDA support to create protocols for using data to address city challenges and create a playbook to help cities respond to security vulnerabilities.

Highlights

Successfully responded to large-scale system hack and developed a playbook to help other cities respond to security vulnerabilities.

Developed protocols to identify data-driven solutions to city challenges, mapping capacity in the city and creating a pipeline of tasks.

Created an integrated Hydrological Event Monitoring Dashboard to help residents prepare for adverse weather events.

Assessed all elements of governance, capacity, use, quality and transparency within the city's already advanced data practices to develop a comprehensive Citywide Data Strategy.

Background

Rio de Janeiro has historically been a key player in the data discussion in Brazil. Its large population and complex local government implied challenges not only in the implementation of policies, but in the data infrastructure needed to manage the variety of services.

To match the challenge, the city has created several strong data institutions since the early 2000s, such as:

- The Pereira Passos Institute (IPP), a data and research and center.
- The Armazém de Dados open data portal, now called Data Rio, which hosts more that 1,200 datasets and makes city data, maps, and research available to citizens.
- The Operation Center, a data hub sourced throughout Rio about issues such as traffic congestion and weather conditions, called the world's most ambitious integrated urban command center.
- The Datalake is an integrated public database that makes datasets from all city departments available in a single place.

Mayor Eduardo Paes started his third term in 2021 and launched the City Data Office, a group of 10 data experts, led by João Carabetta, responsible for managing all data projects in the city. Their mission is building and communicating data-driven, evidence-based public policy across departments and with residents.

Rio had good practices in the five elements of the citywide data strategy and a good data culture. The team saw in the program the opportunity to frame their practices into the citywide data strategy structure. Both the mayor and the team saw in the program the chance to have contact with cutting edge data practices, which would help shape their current data efforts.

Impact

Coaching sessions were directed to institutionalizing and formalizing Rio's already advanced data practices. With CDA coach support, the city assessed all elements of governance, capacity, use, quality and transparency. This process allowed them to review these practices, implement feedback, and formalize them.

During its CDA engagement, in August 2022, the city endured a major hack that left all city systems vulnerable to data leaks and compromised institutional knowledge. CDA coaches helped the city identify who to engage and what to do to fast-track the recovery of their systems and develop a playbook to help other cities know what to do in the case of a security vulnerability. The protocol included action steps, resources, and stakeholder management suggestions. By October 2022, 75% of Rio's systems were fully or partially functioning, and, in November, all systems were fully functioning.

CDA coaches helped the Data Office prioritize mayoral requests to identify data-driven solutions to city challenges, mapping capacity in the city and creating a pipeline of tasks. The most successful example of the value added by this training is the Integrated Hydrological Event Monitoring Dashboard, developed by the Hydraulic Management Agency, which helps residents prepare for adverse weather events.