

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Assistance during the pandemic and resumption of projects mark social action

In 2020, the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the social action of Legado das Águas was aimed to support Vale do Ribeira's municipalities in the most urgent issues. Legado donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to health professionals and equipment for ICUs at regional hospitals and provided essential food baskets for the neediest families.

In 2021, although immediate support actions were still necessary, we gradually resumed projects with communities in person since we had carried out only online activities in the previous year. Support for Public Management (AGP) focused on Health, helping municipalities face the pandemic and preparing for economic recovery.

Since its foundation, Legado das Águas has made a long-term commitment to transforming communities and municipalities in the territory, contributing to developing local production chains and maintaining forest conservation. The changes are already visible for Daniela Gerdenits, coordinator of Partnerships and Social Responsibility at Reservas Votorantim. *"Things are happening not only by the perspective of relations with the community but also by creating business."*

We can measure some of these impacts by indicators based on the Sustainable Development Goals, which have been under development for two years and were first published in 2021 (see more on page 46). Two indicators directly reflect the relationship with the community – local purchases and local contracting, revealing that most suppliers and employees of Legado das Águas are from the surrounding communities. *"This is the translation into practice of developing inclusive local productive chains"*, attests Daniela. In addition to implementing the indicators, another vital action was the advancement of dialogue with communities living in the Legado das Águas area. See below the main actions developed throughout 2021.

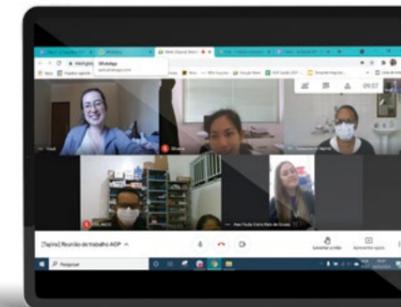
HEALTH MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

One of the main initiatives of social action in 2021 was the Public Health Management Support Program (AGP Saúde) in Tapirai, managed by Legado das Águas in partnership with the Votorantim Institute and invested by Votorantim Energia. The municipality received support to face the pandemic and improve its offer of comprehensive health care and other management tools. Among the priority topics addressed were the monitoring of Covid-19, the vaccination campaign and the expansion of primary health care.

The first step of the program was the application of a rapid diagnosis of the municipality's performance in the health area, with emphasis on primary care and epidemiological surveillance. The municipality defined priorities, urgencies, goals and objectives. A multidisciplinary team implemented the program, organized by the town, which participated in online mentorships. Guided by consultants from AGP Saúde, the participants of this team were responsible for implementing the defined action plans, monitoring the experimental evolution of the initiatives and evaluating the results.

In the first half of 2021, with the significant increase in cases and hospital admissions in the second pandemic wave, it was necessary to act directly in support of hospitals in the Vale do Ribeira region. Then came the Tele-UTI project, in partnership with the Votorantim Institute and BP – Beneficência Portuguesa de São Paulo. BP's experienced intensivists helped professionals at overworked regional hospitals through online consultations, recommending the most appropriate treatments and procedures in emergencies.

Tapirai was just one of the 34 municipalities across Brazil that participated in the AGP Saúde in 2021. The program has been one of Votorantim's initiatives since March 2020 to support society in the fight against Covid-19. In addition, there was the participation of all the investees of its portfolio and the Votorantim Institute. Its impact will extend far beyond the pandemic. *"We are part of an intelligence and innovation center, where several technologies developed were made available, which will leave a positive long-term legacy for the entire network that we operate: city halls, hospitals, health professionals and all Reservas Votorantim employees who solidarity in this movement"*, says Daniela Gerdenits, coordinator of Partnerships and Social Responsibility.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Public Management Support Program (AGP) has been taking place since 2015 in the three municipalities of the Legado das Águas territory (Juquiá, Miracatu and Tapirai), strengthening the role of the government as an agent of local development. In 2021, we mainly aimed the performance of the AGP in Tapirai at planning the city's life after the Covid-19 pandemic. The Economic Recovery Program, which we began to design in March 2021, results from a partnership between Legado das Águas, the Votorantim Institute and the Tapirai City Hall, with support from the consultancy EloGroup.

With a focus on agriculture and tourism, the program has the initial objective of reactivating the municipal economy in the post-pandemic period and then attracting new investments to the city in a sustainable way to generate employment and income. It was implemented in August with a communication plan on the economic recovery of Tapirai, seeking to sensitize and engage the population in the program's initiatives.

Among the initiatives to be implemented in the short and medium terms, there is a campaign to formalize small rural producers and support training on associative and cooperative and guidance for participation in local public purchases.

ASSISTANCE ON BACK TO SCHOOL

For the sixth year, the Partnership for the Valorization of Education (PVE) was carried out in Juquiá by Legado das Águas, in partnership with the municipal Department of Education and with support from the Votorantim Institute. After supporting municipal schools in remote teaching activities during the pandemic, in 2020, we took actions to help with the resumption of classes in hybrid mode. Students spend part of their time at home and part at school. Legado directed the program to deal with this teaching and learning situation, building a pedagogical plan to help teachers in this new reality of education.



HISTORY THROUGH THEIR OWN EYES

Teachers and students from municipal schools in Juquiá, Miracatu and Tapirai are co-authors of books that tell the story of the main places and characters in their cities. Launched at the end of 2021, with the support of Legado das Águas and the Votorantim Institute, the books are part of the collection **A Cidade da Gente**, by Editora Olhares, which has already helped to rescue the history of several Brazilian municipalities.

Based on research and investigations carried out by students, with the help of teachers, professional writers José Santos and Selma Maria give the final format to the books. The project's objective is to disseminate and perpetuate the history of the cities covered, expanding children's notions about their identity and belonging to the city and region where they live. Take a look at the book of Juquiá [here](#) and the book of Tapirai [here](#)



VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE

Held every year, the Volunteer Challenge had three significant actions in 2021. First, we carried out a campaign among employees to donate 100 blankets to families in rural Tapirai, an intensely cold region in winter.

The second action, conceived within the concept defended by Legado das Águas of education for environmental conservation, took some team members to visit a municipal school in Tapirai. The objective was to show young people the activities carried out at Legado and the forest's job opportunities. For some students, mentorships also occurred on the performance of each professional in the different areas.

Another mentoring activity, with the theme of communication in tourism, was carried out for members of the Municipal Tourism Council of Tapirai.

Finally, we received twenty students at Legado das Águas to learn about the structure and operations of the Reserve, having contact with qualified professionals who showed their day-to-day experience in practice.



TERRITORIAL DEMARCATION

For over ten years, Legado das Águas has identified consolidated possessions in its territory. As the Reserve is in an Environmental Preservation Area (APA), identification and delimitation are essential to recognize the responsibilities of both the residents and the Legado over their properties. The process occurred in stages on 31,000 hectares of the Reserve. And in 2021, it entered the detailing phase in the Legado territory, located in Tapirai.

There was a public hearing at the Tapirai City Council for the population to know and understand the process. The particular newsletter *Nosso Legado* was also distributed in the city, showing the history and activities of the Reserve and highlighting the importance of land tenure regularization for the residents themselves and the conservation of the forest.

"Since the beginning of Legado das Águas, we have always stated that we would respect the consolidated possessions in our territory and now the time has come to do that in the Tapirai region. It is a process that involves dialogue and agreement and we hope to have great progress by the end of 2022", says David Canassa, director of Reservas Votorantim.

FILMING LIVE THEATER

We resumed the 360 Degrees Project, paralyzed in 2020 due to the pandemic, by uniting face-to-face and online activities. In partnership with Legado das Águas and Instituto Votorantim, the project was coordinated by the group CORPO INCENA ARTE EDUCAÇÃO and aimed at the cultural education of young people through theater, encouraging autonomy, creativity and self-esteem. The group held make-up workshops and dramaturgy, body expression and musicalization classes with young people from underprivileged communities and public schools in the municipalities of Juquiá and Miracatu.

After participating in workshops, the students supported all stages of the development of a play, including production and script. In 2021, due to the limitations imposed due to the pandemic, they decided to film the play "Amores de Férias". Thus, besides some in-person presentations, they also exhibited the show online.



ONBOARD CINEMA

In 2021, cultural projects supported by Legado das Águas will have to be adapted to health protocols to prevent contamination by Covid-19. One of the innovations was the Cine Autorama, in which they had to show short and feature films with themes related to sustainability outdoors. Isolated inside their cars, spectators could safely watch the movies. Cine Autorama had more than a thousand spectators in exhibitions held in Juquiá, Miracatu and Tapirai.

Another project was Cinesolar, in which a van with solar-powered equipment takes cinema projections to distant locations, with short and feature films with children and youth and sustainability themes aimed at audiences of all ages. Held by Brazucah Produções, the project also promotes workshops with public school students, providing access to basic techniques and elements that make up the cinematographic language. With the support of Legado das Águas, this project prioritized access to the cinema in communities in rural areas with less access to cultural projects.

The Cinesolar sessions also marked the conclusion of the Rede Brazucah training project in Miracatu, which in 2020 trained students from local public schools to perform activities as cultural agents and content producers for the internet. With a workload of 72 hours, there were classes in an online background, with the syllabus focused on audiovisual production on social networks, covering relevant environmental and social topics today.

At the end of the course, the young people produced the documentary "What is it like to be black?" from remote recordings by teleconference to the interviews that make up the material. The movie can be watched [here](#)

