

City	
<b>Country</b>	Portugal
<b>Population</b>	111,892
<b>Title of policy or practice</b>	Palheiro Ferreiro Community Orchard and Garden
<b>Subtitle (optional)</b>	Non-Formal Education
<b>URL video</b>	
<b>Category</b>	Social and Economic Equity
<b>SDGs</b>	SDGs: 2, 4, 11, 13.
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>Funchal is a small city with 111,892 inhabitants. Capital of Madeira island, 15% of its total area is composed of public green spaces. Funchal Municipality's mission is to design and implement policy measures that contribute to the sustainable development of its land, improving the quality of life in the city and empowering citizens.</p> <p>The Municipality, through its municipal social housing enterprise, SocioHabitaFunchal (SHF), manages 40 social projects concerning the 1230 social homes. In order to improve the quality of life of its residents, especially the families with a vulnerable socioeconomic status, SHF promotes the development of social, personal, professional and environmental skills. It develops different projects and activities that are developed in 8 community centers according to the inhabitants' inclusion and social needs. Fields covered are: employment and training, formal and non formal education, music, sports, environmental education, artistic education, health education, acting skills, digital inclusion, home economics management.</p> <p>The Community Orchard is located at Palheiro Ferreiro Municipal Social Housing, on a periurban region of Funchal. Geographically isolated at about 500m high, Palheiro Ferreiro neighborhood is surrounded by an extensive forest mostly composed by invasive species: acacia and eucalyptus are not recommended plants due to its combustion risk.</p> <p>80 families live here, around 264 inhabitants with several socioeconomic problems: low citizenship participation; low social and professional skills (illiteracy, low education, lack of motivation); long-term unemployment rate both in adults and young people; families with low income and precarious jobs.</p> <p>The creation of a community orchard and social green gardens in this social neighborhood provides food sustainability, social cohesion, inclusion as well as reinforcing the community commitment to keep common areas clean and safe.</p>
<b>Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)</b>	01/2013 Ongoing
<b>Actors and stakeholders involvement</b>	As Funchal belongs to the Educating Cities Network, the Municipality tries to integrate many city departments in order to do a transversal work and mobilize different educational agents within the city. SocioHabitaFunchal leads this process and gets the collaboration of other municipal departments, such as "Education and Quality of Life", "Science and Natural Resources", "Urban Planning", local and regional organizations, as well as the inhabitants of the Palheiro Ferreiro neighbourhood.
<b>Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debating new project with inhabitants;</li> <li>• Contacting regional bio services to provide training and counselling;</li> <li>• Involving different municipal departments to prepare orchard layout and veg. garden;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivating people to attend bio training sessions;</li> <li>• Group debate with experts to choose fruit trees;</li> <li>• Discussing water tank with inhabitants;</li> <li>• Debating on the use of water among inhabitants;</li> <li>• Starting community meals at the community center on a regular basis;</li> <li>• Designating a team to take care of the orchard (rotation system).</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project, Pomar Comunitário do Palheiro Ferreiro, is going to be the first “Non Formal Education Centre of Funchal Municipality”. The purpose of this centre is to use the inhabitants' skills and knowledge about permaculture practices and philosophy for the creation of a municipal itinerary for schools, community centres and different other institutions, including 4 and 5 star hotels chefs and tourists. The local inhabitants guide visitants and teach what they have learned and done in the community orchard, including the organic agricultural practices and the importance of using and knowing regional plants and seeds. This works also as a way of diminishing negative stereotypes concerning social neighbourhoods while promoting the sense of belonging and identity of its inhabitants.</li> <li>• This project has been helping changing population lifestyles towards a more sustainable way of living and a better awareness of natural risks and how to diminish them.</li> <li>• With this project, the green area around this social neighbourhood was recovered and better planned, revitalizing the environment and regaining some soil that was being lost. This has been done involving the local inhabitants, ie, a change established from the inside to the outside of the social municipal housing. The advantages of consuming local food and maintaining the identity of the land are worked within the project.</li> <li>• A water tank deposit was built, in order to collect water from the rains and from other sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>This “Community Orchard of Palheiro Ferreiro” was created to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grant better and healthier food for the needy families;</li> <li>• develop a safer, more beautiful and organic surrounding;</li> <li>• collect water from the rain and other sources;</li> <li>• improve social cohesion inside the neighbourhood;</li> <li>• diminish negative stereotypes concerning social housing neighbourhoods;</li> <li>• promote a sense of belonging and identity inside the social housing;</li> <li>• improve awareness of natural risks associated to: planting non adequate species, to the losing of soil, to non-cultivated lands, to non-organic farm.</li> </ul> <p>6 years later, the allotment gardens inside the Palheiro Ferreiro neighbourhood are a flourishing reality. The Community Orchard with its green roof house, its aromatics garden, its trees and green gardens is also a reality. The exchange of products happens regularly; the community soup or meal are served every week. A sense of community was created and people help each other in order to organize social activities, exchange knowledge, share garden products or seeds. The forest around the neighbourhood is clean and the nearby soil is treated. People are aware of the dangers that come from neglected land both concerning heavy rains and forest fires. There are 20 allotment gardens (3000 m<sup>2</sup>) and 1 community orchard (1000 m<sup>2</sup>). The inhabitants adopt good environmental practices, recover green areas and take part in regular cleaning campaigns once a month.</p>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>Thematic inclusion: The Municipality provides allotment gardens to families with low financial resources. Municipal land is given to these families to improve their financial income and the quality of food at home (Social and economic equity). The City also provides organic production training and signs public protocols with the Regional Government to enlarge the teaching of bio techniques in agriculture (Governance). The municipal departments of Science, Waste, Education and the Municipal Housing enterprise work together with the regional authorities to spread the idea of combining the traditional practices, valuating local knowledge and ancient practices and combining</p>

them with science and modern agro techniques. The community sessions of cooking the shared meal and the training helped promoting sustainable diets and nutrition.

Social Inclusion: Cohesion among inhabitants grew a lot. Every week they share a meal at the community centre. It's cooked by a team, with products from their allotment gardens and from the Community Orchard. People get involved in community activities in order to get money for their youngsters. They already raised money to go on two different trips for more than a week: Porto Santo Island and Lisbon. For many people, it was the first travel by ship, the first flight, the first camping or the first staying in a hotel. Some young adults improved their education using another City Hall project, "Mexe-Te". They got hired in hotels in Funchal.

**Adversity coefficient**

Palheiro Ferreiro is a very isolated municipal social housing, up in the mountains, in a cold and wet area. People who live there have financial difficulties and have a low schooling education. They're mainly unemployed people. The neighbourhood was built in 1998. 70 apartments, 80 families and 264 inhabitants live there. Around Palheiro Ferreiro there was a forest with many invasive plants: Acacia and Eucalyptus trees. In 2012, there was a big fire. All the forest around the neighbourhood caught fire. People got surrounded by the flames and the smoke. They felt helpless and forgotten by the authorities. They couldn't fight the fire by themselves because there was no water and the forest and the surrounding area were not clean or properly treated. The fire was huge and moved quickly towards the apartments. The changing of the wind saved the buildings and the people. But the lack of confidence in the authorities and the fear of the forest remained. In 2013, in order to regain people's confidence and to make them aware of the risks that can come from a disorganized community, the Municipality and its municipal housing enterprise created a project called Palheiro Ferreiro Community Orchard. The aims are mentioned in Part B of this form. The orchard was built on a rough hill, involving the know-how of different technicians and of the population. The tank to collect the water was build. The City Hall and SHF started involving the population in several actions to promote a better social cohesion, better social and professional skills, a better awareness of the natural risks associated to that geographical area and how to prevent them through the permaculture way of dealing with nature and with the changing of people's habits. Funchal's area is exposed to different natural risks that endanger life and make it more vulnerable to climate change and disasters. The Municipality government centred the project on the same general aims directed to the whole population: educational actions, improving individual and collective awareness on the importance of keeping lands cultivated and consuming local products as a way to promote a safer and less vulnerable land. In this particular project, the idea was not to use the land to produce only vegetables. Fruit trees take much longer to produce larger quantities and people forgot how to grow them. Therefore, this would be a way to learn different techniques concerning different land products.