

# A Major City in an EDC: Rio de Janeiro

## Location



- Rio de Janeiro is situated on Brazil's Atlantic coast.
- It has grown around a large natural bay called Guanabara Bay.

## Background Information



- Brazil is a EDC (Emerging and Developing country).
- Until 1960 Rio de Janeiro was the capital city of Brazil- it was moved to the planned built city Brasilia, due to overcrowding.
- Rio de Janeiro is the cultural capital of Brazil with 50 museums, a famous carnival, it's a UNESCO world heritage site and it hosted the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games.
- It has 6.5 million central population.

## Importance of Rio



- It has lots of factories making chemicals, medicine, clothing and furniture that's sold all over the world which makes money for the city.
- It has five shipping ports for sending out coffee, sugar and iron ore all over the world, which makes money for the city.
- It has three airports for tourism which makes money for the city.
- It produces the second most money in the whole of Brazil.

## Why has Rio grown?



- Rio de Janeiro has attracted lots of people to the city for a number of reasons. The city's population has grown because of this.
- Rio de Janeiro has lots of pull factors which means urbanisation has happened a lot.
- Migrants have come from South Korea and China seeking new business opportunities.
- The language still attracts migrants from Portugal- Brazil's former colonial power.
- Rio's industry attracts skilled workers from the USA and UK.

## What is Rio like?



- The **Carnival** in Rio is the most famous and exciting event in the entire calendar. People from around the world come to visit for this annual event and local Samba schools prepare for it all year.



- **Informal Settlements.** Over 1 million people live in favelas. There are over 600 favelas - the largest is Rocinha with a population of 100,000. Most favelas in Rio built on hillsides too steep for normal housing. Favelas are seen as areas linked with organised crime, violence and drugs.

## How has migration changed Rio?



- Migration has hugely altered the characteristics of Rio. Over 22% of Rio's population live in informal settlements which have sprung up all around the city.



- **Squatter camps.** New arrivals to the city build their own houses out of basic materials such as tarpaulin, scrap wood and corrugated iron. Squatter camps are located on areas of land which the population neither own nor rent. These squatter camps change the characteristics of the city as these houses are usually very short term. They are unsightly and certainly do not blend in with the rest of the character of the city.



- **High class residential districts.** Apartments are very exclusive and cater for the wealthy workers of the CBD. Many of these high rise apartments have 24 hour security and armed guards. Residents are fearful of the risk of violence, theft, mugging, abductions and vandalism due to the high levels of unemployment and poverty in the city.

## How is housing a challenge?



- In Rio de Janeiro alone 1.4 million people are living in slums (informal settlements).
- They are built on poor quality land. In Rio this is usually hillsides which leads to the risk of landslides, particularly after heavy rain.
- Disease is also rampant within the slums, as there is no standard for sanitation. Health risks may stem from overcrowding, pollution and a lack of waste disposal systems.
- Electricity supplies to the slums are dangerous and unreliable.

## How is waste disposal a challenge?



- In Rio de Janeiro, that waste often ends up in official landfills or floating in places like Guanabara Bay, which is heavily polluted.
- Rio's waste production has grown by 29% in the last 11 years. This amount of waste is very difficult to manage.
- Over 95% of all waste collected by the authorities ends up in landfill. This waste decays and adds to global warming.
- Increasing the amount of waste causes problems such as waste, disease and pests.

## How is traffic congestion a challenge?



- Rio de Janeiro is the most congested (busy with cars and people) city in South America, Brazil.
- There are up to 74 miles worth of traffic jams at any one time during rush hour.
- A recent study showed that an average drive through Rio will take fifty per cent longer at peak times, compared to off-peak times.
- There has been a 40% increase of car use in last 10 years.
- There is also an issue with smog in Rio. This is caused by car exhaust fumes. It can cause disease such as respiratory illness.

# The Favela Bairro Project (1995-2008)

## The Project



- Until 1980, the authorities (government) in Rio did not acknowledge the existence of favelas- they were not shown on any maps.
- In the mid- 1980s, city planners felt that something needed to be done to help the poorest residents.
- Therefore, rather than the favelas being destroyed and squeezing all the population into public housing- the city decided to upgrade the favelas giving them essential services. This aimed to improve the lives of people.



## What was done to improve the favelas?



- Paving and naming roads.
- Access to a water supply and drainage system for improved sanitation.
- Hillsides secured to prevent landslides
- Building of new health, education and leisure centres.
- Installation of a cable car system- residents given one free return ticket per day.
- Access to credit (money upfront) for residents to buy materials to improve their homes.
- 100% mortgages available so people can buy their own home

## Was the scheme a success?



- + The quality of life, mobility and employment prospects of the residents have been improved due to the development of the favela.
- However, it has not been a complete success because there are still problems:
  - The newly built infrastructure is not being maintained.
  - The quality of work and materials used has been questioned (one home has received new concrete walls on 4 occasions).
  - Residents lack skills and resources to make repairs.
  - More training is needed to improve literacy and employment.
  - Rents rise in improved favelas, leaving the poorest people worse off.