



Identity
Impact
Connection

YOUTH NETWORK IN
DEFENSE OF THEIR
SOCIAL RIGHTS

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EDITORIAL



Hello!

We are Rejudes, a national network created by young people participating in the projects developed by ChildFund Brasil whose objective is to defend the youth social rights. We believe in the strength of articulation and social mobilization to generate positive social impact. We defend and value the diversity of expressions of our culture, bringing together young people from different regions and worldviews. Since 2015, we have mobilized youth across the country to become protagonists of their stories and to exercise political participation in their communities, in Brazil and even in the world.

Rejudes is our empowerment space. Where we seek personal and professional support. It is our connection, where we have rights and we have voice.



Our network builds an autonomous and empowering trajectory and this is only possible due to the commitment of youth and the institutional support of civil society organizations partners and ChildFund Brasil.

ChildFund is an international social organization with more than 80 years of experience and presence in 58 countries. In Brazil, , since 1966, ChildFund is committed to supporting the development of children in situations of social vulnerability, giving them the opportunity to become young people, adults, parents and leaders who will bring sustainable and positive change to communities.

It is also part of the ChildFund's mission to mobilize people and institutions to act in valuing, protecting and promoting the rights of children and adolescents. It is with this purpose that ChildFund Brasil promotes, strengthens and empowers the action of the Youth Network in search of their Social Rights - Rejudes.

Have we awakened your curiosity? Come and meet us! We have specially prepared this material so that all people can understand how our network came about, how it operates and what our achievements are so far. We want to be a reference so that young people around the world can be able to articulate in favor of their rights!

In the section **Identity**, we draw a profile of Rejudes, taking up our history, recalling milestones and ideals of our network and presenting who are the young people who are part of this trajectory. In the section **Impact**, we explain the operation of Rejudes, how we managed to organize and which tools guide us on this journey. In the section **Connection**, we demonstrate our progress based on the actions carried out and the results obtained, in addition to pondering on the future we dream of and for which we work together.

Forward, youth!





IDENTITY

What is it like to be a young Brazilian?

What is it to be a young? Is there a more existential phrase than that? Or a stage more existential than that?

Youth brings with it countless questions, which influence the process of identity formation that we all go through, before we can be considered adults. Who am I? What do I like? What will my profession be? Which way do I want to go? Which mark will I leave on the world?

What it is to be a young person is a branching question chain, in which the more we explore, the more questions arise from it – even more so when we insert into this equation an important variable: what it is to be a **young Brazilian person**?

According to the 2022 IBGE Census, out of a universe of 214,800,000 Brazilian citizens, 32,044,000 are in the age group of 15 to 24 years. Of the more than 32 million young people in Brazil, an estimated 84% live in urban areas and 9.3% of people aged 14 and over are unemployed.

Social inequality still defines the opportunities that multiple Brazilian youth will have access to, whether in education and academic training, in access to professionalization or to the labor market. The violence, especially within the

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social and racial context, still appears in worrying indexes, and problems related to the mental health of young people have had increasing prevalence, not only in Brazil, but throughout the world.

Young people do not want only to eat, they also want entertainment and art and, of course, to go anywhere. Young people want to be heard and to participate in the decisions and policies that concern their development and the construction of their future.

It was with this mission that Rejudes came to the world: to play an essential role in mobilizing and empowering young people to become protagonists in the construction of a more just, sustainable and inclusive world, contributing to the development of youth and fostering their participation in the search for and defense of their social rights.

But now the burning question is: what is it like to be a **young Brazilian Rejudian**?

“No one but us can communicate better, no one but us can actively talk about what we live. And this meeting has been for this purpose, to show truly leadership, what is it youth protagonism.”

**Maria Antônia,
2nd National Meeting of Rejudes**



“Whoever goes through Rejudes always has the flame of Rejudes lit in their heart. There is no way this flame will ever go out, because we will always be in constant struggle for the rights of youth and for our rights in general as a citizen.”

Poliana, National Rejudes Committee

“The network allowed me to broaden horizons and expand expectations of life. Being able to meet other cultures, other cities, being seen as a leader at the national level, makes me happy and makes me seek, every day, the enforcement of my rights and the rights of so many young people are inspired by my journey. As well as them, I didn't see myself coming either so far away at 'such a young age'. They are opportunities that broaden our vision and outlook on life, and make us believe in a better world.”

**Juliana,
National Rejudes Committee**



Profile of young rejudians

Age group

48,1% between
15 and 17 years old

37,4% between
18 and 20 years old

14,5% between
21 and 24 years old

Ethnicity / Race



53,3%
Brown



26,6%
Black



15,9%
White



4,2%
Yellow/
Indigenous

Gender



56,7%
Female



41,2%
Male



2,1%
Other

Education

44,8%
attending high school

27,6%
concluded high school

17,3%
attending higher education

9,6%
attending elementary school

0,7%
completed higher education

Area

62,4% urban

37,6% rural

Family Income

78,6%
up to 1 minimum wage

20,1%
income transfer programs
(Bolsa Família)

1,3%
not informed

Employability

71 young people work.
From those, **only 10** are formally employed.

Our ideology

“The world of social rights, public policies, art, culture and interpersonal relationships makes us think outside the box and bear in mind that we can think and do much more for ourselves and for all the communities we are inserted, aligning our actions to obtain positive impacts regionally and nationally”.

Jorge, former representative of the National Rejudes Committee

MISSION

Contribute to the youth development fomenting authentic participation in the search for and defense of their social rights, through various methodologies and forms of artistic, sports and cultural expression.

VISION

To be a reference, managing to quantify, qualify and mobilize young people in defense of their social rights in Brazil and in the world.

PRINCIPLES

Personal, Social and Political Development.

FOUNDATIONS

Youth Rights (Human Rights)

The Youth Statute is the great banner of youth groups' struggle that make up Rejudes. The Youth Statute is the legal instrument - law 12.852/2013 - that defines what are the rights of young people that must be guaranteed and promoted by the Brazilian State. We are fighting for these rights!

Agenda 2030

Rejudes is attuned to major global social, environmental and economic issues. That is why we stand hand in hand with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN 2030 Agenda.



Entrepreneurship

Development of skills and abilities so that young people can structure their business, besides entrepreneurial initiatives to achieve financial return and contribute to youth and society in general in various problems.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Bahia
Ceará
Goiás
Minas Gerais
Piauí
São Paulo



Our history, our roots

Rejudes is born from a common need among young people who already participated in programs in ChildFund Brasil's partner Social Organizations (PSOs): to have their own identity.

In 2015, the work of young people with their communities for the guarantee and realization of rights was already a reality within the PSOs. ChildFund Brasil promoted the training of young people in MJPOP, a methodology for monitoring public policies. The group of young people trained in the PSOs, from the formation, began to recognize itself as a network.

Jorge, former participant of Rejudes in Ceará, tells us a little about this starting point:

“The Youth Network in search of their Social Rights was born in 2015 after the need to have a self-identity with specific actions aimed at young people aged 15 to 24 enrolled in the ChildFund Brasil sponsorship system, according to the needs of each community or municipality in which the PSOs were present. The first major meeting took place in July 2015, in the city of Paracatu, birthplace of the National MJPOP meeting. It was in this three-day meeting of unique experiences, tireless dialogues and unforgettable memories that we defined the directions and the name of our so dreamed network, now conceived as Rejudes. The union of regional committees and people who believed in the potential of youth was essential for the foundation of this new journey that embraced and welcomed more than 8 thousand young people to contribute to the transformation and improvement of the realities of different parts of Brazil – from the interior of Ceará to the Jequitinhonha Valley. From Rio Grande do Norte to Belo Horizonte.”

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In 2016 the proposal took shape. Local committees were set up and the youth took the lead in planning and in the actions of the network.

“Local actions were the most important and challenging part, because we were putting into practice what was thought nationally with the National Committee”, says Jorge.

Ivis, a former representative of the National Rejudes Committee, reports that “locally, groups have engaged in identity building, Youth Statute studies, and social participation activities, such as meetings in the Town Hall, actions related to the National Youth Day and the National Day to Confront Sexual Abuse and exploitation of children and adolescents. In addition, mobilizations have been carried out proposing to integrate more young people into the fights, such as forums, exchanges between cities in the same region and local and regional meetings”.





In the same year, in 2016, the **1st National Meeting of Rejudes** structured the network's intervention format. Ivis has fond memories of it:

"The 1st National Meeting, in Fortaleza, Ceará, was for sure one of the most exciting moments of this journey for me. I had never seen such a diversity of people, States, accents and ideas similar to mine. Just as important was being chosen as the national representative of the Jequitinhonha Valley: the first great opportunity that, with excitement and at the same time fear, I felt with a lot of latency. Surely this gesture of confidence of the youth that I was with made me understand the importance of my performance in this process. I was committed to the guarantee of my rights and the rights of my own."

For Jorge, the meeting was a successful milestone for the network under construction:

"Rejudes marked my life in broad and significant ways, I always say that it was the most important opportunity for a young man from the countryside of Ceará. Meeting people and a world I had not seen before during the 1st National Meeting made me fall in love with the network and our mission built since July 2015."

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In 2017, the social intervention of the network became articulated with Agenda 2030 and Rejudes promoted Free Conferences in all municipalities where the network operates, mobilizing other young people and players to the incidence of youth rights.

“As a National Committee, we are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Human Rights and with the protagonism of our youth. Through capacity building gatherings, meetings, exchanges and regional actions, we proposed the creation of the Free Youth Conferences, the creation of partnership networks and the strengthening of youth participation in the social and political scenarios of their territories. This participation sought to map, first of all, the main problems faced by young people at that time and in their territories, which led us to work and propose solutions based on our realities, to the theme of the youth termination, which became the theme of the 2nd National Meeting: *‘spare me the vexation of dying so young’*,* held in the city of Confins, in 2017, and totally idealized by us, the National Committee. In addition, cross-cutting themes that were interconnected with the SDGs were also addressed in our localities, such as Youth Entrepreneurship and the Labor Market, Culture and Diversity”, recalls Ivis.

*This theme was translated literally from the Ney Matogrosso line “Me poupa do vexame de morrer tão moço” from the song “Pavão Mysteriozo.” Ney is a Brazilian singer famous for his performances and songs with typically Brazilian elements. So, it’s interesting that this name was chosen, because “Moço” is a very typical Brazilian way to say young.

In 2019, Rejudes takes an important step: the elaboration of its **Governance Structure**. In the same year, it has also implemented the **Prepara Rejudes**, an intervention that disseminates the theme addressed during the year to young people in the municipalities, fostering debates, training and involvement of other collectives to influence the theme. And with the flame of youth protagonism shining brighter and brighter, came the pandemic.



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The Covid-19 pandemic was a period in which the network sought to reinvent itself with online actions to keep the integration of local committees, develop debates, articulations and training on the annual theme of the network. In this time of great challenges for youth, Rejudes has managed to maintain engagement and, in **2020 and 2021, National online meetings** were carried out, enabling the participation of other Brazilian collectives and also of young people from other countries where ChildFund operates.

The year of **2022** came in full force. Rejudes built its **Strategic Document** and also the **Advocacy Plan** and received the **ChildFund International Connection award and Ser Humano ABRH-MG**, in addition to having **expanded its area of expertise** to four other Brazilian states.

"My name is Juliana; I am 20 years old and I am from the countryside of Ceará. Talking about Rejudes, ChildFund Brasil and my institution [ChildFund's partner organization] is a subject that makes my eyes shine. I have immense gratitude for being who I am and for all the opportunities that come through the network. My brother is 11 years old and he is already part of the institution. He has me as an example and one day I wish that, just like me, he can be a young part of Rejudes and that he can live experiences as incredible as mine. My greatest desire, from the bottom of my heart, is that this story only grows and continues like this, as it has changed my life, creating realities and bringing hope to all young people, so that they believe in their potential!"

With the dedication of the youth, Rejudes continues strong, always advancing in its performance. The implementation of the strategy and the actions of the advocacy plan are challenges for the coming years.



What drives us is hope

You can already tell that Rejudes is a patchwork quilt, right? Our network gathers young people from different states, cities, ages, with different dreams, plans and paths, around the same goal: the construction of a Brazil where youth is heard and has its rights respected.

To tell you a little more about the operation of this network in practice, we have gathered a first-class team: three young Rejudians who have a lot to talk about the work they do. I give you **Fernanda Clara, Victoria and Pedro:**

What drives Rejudes?

Fernanda: Train protagonist and referential young people, and enable these young to make a difference in their localities.

Vitória: The strength of young people in wanting what is best, in discussing important issues to have knowledge, in knowing that you have several young fighting for the same goals, and as more young people, more goals will be achieved.

Pedro: Rejudes is a network of young people who demand the defense of rights; therefore, I would say that what motivates the network is the flame of youth, which shows us a path of transformation. Yes, I would say that what motivates us is hope.



Today, what is the main challenge that Rejude faces?

Fernanda: The fundraising.

Pedro: Recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and adapting to changes that have been taking place are arduous tasks, but the network's biggest challenge is to do precisely what was proposed in its creation: to mobilize young people on how they should be protagonists of the transformations of their community.



And what are the main achievements of the Network?

Fernanda: I think all local achievements are important, but the achievements that stand out more in the whole network are: The Connection award, which brought international visibility to Rejudes, and the *Ser Humano* Award.

What are the matters worked by Rejudes today?

Fernanda: Diversity and inclusion, employability and entrepreneurship, fighting racism and the environment. And with the implementation of the Advocacy Plan, our actions are more focused on the area of Education.

How does Rejudes work on a day-to-day basis?

Fernanda: An annual agenda is made available every year. Local groups meet and discuss agendas and actions that are within this agenda and how they fit into their realities. In addition, Rejudes is always providing training moments for young people, so that they become more and more protagonists and references in their localities.

Pedro: In the local committees, which is where we live daily and interact with other young people, planning meetings are held following the guidelines of the National Committee, adapting to their realities, so each group has a dynamic.

How does the division of tasks and the hierarchy of Rejudes work?

Fernanda: There are local, regional and national committees, all elected by vote. The local committee is formed by young people active in their PSOs and its role is to develop, together with local groups, activities to be carried out and encourage young people in the community to participate in the actions. The regional committee is made up of four young people from each local group, their role is to represent local committees at events, meetings, trainings and other regional actions and to distribute information to local groups. The National Committee is currently composed of 12 young people, 4 from each area in which Rejudes operates. Its role is to represent Rejudes youth when it comes to communication with ChildFund and partnerships. The young people of the National Committee also have the role of making decisions that will impact the whole Rejudes, developing agendas and actions, defining themes to be worked on at the national level, planning and organizing regional and national meetings (with the support of the articulation), and also maintaining contact with the young people of the local groups, so that the agendas brought by them are discussed at meetings of the National Committee, together with the ChildFund.

How does Rejudes participate in law councils?

Fernanda: We participate in sessions in the city council, we establish contact with the bodies responsible for public policies, and some groups have already conquered space in the city youth councils.



What are the regional and national meetings like?

Fernanda: The meetings are aimed at training young people in the themes that are being worked on and also for the exchange of experiences of activities and actions that have worked in their localities. These meetings are always very enriching, because each person brings a background and a view of where they live and connect with other realities that may be close or far from yours.

Pedro: These are moments of formation, planning, measurement and celebration of the network actions. We have the opportunity to listen to each other, suggest ways of working and meeting people and different realities.



What has motivated you to participate in Rejudes?

Fernanda: Since I was very young, I have always participated in activities developed by my PSO. When the opportunity came to participate in Rejudes it was incredible, because I had within my PSO examples of young leadership, and seeing the performance of these young people ignited in me the wish to make a difference within my community in the same way.

Vitória: By participating since I was little in the Child Fund project, I have created a very great passion for the program. When I turned 15, I joined Rejudes and that's when I learned to have a voice and fight for my rights. With each passing day, I am more passionate about the network and its purpose.

Pedro: My main motivation was to see the evolution of the young leadership who had been in the network before me, to see how much they had the ability to plan and to make this ability a reality. I wanted to be leadership, I wanted to be transformation, and today I am – thanks to Rejudes and everything I have learned in it.



IMPACT

How does Rejudes work?

Rejudes adopts the model of **Collaborative Governance**. This means that our governance is not top-down, it is done in a network, promoting partnerships with different organizations and social programs, in addition to dialogue between local, regional and national authorities.

We organize ourselves through ordinary and extraordinary assemblies, in a structure of committees, which, together with local social organizations, mobilize young people in a process of active participation that emerges in the periodic election of their representatives to local, regional and National Committees.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:

1. Local Committee

Body of Rejudes that develop the actions planned by the Network in a local level. It is composed of PSO reference young people, project representatives of youth.



“The Local committee acts effectively in the search for rights, we carry out actions such as participation in seats in the City Council of Youth and assemblies in the City Council, aiming to guarantee and implement more and more the rights of young people in our city.”

Juliana, National Rejudes Committee

2. Regional Committee

Rejudes body that develops campaigns and actions at the regional level, composed of young people elected by local committees. At the meetings of the Regional Committees, the deliberations, plans and evaluations of the activities done by the local committees are carried out.

“In the Jequitinhonha Valley and in my life, Rejudes begins its performance in the year 2016, shortly after its creation in 2015. In Minas Novas, city of this territory, happened the first regional meeting of the network, after the presentation and choice of Representatives in a local level. It was from this meeting that came the possibility of important transformations for young people previously living under the social stigmas present in the Jequitinhonha Valley region.”

Ivis, former Rejudian



3. National Committee

It articulates and represents ChildFund Brasil youth at the national level, being composed of young people active in regional committees, elected by their peers. The tasks of the National Committee are: to establish a plan to define the themes and issues regarding the youth to be addressed during their respective mandate; to facilitate Rejudes national meetings; to participate in ChildFund Brasil stakeholder meetings; to create an agenda for ordinary meetings of the National Committee; to be Rejudes spokesperson in various spaces; to act in the process of multiplying the initiative.



“Participation in the National Committee was extremely important for my personal and professional development, this challenge accepted in March 2017, after being elected by the Regional Committee, going on to represent the young people who were part of the network. At that moment, I was aware of the importance of leadership for representing such a diverse and plural network, and I was sure of how much my participation, local and regional representation meant to achieve new paths with Rejudes, starting to develop intellectually and building a self-confident, resilient person concerned with broad current causes.”

**Jorge, former representative of the
National Rejudes Committee**

NETWORK INTERLOCUTORS:

1. Local Partners (LPs)

Carry out projects with young people at the local level; they provide the necessary facilities and structure for the participation of young people in Rejudes; they support the local articulation to hold trainings, gatherings and meetings and ensure the local operation of the network, making commitments in the annual planning.

“I was sponsored for more than 15 years at the *Mafo institution*, where I am still benefited with many opportunities that add and positively transform my life. From a very early age, I had the opportunity to take courses and workshops that collaborate with my academic and professional life, since as of today, I am already in the job market. Rejudes activities started to be part of my life as soon as I turned 15 years old. Since then, I have been actively involved in the Local Committee and I always try to make clear the importance of the network in my formation as a person and professional.”

Juliana, National Rejudes Committee

2. Youth educator

It is the bridge between the LPs management and the local Rejudes Committee. Person from the LPs team that mobilizes young people enrolled in the ChildFund Brasil sponsorship system and participants in the activities developed to enter in debates on youth rights at the municipal level and integrate the local Rejudes Committee.

3. Network articulator

They are a service provider connected to the partner Social organization acting in the territories by supporting the committees and educators with tools and political-pedagogical strategies to the development of Rejudes' pillars.



Social intervention: Rejudes in practice

Rejudes, through its governance, articulates and mobilizes people and spaces for dissemination, debate, planning, evaluation and defense of social and human rights of, with and for youth.

ACTIONS TAKEN
Training and thematic meetings
Emotional support and life project (in the LPs)
Political training in schools (with students and teachers)
Youth-related legislation (local, regional and national meetings)
Planning and monitoring of the committees
Environmental workshops and community gardens
Trade fair (with Rejudians and high school students from public schools)
Workshops on Human Rights (in schools and LPs)
Celebration of resilt
Campaigns
National and International Youth Day
Yellow September: suicide prevention
Child and adolescent sexual violence prevention
Black Awareness
Cultural events
<i>Sarau</i> – Literary gathering
Literary writing
Poetic Festival
Mobilizations
Walk for youth rights
Webinars
Incidence
Participation and seat on municipal rights and youth councils, forums and local collectives
Advocacy
Hearing with public authorities

Our compass

With so many instances and partnerships spread across Brazil and such diverse youth, you may be wondering how Rejudes stays together and with its goals aligned at all levels of performance.

For this, we have the **Rejudes Strategy**. This tool is like our compass, a reference point for all Rejudes, playing a key role in guiding and directing which way to go.

The strategic document establishes how Rejudes will operate for a period of four years, defining guidelines for programming actions and improving the work process.

For the construction of the strategic document 2022-2026, ChildFund Brasil developed a methodological path divided into two stages: **Context analysis** and **Strategy for Rejudes actions (2023-2026)**. Throughout the process, young Rejudians have participated.

STRATEGIC AXES (2023-2026)

Social Issues

Diversity and inclusion

Employability / Entrepreneurship

Confronting racism

Environment

Advocacy

Theme: Quality education

Structure

Conditions (physical, human and material) to advance the actions of Rejudes on the LPs to continue the network

Approach

Updating and strengthening of the intervention methodology, taking into account aspects such as: development of skills, performance and juvenile incidence, monitoring

MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING

We know that improvement is continuous and that our experiences, mistakes and successes are the basis for us to improve our network more and more. Therefore, the Rejudes strategic document brings several recommendations and directions for **systematic teaching, assessment and learning practices**.



A call to action

Defending an agenda goes far beyond believing: not to be an innocuous defense, it is necessary to have objectives, systematization and a lot of effort. For Rejuves, strengthening the voice and participation of young people in political decisions and in the formulation of public policies that directly affect their lives requires establishing a concrete **Advocacy Plan**.

But... what is an Advocacy Plan?

The Advocacy Plan is closely connected to what you advocate for. It is a form of activism that seeks to give voice to individuals or groups that face challenges, injustices or discrimination, in order to achieve better living conditions and guarantee rights.

The importance of advocacy lies in its ability to create significant impact in diverse sectors of society. By promoting awareness of social problems, injustices or neglected issues, advocacy stimulates the change of mindsets, breaking stigmas and broadening public debate. This can lead to the formulation of more inclusive and fair policies, the protection of fundamental rights and the strengthening of communities.

In addition, advocacy plays a crucial role in giving marginalized groups a voice allowing them to be heard and represented in decisions that affect their lives. It empowers individuals, providing them with tools and resources so that they can actively participate in building solutions for the challenges they face.

Advocacy also plays a crucial role in creation of systemic and lasting changes. When identifying gaps in existing policies and requiring corrective actions, this practice can help remodel social, economic and political structures that perpetuate inequality and exclusion.

Rejudes works with a quadrennial Advocacy Plan, and our current one (2023-2026) is:

Ensuring inclusive equitable education with quality, promoting opportunities for learning throughout life to all people.



National Meetings

The Rejudes national meetings are a reflection of the work carried out by young people throughout the year on the theme chosen at the previous meeting. It is an intense moment, marked by diversity and enthusiasm, where young Rejudians engage in activities, workshops, Ordinary Assembly and dynamic lectures. It is in these meetings that Rejudes reaffirms its commitment to Brazilian youth and discusses the group's achievements and challenges, aligning the theme to be worked on in the following period and defining directions for national, regional and local actions.

"The meetings are full of energy, because all the young people are together and fight in one voice. It is where we can share experiences and ideas for the network to grow even more. It's where we can make decisions together, based on experiences and opinions of the young people present."

Vitória Nogueira, Rejudian

2016

Theme: What is it to be a young Brazilian?

An analysis of the reality of Brazilian youth in urban centers and rural areas, youth rights and Youth Statute.

2017

Theme: Spare me the vexation of dying so young

Debate, promotion and dissemination of strategies to confront and overcome violence experienced by youth.

2018

Theme: Young Entrepreneur. Ideas that change

Paths to social entrepreneurship and youth protagonism.

2019

Theme: Young people, with rights we are complete humans

Youth Human rights, approach to relevant issues and collective construction of a perspective based on human rights.

2020

Theme: Youth and the challenges of the 2030 Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals and youth. Meeting held remotely.

2021

Theme: Youth and the Environment. Preserving our planet is taking care of our health

Analysis and establishment of paths to be followed for the preservation of the environment. Meeting held remotely

2022

Theme: Youth, diversity and equality: youth and the right to be free to be different

Approach on the diversity and rights of youth, perspectives on the differences between young people and their realities in Brazil and the importance of inclusion and social equality. Presentation of the Advocacy Plan.

Youth, the art of fighting for their rights

It's about rights. It's about protagonism. It's about fighting for a better future. Fighting for a better Brazil. Fighting. In the hands of young people, however, this struggle takes on new outlines. It becomes attitude, it becomes participation, it becomes transformation and it becomes, why not, poetry.

In 2019, ChildFund Brasil published the book *Juventudes, a arte de lutar por seus direitos**, a collection of poems and chronicles about being young, all written by talented Rejudians. Get a taste of this beautiful book!

THE DREAM *Maelen Moraes*

Last night, I had a dream
In the streets there was only peace
I woke up scared by the sound of gunshots
They killed another one on the street behind

And who died?
Was It Maelen? No!
Who died was another black and poor
To add to the collection

And who did it? No one suspects.
The police have it easy
labeling it "futile" case
And sweeping it under the carpet

They say they fight crime
Lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility
Ask them how they fight
Social inequality?

Lack of medicine in hospitals?
Human being who is also human
Starving in stations?
Corrupt police maintaining
trafficking worldwide?

What does it matter if Brazil
is hexa or not?
Hunger remains around every corner
Anguish of heart!

Money is invested
In the players who have "name"
I want to see thinking of the poor
who, at all times, go hungry

| CONNECTION

Today, some robberies
They are no longer armed
The father in the family sweats the blood
To have a sustained home

The taxes that await you
At the end of each month
Are your constant assaults
Each in turn

A few months ago
I wanted to see my love
Sad end to my government
The ticket had increased
And so, little by little,
The distance tore me apart

“To be or not to be, that is the question”
Being or not being
Every day there are young people
Stretched across the floor

Fernando Pessoa has taught
That to kill a dream is to mutilate a soul
Imagine how many dreams are killed
in the foolish dawn?

I was asked to believe in hope
Hope that we believe so much
What I want most is to end this alliance
That only puts more young people in the statistic

Last week, João was going to see his girlfriend
But on the way he was robbed
They stole all his dreams
João was shot three times by mistake
And the blood ran down the sidewalk
“Spare me the vexation of dying so young”
João said
João said as the word says,
Now think about it: what ensures that you
won’t be the next victim

Youth wants voice, time and place
it wants to live, build and dream
Youth has hunger, desire and thirst
And, in this outcome, stop asking: I can’t
“what are you hungry for?”
Will you wake up and react or will you sleep like João?



The book *Juventudes, a arte de lutar por seus direitos* is freely available for digital reading. [Access!](#)

Awards and recognition

In the year 2022, Rejudes wins its first prizes, being recognized nationally and internationally for the work developed and the actions carried out along its trajectory.

In December, we won the 21st edition of **Ser Humano Award** of the Brazilian Association of Human Resources -Minas Gerais Section (ABRH-MG) in the category 'NGO'.

The *Ser Humano Award* was established in 1993 by the social organization ABRH and has established itself as an important instrument for valuing the best initiatives in people management. It is awarded annually to organizations whose innovative practices have achieved significant results and can be considered a benchmark in the market.

In April, we won the 1st edition of **Connection Awards** from ChildFund International, a recognition of actions that create connections, with financial incentive to invest in actions during the year.

The award received 18 entries from various initiatives for children and young people of the ChildFund from different countries.





First Youth Entrepreneurship Fair

One of the themes that Rejudes works on is entrepreneurship. The network therefore encourages local youth groups to organize individual and collective initiatives aimed at the development of ideas promoting the potential of young people and generating income.

A major milestone for the visibility of the actions carried out by Rejudes in this theme was the **1st Festival of Entrepreneurial Youth**, an event that took place in 2019 in Vale do Jequitinhonha, Minas Gerais. Lasting for two days, the Festival reached 700 people, performing **five workshops** about entrepreneurship, **14 cultural presentations** (circus, choirs, bands, theaters and individual singers), in addition to the **exhibition and sale** of various handicraft art and gastronomy products from the entrepreneurial initiatives of young Rejudians.

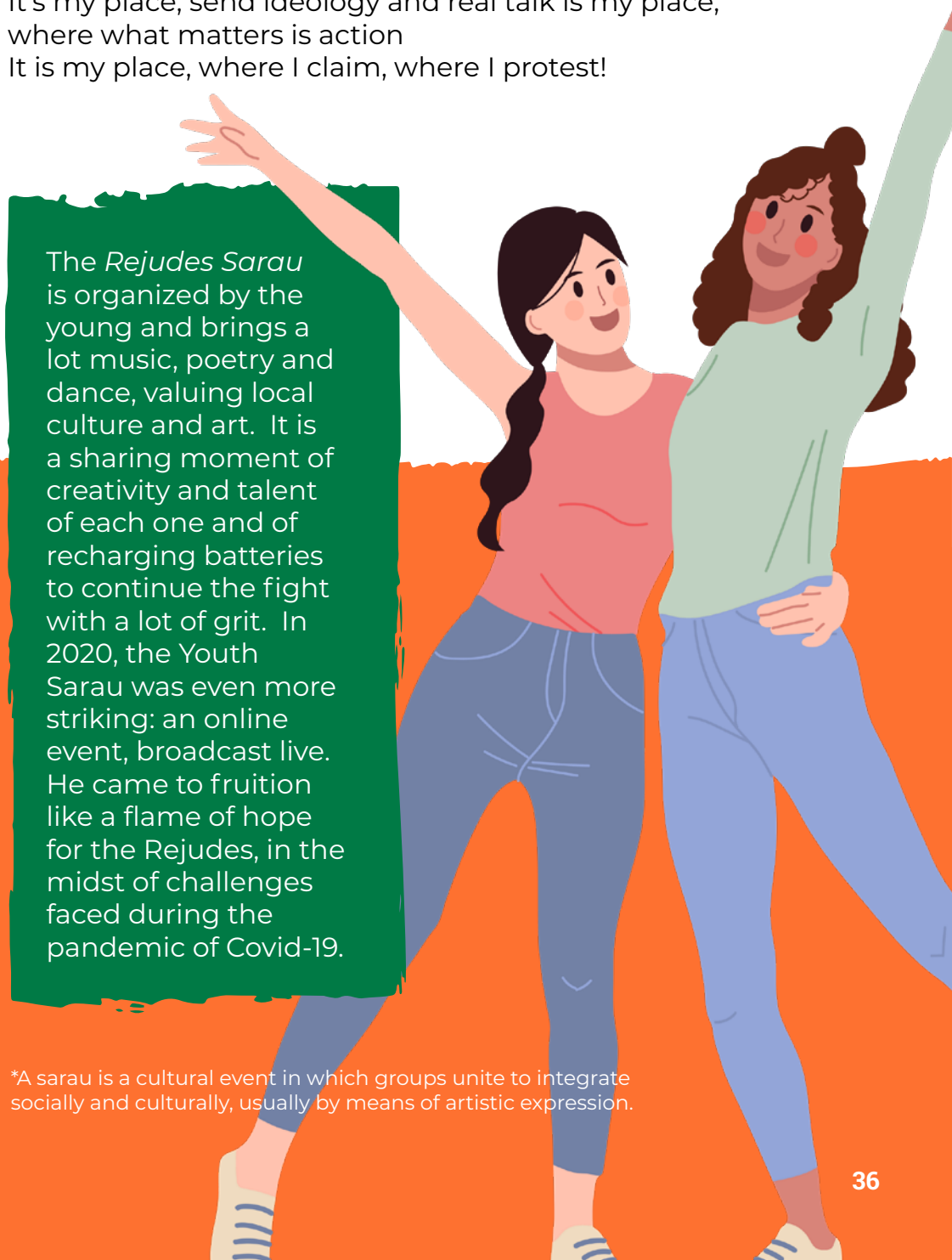
The event encouraged the valorization of enterprises focused on art and culture in the territories, enabled the identification of opportunities for new actions in this area and, mainly, was an opportunity to show that **youth can make, create and build**.

Youth Sarau* - Literary gathering

WHAT IS A SARAU?

Nelson, National Committee

Sarau is endurance
Sarau is culture
Sarau is struggle
Sarau is a peaceful civil disobedience!
At the Sarau I rhyme
At the Sarau I do poetry
At the party, art is my fate
At the Sarau, diversity breathes
It is my place of expression
It's my place, send ideology and real talk is my place,
where what matters is action
It is my place, where I claim, where I protest!



The *Rejudes Sarau* is organized by the young and brings a lot music, poetry and dance, valuing local culture and art. It is a sharing moment of creativity and talent of each one and of recharging batteries to continue the fight with a lot of grit. In 2020, the Youth Sarau was even more striking: an online event, broadcast live. He came to fruition like a flame of hope for the Rejudes, in the midst of challenges faced during the pandemic of Covid-19.

*A sarau is a cultural event in which groups unite to integrate socially and culturally, usually by means of artistic expression.

CRITICISM OF THE WORLD AND SOCIETY

Gleisiana Ramos

What is to be said of this world
Where people are treated like garbage
Society has lost the sense of danger
And there is no longer that deep feeling the world is
almost all lost
Values are being forgotten
Thieves want authority
And the cops are becoming thugs
But I wonder, why all this?
Why the right of expression
Is ending among the population?
Young people want to pursue their rights
Before they end up inside a coffin
I still believe in better days
I believe in Heroes
Hero of a single life
The one who works, battles every day
To make the world better
The youngsters have always wanted to speak
But they haven't always had a chance
Everything they wanted was out of reach but this will all
change
The struggle of youth
It's just getting started



Free Youth Conferences

Free conferences are meetings organized by any person, organization or institution interested in mobilizing others to discuss issues related to public policies. It is an important instrument of social participation for formulating joint proposals and achieving a common goal. For this reason, in August 2017, the month in which we celebrate International Youth Day, Rejudes' local committees held free conferences on the theme **Youth and Social Participation** in the municipalities where they operate, bringing together young rejudians and other local youth movements.

25 CONFERENCES PERFORMED

43 LOCAL COMMITTEES AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

36 CITIES FROM **4 BRAZILIAN STATES**

3 THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS

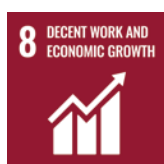
(YOUNG PEOPLE, EDUCATORS AND GOVERNMENT)

With the conference's success in 2017, the year 2018 came with a new challenge: the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals – goals to be achieved by the countries that make up the UN, as is the case of Brazil! These goals involve the whole of society, mobilizing governments, businesses, organizations and communities.

“We are the present, but we need to build our future and the 2030 Agenda will be our guide and one of the bases to seek more egalitarian and sustainable cities and communities. Also, to seek a more empowered and protagonist youth in the transformation of the harsh realities experienced in the periphery, in the countryside, in the interior and in the large metropolises. Let's plant that seed.”

**Jorge, former Representative
National Rejudes Committee**

With the theme: **Young people, it's time for SDGs**, Rejudes also held 22 pre-conferences in June and July 2018, aimed at preparing youth and the community for the conferences in August. The Working Groups of the Free Conferences had as their theme the five strategic SDGs of Rejudes:



Prepara Rejudes

No one can deny that the national meetings are landmark events in the history of Rejudes. But all the planning and mobilization involved in preparing for the participation of young people in the meetings is as important as the big date.

Prepara Rejudes* comprises a series of decentralized actions promoted by the committees, which seek to prepare, annually, the Rejudian youth for the national meeting. Prepara always happens in August, month in which we celebrate International Youth Day, and conducts its work addressing mainly the theme that will set the tone for the following National Meeting.

And what happens in Prepara? Oh, so much good stuff! There are workshops, lectures, conversation rounds, debates, dynamics and challenges, cultural presentations and, most importantly, a lot of connection between the Rejudians. It is one more opportunity to strengthen the network and share experiences and knowledge.



The regional events of Prepara are part of the unified Rejudes calendar and have the support and guidance of the National Committee in the preparation of the workshops and activities that will be offered. “It’s of utmost importance to be aligned with our actions, so that we can strengthen our work, develop awareness about the role of young people in Rejudes. Walking together, we will strengthen our goals, reducing the geographical distance that separates us, leaving our mark in the spaces of discussion, showing to the youth that together we are stronger”, says Italo, Rejudes National Committee.

*Prepara Rejudes - Rejudes put together - events to prepare the rejudian youth to the National meeting.

The Rejudes we want

Rejudes makes history. Our network is alive and it is in constant motion and enhancement. Since its creation, which it is based on a demand and commitment of the young people themselves, it has already made a difference in the lives of many Brazilians. Ivis, former Youth Representative in the Rejudes National Committee, talks about his personal experiences and professional dreams that have started in Rejudes and are coming true:

“Being part of the Rejudes Committee made me realize that my efforts could go further and allowed me to contribute in other ways. I became interested in working for the third sector, combined with the opportunity to enter higher education. I have graduated as a history teacher and today I work in one ChildFund Brasil’s partner social organizations, the PROCAJ, in Diamantina. Social transformation, in my view, tends to make worthy are the human beings who by this society itself are stigmatized. Young people from realities such as the ones I came from (from the scarcity of resources, lack of opportunities and devaluation) they only want causes that embrace them and allow them to expect different realities of the future bequeathed to them. In my life, I must say that the cause that embraced me was Rejudes, once it gave me the opportunity to understand that

the access to education, culture, leisure, policy and decision-making areas are rights. Being in these places is the beginning of my possible dreams and for sure is the gateway to guarantee everything that is mine.”

We have already achieved a lot, but we want to grow even more! We always glimpse possibilities of expansion and strengthening of our network and the pursuit of new opportunities to add to the sustainable development of Brazil's youth and around the world. Jorge, former Youth Representative from Rejudes, shares his expectations for the future of Rejudes:

“We implement and drive this network that, even so young, has achieved dreams so high and that now seeks to positively impact new people and paths in Brazil and around the world in order to develop potential realities that have not yet found their ways, but that will certainly set new and brilliant courses with this network that finds itself solid, systematized and more mature, being a reference in all the countries and communities for the young people and their families.”

Jorge's words translate well what we all want to our network: may it continue to ignite the flame of citizen participation in the hearts of young Brazilians, and may this flame shine brighter and brighter stronger and more distant, infecting the whole world's youth.

May our experience inspire you

Youth play a crucial role in the struggle for rights and in the search for a more just and equal future. As agents of transformation, we are able to amplify our voices, mobilize collectively and claim our rights, breaking down barriers and inspiring our peers and also future generations. Youth leadership not only promotes inclusion and representativeness, but also creates a path to build a more egalitarian society, in which each individual is valued and empowered to shape his/her own destiny.

Investing in the role and strength of youth as an agent of transformation for Brazil and the world it is a sure step towards a more just and sustainable future to our planet. And the good news is that Rejudes is there to show us that this is not a utopia, as we have found a path that, with dedication and work, it has high replicability potential, because it adapts easily to the many realities in which it can be inserted.

We want to inspire you to follow us on this path and so let's show you a little bit of our implementation process of Rejudes.

Who knows, maybe you will join us?



PROCESS OF REJUDES IMPLEMENTATION

STEP 1

Feasibility analysis and formalization of the partnership

At this stage, meetings are held involving representatives of ChildFund Brasil, Rejudes National Committee and other youth organizations or collectives with the aim of analyzing the feasibility of implementing Rejudes in new territories.



STEP 2

Rejudes Implementation

With the partnership agreed, the ChildFund Brasil team conducts training to present the stages and promote the immersion of the actors involved. The Rejudes National Committee works by sharing with its peers the processes and good practices, promoting moments of dialogue, sharing and proposals.

STEP 3

Young people join in Unified Network Agenda

Local, regional and national meetings, leading an integrated work agenda.

STEP 4

Young people integrate the Network governance bodies

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

With representation of young people from all Rejudes localities, it has a deliberative and validation function in ordinary and extraordinary meetings.

LOCAL COMMITTEE:

Young people gather in their municipalities, structuring interventions that meet the demands of youth.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE:

Young people elected from the local committee, which has the function of representing the youth of the territory.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

Young people elected from the regional committee by their peers and who perform the function of representing young people throughout the network, promoting dialogue with other actors, representing Rejudes in the various spaces and managing the processes at the national level.



STEP 5

Planning to intervene

Each local committee, integrated into the unified annual Agenda of the network (which is structured in assembly with the support of the National Committee), builds its planning, schedule of meetings, meetings and actions specific to its community context. The local committees, together with the governance of the partner organization, deliberate on the budget for the implementation of activities in the fiscal year. The network, to implement its actions, seeks to retain partnerships and raise funds.



Rejudes has the following structure of support, assistance, mobilization, planning, evaluation and monitoring:

In the work based on Youth, two actors are present, youth educators and network articulators. These professionals are subsidized by ChildFund Brasil's local partners in the municipalities where they work.

The attribution of the partner organizations is to ensure the functioning of the network with structure, installation of environments and all necessary conditions for young people to participate.

The areas of Programs and Advocacy of ChildFund Brasil contribute to the mobilization of partners and strategic directions that strengthen the incidence of the network.

Contact ChildFund Brasil and Rejudes for more information.

Forward, youth!





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 [@REJUDESCOMUNICA](https://www.youtube.com/@REJUDESCOMUNICA)

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