FUTURE CITIES CHALLENGE:
AN IDEA FOR VILA MISSIONARIA
THIS STORY IS BASED ON AN IDEA THAT I HAD ONE YEAR AGO. THE FUTURE CITIES CHALLENGE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS IDEA REAL, WITH FURTHER STUDIES.
Last year I did volunteer work at a favela called Vila Missionaria in São Paulo.

The problems that emerged while doing activities involving maps with local teenagers made me realize some things.

Public spaces that were abandoned because they weren't safe enough.

Kids that had to play in the streets because the sports field needed to be reformed.

A school that was closed because the water from the river would leak inside.

I couldn't understand how the local government didn't know about all of these issues.

It was then that I realized that their methodology was not efficient.
There are two main reasons for the difficulty behind studying the favelas in a traditional way. The first one is that the streets in the favelas usually don't follow a predetermined path. Some places are not even found on a GPS, that makes it very hard to get around as an outsider.

The second one is that in some favelas you cannot enter without being accompanied by a local due to the favela's social structure, that includes rivalry between gangs and detachment from the outside world.

My biggest question was: which methods could we use to study this peculiar place in a more efficient way?
Internet can be a very important tool to study these neighborhoods meanwhile giving a voice to the people.

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My idea is to create a software for collecting data.

It can be accessed from an electronic device through a website.

It will ask you a few questions about your neighborhood, divided in 6 categories:

- Primary services, secondary services, security, health and sustainability

After the data is gathered, your neighborhood will receive a final score based on 6 subscores.

This will make it very easy to visualize results, specifically on the areas that are lacking.

All of the data collected in a specific neighborhood will be stored for future comparison.

The fact that all of the information will be organized in the same place will make it easier for researchers, urban planners and the government to study it.

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Everyone should be able to have a say on the organization of their own neighborhood. Failing to do so is in fact one of the reason why realities can be so diverse inside the same city.

Internet is a way for people to be heard and a window on the whole world.

The future city will be a place where technology is used to make urban solutions smarter and to make the whole city available for everyone.
THANK YOU!