

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:

# Resilience Challenge Incubator

## Model: Enabling Innovation

The Operations and Resilience Center of Rio (COR) created the COR Challenge, an incubation programme for start-ups working on **climate action planning and urban resilience**. By its third edition, it had supported nine start-ups to build solutions used by the city.

### THE CHALLENGE

In 2010, city-wide flooding showed the need for a centralised operations centre for city agencies to **coordinate disaster response**. Soon thereafter the Mayor established COR. By 2018, the team realised the need to leverage external innovations.

### HOW IT WORKS

For each COR Challenge, the city government identifies a climate-related problem and invites start-ups to propose solutions. COR incubates the winner for two years, offers **mentoring, and provides full access to city data** needed to build the solution.

This endorsement gives legitimacy to the start-ups and helps them to **reach new partners and markets**. In return, COR integrates the solution into their work.

Solutions include an application measuring carbon emissions of the city's bus fleet, and artificial intelligence monitoring cloud direction and possible flooding.

COR partners also include international actors like NASA, Waze, and C4O, thus **connecting local and international innovations and companies**.



### LESSONS

Successful incubation entails finding the right type of expertise to **ensure robust mentoring, facilitating open data to improve solutions, and having clarity** on the problem the start-ups are expected to solve.

Moreover, implementing solutions incubated within COR makes the programme more impactful. This process is substantially aided by housing the COR Challenge within the centre itself in close proximity to where the work is being done.