The Brazil Initiative has graciously provided their support for the Capstone 2018 for 4 M.A. Candidates of International Development Studies (IDS) at the Elliott School of International Affairs. Students, in their capstone program, focus a portion of their course-work on a specific aspect of international development, which they wish to pursue in their careers. The IDS program culminates in a capstone project where student groups, seek out a real-world consulting experience. Each team is responsible for finding a partner organization and fulfill field-based assignments. Access Sao Paulo has partnered with candidates Aida, Connor, Blake, and Shannon to develop the Community Mapping and Vulnerabilities Pre-Assessment to help assess needs and plan future programming for the organization and the children they serve in São Paulo, Brazil.

Access Sao Paulo:
Access São Paulo (Access) is an emerging community-based organization focused on violence mitigation and education in the economically challenged neighborhood of Capão Redondo, São Paulo, Brazil. Access’s goal is to provide wider support to the most vulnerable communities and help them find what their life aspirations are and facilitate the process of achievement, in hopes of decreasing violence and crime rates within these communities. The founder of Access São Paulo, Andrea Conrado de Souza, is also an alumnus of the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs.

The Project:
The Community Mapping and Vulnerabilities Pre-Assessment will focus on children in Capão Redondo, São Paulo, Brazil and their risks within the neighborhood surrounding violence, abuse, and drugs. The goal of the pre-assessment is to help Access São Paulo and to better understand the contextual situation in Capão Redondo, to provide culturally competent resources for children in the neighborhood. The intended outcome of the research is to contribute to programs that improve the lives of the children of Capão Redondo through reduced exposure to violence, and greater access to opportunities. Through the support of the Brazil Initiative the capstone team will be able to visit Capão Redondo and engage with the local Brazilian community to provide accurate insights in their research.

The Capstone Team:
AIDA WOLDU is pursuing an M.A. in International Development Studies at The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, where she is concentrating on women’s economic development.
BLAKE ADAMS is pursuing an M.A. in International Development Studies at The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, where he is concentrating on urban planning and public policy.
CONNOR DUNWOODY is pursuing an M.A. in International Development Studies at The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, where he is concentrating on urban development.

SHANNON BALL is a M.A. candidate in International Development Studies at The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, where she is concentrating in international development management and community based development.