

INITIATIVE ON URBAN GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN BOGOTÁ

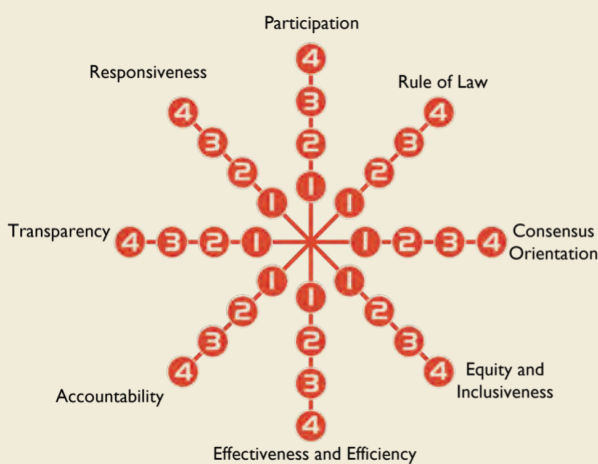


Figure 1. United Nations Development Programme key principles of good governance. Graphic designed by the World Health Organization, Urban Leadership program, based on: United Nations Development Programme. Governance for sustainable human development: a UNDP policy document. New York: UNDP, 1997.

Introduction

The aim of this brief is to share progress achieved in Bogotá in the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Initiative on Urban Governance for Health and Well-being (UGHW). It presents the context and principles of the global initiative, achievements in Bogotá, and next steps. The target audience of this brief comprises city officials, national governments, and donors.

Background

Urban governance for health and well-being refers to focused processes of interaction and subsequent decision-making to generate collective solutions to enhance health and well-being through co-creation practices, social change, and institutional engagement as part of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Health is an integral part of **well-being** and **economic** and **social development**. In fact, significant advances in healthy life expectancy in the last century were largely achieved through improvements in social, environmental, and economic conditions.

Urban governance structures offer unique opportunities for social innovation because they:

- Have proximity to and practical knowledge of the needs of the people who are born, live, grow, work, and age in cities;
- Can facilitate interventions through policies from various sectors to improve the health of the entire population with equity and effectiveness;
- Can facilitate community participation in a more effective, fluid manner.

Therefore, it is important to strengthen urban governance for the development of **intersectoral and participatory** policies aimed at promoting health, well-being, and equity.

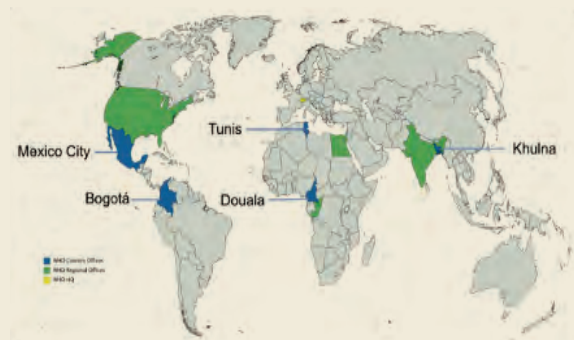


Figure 2. Cities implementing the Initiative on Urban Governance for Health and Well-being. Graphic designed by the World Health Organization, Urban Leadership program. Source: World Health Organization. WHO initiative on urban governance for health and well-being. Geneva: WHO; 2024. Available from: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/urban-governance-for-health-and-well-being>.

What is the Initiative on Urban Governance for Health and Well-being?

The UGHW initiative, promoted by WHO and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, seeks to support local-level actions to promote **good urban governance for health and well-being** with a special emphasis on community participation. Based on the United Nations Development Programme principles of good governance (see Figure 1), the **goal** of the initiative is to improve the health status and well-being of the population in cities through participatory and intersectoral urban governance by 2028. It is organized into two phases (2020–2024 and 2025–2028) and implemented in five cities globally (see Figure 2).



The city of Bogotá, with a population of 8 million, is organized into the Capital District, led by a mayor, and is further divided into 20 localities (see Figure 3), each with its own local mayor.

BOGOTÁ



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First phase: 2020–2024

Following the commitment of the Mayor of Bogotá (see Figure 5), the project was embedded in the actions of the District Intersectoral Health Committee of Bogotá, in which all sectors at the city level participate. As a result, in the first phase of the project, work was carried out both at the district level and in Kennedy and Bosa. A summary of the results is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 3. Bogotá localities

- WHO Global City Halls
- Bogotá–Mexico City Urban Lead Exchanges, 2022 and 2023
- Capacity Development Workshop on Making Cities Resilient and Better Preparing for the Future (UNDRR, UNOSSC), 2021
- Regional Meetings of Mayors on Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities, 2022 and 2023
- Global Mayors Dialogue, 2021 and 2022
- International Conference on Urban Health, 2021 and 2022
- Denver Cities Summit, 2023
- Regional Wellness Week Launch, 2023
- International Meeting on Intersectoral Action, 2023
- Regional Meeting on Intersectoral Action, 2023

Successful models of urban governance

Cities knowledge exchange platform



Research and evidence

- District Intersectoral Health Committee of Bogotá
- Operational Committee on Women and Gender Equity of Bosa
- Local Disability Council of Kennedy
- Local Health Council of Kennedy

- Case studies on intersectoral mechanisms
- Intersectoral and participatory mechanisms mapping
- Legislation review on local health competencies
- Tool for prioritization with equity focus
- Mapping of intersectorality and health information sources in Bogotá
- Mapping of actors in governance in Bogotá

- 2 Urban Lead cohort trainings with over 30 sessions and over 80 participants from 12 civil society organizations and 5 government institutions
- 2 social determinants of health and equity monitoring workshops in Chile and Colombia
- Capacity-Building Assessment of Urban Health Capacities in Bogotá
- 1 Inclusive Cities Leadership training – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 1 course “Health equity in chaotic times: old realities, new challenges” – University College London – WHO – University of Lausanne, 2022
- 1 inequalities evaluation online training, 2021

Figure 4. Adapted WHO logical framework for the Initiative on Urban Governance for Health and Well-being in Bogotá

Stakeholders in Bogotá

- Mayor’s Office of Bogotá
- Local Mayor’s Office of Kennedy
- Local Mayor’s Office of Bosa
- District Health Secretariat
- District Intersectoral Health Committee of Bogotá
- Local Disability Council of Kennedy
- Local Government Council of the Mayor’s Office of Kennedy
- Operational Committee on Women and Gender Equity of Bosa
- Women’s Secretariat
- Southwest Integrated Health Services Subnetwork
- Social and Community Organizations of Bosa and Kennedy
- National University of Colombia
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Expanding to 20 localities in Bogotá

- The lessons learned in Bogotá have expanded to the regional level through the Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities Movement (HMCC).
- On 11 September 2023, the Mayor of Bogotá and the local mayors expressed their commitment to the regional HMCC after the launch event of the Well-being Week jointly organized by the Mayor’s Office and PAHO.
- Three experiences submitted by the City of Bogotá to the HMCC regional call were recognized as significant experiences.
- The project cities are functioning as laboratories for the Regional Criteria of the HMCC, both in their development and implementation.
- The Regional Criteria of the HMCC have a strong governance component in both their pillars and the areas of policy action and recommended actions.
- The 2023 Regional Meeting of Mayors was organized under the theme “Local Governance for Health and Well-being.”



Figure 5. Letter of commitment to the Initiative from the Mayor's Office, October 2020

Success story

The locality of Kennedy was selected as a priority locality for the implementation of activities. The selection of Kennedy was made following a thorough prioritization process based on equity criteria and the District's care policy. This local government supports the focus of the UGHW initiative in the locality, and the topic of disability was chosen, considering that Kennedy has the highest number of people with disabilities in the city. A process of strengthening urban health leadership was carried out for community and institutional participants of the Local Disability Council.

- From this participatory process and others conducted by the local government, the need to build an Interactive Wellness Center for People with Disabilities (CIBILK) emerged.
- PAHO/WHO supported the project with a pre-evaluation, providing recommendations, including the need for a participatory characterization of people with disabilities and their needs.
- The local government launched the project and invited the District University to handle the operational aspect of CIBILK.
- A participatory characterization process was carried out with community facilitators and people with disabilities. PAHO/WHO conducted a technical strengthening process for facilitators and contributed to the construction of tools and analysis of information from the characterization.



Former Mayor of Bogotá and local mayors signing the commitment to join the regional movement of HMCC. © PAHO

Main achievements

- Commitment at the highest level to governance for health and well-being has been secured.
- The functioning and governance mechanisms in Bogotá and Mexico City have been made visible and strengthened.
- Health and well-being, viewed through the lens of equity, intersectoral action, and community participation, have been positioned at the center of the political agenda.
- Progress has been made in transitioning from a traditional health model to one based on the social determinants of health.
- Mechanisms of participation and intersectorality, along with their coordination, have been analyzed, systematized, and strengthened.
- Social participation in the policy cycle has been strengthened.



In Kennedy, an activity to strengthen community participation. © PAHO

Second phase: 2025–2028

- There will be a focus on continuing to strengthen equity, intersectorality, and community participation in municipal management, incorporating other components of good governance.
- The UGHW initiative will be expanded to cover all 16 boroughs in Mexico City and 20 localities in Bogotá.
- Efforts will continue to advance in shifting the paradigm toward health promotion and social determinants of health in the Americas.
- Contribution to strengthening the HMCC in the Americas will continue through the application of the Regional Criteria of the HMCC.

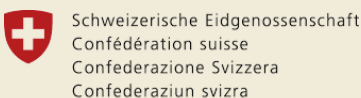


Denver Cities Summit, 2023. © PAHO

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With financial support from:



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

PAHO/DHE/PS/23-0002

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