

My City, My Home

Region	Latin America and the Caribbean
Award Scheme	Others
Themes	Climate Change Environmental Resilience Housing Planning & Design Resilience & Risk Reduction Slum Upgrading Others
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Summary

Bogotá’s “My City, My Home” initiative represents a comprehensive approach to sustainable urban development, combining inclusive housing, green infrastructure and climate action. The city’s strategy integrates social equity, environmental stewardship and innovative governance to address rapid urbanization challenges. Through the “My House in Bogotá” and “My Savings, My Home” programmes, more than 250,000 households are targeted for housing improvements by 2030, with flexible subsidies and financing tools that prioritize women and low-income families. These initiatives stimulate economic activity while enhancing community cohesion and resilience. Complementary projects, such as the San Cristóbal cable car and the “Magical Territories” community programme, promote mobility, social inclusion and neighbourhood revitalization. At the same time, Bogotá’s Climate Action Policy and ecological conservation efforts—particularly in the Eastern Mountain Range and the Vander Hammen Forest—demonstrate its commitment to low-carbon, nature-based urban growth. By combining participatory planning, PPP financing, and integrated risk management, Bogotá has established a resilient, people-centred development model that aligns with global sustainability agendas.

Background and Objective

As Colombia’s capital and largest metropolis, Bogotá drives national innovation but faces severe social inequality, informal employment, and climate risk. With over 250,000 households in need of housing improvement and significant vulnerability to environmental hazards, the city’s goal is to ensure equitable access to safe, sustainable living conditions. Anchored in the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, Bogotá’s objectives are to achieve inclusive growth, reduce emissions by 50 per cent by 2025, strengthen urban resilience, and promote neighbourhood revitalization that empowers communities and safeguards ecological systems.

Actions and Implementation

Bogotá's actions span housing, finance, mobility, and climate adaptation. The “My House in Bogotá” programme delivers 75,000 social housing units, integrating infrastructure and services, while “My Savings, My Home” offers flexible subsidies and rental support for low-income and female-headed households. The San Cristóbal cable car and expanded electric transit improve access to jobs and services, reducing emissions. The “Magical Territories” initiative engages residents in neighbourhood beautification, fostering community ownership. Concurrently, ecological restoration in the Eastern Mountain Range and the Vander Hammen Forest enhances biodiversity and climate resilience through citizen participation.

Outcomes and Impacts

Bogotá's integrated housing and revitalization programmes have improved living standards for thousands, created jobs, and fostered gender equity. Social housing and financial support mechanisms have empowered vulnerable groups, with nearly 70 per cent of subsidies benefiting women. Environmentally, Bogotá's electrified public transport and biogas recovery systems have reduced emissions and improved air quality. The Climate Action Policy and reforestation projects enhance ecosystem connectivity and disaster preparedness. Collectively, these efforts have strengthened community cohesion, improved mobility, and promoted a balanced, low-carbon model of growth that aligns with the 2030 Agenda.

Sustainability and Scalability

Bogotá ensures sustainability through strong governance, community participation, and diversified financing. The Revitalize Your Neighbourhood strategy and Comprehensive Territorial Plan institutionalize inclusive planning and cross-departmental coordination. PPPs and land value capture mechanisms ensure ongoing investment in green infrastructure and housing. Continuous monitoring through the Urban Revitalization Index and community oversight guarantees accountability and long-term impact. Bogotá's integration of social housing, risk management, and sustainable mobility creates a transferable model for other Latin American cities. Its success demonstrates how inclusive, data-driven, and environmentally conscious governance can build lasting urban resilience.

Gender and Social Inclusivity

Bogotá's programmes place gender equity and inclusion at their core. “My Savings, My Home” prioritizes female-headed and low-income households, while training and financial literacy initiatives enhance women's independence. Community engagement platforms give residents—especially youth and marginalized groups—a voice in urban decision-making. Participatory planning in revitalized neighbourhoods ensures equitable access to green spaces, services, and employment. By formalizing informal settlements and securing property rights, the city promotes dignity and long-term stability.

Bogotá's gender-responsive approach integrates safety, accessibility, and empowerment, advancing social inclusion as a cornerstone of sustainable urban development.

Innovative Initiative

Bogotá's innovative model integrates digital tools, green infrastructure, and participatory governance. The Land Use Plan introduces data-driven territorial management, balancing ecological preservation with urban expansion. The "sponge city" concept supports sustainable drainage and energy-efficient building practices. By combining PPPs, fiscal innovation, and citizen participation, the city has institutionalized co-management and transparent financing cycles. The San Cristóbal cable car exemplifies mobility innovation, linking underserved communities through sustainable design. Bogotá's Urban Revitalization Index and Human Settlements Toolkit enable evidence-based planning and prioritization, setting a new benchmark for smart, inclusive, and climate-adaptive urban development.

Resources devoted to delivery

Bogotá's initiatives are backed by coordinated municipal investment, public-private partnerships, and international collaboration. Between 2024 and 2027, housing programmes alone mobilize over COP 1 trillion annually, generating significant GDP growth and employment. PPPs finance transit infrastructure such as metro lines and cable cars, while the Climate Action Policy draws on national and global climate funds. The Urban Development Plan ensures efficient allocation across housing, mobility, and green spaces. Technical expertise from public agencies, academia, and local communities strengthens implementation. This diversified resource structure supports financial sustainability and ensures that investments yield inclusive and measurable outcomes.

Conclusion

Bogotá's "My City, My Home" represents a transformative urban model grounded in inclusion, environmental sustainability, and innovation. By integrating housing, mobility, climate adaptation, and citizen participation, the city addresses social inequality and ecological vulnerability simultaneously. Its participatory frameworks and green infrastructure initiatives have enhanced well-being while reducing carbon emissions. Through balanced governance and adaptive planning, Bogotá demonstrates how cities can advance the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in a coherent, people-centred manner. The initiative's replicable approach offers valuable lessons for other cities seeking to achieve resilience, equity, and sustainability in a rapidly urbanizing world.