Colombian network of Cómo Vamos cities

Monitoring quality of life for equitable and sustainable cities

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Who we are?
Motivation for emergence of “Como Vamos” Programs:

- Campaign promises unfulfilled by public officers
- Little accountability
- Little interest in public affairs
- Low participation and citizen control
- Low access to public information or access to low quality information
- Development Plans without clear goals
- Context of cities with institutional difficulties. Ex. Cartagena had 5 mayors in 10 years (1996-2005)

National Constitution 1991:

- Programmatic vote (based on proposals of candidates running for Mayor, Governor or President)
- Accountability (government provides information about its actions, transparency)
- Citizen participation

A little of history....

1998 Bogota Como Vamos arises

2005 Expansion of the model
- 10 colombian cities took the model
- The Colombian Network of “Como Vamos Cities” was created
- It also served as reference to programs in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico and others.
- Colombian programs are now part of the Latin-American Network of Democratic, Just and Sustainable Cities, with 60 members.
Our main purposes

Foster accountability and effectiveness in cities’ governments

Promote an active and responsible citizenship

Build alliances around the cities collective affairs
RED DE CIUDADES cómo vamos

- 11 programas en 14 ciudades
- 62 instituciones
- 12 cámaras de comercio y gremios
- 17 universidades
- 10 medios de comunicación
- 8 fundaciones
- 6 fondos de equitación
- 9 otras empresas

Alianza Empresarial de Yumbo
Como Vamos Cities in Colombia

- 69% of GDP
- 80% of Public Transport
- 42% of employed population
- 44% of unemployed population
- 36% of population
- 37% of homes
- 41% of housing deficit
- 91% of income tax
Methodology for Monitoring Quality of Life
1. Education
2. Health
3. Life and public safety
4. Employment
5. Public services and housing
6. Public space and urban infrastructure
7. Mobility
8. Environment and sustainability
9. Culture, sports and recreation
10. Civic culture
11. Citizen participation
12. Citizen responsibility
13. Public management
14. Public finances
15. Macroeconomic environment
16. Business dynamics
Evaluation

I. Objective indicators
- 16 sectors
- 160 indicators
- Source is government
- Revision, expert analysis and alerts/recommendations

II. Citizen perception indicators
- 16 sectors including Citizen Priorities
- Source is Como Vamos Annual Citizen Perception Survey
- 120 questions
- 12,000 surveys in 14 cities

- Comparison, debate, knowledge creation, contrast of technical and perception indicators
Communication

- **Audience**
  - Citizenship, NGO, government, political actors, guilds, private sector, opinion leaders, multilateral organizations, media and others.

- **Media**
  - Press, radio, TV, websites, documents, social networks (FB, Twitter)

- **Other mechanisms**
  - Workshops, Forums, Debates

Well informed citizens, knowledge transfer, stimulate citizen participation
What we do. Accomplishments.
More than 12,000 surveys in 14 cities in Colombia. This is the most complete report to understand how citizens see his life quality.

We compare the objectives and perception indicators.

We analyze the quality of life in 14 cities, in more than 14 subjects.

We generate discussion forums around critical subjects to our cities.
www.redcomovamos.org
Accomplishments. Foster government transparency and accountability

**Cartagena:** Information provided by the government increased from 41 indicators evaluated in 2005 to over 120 in 2012. Candidates for public office have used CV information to define their government programs and target their campaigns.

**Medellin:** Active participation in defining the Development Plan through a technical report handed to the Territorial Planning Council.

**Bogota:** Luis Eduardo Garzón (2004-2007) in his campaign for mayor’s office of Bogota said the BCV diagnosis would be its main flag (poverty reduction).

**Cali:** 4 indicators from the perception survey were included as goals in the city development plan.
Accomplishments. Foster government transparency and accountability

**Manizales:** According to the recommendations of CV, the local health authority made a commitment in improving the information of early childhood.

**Bucaramanga:** 3 out of 4 candidates who included an analysis of the city in their Government Programs, mentioned BMCV as a source of information.

The comparative analysis in the Colombian Network has generated a strong interest and a healthy competition between cities to find out which one provides the best quality of life.
Accomplishments. Promote citizen participation in the construction of the cities

Pereira: Art as a tool for citizen transformation.

Ibagué: Promoting the interest of the youth in public issues.

Medellín: Workshops with local leaders.

Valledupar: Strengthening participation in the Kankuama indigenous community.
Accomplishments. Promote citizen participation in the construction of the cities

- **Bogotá**: Open data. API and hackathon.

- **Barranquilla**: 339 social leaders formed in public policies.

- **Cartagena**: Promote participation in the Urban Territorial Plan and the Development Plan.

- **Manizales**: Citizen participation from the school.

- **Cali**: Foster in the community the follow up process of the city Development Plan.

  “I vote, I count”. Campaign during Mayor, Council and parliament Elections.
Learned lessons

- Long-term vision
- Private nature
- Independence and autonomy from the government and its partners
- Quality and diversity of partners
- Provide spaces for reflection and participation
- Strategic discussions that make strength institutional and technical objective information
- Gain knowledge and legitimacy from governments and citizens
- Investment budget for day to day activities with contributions from partners.
We believe in the importance of a solid governance in our cities.

We have witnessed the power of citizen participation in the construction of our cities.

We’re sure that quality of life can be improved with an active citizenship and a responsible and social control.

Thank you