Ciclovía de Bogotá is a government-led project that closes 75 miles of roadways in Colombia to motorized vehicles every Sunday and holiday, adding up to over 70 closures a year, providing recreational space for cyclists, skaters, runners, and walkers.1 Launched by young activists in 1974, Bogota’s Recreational Bikeway (Ciclovía) was further developed by the Colombian government to encourage physical activity and improve air quality.

Citizens also benefit from the opportunities offered by complementing services, such as bicycle rental and repair stations, food vendors, veterinary booths, and product vendors. Other activities such as free yoga, aerobics, and dance classes are part of the related event, Recrovía. Today, average participation in each Ciclovía is approximately 1,500,000 people, or 20% of Bogotá’s population.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Funding comes from taxes on phone bills, cigarettes, and alcohol. To stretch funds, the program has a large volunteer team, including hundreds of students, managing route closures.

Originally, Bogotá’s Ciclovía was coordinated by the District Transport Secretariat. Its management was passed to the District Institute of Recreation and Sport (IDRD) in 1995, as the initiative was not getting the support, funds, and attention that matched its potential.

References and photo credits available in full report: Multisolving at the Intersection of Health and Climate: Lessons from Success Stories
LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

IDRD is currently the owner and leader of Ciclovía and was formerly the design and implementing entity. Strategic partners such as the Mobility Secretariat, Health Secretariat, Education Secretariat, Government Secretariat, Metropolitan Police, municipal governments, and Transit Police have key roles in the initiative.

BENEFITS

REDUCED GHGs

Reduces carbon dioxide emissions by more than 16% every weekend.

FEWER MEDICAL VISITS

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

WELL-BEING

LESS NOISE

CLEANER AIR

LONGER LIVES

REPLICATION

Bogotá’s cycling path has been replicated in México, Brazil, Perú, Chile, and elsewhere in Latin America through Recreational Cycling Routes of the Americas. The model is being adopted outside of Latin America, inspiring initiatives such as the Superblocks of Spain, the Journée Sans Voiture in Paris, Open Streets in Philadelphia, CicLAvia in Los Angeles, 32 miles of car-free Sunday Bikedays in Ottawa, and events in Bangalore, India, and Cape Town, South Africa. As of January 2017, 122 US cities had hosted Open Streets events.

OTHER BENEFITS

JOBS & ASSETS

HEALTH, WELL-BEING, & SAFETY

ENERGY & MOBILITY

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climateinteractive.org/hci
Multisolving at the Intersection of Health and Climate References

Ciclovía


