

Winner Non-Technical Solutions



Country: Colombia

Organization: ENDA COLOMBIA

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Women waste pickers and community organisations of Bogota building a sustainable and inclusive city



Description of the project: Started in 2012, this initiative shows the way for a sustainable, gender-responsive city, by formalizing the activities of 26 women waste pickers as recyclers in the suburbs of Bogota. ENDA involved 9 community organisations -3,520 citizens- to elaborate a holistic urban concept, including participatory territorial planning, urban gardening, cultural activities and the creation of 'Bankomunal' - a community savings and credit initiative for women lacking access to formal banking. Training in environmental management, gender inequalities and masculinities, local public policies and citizen's initiatives, allow beneficiaries to exercise their rights to protect their environment and cultural heritage, contributing to the Peace Process in Colombia.

Climate impact: 30 tons of paper and 12 tons of plastic are recycled annually, saving 120,000 kwh of electricity, avoiding the deforestation of 600 trees and the accumulation of 4,000 kilos of garbage in the landfill. Paper and plastic are reused in the production of handicrafts for economic empowerment. 9 communities worked together to build productive organic terraces, established as training centers for composting, seed banks, waste management and urban agriculture, leading to significant climate mitigation results.

Gender impact: Women recyclers have become environmental agents and providers of a public service with equal pay. They are recognized in their role as leaders for the transformation of urban practices having social, cultural and climate benefits. Participation empowers women and youth, as they are elected in the Community Action Board and in inter-institutional working groups. They contribute to citizen's monitored municipal budgeting and the implementation of public policies.

Scalability / replicability: The project indirectly benefits 9,000 citizens and will be scaled up through partnerships with women and organisations from other suburbs. The urban gardening terraces are being multiplied via trainings with the aim of creating a local market. Establishing citizen's monitoring of public policies has led to the nomination of a female community leader in the district council. This is key to reducing violence against women.

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