

Social Progress Index for Cities of Colombia

Building Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and
Sustainable Cities by the Year 2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By #Progreso Social Colombia

With A Foreword By Professor Michael E. Porter



**SOCIAL
PROGRESS
IMPERATIVE**

www.socialprogressimperative.org

If a city is not meeting the basic needs of its citizens, putting in place the circumstances that will allow them to improve the quality of their lives, and providing opportunity for residents to achieve his or her full potential, it's not succeeding as a city, even if it is succeeding economically. It is increasingly clear that inclusive growth requires that economic success and social progress go hand in hand.

This report by #Progreso Social Colombia applies the powerful methodology of the Social Progress Index to ten cities in Colombia. It allows leaders and citizens to identify their cities' strengths and their weaknesses, and set strategies to drive inclusive and sustainable development. This report is an important milestone for Colombia, just as the global community signs a new United Nations pact for development promoted to build a better world by 2030.

This is the first ever city-level Social Progress Index that complements the global Index covering more than 130 countries. With more than half the world's population already living in cities, and this ratio set to increase to two-thirds by mid-century, the tools to rigorously benchmark not just the economic but social performance of cities are critically important. City leaders and residents need to measure city-level social progress to complement the economic performance measurement that has been the major focus in the past. #Progreso Social Colombia has proven that can be done.

The Colombia cities Index benchmarks the 10 cities across multiple dimensions relative to its peers. This allows setting clear priorities as well as seeing where investments in social performance have paid off. Each Colombian city now has tools to see at a granular level how each city is doing.

The Index also includes the first ever time series data for a Social Progress Index. Beyond just snapshots of social performance, we are now able to examine relationships between economic and social development over time, in this case over six years.

In Colombia, Manizales, best known for its coffee and its schools, has registered higher levels of social progress than the capital Bogotá, even though the average income in Bogotá is 1.3 times higher. Manizales' improving social progress is highly correlated with increasing income, decreasing inequality and decreasing poverty. Just as we find in comparing countries, this report shows that economic growth alone is an incomplete measure of success and that the Social Progress Index is a powerful measure of whether growth will be inclusive.

This effort to understand social performance in cities in Colombia is a crucial step in providing the critical data to help us understand whether the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11, to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable," is being met. This innovative effort will allow cities to track their progress through 2030 and ensure that they contribute to meeting the Global Goal of better cities.

The ten Colombian cities covered together are home to 17 million residents, and are transitioning from "lower middle" to "upper middle" social progress levels. If city managers invest in social progress over the next 15 years, Colombian cities will be among those successful cities that succeeded in securing better lives for their citizens. That's the fundamental goal behind the Social Progress Index efforts now spreading widely around the world.

I have witnessed the incredible changes in Colombia over the decades I have been an advisor to leaders in business and government. I have seen firsthand how Colombia excels at innovation. Medellín, for example, was named “most innovative city” by The Wall Street Journal, beating out competitors including New York City. Cities in Colombia have a rich tradition of collecting data on human wellbeing, and it is fitting that Colombia is the first place to apply the Social Progress Index to cities.

I commend Colombia on this pioneering effort, and encourage other cities in Latin America and beyond to follow.

Professor Michael E. Porter

Chairman of the Advisory Board, Social Progress Imperative

September 4, 2015

CITIES: THE CHALLENGE OF THE XXI CENTURY

The population, economic and social dynamics over the past 80 years have consolidated cities as primary scenarios of human interaction. More than half of the world’s population currently lives in urban areas. As a matter of fact, more than 3.5 billion people live in 2% of the world’s territory, and it is expected that by the year 2050, 7 out of every 10 people on earth will live in a city. This ongoing and unstoppable process of urbanization has not only resulted in the concentration of people, but also in the concentration of production and revenues. As a whole, cities consume approximately 75% of the world’s resources and raw materials (Urbe & Orbe & IDB, 2015). Cities are fundamental action spaces to eradicate poverty, increase wellbeing and transform lives without destroying the planet.

As part of the launching of the Sustainable Development Goals promoted by the United Nations, the Social Progress Network of Colombia presented the Social Progress Index for Cities as a practical and flexible tool to monitor a city’s progress in the challenge of creating inclusive, safe and resilient urban spaces by 2030. This effort is sponsored by Cómo Vamos Cities Network, Compartamos con Colombia, Deloitte, Fundación Avina, Fundación Corona, Llorente & Cuenca, the Social Progress Imperative, and the Universidad de los Andes. It is open to all public and private institutions that share the imperative to coordinate efforts to build better cities for all Colombians.

WHAT IS THE SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX?

The Social Progress Index (SPI) is the first comprehensive model for measuring social progress that is independent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other economic variables, while complementary to them. The Social Progress Index is based on the premise that a society that cannot satisfy the basic

Figure 1 / Social Progress Index Framework



Source: Social Progress Imperative (2015).

human needs of its population, provide the conditions necessary to improve the quality of life, protect the environment, and provide opportunities for the majority of its citizens, is not a successful society, regardless of its economic achievements. (Porter, Stern, & Green, 2015).

Economic growth that is more focused on the inclusive and sustainable conditions of individuals is emerging as the goal to achieve by societies which are more concerned about the wellness of its citizens (Commission on Growth and Development, 2008). Along this line, the SPI, published annually by the Social Progress Imperative for 133 countries (Porter, Stern, & Green, 2015), proposes a holistic measurement model that is currently used by leaders in government, business and civil society to accelerate progress towards societies with higher levels of human wellbeing.

As shown in Figure 1, the SPI model takes three dimensions into consideration: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity. Each dimension is made up of four components to allow a granular and multifaceted view of wellbeing. In selecting indicators, the SPI is governed by four basic principles: only social and environmental indicators; indicators that measure outcomes and not efforts; indicators relevant to the context; and indicators that target public policy or social interventions. These four design principles result in a measuring tool that provides a way to understand the wellbeing of societies in the XXI century, while generating a practical agenda of priorities to promote social progress.

WHY A SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX FOR CITIES?

The first Social Progress Index for Cities was launched in Colombia in September of 2015, the product of the combined efforts of institutions and organizations concerned with measuring and improving the quality of life of Colombians. Building on the deliberations of the Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum, which brought together over 22,000 participants from 142 countries in Medellín in April of 2014, the Social Progress Network of Colombia (“#Progreso Social Colombia”) was established to provide the cities of Colombia, and the world, with a robust measuring framework to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development by 2030.

There has not been an adequate way to track a city’s progress in wellbeing, over time, in Colombia. While there is a Monetary Poverty indicator for all departmental capitals and their metropolitan areas, there are no direct indicators of living conditions that are updated annually. The Multidimensional Poverty Index, which was adopted by Colombia as an official measurement in 2007, is not published at a regional level, nor can it provide data at a city level with the statistical quality standards required by official government authorities. Also, considering the level of development in Colombia and that poverty seems to be on a continuous path of improvement, the country must contemplate much more comprehensive wellbeing measurements.

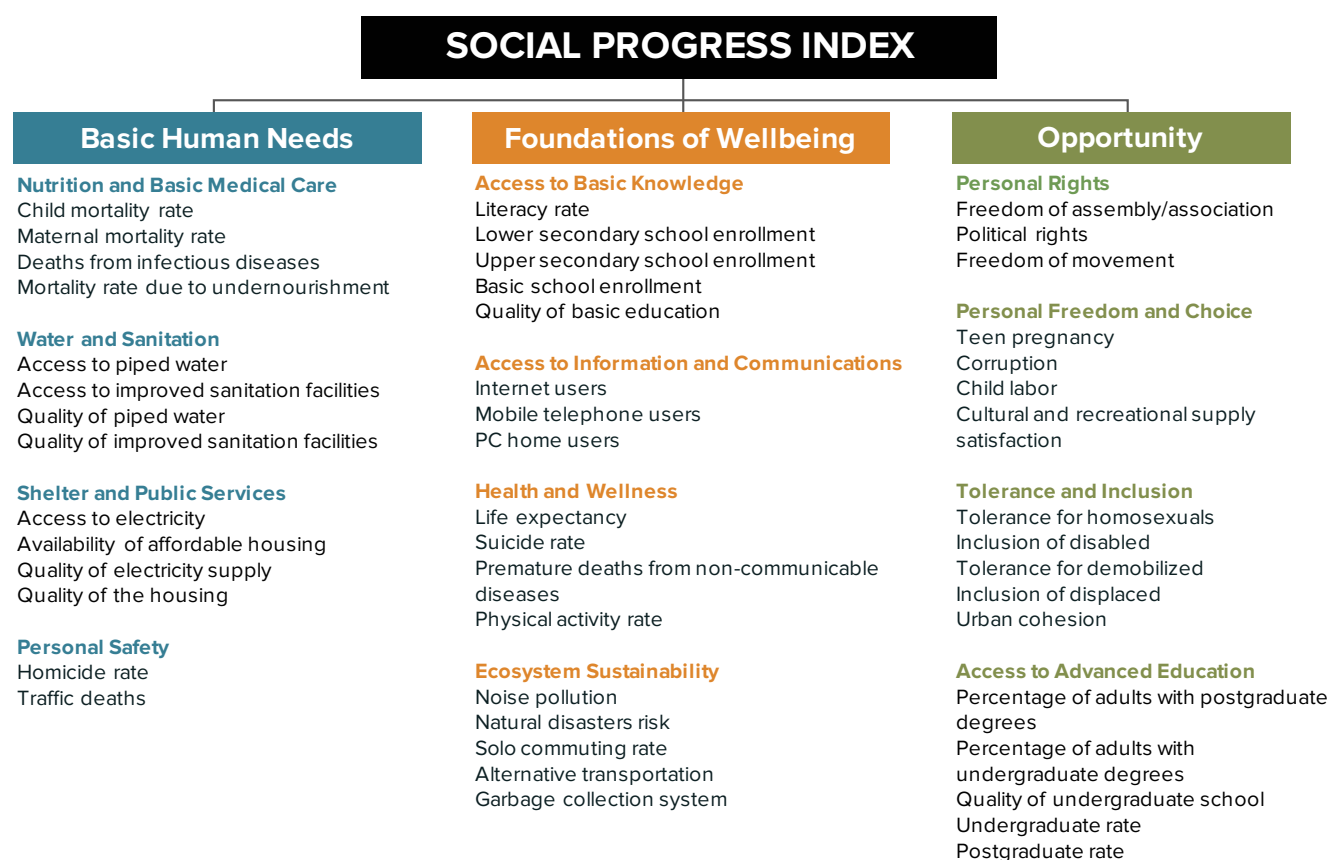
The existence of programs like *Cómo Vamos* in Bogotá since 1997 and the Colombian Network of “*Cómo Vamos*” Cities (RCCCV) from 2005–2015 has drawn attention to problems that are common to all cities. Access to preventive healthcare services, environmental conditions like noise, water and

air pollution, access to advanced education, quality of basic education, efficiency of transport systems (especially public transportation), respect for others, and programs to promote civil coexistence and culture, are all areas in which Colombian cities need to improve.

HOW IS THE SPI FOR CITIES CREATED?

The SPI for Cities uses information gathered from ten cities, home to over 40% of the entire population of Colombia, over a period of six years (2009 to 2014): Barranquilla, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, Ibagué, Manizales, Medellín, Pereira, and Valledupar. While maintaining the basic concept of the global model applied to countries, the SPI for Cities analyzes the extent to which Colombian cities satisfy the basic needs of their citizens, provide the conditions needed to improve the quality of life, protect the environment, and provide opportunities for all citizens.

Figure 2 / The Social Progress Index For Cities Model



Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

As shown in Figure 2, the SPI for Cities measures 48 indicators grouped into 12 components and 3 dimensions. Many of the indicators are relevant to any city in the world, such as homicide rates, or deaths due to traffic accidents, which are found in the Personal Safety component; or life expectancy and suicide rates, which are found in the Health and Wellness component; or the sustainability of the transport system, noise pollution or access to garbage collection services, all found in the Environmental Sustainability component. Other indicators have been included to account for problems that are specific to the cities of Colombia, particularly in the dimension of Opportunity, such as tolerance for the displaced or inclusion of the demobilized, areas measured in the Tolerance and Inclusion component; or teenage pregnancy and child labor, which are both included in the Personal Freedom and Choice component.

The RCCCV’s experience in generating reliable, unbiased, periodic, public, and comparable data on city and quality of life issues facilitated both the identification of the best sources of public information and the selection of the most appropriate indicators to measure social progress in the Colombian urban context. An important set of indicators is based on the Quality of Life Survey, a tool for measuring human wellbeing. Similar tools have been generated in more and more Latin American cities, thanks to the creation of the Latin American Network for Fair, Democratic and Sustainable Cities and Territories, and the IDB’s Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative. Figure 3 presents the data sources for the SPI for Cities. Detailed information on the methodology used to calculate SPI for Cities can be found in the methodological report.

Figure 3 / Data Sources for the SPI for Cities



Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

HOW TO INTERPRET THE SPI FOR CITIES

The SPI for Cities generates an overall score from 0 to 100, where 100 corresponds to the score a city could achieve if the highest scores possible are obtained for all indicators, and 0 corresponds to the score that could be achieved if the lowest scores possible are obtained for all indicators. Each dimension and component is also rated on a scale from 0 to 100. As outlined in Figure 4, in absolute terms, SPI for Cities scores allow us to measure social progress levels. For example, Bogotá has an SPI score of 63.02 in 2009 and an SPI score of 70.33 in 2014. This means that the city went from a “lower middle” level to an “upper middle” level over the course of six years. This same analysis can be carried out for each of the twelve components and three dimensions of the SPI for Cities.

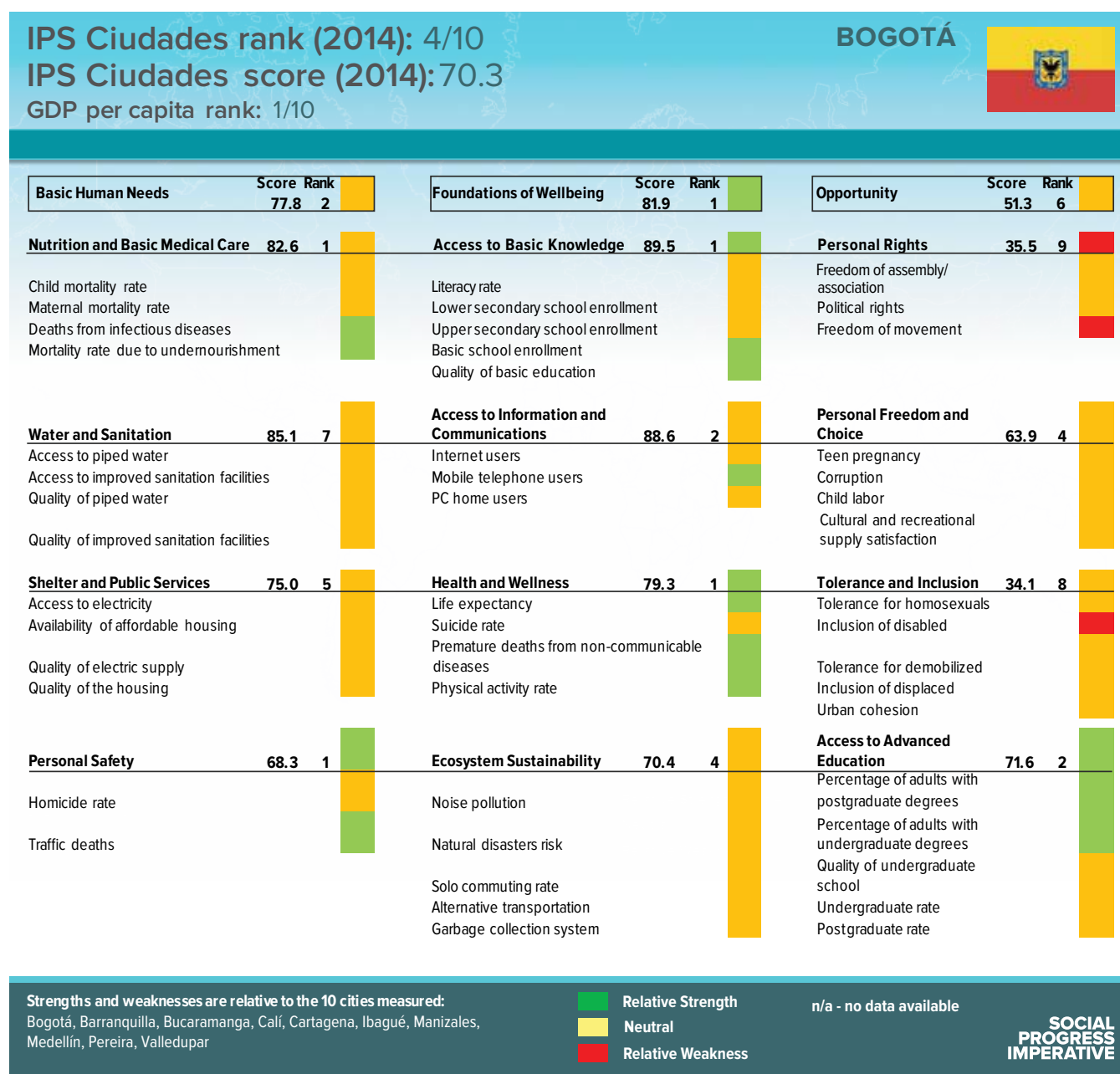
Figure 4 / Social Progress Categories

SPI SCORES	SOCIAL PROGRESS LEVEL
100-85	Very High
75-85	High
65-75	Upper Middle
55-65	Lower Middle
45-55	Low
0-45	Very Low

Source: Social Progress Imperative (2015).

The SPI for Cities also allows for a *comparative* analysis of *strengths and weaknesses*. This is achieved by comparing the performance of one particular city to the performance of the other nine cities, year by year. The results of this comparison for one year are presented on a “Scorecard.” The card is a visualization of the data obtained for the dimensions, components and indicators, color coded according to their relative performance: green indicates that the city is performing much better than the rest of the cities; yellow indicates that the performance observed is typical for the city levels and, therefore, is neutral; red indicates that the city’s performance is below the typical results obtained by all cities. It also includes some absolute scores. Figure 5 shows the scorecard for Bogotá for the year 2014.

Figure 5 / Scorecard for Bogotá 2014



Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

The social progress agendas presented at the end of this document are obtained from a detailed analysis of *absolute scores* (which account for social progress levels) as well as the *relative performance* of each city (which account for *strengths* and *weaknesses* in relation to the other nine cities), in the context of its progress over time between the years 2009 and 2014.

SOCIAL PROGRESS RANKING FOR 2014

Manizales is the highest-ranking city in social progress levels for the year 2014. With a score of 75.52, it is the only city exhibiting “high” levels of social progress. The leading group of cities includes Bogotá, Bucaramanga and, as of 2011, Medellín, all cities with “upper middle” social progress levels. Pereira, which, in 2009, presented levels similar to those obtained by Medellín, now stands alone in a second tier at the bottom of the “upper middle” social progress band. The third group includes Ibagué and Barranquilla, cities that both present “lower middle” social progress levels. Cali, Cartagena, and Valledupar, which all exhibit “low” social progress levels, occupied the last three places in the ranking throughout the timeframe analyzed. The territorial differences between cities of the Andean Region and cities on the Caribbean or the Pacific coasts are evident.

Figure 6 / Social Progress Rankings for 10 Colombian Cities

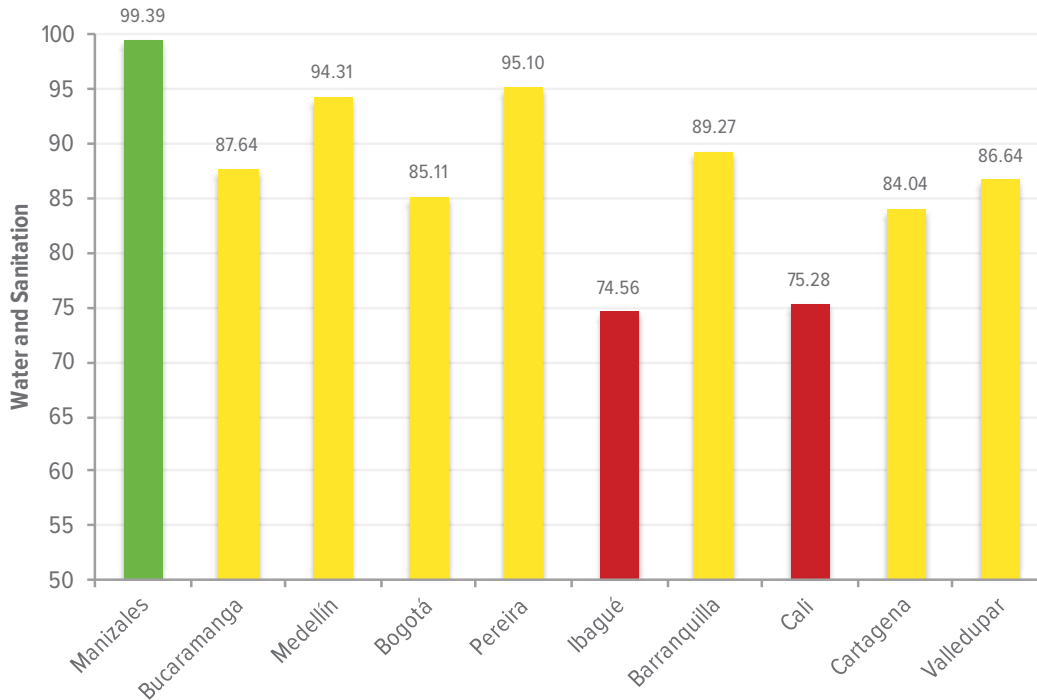
Cities	SPI for Cities 2014	Social Progress Level
1 Manizales	75,52	High
2 Bucaramanga	72,95	Upper Middle
3 Medellín	72,58	Upper Middle
4 Bogotá	70,33	Upper Middle
5 Pereira	66,63	Upper Middle
6 Ibagué	61,64	Lower Middle
7 Barranquilla	60,07	Lower Middle
8 Cali	54,27	Low
9 Cartagena	53,61	Low
10 Valledupar	52,17	Low

Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

Colombian cities score high in Access to Information and Communications. They also tend to demonstrate high scores, albeit with significant regional differences, in Access to Basic Education, and in Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, both areas in which the whole world has taken a quantum leap over the last fifteen years, hand in hand with the Millennium Development Goals. However, it is in the area of Water and Sanitation that Colombian cities exhibit greater achievements: with the exception of Ibagué and Cali, virtually all urban households have access to potable water and improved sanitation, and levels of satisfaction with the quality of water and sanitation facilities are high. As shown in Figure 7, most cities have scores near or above 85—very high levels in the Water and Sanitation component. Ibagué and Cali have clearly been left behind by the other cities and therefore are highlighted in red. Despite having scores close to 75, a “high” score for the component, the 2014 scorecards for Ibagué and Cali present a red score in Water and Sanitation, because other cities show that it is possible to obtain significantly better results in the Colombian context.

Health and Wellness (which measures, among other things, life expectancy, suicide rates, and early morbidity) and Personal Safety (which measures homicide rates, and deaths due to traffic accidents)

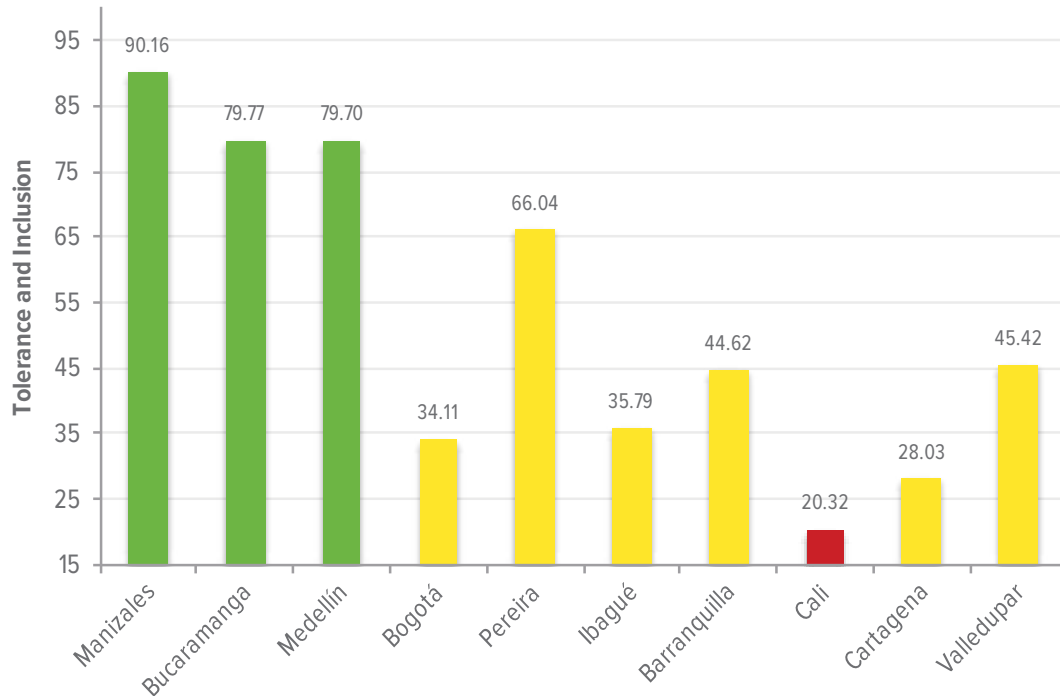
Figure 7 / Absolute Scores and Relative Performance per City for the Water and Sanitation Component, 2014



Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network

are important issues on the social progress agenda for the cities of Colombia. In Personal Safety, none of the cities exhibit “high” levels. Three cities (Cali, Pereira, and Valledupar) present “very low” levels and another three cities (Cartagena, Manizales, and Medellín) present “low” levels in that component. Nevertheless, the most important deficiencies in human wellness lie in the dimension of Opportunity. All four components exhibit low social progress levels (scores below 55). The major challenges fall within Personal Rights, which measures political participation, civic organization, and urban mobility, and Tolerance and Inclusion, which measures coexistence. In both cases, Cali drags the average down significantly. As shown in Figure 8, while six cities exhibit scores below 45, or “very low” levels, in Tolerance and Inclusion, only Cali is highlighted in red due to the difference between its score and the median. Figures 7 and 8 show the importance of combining the analysis of the absolute score with the color-coding of the scorecards in order to evaluate priorities for action.

Figure 8 / Absolute Scores and Relative Performance per City for the Tolerance and Inclusion Component, 2014



Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

SOCIAL PROGRESS TRENDS, 2009–2014

Though with significant differences, all of the cities increased their social progress levels between the years 2009 and 2014. The average SPI for the ten cities went from 54.8 to 64.0. As a group, these cities are currently transitioning from “lower middle” levels to “upper middle” levels.

With the exception of Valledupar (+7%), which remained relatively stagnant at a “low” level, all the other cities climbed up at least one social progress level: Cali and Cartagena went from “very low” to “low;” Ibagué and Barranquilla went from “low” to “lower middle;” Pereira, Bogotá, Medellín, and Bucaramanga went from “lower middle” to “upper middle;” and Manizales went from “upper middle” to “high.” Medellín and Cartagena made the most progress (+25%). The gaps between social progress within cities in the Andean Region and cities on the Caribbean and Pacific coast have increased.

As shown in Figure 10, in the last six years, there was a veritable revolution in access to mobile phone services, Internet, and home computers in urban households. The Access to Information and Communications component shows an unprecedented leap in every city, going from “very low” to

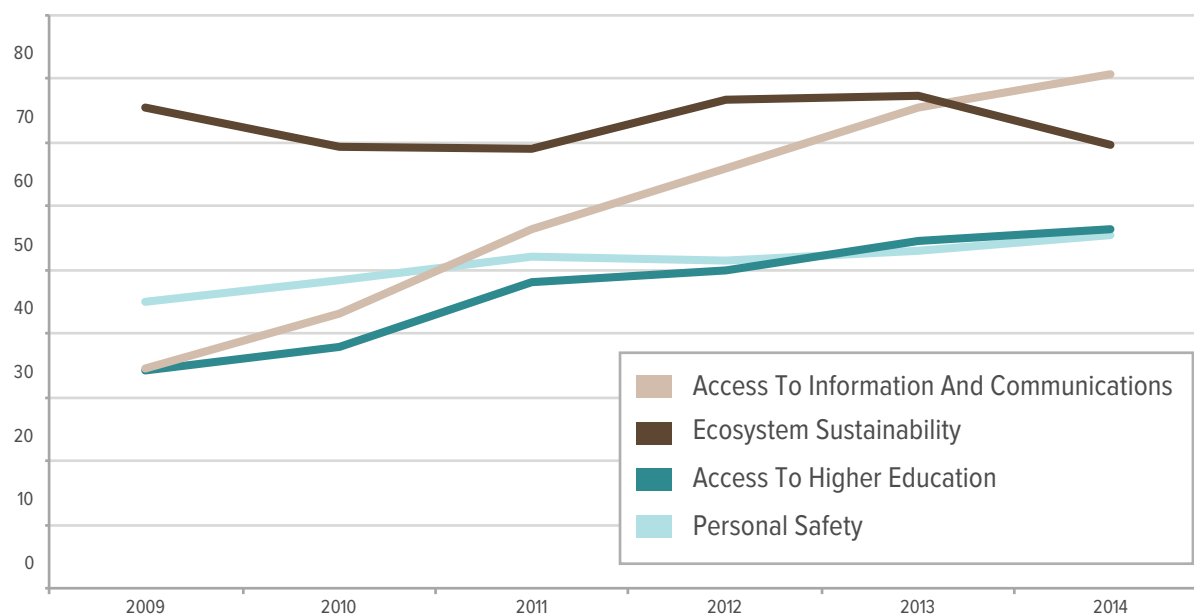
Figure 9 / Evolution of the SPI for 10 Colombian cities, 2009–2014

IPS	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Manizales	63.9	63.1	65.4	67.7	71.2	75.5
Bucaramanga	63.2	64.3	64.2	65.7	67.1	72.9
Medellín	57.9	60.4	63.9	67.2	69.7	72.6
Bogotá	63.0	64.0	65.1	67.6	71.2	70.3
Pereira	58.4	59.5	63.2	61.1	61.2	66.6
Ibague	52.6	53.1	51.8	50.5	58.0	61.6
Barranquilla	51.7	51.3	58.3	57.0	57.6	60.1
Cali	45.7	48.7	50.0	48.9	54.7	54.3
Cartagena	42.7	44.3	49.6	49.0	50.6	53.6
Valledupar	49.0	49.4	50.8	52.4	55.3	52.2

Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

“high” levels across the country (+152%). While unequal and inadequate, progress is also observed in all cities in terms of Access to Advanced Education (+75%), Personal Safety (+25% with the exception of Cartagena), and Personal Rights (+25% with the exception of Bogotá). In these three cases, the boost helped reverse a critical situation, moving cities out of “very low” levels, and into “low” levels.

Figure 10 / Average Evolution of Select Components for the SPI for Cities, 2009–2014



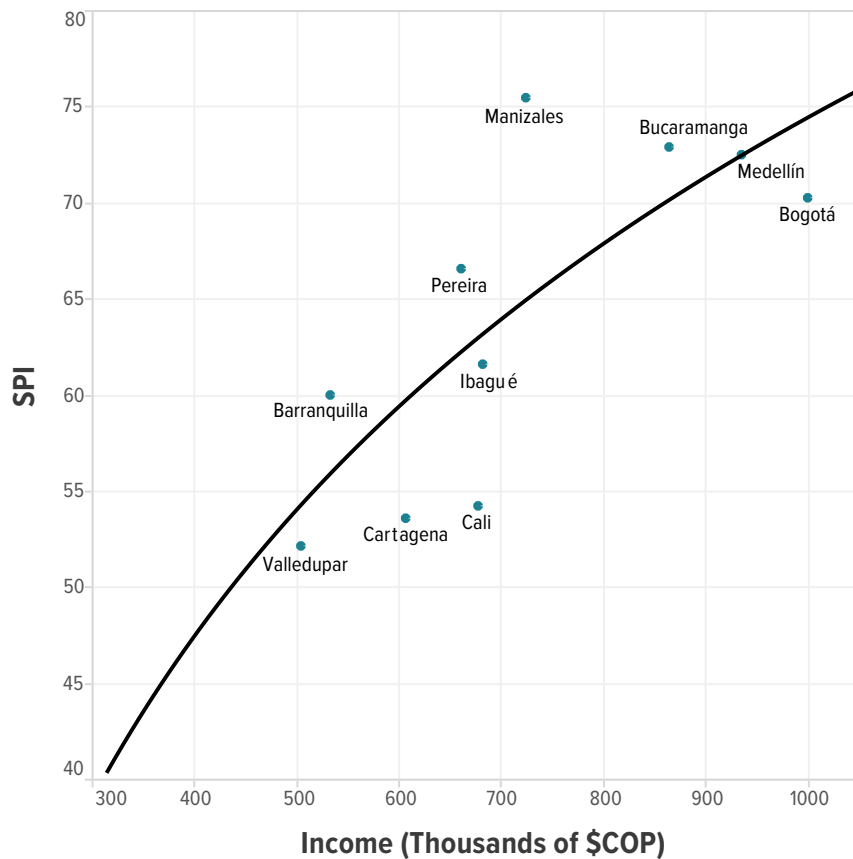
Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

Alarming, Ecosystem Sustainability (-8%) is the only component reporting a decline. This component measures the sustainability of the transport system, noise pollution, impact of natural disasters, and access to garbage collection services. This decline has been particularly severe in Cartagena, Medellín, Bucaramanga, and Barranquilla. Shelter and Public Services have stagnated at “lower middle” levels, with the exception of Ibagué and Bucaramanga, both of which exhibit remarkable progress. Lastly, the agenda for Health and Wellbeing was pushed aside. Setbacks are reported for Pereira and Ibagué, with minor progress in all other cities.

SOCIAL PROGRESS, INCOME, INEQUALITY, AND POVERTY

Social progress data obtained for the cities of Colombia, as well as data obtained for countries, demonstrate that income alone does not guarantee social progress. Despite the high correlation between economic progress and social progress, the variability across cities is considerable, even among those with the same GDP per capita. Opportunities for greater social progress, and the risk of

Figure 11 / Social Progress and Income Per Capita in Cities, 2014

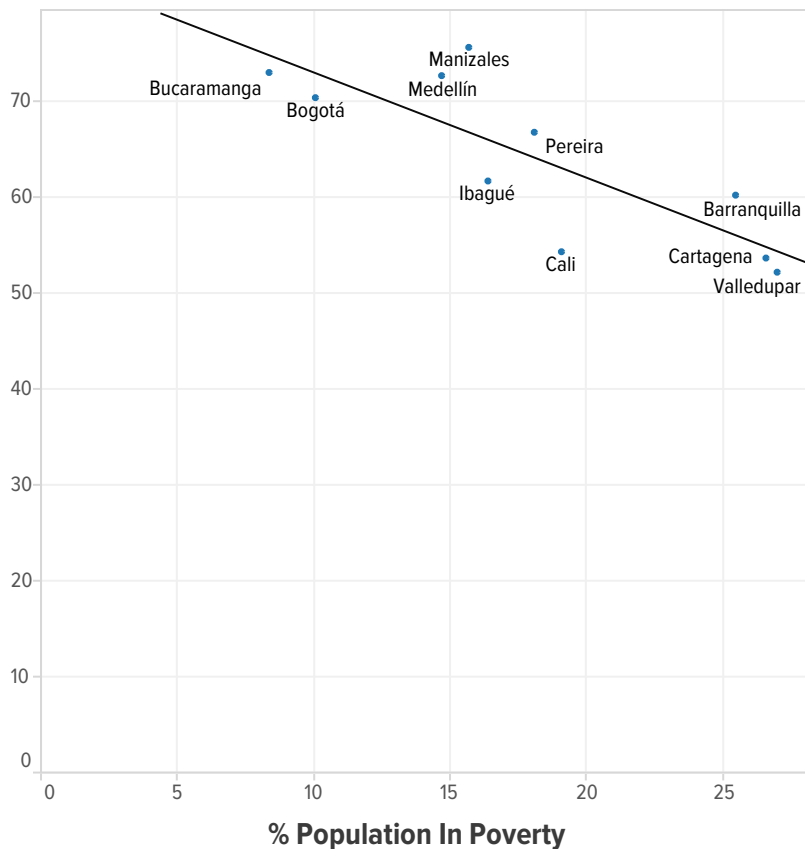


Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

less social progress, exist at any level of income per capita. As shown in Figure 11, Manizales, Pereira, and Barranquilla present higher than expected social progress levels, based on their income levels, while Cali, Ibagué, and Cartagena have been systematically inefficient in transforming their economic income into social progress throughout the entire period analyzed.

The data obtained also demonstrate that economic progress has a greater impact on social progress in lower income cities, and that rates of improvement decrease at higher income levels. This is because the dimension of Opportunity is less affected by income. Furthermore, the components of Health and Wellbeing (at least with regard to indicators like obesity or death due to non-infectious diseases), and

Figure 12 / Social Progress and Income Poverty in Cities, 2014



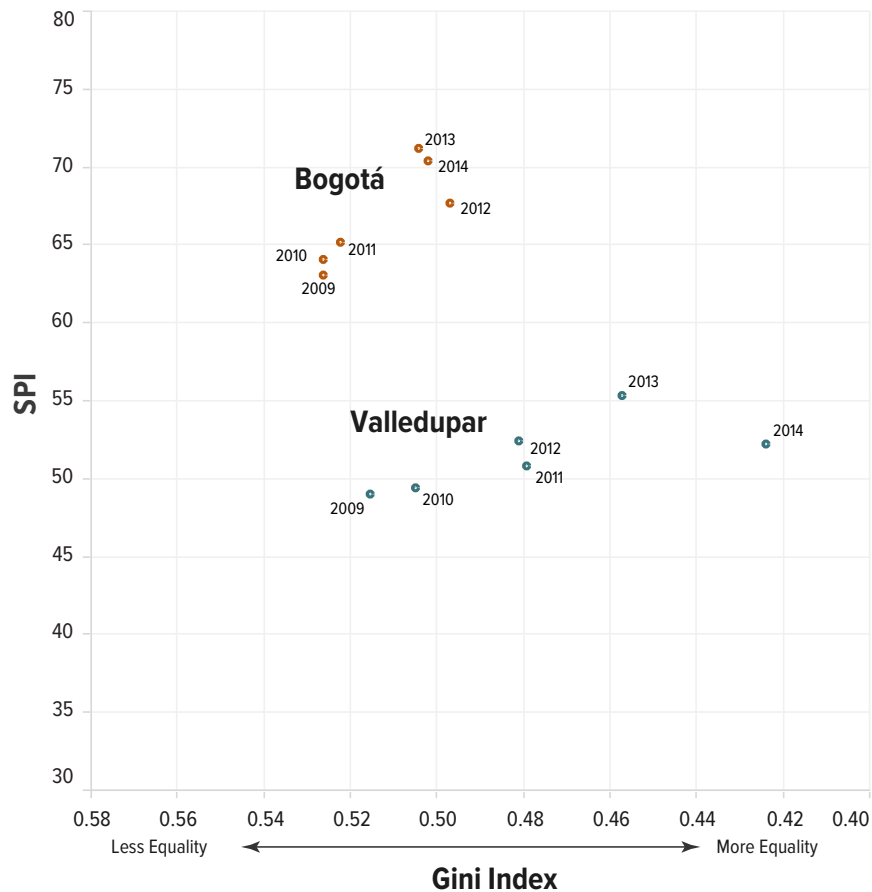
Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

Ecosystem Sustainability, may even be adversely affected by economic progress.

The data obtained for these Colombian cities also suggest that greater social progress usually means lower income poverty and poverty perception levels. Again, however, there is significant variation (Figure 12).

The relationship between social progress and income inequality is more complex. There is no relationship between the *level* of social progress and the *level* of inequality in cities. For example, Bucaramanga and Valledupar, which occupy opposite ends of the social progress ranking, both present the lowest levels of income inequality among Colombian cities. However, there does seem to be a dynamic relationship between social progress and inequality. Both move in the same direction. In half of the cases, an increase in social progress is associated with a decrease in inequality. For example, this is the case both for Bogotá, a city with high levels of inequality and social progress, and Valledupar, a city with lower levels of inequality and social progress. In four of the remaining five cities, when the starting point (2009) is compared to the endpoint (2014) the increase in social progress is associated with a decrease in inequality.

Figure 13 / Social Progress and Income Inequality in Bogotá and Valledupar, 2009–2014



Source: #Progreso Social Colombia with data from the As We Go City Network.

The years between 2009 and 2014 were important to urban development in Colombia. Albeit with different intensities, the cities associated increased levels of social progress with higher income levels,

and lower poverty levels with a decline in inequality. The Social Progress Index is, therefore, a robust measure of inclusive growth in Colombian cities.

SOCIAL PROGRESS PROFILES BY CITY

Manizales is the highest-ranking city in social progress in Colombia. With an average income that is two thirds that of Bogotá, Manizales is the most efficient city in transforming economic resources into wellbeing for the population. Unlike other cities, Manizales presents strengths in the area of Opportunity, with major advances since 2009 (+33%): a city that increasingly tends to favor social cohesion, the exercise of freedom and access to advanced education. The city also scores very high in Shelter and Public Services, Water and Sanitation, and Access to Information and Communications. The social progress agenda for Manizales should focus on consolidating solid Foundations of Wellbeing, particularly in Access to Basic Education, an area in which Manizales performs significantly lower than other cities and that has also deteriorated since 2009. It is also important to improve Health and Wellbeing conditions and to prioritize sustainable alternatives for transportation. As with other cities, improvement is needed in the area of Personal Safety.

Bucaramanga ranked second in social progress, thanks to advances made over the last year. With an SPI of 72.9, the city exhibits “upper middle” social progress levels. This city leads the country in Access to Information and Communications, and Access to Advanced Education. Despite a slight decline compared to 2009, the city scored “high” in Tolerance and Inclusion, with social cohesion levels significantly higher than other cities. A social progress agenda for Bucaramanga should prioritize Health issues: deaths from infectious and non-infectious diseases are higher than rates in other cities. It should also prioritize Environmental Sustainability, an area that has experienced significant setbacks since the year 2009 (-16%). Urban development should also promote Personal Freedom and Choice, and Personal Rights. The city ranked seventh for both components, with “low” and “lower middle “ levels.

Medellín is the third highest-ranking city in Colombia in terms of social progress. Along with Cartagena, Medellín is the city that has recorded the most progress: quality of life levels of its inhabitants have increased by 25% in just six years. Critical levels regarding Personal Safety were reversed and a major increase was observed in Opportunity (+44%). Within this dimension, a number of indicators are green because Medellín presents superior performance in relation to other cities in freedom of movement, closely followed by citizen satisfaction with daily transportation, access to recreation and culture, and coexistence or inclusion of people with disabilities. A social progress agenda for Medellín should prioritize areas in which progress is still lacking, particularly Personal Safety, and Health and Wellbeing, where the city presents “low” scores. Priority should also be given to areas that have experienced declines in the past six years, particularly Environmental Sustainability (-14%) and, to a lesser extent, Shelter and Public Services (-7%).

Bogotá, the city with the highest average income, ranks only fourth in social progress. With an SPI of 70.3 in 2014, Bogotá was surpassed by Bucaramanga, Medellín, and Manizales, after temporarily

occupying first place in 2013, after 5 years of steady improvement. Bogotá is the leading city in Access to Basic Medical Care, Health and Wellness, and Access to Basic Education, and ranks second in Access to Information and Communications. Bogotá exhibits “high” and “very high” scores in all of these components. The city also holds a leading position in Access to Advanced Education, and in Personal Safety, but does so with scores that are just barely “upper middle.” The social progress agenda for Bogotá should focus on the dimension of Opportunity. In particular, it should strengthen the exercise of civil rights (urban mobility, political participation, participation in social organizations) and foster coexistence among different groups of people, particularly with regard to the disabled, displaced and demobilized. Bogotá exhibits “very low” social progress scores in both components, which respectively rank eighth and ninth. The city is also lagging in meeting certain Basic Human Needs, such as access to Shelter and Public Services, and Water and Sanitation.

Pereira ranks fifth in social progress. With an SPI of 66.6, Pereira is lagging behind the leading cities, but exhibits significant strengths in comparison to Ibagué and Barranquilla, which present “lower middle” social progress levels, and Cali, Cartagena and Valledupar, which present “low” social progress levels. Pereira is the leading city in terms of Environmental Sustainability, which stands out due to the use of alternative means of transportation. Pereira also ranks second in Water and Sanitation, and Shelter and Public Services, ahead of other cities thanks to water quality and access to electricity. The social progress agenda for Pereira should address the complex issue of Personal Safety and cumulative deficiencies in Health and Wellness. The city not only exhibits “very low” scores in both components, it is clearly lagging behind the levels observed for the rest of urban Colombia. Similarly, it is important to advance further in terms of Access to Advanced Education, improve cultural and recreational offerings within the city and address the impact of urban development on Environmental Sustainability.

Ibagué exhibits “lower middle” social progress levels. With an SPI just above 60, Ibagué ranks sixth among the ten most important cities of Colombia. Along with Barranquilla, Ibagué is part of a group of cities with substantial deficits in quality of life. In spite of this, the city presents encouraging results, with “high” scores in Access to Basic Knowledge, and in Access to Information and Communications. The city has made significant progress in both components over the last six years. In terms of Personal Safety, significant changes are also observed: Ibagué went from a “very low” level to a “lower middle” level, ranking second nationwide in 2014. The social progress agenda for Ibagué should reverse the cumulative failure to satisfy certain Basic Human Needs, particularly in terms of malnutrition, the quality of water, and the quality of water and sanitation facilities. It is also necessary to promote the creation of Opportunity for citizens. With the exception of Personal Rights, Ibagué exhibits “very low” scores in Tolerance and Inclusion (which measures coexistence), Personal Freedom and Choice (Ibagué presents serious deficits in terms of child labor and culture and recreation), and Access to Advanced Education.

Barranquilla exhibits “lower middle” social progress levels. With an SPI just above 60, Barranquilla ranks seventh among the ten cities analyzed. Despite this, Barranquilla does present “very high” levels in Water and Sanitation. Since 2009, significant progress is detected in Personal Rights, which measures political and civic participation, along with urban mobility, an area in which Barranquilla went from seventh to third place over the last six years. Barranquilla also ranks third in both Personal Safety, and in Personal Freedom and Choice, in spite of stagnation in both of these areas. The social progress agenda for Barranquilla should give priority to certain Basic Human Needs, particularly in the

areas of Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, Health and Wellness, and Shelter and Public Services, and promote changes in the transport system that will make Barranquilla a more sustainable city. In terms of health, Barranquilla exhibits higher child mortality, higher mortality due to infectious diseases, higher mortality due to malnourishment, and lower life expectancy rates than those observed for other cities in Colombia. In the area of Shelter and Public Services, both the quality of homes and the quality of electrical services is a concern. The city must also avoid falling behind in the area of mobile phone coverage and the use of computers in the home.

Cali has three “low” social progress scores. With an SPI of 54.3, the third largest city in the country exhibits critical deficiencies in quality of life. The city does however rank third in Environmental Sustainability with “upper middle” levels. Over the last six years, Cali has advanced unevenly, with important progress in the dimension of Foundations of Wellbeing (+43%) combined with a strong decline in the Tolerance and Inclusion component (-52%). As in other cities in the country, the greatest progress was made in Access to Information and Communications. The city also managed to move towards “lower middle” levels in Health and Wellbeing and “high” levels in Access to Basic Knowledge. The social progress agenda for Cali should address the critical issue of lack of safety, the decline in peaceful coexistence, and the exercise of personal rights. In these three components, Cali comes in last in the social progress ranking with “critically low” scores—significantly lower than other cities. Cali has also fallen behind in public services, particularly with regard to the quality of the water supply, the quality of water and sanitation facilities, and the quality of electricity.

Cartagena ranks second to last in social progress. With an SPI of 53.6, it exhibits “low” social progress levels and, therefore, critical deficiencies in quality of life. Nevertheless, along with Medellín, Cartagena is a city that presented the greatest advances in social progress over the last six years (+25%). This was achieved by promoting changes in social progress components areas with critically “low” scores: Personal Rights, Tolerance and Inclusion, Access to Advanced Education, and Access to Information and Communications. However, the city is still lagging behind in relative and absolute scores in all these areas. The social progress agenda for Cartagena should continue on the path followed over the last six years, which has allowed a significant improvement in the Opportunity dimension (+111%). This should be supplemented with decisive actions in Shelter and Public Services, an area in which the city exhibits important absolute and relative deficits. Since the increase in SPI over the last six years came about in spite of an important decline in environmental variables (-19%), this should be carried out while ensuring Environmental Sustainability.

Of the ten cities evaluated, **Valledupar** ranks last in social progress. With an SPI of 52.2, Valledupar not only exhibits “low” social progress levels, and therefore critical deficiencies in quality of life, it is also the city that presents the least progress over the last six years (+7%). This is due to declines, of varying importance, in Shelter and Public Services (-51%), Tolerance and Inclusion (-21%), Environmental Sustainability (-10%), and Personal Safety (-1%). In 2009, Valledupar had an SPI of 49.0, just three points below the SPI presented by Barranquilla or Ibagué. In 2014, Valledupar joined the group of cities presenting the lowest social progress scores in the country, surpassed for the first time by Cartagena.

The social progress agenda for Valledupar should reverse the negative trends of urban growth on the quality of life, focusing on promoting improvements in those areas where they have been clearly left behind by other cities: Shelter and Public Services, Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, Access to Basic Knowledge, Access to Information and Communications, and Personal Freedom and Choice, particularly regarding teen pregnancy and perceived corruption.

ACTION INFORMATION

The Social Progress Index for Cities can generate actionable diagnoses for each of the Colombian cities based on a holistic, dynamic, and contextual point of view for twelve areas of human wellbeing: from education to basic and advanced healthcare, to personal rights or individual freedom; from water and shelter to access to information and environmental sustainability; from personal safety to coexistence.

The wealth of information produced by the SPI for Cities, without a doubt, warrants further analysis. The reviews included in this executive summary for each city are just initial glimpses at the data. All information (full report, methodological report, databases and scorecards in the original Spanish) can be found on the Ciudades Cómo Vamos website.

The group of institutions and organizations that make up the Social Progress Network in Colombia expect urban development actors to take ownership of the data, to foster debate on the necessary agendas for social progress, and to promote actions that allow Colombian cities to meet the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and become inclusive, safe, resilient cities by 2030.