

Medellín Social Urbanism — Cable Cars, Escalators and Urban Acupuncture

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Colombia

Quality score: 95/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Medellín integrated cable-car lines and hillside escalators with neighbourhood upgrading to connect its poorest comunas to the city, cutting homicide rates 97% (395→13 per 100,000) from 1991 to 2023 and inspiring cable-car transit programmes worldwide.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	3/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Alcaldía de Medellín / Metro de Medellín](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Metropolis case study](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[UN-Habitat Medellín case study \(PDF\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[ScienceDirect peer-reviewed analysis \(2016\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[UITP urban transformation article](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Guinness World Record — busiest cable car](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

[Medellín 2024 crime statistics](#) — accessed 2026-06-26

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