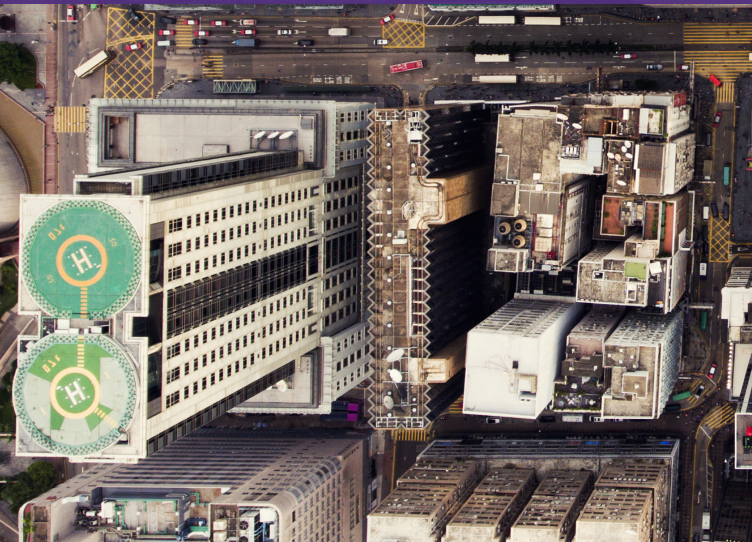


MULTI-CITY CHALLENGE

In a Multi-City Challenge, cities work together with their residents to identify and then collaboratively implement solutions to contemporary urban challenges, such as climate change and sustainability, public health and equity, congestion and pollution, structural racism and civic engagement.



Increasing urbanization necessitates innovative expertise and agility to create effective and, above all, efficiently implementable solutions.

By creating the “conversational infrastructure” -- method and tools -- to source and implement novel approaches from civil servants and the public, the hope is to solve problems while strengthening participatory democracy.

The Multi-City Challenge comprises a four-stage, one year process

STAGE 1 PROBLEM DEFINITION

Training for public servants
in defining problems with
data and evidence

STAGE 2 CHALLENGE

An open innovation
competition to source
solutions from residents

STAGE 3 CO-DESIGN

A coaching program for
residents and public
servants to develop those
solutions collaboratively

STAGE 4 IMPLEMENTATION

Support for cities to
implement the innovative
new policy or service

ABOUT THE GOVLAB

The Governance Lab's mission is to improve people's lives by changing the way we govern. Our goal at The GovLab is to strengthen the ability of institutions — including but not limited to governments — and people to work more openly, collaboratively, effectively, and legitimately to make better decisions and solve public problems.

For more information, visit thegovlab.org.

MULTI-CITY CHALLENGES

THE MULTI-CITY CHALLENGE MEXICO (2020-2021)

PARTNER(S): Tinker Foundation, Instituto Mexicano para la Competitividad, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Consejo Nuevo León, Transparencia Mexicana, Augmented Democracy

PARTICIPATING CITIES: Hermosillo, Reynosa, San Nicolás de los Garza, San Pedro Garza García and Torreón.

ISSUES: Improving transportation sustainability, COVID-19 response, and innovations in waste management.

29

Public officials
trained

in problem definition, human-centered
design and open innovation

237

Citizen
proposals

10 citizen ideas selected
for implementation

80

Hours of
coaching

and 20 hours of
workshops on methods

SAMPLE PROJECTS

HERMOSILLO-URBANISMO TÁCTICO

Redesign of key
intersections combined
with public art initiatives
to promote road safety,
walkability and civic life.

TORREÓN-VIVE TU ACERA

Establishing recreational
areas, increasing
pedestrian zones, and
parklets governed by
citizens.

TORREÓN- ESTABLECIMIENTOS SANITARIAMENTE RESPONSABLES

Citizen-led inspections
and certifications to
promote public health
and safety

SAN PEDRO-SUPER RECOLECCIÓN

To understand behaviors
and attitudes towards
recycling and test
different communication
strategies.

94%

of public officials expressed that the
MCC has increased their ability to solve
public problems by collaborating with
other actors.

90%

citizens indicated that the MCC has
strengthened their confidence to be
agents of change in their community

76%

of civil servants indicated that they have
the confidence to be able to lead the
implementation of an open challenge.

53%

of public servants agreed that the
challenge helped to uncover solutions
that otherwise the municipality wouldn't
have identified.

100%

public servants surveyed agreed that
the challenge reached actors that
normally would not engage in
government activities.

100%

of citizen-respondents said
methodologies are useful for their
work / school

77%

perceive that the ideas received in the
open challenge are innovative for the
municipality (new or significantly
improved proposals).

70%

of public servants feel confident that
they can replicate the methodology in
other projects.

MULTI-CITY CHALLENGES

THE MULTI-CITY CHALLENGE AFRICA (2020-2021)

PARTNER(S): United Nations Development Programme

PARTICIPATING CITIES: Accra, Ghana; Bahir Dar, Ethiopia; Kampala, Uganda; Kano, Nigeria and Mutare, Zimbabwe.

ISSUES: Digitizing the informal economy, building urban resilience, and improving waste management.

SAMPLE PROJECT: Ugandan startup converting waste plastic into building materials was awarded a US\$40,000 grant from the UNDP Uganda 'Youth for Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility'.

44

Public officials
trained

In problem definition
and open innovation

247

Citizen
proposals

12 selected for
implementation

PAST CITY CHALLENGES

CITY CHALLENGE BARCELONA (2017)

PARTNER(S): City Council of Barcelona

PARTICIPATING CITIES: Barcelona.

60

Public officials
trained

10

Problems
defined

CITY CHALLENGE (DESAFÍOS SAN PEDRO) (2016)

PARTNER(S): Codeando México

PARTICIPATING CITIES: San Pedro Garza García, Mexico.

ISSUES: Mobility crisis, pollution reduction, improved governance and enhanced public spaces

17

Public Officials
Trained

5 challenges developed
and defined

125

Citizen
Proposals

10 selected for
implementation

- 50 participants volunteered 20 hours each to develop ideas into implementable proposals
- City Challenge model adopted into law