



CIVIX
— Colombia —

MANAGEMENT
REPORT 2024



MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024 - FUNDACIÓN CIVIX COLOMBIA

1. Introduction and Message from the Executive Director

The **2024 Annual Management Report** of **CIVIX Colombia** presents an overview of our organization's efforts, achievements, and impact over the past year. As we continue our mission to empower young people and strengthen democracy through civic education, media literacy, and youth leadership, this report reflects the collective commitment of our team, partners, and beneficiaries.

In a year marked by both opportunities and challenges, CIVIX Colombia expanded its reach, deepened its impact, and forged new alliances to counter disinformation, promote informed civic participation, and equip young leaders with the tools to become change agents in their communities. This report outlines the programs and initiatives we implemented, the lessons we learned, and the path forward as we look to 2025 in the midst of a shifting landscape in the international cooperation field that presents a challenge to the organization's future.



Equipping educators to become Ambassadors of Media and Information Literacy in schools.
Doble Click Democracy Bootcamp in Medellín, 2024.

Message from the Executive Director

Dear partners, colleagues, and friends,

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for what we have accomplished together. CIVIX Colombia has become in its almost 5 years of existence a key actor in promoting civic engagement and media literacy in the country, and this year, our impact reached new heights.

From strengthening the Media and Information Literacy ecosystem to supporting youth leadership and fostering inclusive dialogue, our work has been guided by the urgent need to equip young people with the skills to navigate today's complex information landscape and to participate actively and critically in our democracy. Amid increasing polarization and the spread of disinformation, our programs have provided critical tools to counter these challenges, ensuring that young people, educators, and civil society organizations can actively contribute to a more informed and resilient democratic culture.

However, this year has also brought significant challenges. The shifting landscape of international cooperation is placing civil society organizations like ours in a state of uncertainty. The closure of agencies such as USAID, a stronger competition between nonprofits for a smaller quantity of potential funders, and broader changes in funding priorities have put the sustainability of our work at risk. As an organization, we must rethink how we operate, diversify our funding sources, and adapt to this evolving reality to ensure that our impact remains strong in the years to come.

Despite these uncertainties, we remain committed to innovation, resilience, and collaboration. 2024 was the year in which we moved from 2 funding partners (Global Affairs Canada and the European Union) to 10 different funding partners (including UNESCO, the American Embassy in Colombia, and the Apolitical Foundation). Nevertheless, it is necessary to continue exploring new models of sustainability that will allow us to continue serving Colombian youth and fulfilling our mission of empowering students to become active, engaged, and informed citizens.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and passion of our incredible team, the unwavering support of our partners, and the commitment of the young leaders who inspire us every day. I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you.

Looking ahead to 2025, we recognize that we are entering a period of transformation. While challenges persist, we need to see them as opportunities to reimagine our work, strengthen our impact, and build a more sustainable future. The road ahead will not be easy, but I am confident that, together, we will continue shaping a generation of informed, engaged, and empowered citizens.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



Andrés Sáenz
Executive Director, CIVIX Colombia

2. Context and General Overview

A year of democratic challenges and political transitions

In 2024, Colombia navigated a complex political and social landscape under the government of President Gustavo Petro, whose administration continued to push for ambitious reforms in labor, pensions, and healthcare, sparking intense debates, resistance from various political sectors, and public demonstrations. The country experienced heightened political polarization, a deterioration in public trust toward democratic institutions, which further deepened social divisions. In fact, while in 2004 70% of young people in Colombia supported democracy; by 2024, that number dropped to just 49%. (1). In this context, CIVIX Colombia's work in media and information literacy, youth civic engagement, and democratic participation became more critical than ever. However, the challenges of operating in an increasingly unstable and polarized environment made sustaining our reach and impact more difficult.

The end of two landmark projects and the challenge of sustainability

2024 also marked a turning point for CIVIX Colombia, as the organization concluded its two largest projects to date:

- **CoDECo (Countering Disinformation within Civic Education in Colombia)**, which ended in May 2024 after 3 years of implementation. This initiative strengthened civic education and enhanced resilience against disinformation threats among young people in Colombia, and positioned CIVIX Colombia as a relevant player in the educational ecosystem of the country.
- **Civic Action Against Disinformation**, which concluded in July 2024 after 18 months of implementation, was one of the most ambitious projects CIVIX Colombia has implemented, equipping youth, educators, and civil society organizations with tools to combat the phenomenon of disinformation, polarization, hate speech, and the political and social consequences derived from these.

The conclusion of these two major projects posed significant challenges for the organization's sustainability, reach, and capacity to maintain the scale of our initiatives. Both projects have allowed us to expand our footprint across Colombia, engage with thousands of young people and educators, and develop cutting-edge strategies in media literacy and civic education. Their closure forced us to rethink how to sustain and scale our impact in an increasingly uncertain funding landscape.

Adding to these challenges, the international cooperation landscape in 2024/2025 underwent significant shifts that directly affected CIVIX Colombia and many other civil society organizations in the country. The closure of USAID, a historically key funder of democracy and civil society initiatives, underscored the shrinking availability of international funding for civic education and democratic strengthening. At the same time, major donors have shifted their priorities, leading to greater competition for fewer resources.

This changing environment has made it imperative for CIVIX Colombia to explore new avenues for financial sustainability, including seeking alternative funding models, and searching for collaborations with multilateral organizations, private philanthropy, private companies and government agencies. Moving forward, diversification of funding sources and strategic adaptation will be essential for ensuring the continuity of our mission.

Resilience, innovation, and the road ahead

Despite these challenges, CIVIX Colombia remains committed to fostering a new generation of active, informed, and engaged citizens. Throughout 2024, we reinforced key partnerships with local civil society organizations, Secretariats of Education, and media outlets, while also forging new alliances with UNESCO, the *Registraduría Nacional*, and the *Hanns Seidel Stiftung*.

We also invested in innovative methodologies to adapt to the evolving media and political landscape, strengthening interactive educational experiences, digital campaigns against disinformation, and new training models tailored to the needs of young people and educators in Colombia and the world. As seen in the launching of “[Journey Through the MILtiverse: Media and Information Literacy Toolkit for Youth Organizations](#)”, UNESCO’s world toolkit designed by CIVIX Colombia to help youth organizations integrate Media and Information Literacy (MIL) into their policies, strategies, and operations.

This rapidly evolving landscape has also made it clear that CIVIX Colombia must undergo a structural transformation to strengthen its institutional resilience. In light of the uncertainties surrounding funding and the need for long-term sustainability, it has become evident that the organization’s governance structure must be reformed. One of the most pressing priorities is the creation of a Board of Directors, a key step toward ensuring greater strategic oversight, accountability, and institutional stability.

As part of this transition, adapting the organization's bylaws will be essential to align with this new reality. Establishing a governance model that integrates diverse expertise, enhances decision-making processes, and secures long-term financial planning will not only help CIVIX Colombia navigate the current funding crisis but also position the organization for growth and impact in the years to come.

As we enter 2025, CIVIX Colombia stands at a crossroads. The year ahead will demand bold action, strategic adaptation, and a commitment to resilience. With financial sustainability, institutional innovation, and talent retention as key priorities, our focus will be on ensuring that our mission continues to thrive—even in the face of uncertainty.

3. Legal, financial and organizational situation

The CIVIX Colombia Foundation (CIVIX Colombia) is a private entity registered with the Chamber of Commerce on October 20, 2020, under number S0058175 of Book I for non-profit entities, in Bogotá, Colombia. It is identified with NIT 901.422.593-5 from the *Dirección de Impuestos y Aduanas Nacionales* (DIAN). Throughout 2024, the organization has maintained its nonprofit legal status under Colombia’s Special Tax Regime.

The organization continues to be legally represented by Andrés Sáenz Peñas, Executive Director of CIVIX Colombia. Since 2021, the organizational and corporate governance structure has remained unchanged, with the General Assembly serving as the highest decision-making body.

The organization continues to uphold the highest standards of financial responsibility, transparency, and accountability to ensure that every resource contributes to advancing its mission. In 2024, CIVIX Colombia faced a complex financial landscape, marked by the conclusion of two of our largest projects (CoDECo and Civic Action Against Disinformation) and the shifting dynamics of international cooperation. Despite these challenges, the organization remained committed to effective resource management, strategic planning, and institutional strengthening to deliver its commitments with beneficiaries and donors.

2024 Financial Overview

CIVIX Colombia’s 2024 budget was primarily supported by international cooperation funds, with additional contributions from philanthropic foundations and institutional partnerships. The main sources of funding included:

- **Multilateral and government agencies:** European Union (FPI), Global Affairs Canada, and UNESCO.
- **Private foundations and NGOs:** Partner organizations committed to civic education, democracy strengthening, and media literacy like Apolitical Foundation, *Fondo Acción*, and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung.
- **Contracts with state agencies:** This year, a direct line of work was reactivated, offering services to the Colombian electoral agency (*Registraduría Nacional del Estado Civil*), which allowed for the generation of surpluses for 2025.

CIVIX Colombia income during 2024			
Funder / Donor	Project / Initiative	Income in COP	Income in USD
Global Affairs Canada - CIVIX Canadá	Countering Disinformation within Civic Education in Colombia	\$195.745.147	\$46.979
European Union	Acción Cívica contra la Desinformación	\$1.396.268.683	\$335.104
Family Health International (FHI360)	Democracia al Tablero	\$114.000.869	\$27.360

Fondo Acción	Ecolíderes	\$49.053.120	\$11.773
UNESCO	Social Media 4Peace + A Journey Through the MILtiverse	\$159.520.757	\$38.285
Legolas Inmobiliaria	Pasa la Palabra in Villa Rica	\$22.000.000	\$5.280
Apolitical Foundation	Mujeres en (la) Red	\$63.069.904	\$15.137
Embajada de Estados Unidos	Truth and Trust	\$15.321.331	\$3.677
RNEC + Universidad de Caldas	Sembrando Democracia	\$284.682.056	\$68.324
Hanns Seidel Stiftung	Liderab: Jóvenes en Conexión	\$30.000.000	\$7.200
Total for 2024		\$2.329.661.867	\$559.119

As of December 31, 2023, CIVIX Colombia reported assets of \$346,346,975 COP, liabilities of \$289,848,418 COP, and net equity of \$56,498,557 COP. In 2024, the organization's total income was \$2,341,328,626 COP, a decrease from \$3,127,780,001 COP in the previous year. Reported expenses amounted to \$2,285,830,069 COP, resulting in a surplus of \$55,498,557 COP for the year.

The conclusion of two of our largest projects in May and July 2024 led to a significant decline in financial inflows, forcing us to reassess our funding model and operational strategies. This shift has underscored the urgent need to diversify revenue streams and develop new funding mechanisms to ensure the organization's long-term sustainability.

Additionally, our financial constraints have had a direct impact on our team size. While CIVIX Colombia employed 23 staff members in December 2023, this number dropped to 10 by the end of 2024, and further declined to just 5 employees/subcontractors by March 2025. The loss of talent, institutional knowledge, and capacity now stands as one of the greatest challenges to the organization's future.

Recognizing the critical importance of financial sustainability, our 2025 strategy will focus on:

1. Diversifying Funding Sources – Expanding partnerships with private sector allies, exploring national and international funding opportunities outside of the international cooperation arena, and piloting a fee-for-service model to offer specialized services.
2. Strengthening Institutional Stability – Establishing a Board of Directors to enhance governance and ensure long-term sustainability.
3. Innovating in Resource Mobilization – Aligning operations with a sustainable financial model, while seeking new avenues for support and investment.

As we navigate this pivotal transformation, we remain committed to our mission, adaptability, and resilience. While we recognize this critical period of difficult challenges, we are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and partners, who continue to believe in us as catalysts of the power of education to strengthen democracy.

4. Key Achievements & Impact in 2024

Despite the challenges posed by Colombia's shifting political landscape and the evolving international funding environment, CIVIX Colombia achieved significant milestones in 2024, strengthening our role as a leading organization in civic education, media and information literacy, and youth leadership. Through our programs and initiatives, we engaged thousands of young people, educators, and civil society organizations, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to navigate an increasingly complex democratic landscape.

Our commitment to empowering young people, educators, and civil society organizations was reflected in the successful implementation of multiple programs across the country, each designed to enhance civic education, promote democratic engagement, and strengthen media and information literacy (MIL). Below are some of the most important achievements of 2024.

CIVIX Colombia in numbers

- **CIVIX Colombia trained 884 teachers in 16 Democracy Bootcamps during 2024**, equipping them with the tools to foster civic engagement, democratic participation, and critical thinking in digital environments among their students. The organization reached 459 schools in 105 cities with these capacity-building events (*Doble Click*, *Democracia al Tablero*, and *Truth and Trust*).
- **419 young leaders participated in our youth leadership programs in 2024**, receiving intensive training to facilitate constructive dialogues, mitigate online polarization, or promote climate activism in their communities (*Pasa la Palabra*, *Mujeres en (la) Red*, *Liderab: Jóvenes en Conexión*, and *Ecolíderes*).
- **CIVIX Colombia trained and/or engaged representatives of 221 civil society organizations**, strengthening their capacities in media and information, narratives against disinformation and hate speech, and digital resilience (*Social Media 4Peace and VerazMente*).
- **250 public officials received training from CIVIX Colombia in 2024**, reinforcing their understanding on how to strengthen trust between Colombia's elections agency and citizens, particularly youth, through educational activities that promote understanding of democracy, elections, and civil identification in experiential learning environments (*Sembrando Confianza*).
- **We hosted several large-scale events with diverse audiences, reaching 647 in-person participants**, amplifying discussions on democracy, youth engagement, and media and information literacy (*closing events of CAD and CoDECo*, and our *Regional Roundtables against Disinformation*).

Recognition and awards

In 2024, CIVIX Colombia's work was recognized at the global level, reinforcing our position as an innovative and impactful organization.

- We published our first major research study, "[Youth Online: Habits and Skills for Navigating Digital Environments of Generation Z](#)", in partnership with an academic

institution. This groundbreaking research provided key insights into how young people interact with digital information, shaping future efforts to improve media and information literacy in Colombia.

- Voto Estudiantil - Student Vote, a program originated in Canada and created by CIVIX in that country, was selected as one of the most innovative and scalable educational experiences in the world, earning a place in the HunderED Global Collection 2025. This recognition highlights our success in fostering democratic participation among young people through experiential learning.
- Our Executive Director, Andrés Sáenz, was selected as one of the Obama Scholars at Columbia University, one of the most prestigious professional development programs in the world. This recognition underscores his leadership and CIVIX Colombia's growing influence in the global conversation on civic education, youth leadership, and democratic resilience.

The achievements of 2024 would not have been possible without the dedication of our team, the commitment of our partners, and the resilience of the young people and educators we serve. As we move into 2025, we do so with a renewed focus on innovation, sustainability, and impact. The road ahead will require us to embrace change, strengthen our organizational structure, and continue advocating for the role of civic education and media literacy in Colombia's democracy. In the next section we will explain in detail the nature and impact of all the projects and initiatives that were part of the organization's life during the previous year.



Two teachers review materials created by CIVIX Colombia to promote political participation in their city. 'Democracia al Tablero Bootcamp' in Bogotá, August 2024.

5. Programs and projects in 2024

5.1. Doble Click: Strengthening Media and Information Literacy in Schools

Program Overview

Doble Click is CIVIX Colombia's flagship initiative designed to enhance media and information literacy (MIL) among both teachers and students. In 2024, the program provides educators with the tools they need to teach students how to critically navigate digital environments, identify misinformation, and promote responsible digital citizenship. Doble Click incorporated the most up-to-date topics in media, digital, and informational education, offering a comprehensive curriculum with 7 modules, 23 lessons, and over 100 teaching strategies for classroom use.

CIVIX Colombia developed an entire media, digital, and informational education ecosystem that provides both public and private school teachers across 10 departments with pedagogical materials. These materials cover content related to navigating digital environments, with a special focus on developing critical information analysis skills to mitigate issues like misinformation, polarization, hate speech, and their effects on Colombian society.

By the end of the project in July 2024, **1,216 teachers participated in 21 Democracy Bootcamps** (13 of them in 2024 with 735 trained teachers), training spaces where the developed pedagogical materials were distributed, and teachers were trained on how to incorporate these topics into their classrooms.



Doble Click Democracy Bootcamp in the city of Tunja , 2024.

These training sessions were held both in person and virtually (vía “Cafecitos con CIVIX”). In total, CIVIX Colombia conducted 20 in-person Democracy Camps, funded by the project, and one additional training session in partnership with a private educational institution in Bogotá. All 1,256 teachers received physical copies of the materials. Additionally, 11 virtual “Cafecitos con CIVIX” were held via Zoom, featuring experts (mainly of the part of the VerazMente Community of Practice) on the topics covered in the curriculum.

CIVIX Colombia also completed the development of a multimedia web platform, www.hazdobleclick.co, which hosts all the educational resources created as part of the project. These include: (1) a Pedagogical Guide with 7 modules and 23 lessons on media, digital, and informational education for grades 6 to 11; (2) a Teacher’s Guide; and (3) a Student Journal to help teachers monitor students' understanding of concepts and the development of skills.

Key Results of the Program

- **87%** of surveyed teachers reported successfully integrating high-quality civic education and media and information literacy programs with a gender-sensitive approach into their classrooms, surpassing the target by **7%** (80%).
- **88%** of teachers indicated a shift in their pedagogical practices to effectively teach media and information literacy strategies, exceeding the target by **8%** (80%).
- **90.2%** of teachers reported an increase in their interest, motivation, and the perceived relevance of including media and information literacy in their efforts to combat misinformation in the classroom.

Real Stories, Real Change

What would you say about Doble Click?

"As we studied, we realized there were things we didn't know. We shared the same excitement as the students when learning something new. It was a beautiful experience for all of us because we learned together, drawing from the children's experiences as well."

— Mayra Carolina Ruano, Teacher, Ipiales

"This initiative not only improved students' ability to discern information online but also promoted a more conscious and ethical use of digital technologies, preparing young people to face the challenges of the digital age".

— Erika María Franco - Teacher, Medellín



Doble Click Democracy Bootcamp in Bogotá. February, 2024.

5.2. Pasa la Palabra: Empowering Youth Leaders for Constructive Dialogue

Program Overview

Pasa la Palabra is a training program created by CIVIX Colombia for young people aged 14 to 19. Its primary goal is to strengthen and enrich youth skills to facilitate constructive dialogues within their communities, with a focus on counteracting polarization, hate speech, and violence both online and offline. The program emphasizes education for peace and aims to promote responsible and transformative youth leadership.

In the first quarter of 2024, the complete curriculum for Pasa la Palabra was developed, marking the launch of this new youth leadership initiative by CIVIX Colombia. In March 2024, the open call for participants was launched and closed at the end of the month. The program was successfully implemented during April and May 2024, involving 10 cohorts and a total of 313 graduates.

CIVIX Colombia designed a 40-hour experiential training model called "Pasa la Palabra," where youth learned practical tools for facilitating constructive dialogues between individuals with differing opinions. The training incorporated strategies such as Nonviolent Communication (NVC), Peace Circles, Empathetic Listening, and Conflict Transformation.



A 'Pasa la Palabra' session in the Nariño Region. May, 2024.

Participants acquired skills in Nonviolent Communication (NVC), Peace Circles, and Empathetic Listening—relational models that foster horizontal, judgment-free dialogue spaces that value personal life experiences. Several key resources were developed as part of the program's implementation, including: (1) A Brandbook and logo; (2) Social media kit; (3) Facilitation protocol for teams; (4) Parent presentation for selected youth; (5) Facilitation support presentation for training sessions; (6) A workbook for participants; (7) Promotional

items (notebooks, pens, buttons, tote bags); (8) The board game "Abracadabra: Pasa la Palabra"; (9) Tokens or badges; and (10) Pedagogical support materials.

Key Results

- **98%** of the trained youth, when surveyed, reported having engaged in actions promoting good practices in informed citizenship and constructive dialogue in their communities after participating in the program, exceeding the target by **28%** (70%).
- A significant improvement was achieved in youth skills to address gender stereotypes, discrimination, and hate speech in digital environments, increasing from **75%** to **95%**.
- Participants' confidence in reaching consensus within their communities grew from **81%** to **96%**.
- Youth confidence in their leadership abilities increased from **86%** to **93%**.



Students with their 'Pasa la Palabra' diplomas after finishing the program in Medellín, May 2024

Real Stories, Real Change

What did you realize during Pasa la Palabra?

"I realized that through empathetic listening, nonviolent communication, and peace circles, I have been able to understand others in a completely different way than I did before. This approach has helped me have more assertive communication with others, which has been a significant change in my life".

— Anderson Antonio Rodríguez

"I realized that it is much easier to reach agreements and resolve conflicts when I prioritize connecting with the other person, recognizing their needs and feelings".

— Karen Natalia Montenegro

5.3. Veraz Mente: Community of Practice Against Disinformation

Program Overview

In 2024 CIVIX Colombia led the establishment of [Veraz Mente: United Against Disinformation](#), the first Community of Practice in Colombia dedicated to combating disinformation. This initiative brings together leading organizations working to counter disinformation and mitigate its harmful impacts on society.



A total of 24 local, national, and international organizations have actively participated in this collaboration, developing processes and improving practices to address disinformation and its societal effects. One of the significant achievements was consolidating the Community of Practice with 11 member organizations.

Key Stakeholders and Governance

Veraz Mente integrates prominent actors in Colombia’s disinformation ecosystem, including organizations like CIVIX Colombia, Makaia, Atlantic Council, Fundación Gabo, Movilizadorio, Fundación Colombia 2050, ColombiaCheck, Detox Information Project, FLIP (Foundation for Press Freedom), the Scientific Park for Social Innovation at the Universidad Minuto de Dios, and Linterna Verde.

The community operates under a voluntary, horizontal governance structure, emphasizing the importance of joint action to address the widespread issue of disinformation and its societal impacts. CIVIX Colombia assumed the role of the Technical Secretariat, coordinating meetings, defining guiding principles, lines of action, and establishing working groups across various thematic areas, including communication, pedagogy, and advocacy.

Major Events and Collaborations

To promote Veraz Mente's work and encourage debate on the effects of disinformation, CIVIX Colombia hosted a high-level international event, [“Disinformation in Latin America: Reflections and Initiatives from the Global South”](#), with 23 speakers from six Latin American countries. **189 participants** from 10 different countries attended the event, organized in partnership with Veraz Mente and Wingu, a specialist organization focused on using tech tools for social impact. This event marked a pivotal moment for Veraz Mente, establishing it as a key regional reference in the fight against disinformation.



Additionally, as part of the community's collaborative actions, [11 webinars](#) titled “Cafecitos con CIVIX” were organized, where each participating organization shared knowledge and tools with a diverse audience, including teachers, students, researchers, and the general public.

Real Stories, Real Change

What does VerazMente mean to you?

"VerazMente is a powerful tool where all the organizations working on disinformation issues in Colombia come together so that, united, we can have a much greater impact."

— Beatriz Helena Vallejo, Executive Director of Detox Information Project

"VerazMente is an explosion of knowledge around disinformation. It is the accumulation of ideas, thoughts, and strategies to innovatively mitigate disinformation."

— Andrés Felipe Pinzón, Project Manager at Fundación Colombia 2050



Members of the different organizations that make up VerazMente at an event in Cartagena

5.4. Roundtables Against Disinformation

Program Overview:

The Regional Dialogues Against Disinformation are spaces for exchanging knowledge, transferring methodologies, sharing best practices, and discussing lessons learned among various local actors (youth, teachers, academia, media, social organizations, institutional actors, and others) interested in addressing and delving into the issue of disinformation from a territorial approach.



The initiative aims to decentralize the conversations and actions around disinformation and its political and social impacts within the country by integrating diverse actors into a horizontal dialogue space. This space, using playful methodologies, allows participants to recognize the nuances and ways in which disinformation spreads and is combated at the local level.

CIVIX Colombia led the organization of 10 dialogue spaces (one per department). The development of this initiative began with mapping local actors to invite them to participate in the dialogue, ensuring the events would be multi-actor and intergenerational. This promotes the exchange of experiences across different sectors and audiences. Additionally, these events were open to citizens interested in obtaining practical tools to strengthen their digital and informational resilience skills.

Methodology:

The methodology of the dialogue tables is designed to value the voices of participants equally, distancing itself from traditional unilateral models like lectures, conferences, and expert panels. Instead, the dialogues spark horizontal conversations where the personal experiences of each participant provide valuable insights into the mechanisms and effects of disinformation in the region.

Each dialogue table lasts 3 hours, with three key moments:

1. **“Pandora”**: A sensory experience that invites participants to engage with information pollution in digital environments. The goal is for participants to reflect on their own experiences with disinformation and the multiplicity of content found on social media.
2. **Dialogue Groups**: In this phase, participants are divided into groups to discuss basic questions that help identify and diagnose how disinformation spreads in the territory and what actions are being taken locally to mitigate its effects on the population. The results of these group discussions are shared in plenary.
3. **Interactive Stations**: Participants move through three stations where, through playful activities, three crucial elements of the disinformation ecosystem are highlighted. Practical tools are provided to help participants mitigate the impacts of disinformation in society. These tools focus on:



1. **Information Verification Skills**

2. Identifying Cognitive Biases and their Role in Informed Decision-Making
3. De-escalating Polarization through Empathetic Listening and Deconstructing the "Enemy" Image

At the end of this section, participants receive educational cards that explain the practical skills learned, which serve as a reference for informed decision-making and critical information navigation in digital spaces.



Participants of the Roundtable Against Disinformation in Bucaramanga

Key Results:

- 433 strategic actors from civil society and the public sector shared their knowledge, experiences, and best practices in combating disinformation and promoting media and information literacy with other stakeholders as part of the Regional Dialogues, exceeding the established target of 50 by +383.
- 121 strategic actors from civil society and the public sector reported a greater awareness of innovative models for combating disinformation through education, as part of their participation in the dialogues. This exceeds the set target of 100. It is important to note that while 433 people attended the 10 dialogue tables, the number 121 refers to those who completed the event feedback survey.

This initiative represents a significant step in bringing together key actors across different sectors to collaborate on combating disinformation at the local level.

5.5. Youth Online: Habits and Skills for Navigating Digital Environments of Generation Z

Objective:

[This research](#) aimed to provide a national diagnosis on the habits, behaviors, and skills of children, adolescents, and young people from Generation Z in Colombia regarding their navigation and critical analysis of information in digital environments. This was done through a survey conducted with students between the ages of 10 and 18, collecting 6070 responses from 111 schools across 17 departments in Colombia. This represents the first updated national assessment on this topic.

The study was based on a survey designed to gather data on the online habits and digital skills of Generation Z and was done with a recognized academic partner in Colombia: Universidad Minuto de Dios. The data was then systematized into an interactive Power BI dashboard, which is publicly available for those interested in delving deeper into the results. The findings were also published in a document titled “Youth Online: Digital Citizenship of Generation Z in Colombia.”

Launch and Presentation:

The executive summary of the research was presented during the launch event on July 16, 2024, as part of the closing event of the “Civic Action Against Disinformation” project, titled “[Humanity in the Digital Era: Building Bridges for Peace.](#)” The event was attended by prominent figures, including the European Union Ambassador to Colombia, and over 130 stakeholders, strategic actors, and allies.



Printed research ready to be delivered at the Civic Action Against Disinformation project final event.

Research Findings (Summary):

- **Average Screen Time:** Children, adolescents, and young people are connected to digital platforms for an average of 10 hours per day.
- **Most Popular Social Media:** WhatsApp and TikTok are the most frequently used social media platforms.

- **Content Creation:** 76.5% of young people generate content on their social media accounts, regardless of their age, gender, or socioeconomic background.
- **Challenges with Identifying Fake Content:** 90.3% of young people lack the skills to easily identify fake content shared on messaging platforms such as WhatsApp.
- **Digital Connectivity:** The majority of young people access the internet primarily from their homes, using smartphones.
- **Tolerating Online Risks:** Young people exhibit high levels of tolerance and flexibility to online risks.
- **Lack of Understanding on Online Identity:** There is a low understanding of concepts such as online identity and digital footprint, especially among younger adolescents.

These gaps highlight the need to strengthen media, digital, and informational literacy to promote skills that cater to the digital citizenship needs of the 21st century. There is an increasing urgency to enhance skills related to accessing, evaluating, and reproducing reliable and quality information. These are essential characteristics for the ethical practice of digital citizenship in an increasingly interconnected world.

Recognition and Impact:

The results of the research and the mention of the "Civic Action Against Disinformation" project, CIVIX Colombia, and the European Union received significant recognition in both national and local media outlets. This recognition is reflected in the [media coverage report](#).



Media coverage in [Forbes](#) Colombia - August 13, 2024

The study represents a vital contribution to understanding how Generation Z navigates digital spaces, the challenges they face, and the urgent need for strengthening their skills in the digital environment to become informed, responsible, and resilient digital citizens.

5.6. Democracia al Tablero: El Plan es Conmigo

Launched in March 2024, *Democracia al Tablero: El Plan es Conmigo* (*Democracy on the Board: The Plan is With Me*) aimed to strengthen young people’s understanding of local democracy and equip them with tools to influence their city’s development plans. The initiative focused on three key areas: teacher training, student-led civic engagement, and policy advocacy. The program was funded by USAID through FHI 360.

Pedagogical Tools and Teacher Training

During the first three months, the CIVIX Colombia team developed comprehensive educational materials, including a [pedagogical guide](#), promotional [videos](#), and a communication strategy. Additionally, [Candidateados 3.0](#), a digital tool designed to facilitate the teaching of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and local development plans in Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali, was launched. This tool systematically organized local government plans based on the 17 SDGs, aligning them with UN objectives. Strategic partnerships were established with education authorities in Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali, resulting in Memorandums of Understanding with their respective Secretariats of Education.



Democracy Bootcamp in Bogotá - July 18, 2024

Three [Democracy Boot Camps](#) were held: (1) Medellín (June 13): 37 teachers, 25 schools; (2) Bogotá (July 18): 35 teachers, 25 schools; and (3) Cali (July 31): 59 teachers, 38 schools. To further support educators, two virtual *Cafecitos con CIVIX* (webinars) sessions provided additional guidance:

1. **August 15:** *Powerful Ideas, Transformative Ideas: Strengthening Student Proposals and Pitches*, focused on elevator pitches.
2. **August 29:** *Transformative Ideas: Elevating Student Voices*, centered on the methodology for organizing student proposals.

Student Engagement and Transformative Ideas

Through classroom implementation, students identified and proposed solutions to local issues, referred to as *Transformative Ideas*. The most innovative and well-structured proposals were selected for further development in a school pitch like contest that involved the entire educational community.

Policy Advocacy and Impact

Following the pedagogical phase, the program facilitated student engagement with local decision-makers through [advocacy roundtables](#):

- **Bogotá (September 30):** Held at the District Secretariat of Education, where students from seven schools presented their proposals to council members, congressional representatives, and youth advisors, leading to commitments such as school visits from policymakers and proposal inclusion in legislative discussions.
- **Medellín (October 16):** Hosted at the *Centro de Innovación del Maestro - MOVA*, involving seven schools. Agreements included integration with the *Líder Sos Vos* program to enhance youth leadership.
- **Cali (October 17):** Conducted at the Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia, with students from seven schools advocating for school infrastructure improvements and increased youth participation in local decision-making.



A high-school student presents his transformative idea to the Director of Participation of the Secretariat of Education of Bogotá in CIVIX Advocacy Roundtable. September 30, 2024

Key Outcomes

Across Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali:

- **88** schools participated.
- **131** teachers were trained.
- **6,943** students engaged in the project's activities.

Impact assessment showed:

- **84%** of teachers reported improved skills in democracy, youth participation, gender perspectives, and citizenship-building.
- **81%** of teachers deemed it "highly relevant" to address youth participation and advocacy in the classroom, with those feeling adequately equipped to teach these topics increasing from **54% to 84%**.
- **92%** of students recognized the importance of learning about democracy and participation, and **84%** of students (ages 14-18) enhanced their civic and democratic participation skills.

Concluding on October 21, 2024, *Democracia al Tablero: El Plan es Conmigo* successfully strengthened teachers' capacities to integrate civic engagement into their classrooms and empowered students to formulate and advocate for local solutions. Through pedagogical materials, in-person and virtual training, and advocacy spaces, CIVIX Colombia bridged the gap between youth voices and policymaking, ensuring that students' ideas reached local authorities and influenced city discussions.

Real Stories, Real Change

What did participating in the Democracia al Tablero project mean to you?

"The project gave students the opportunity to reflect on their surroundings and propose viable solutions for their communities, such as creating the institution's Sustainable Transformation Plan. I found the continuous recognition from CIVIX very motivating, as they provided us with weekly suggestions that generated enthusiasm among the students. The challenges were significant, especially balancing my new role as a mother with the project's implementation, as well as convincing the school leadership to adopt it midway through the year. However, witnessing how a small classroom activity evolved into a large-scale institutional project with great impact was incredibly rewarding.

— Mónica Ruiz Martínez, teacher at the Javiera Londoño school in Medellín

5.7. Ecoleaders: Guardians on the Border

Program Overview

Launched in March 2024, *Ecoleaders: Guardians on the Border* is a youth leadership program adapted from CIVIX Colombia's *Liderab* model to enhance environmental leadership skills among young people in Cúcuta. The program aims to strengthen youth capacities in climate resilience, climate change adaptation, and local environmental impact. *Ecoleaders* is funded by Fondo Acción, a national entity that promotes sustainable management of Colombia's natural resources while supporting child protection and development, particularly in early childhood.

The program consists of:

1. **80 hours of in-person training** based on CIVIX Colombia's three-pillar educational model:
 - *Saber* (Knowledge Transfer)
 - *Ser* (Socio-emotional Skills for Leadership and Representation)
 - *Hacer* (Practical Tools for Advocacy and Social Transformation in Environmental Education)
2. **Educational field trips** designed to foster a deep connection with nature.
3. **Mentorship sessions** on Nature-Based Solutions and strengthening communication skills.
4. **Peer-led knowledge-sharing spaces** to replicate and expand environmental leadership learnings.

Implementation & Progress

Between April and July 2024, the program updated *Liderab*'s pedagogical tools, completed the [selection process](#) for youth participants in Cúcuta, and initiated training sessions for the 30 selected young leaders. From July to October, the program delivered **10 training sessions**, covering topics such as nonviolent communication, biodiversity, intersectionality, territorial identity, climate change, and diversity & inclusion. Additionally, CIVIX Colombia organized **two educational field trips** to the *José Celestino Mutis Natural Sciences Museum* and the *University of Pamplona*, allowing students to reinforce leadership lessons while connecting with nature through sensory experiences.



Participants of Ecolíderes during one of the educational field trips in the city of Cúcuta, 2024

Impact & Recognition

As the project gained local recognition, [four participants were selected](#) to attend the National Youth Summit at COP16 in Cali, where they shared their experiences with young leaders from across Colombia.

The program is set to conclude in March 2025, with final activities scheduled for the first quarter of the year. *Ecoleaders: Guardians on the Border* fostered a new generation of environmentally conscious youth leaders, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and networks to drive local change in Cúcuta and beyond.

Real Stories, Real Change

What did you learn in Ecoleaders?



"I have learned many things. The first is how to appropriately respond to conflicts that may arise, both among people (society) and in the environment. The second has made me more aware of the serious environmental issues we face, such as pollution caused by waste, and has also changed the way I see nature and understand its importance in our lives. And third, I enjoy being part of Ecoleaders because I have met different people, and in every session, I always take away a meaningful reflection on the topics we have worked on."

— Leidismar Mejías, Participant of Ecoleaders

What led you to participate in Ecoleaders?

"The desire to make a positive difference in the environment and in the community, as well as the wish to protect the planet for future generations. I am also motivated by the desire to promote sustainable practices, reduce environmental impact, and foster positive change in my local surroundings."

— Daniela Mora, Participant of Ecoleaders

5.8. Women in (the) Network (MeR)| Mujeres en (la) Red

Program Overview

Women in (the) Network ([Mujeres en \(la\) Red - MeR](#)) was a training program designed by CIVIX Colombia in collaboration with the Apolitical Foundation (who funded the project) as part of their "Internet 'Elves' to Combat Online Violence Against Women Politicians (VAWP)" initiative, conducted between August and December 2024.

MeR aimed to equip young women leaders across Latin America with the skills to identify, counter, and mitigate the spread of digital content that perpetuates exclusion and violence against women in public and political spaces. Through training on counter-narrative creation and digital campaigning, the program fosters civic awareness about the negative effects of disinformation and polarization on women's political participation, thereby strengthening democracy in Latin America.



The call for applications was open from September 12 to 23, 2024, through social media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook) and CIVIX Colombia's WhatsApp groups. A total of 190 applications were received, and 52 young women leaders and content creators (ages 16–25) from 13 Latin American countries were selected to participate.

The CIVIX Colombia pedagogical team developed the program's methodological framework in September 2024, based on experiential and meaningful education. A facilitation protocol was created for each of the six synchronous virtual training sessions, held on October 15, 17, 22, 24, 30, and 31, 2024.

Training Modules

Participants engaged in three training modules, six synchronous sessions, asynchronous activities, and a digital campaign, covering:

1. Gender Stereotypes and Biases in Digital Culture

- Identifying gender stereotypes, prejudices, and their impact on women's participation in public and political spaces.
- Recognizing how these biases are embedded in digital culture and hinder women's inclusion.

2. Gender-Based Disinformation and Its Impact on Democracy

- Understanding gender-based disinformation targeting women in politics.
- Developing positive narratives to counter exclusionary discourse and strengthen democracy.

3. Toolkit to Combat Disinformation and Harmful Content Online

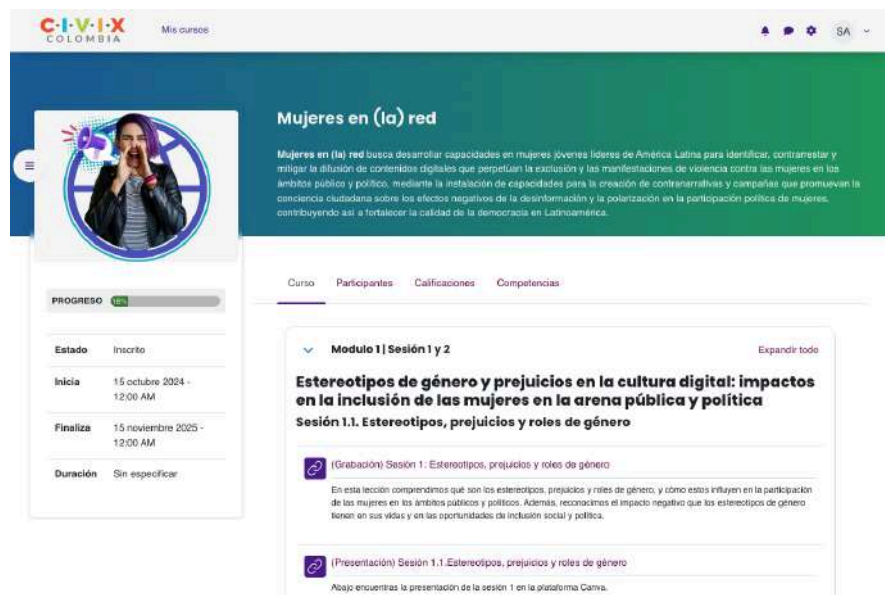
- Practical fact-checking skills to identify and counter misinformation.
- Strategies for creating digital campaigns that promote women’s political participation.

Digital Campaign: #WomenintheNetwork

As a practical application of their learning, participants launched the **#WomenintheNetwork** campaign on Instagram in alignment with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25). The campaign included 13 digital pieces (posts, stories, reels), reaching over 700 likes and raising awareness about online violence against women.

Online Learning Platform (LMS)

CIVIX Colombia developed a dedicated online platform to house training materials, session recordings, and additional resources (books, podcasts, videos, exercises). This platform provided ongoing support, especially for participants unable to attend live sessions.



The Online Learning Platform of the project with all the contents and documentation

Impact & Key Outcomes




- 44 young women trained in strategies to promote women’s political participation in digital spaces.
- 12 hours of synchronous virtual training.
- Participants from 13 Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Venezuela).
- 1 dedicated website with pedagogical content and resources.
- 1 digital campaign with 13 posts launched for #25N.
- 8 partner organizations from across Latin America.

Key Results

- **Understanding of gender roles:** Increased from **78.3% to 91.7%** after the training.
- **Awareness of gender-based digital bias:** Improved from **95.2% to 100%**, demonstrating complete mastery of the concept.
- **Campaign collaboration skills:** Scores increased from **3.1 to 4.5/5.0 (+1.4 points)**, highlighting enhanced strategic digital advocacy abilities.
- **Confidence in transforming negative narratives:** Improved from **3.9 to 4.4/5.0 (+0.5 points)**, reflecting greater self-assurance in countering online hate speech.

Through this initiative, CIVIX Colombia empowered young women across Latin America with the tools to challenge gender-based digital violence, create impactful narratives, and actively engage in the political sphere as shown in the [final report](#) of the project.

Examples of Publications from #WomenintheNetwork

	<p>How can we combat hate speech on social media? 🗨️ ✨</p> <p>Format: Post</p> <p>Published: November 11, 2024.</p> <p>Created by: @yopolitica, @pao_la2005, @lesliecollaobazan, @kuisqaperu</p> <p>Likes: 206</p> <p>Link of the post</p>
	<p>🤖🗨️ Do you know what sexist or misogynistic discourse is? Can you identify them in a conversation?</p> <p>Format: Post</p> <p>Published: November 22, 2024.</p> <p>Created by: @reportarsinmiedo, @lasmal_habladas, @alejaa_alvarado_</p> <p>Likes: 204</p> <p>Link of the post</p>
	<p>#ChatGPT also reproduces gender stereotypes, which perpetuates violence against women.</p> <p>Format: Reel</p> <p>Published: November 26, 2024.</p> <p>Created by: @mariadiliar, @civix_colombia, @artemisasdelcaribe</p> <p>Likes: 139</p> <p>Link of the post</p>

5.9. CoDECo Program (Countering Disinformation within Civic Education in Colombia)

Program Overview

The CoDECo project, implemented by CIVIX Colombia, concluded successfully in April 2024 after three years of impactful activities. Its primary mission was to strengthen civic education and enhance resilience against disinformation threats among young people in Colombia. CoDECo targeted students under the voting age, focusing on grades 6-11, and aimed to equip them with the skills necessary to navigate democratic processes and confront disinformation, using real world experiences and hands-on methodologies.



Throughout its duration, the program utilized various initiatives, including leadership development workshops, media literacy training, and youth electoral simulations, to foster a generation of informed and active young citizens. Although 2024 was primarily focused on the preparation of the narrative and financial reports, the implementation of the MEAL strategy, and the organization of the final event, we present some key results that were not included in previous Management Reports of the organization, as follows:

Key Results:

1. **Youth Leadership Development:** CIVIX Colombia equipped young participants with critical leadership skills and successfully trained 1,038 young leaders. Graduates from the Youth Leadership Laboratory (Liderab) and the Girls' Leadership Circles (Marea Púrpura) were empowered to lead within their schools, neighborhoods, and cities. A significant 91.5% of these students expressed greater interest in participating in youth leadership opportunities following the program.
2. **Civic Knowledge and Media Literacy:** CoDECo's activities also contributed to significant improvements in students' understanding of civic engagement and information consumption habits due to the CTRL-F initiative. 1,652 students participated in the CTRL-F program, which provided essential media and information literacy skills. After the program, 84.9% of students reported an increased understanding of elections and Colombia's political system, while 96.0% became more aware of effective media consumption and the dangers of disinformation.
3. **Student Vote:** One of the program's most notable achievements was the Student Vote project, which reached 454,969 students across 822 schools in 166 cities and 17

departments of Colombia. The 2023 Student Vote event became the largest youth electoral simulation in Latin America, with a total of 247,077 ballots cast by students during the local and regional elections that year.

4. **Integration of Civic Education into Classrooms:** The program also made significant strides in integrating quality, gender-responsive civic education and media literacy into Colombian classrooms. According to post-event surveys from the Democracy Bootcamps, 96.6% of teachers planned to incorporate civic education into their curricula, and 97.9% of teachers participating in CTRL-F workshops planned to integrate media literacy methodologies into their teaching.
5. **Wide Reach Across Colombia:** CoDECo's reach extended to diverse regions of Colombia, training a total of 8,173 educators. This includes 4,270 educators trained through Student Vote, 1,974 through CTRL-F, and 1,929 through Cafecitos con CIVIX. The program's broad scope made it one of the few educational interventions in Colombia that successfully reached such a wide geographical area.

The success of CoDECo has paved the way for new collaborations with international partners. Due to its proven impact, CIVIX Colombia was selected as a local ally for promoting media literacy and youth leadership in key projects, such as the Civic Action Against Disinformation project, funded by the European Union.

Final Event and Project Completion:

On April 30, 2024, CIVIX hosted the closing event of CoDECo in Bogotá, titled [The Answer is Democracy](#). The event featured panel discussions with transformative educators, youth leaders, and experts in informed citizenship. It culminated in a special performance by Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto at the Chicó Museum. At the event, the report [Citizenship Education in Colombia: Significant Experiences from the Classrooms](#) was launched, showcasing the program's impact.



Real Stories, Real Change

What did you like the most about your participation in 'Student Vote'?

"I learned a lot about research, politics, and the foundations that a proposal must have in order to benefit our community. I also liked the company of my teachers who were always there supporting me. I got so involved in the role that in the future I would like to be the first female President of Colombia."

— María Rodríguez, participant of [Student Vote Colombia](#)

5.10. Truth and Trust: Strengthening Democracy and Countering Disinformation in Colombia

The *Truth and Trust* project aimed to enhance civic engagement and strengthen democratic resilience in Colombia by countering misinformation and disinformation. The program was implemented in partnership with Binational Centers (BNCs - Centros Colombo Americanos), and was funded by the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

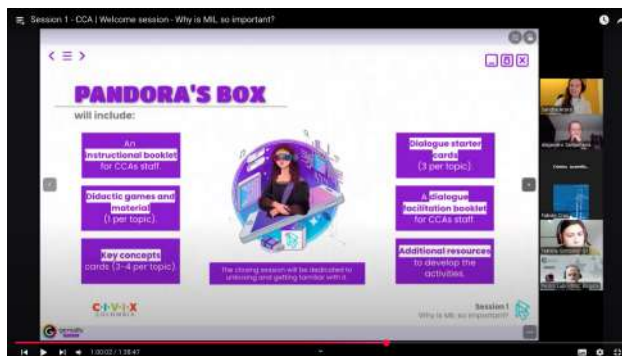
Recognizing the gaps in media, digital, and information literacy education within Colombia's curriculum, the program was designed to equip young people with critical skills for understanding democratic principles, verifying information, and fostering constructive online communities. A core component of this effort was the integration of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) into the pedagogical approaches of the nine BNCs (Centro Colombo Americanos), particularly within Makerspaces—creative learning environments that promote teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, and socioemotional learning.

Over a five-and-a-half-month period (August 13, 2024 – February 7, 2025), CIVIX Colombia developed a comprehensive and engaging MIL toolkit tailored to the needs of BNC staff and Makerspace leaders. The toolkit was designed to enable these educators to effectively incorporate MIL concepts into their pedagogical practices.

The initiative was originally set to include an impact assessment in early 2025, including the use of Pandora's Box, an interactive learning model, in Makerspaces. However, due to the cancellation of all USAID funded programs by the current U.S. government, further implementation and evaluation were suspended.

Key Results:

- 18 CCA staff members (academic coordinators and Makerspace leaders) received 16 hours of virtual MIL training.
- A comprehensive MIL curriculum incorporating interactive lessons, multimedia presentations, and hands-on activities.
- CCA staff gained MIL knowledge to help students understand fact-checking strategies, digital responsibility, and democratic principles.
- Pandora's Box toolkit was developed, featuring six interactive activities focused on critical thinking, information verification, responsible content creation, peacebuilding, and civic engagement.
- Physical copies of Pandora's Box were distributed to 9 BNCs.



Curriculum & Virtual Training Development

CIVIX Colombia conceptualized, designed, and delivered a structured MIL curriculum for CCA educators, aligned with Pandora's Box. The curriculum focused on six key themes:

1. **Access to Information** – Exploring access to information as a fundamental right.
2. **Freedom of Expression** – Understanding free speech and its ethical limitations.

3. **Attention Economy** – Examining media consumption and critical engagement.
4. **Disinformation & AI** – Differentiating misinformation, disinformation, and AI-generated content.
5. **Responsible Content Creation** – Promoting ethical digital behavior.
6. **Online Peacebuilding** – Encouraging constructive digital dialogue.

Training Implementation:

- 7 interactive training sessions (2 hours each) covered access to information, freedom of expression, the attention economy, misinformation, and digital citizenship delivered in November 2024.
- Final “Unboxing [Pandora’s Box](#)” session in January 2025 to guide educators on implementation.

Despite its early termination, the *Truth and Trust* project significantly contributed to building Media and Information Literacy capacity in Colombia’s Binational Centers. By equipping educators with innovative teaching tools and interactive learning methods, the initiative laid a foundation for sustainable MIL education.



While the cancellation of funding prevented a full impact assessment, the program demonstrated the critical need for MIL integration in Colombia’s educational landscape, the value of experiential learning in fostering digital resilience among youth, and the potential of Makerspaces as innovative environments for MIL education and civic engagement. See final report of the project [here](#).

5.11. Peace Narratives Against Hate Speech and Disinformation

Project Overview

The *Peace Narratives Against Hate Speech and Disinformation* initiative was led by CIVIX Colombia, funded by UNESCO within the framework of the *Social Media 4 Peace* project, supported by the European Union. The project was implemented between May and October 2024.

Its primary objective was to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations in Colombia, including human rights organizations across four cities (Bogotá, Cali, Quibdó, and Popayán), enabling them to create peace-promoting narratives and enhance their resilience against harmful online content—particularly disinformation and hate speech.

The project focused on the Pacific and southwestern regions of Colombia, working with civil society actors to identify, counter, and mitigate the spread of harmful digital content that perpetuates exclusion and violence against targeted groups, including journalists, independent media, women, youth, and LGBTIQ+ communities. It provided training on developing counter-narratives and digital campaigns to raise awareness of the negative effects of disinformation and hate speech.



Preparation and Outreach for the Workshops

Ahead of the four in-person workshops, several preparatory and outreach activities were conducted:

- **Mapping of Civil Society Organizations:** A thorough mapping of organizations engaged in social impact work in Cali, Popayán, Bogotá, and Quibdó was carried out to ensure broad participation. [Links to mapping results for each city].
- **Creation of a Dedicated Landing Page:** CIVIX Colombia developed an online resource hub providing details on the training program and other relevant information for civil society organizations.
- **Social Media Outreach and Workshop Materials:** A digital campaign was launched to promote the workshops, including social media assets and printed materials such as name badges, banners, certificates, and educational resources to support the digital campaigns developed in the sessions.

Training Sessions in Cali, Popayán, Bogotá, and Quibdó

The workshops combined virtual and in-person sessions for civil society organizations in the four target cities.

Participation Breakdown:

Ciudad	Registered	Virtual Participants	In-Person Participants
Cali	74	19	19
Popayán	65	32	32

Bogotá	71	38	25
Quibdó	25	15	17
TOTAL	235	104	93

Key Results

- **Mitigating the Impact of Disinformation:** 88.3% of participants stated that they now had concrete tools to help counter disinformation in their daily lives.
- **Innovative Pedagogical Approach:** 100% of participants agreed that the workshop format provided an innovative way to educate and raise awareness about disinformation and its societal consequences.
- **Practical Application of Acquired Knowledge:** 90% said they would apply what they learned in their professional lives, and 45% saw direct applicability in their personal lives as well.



In-person workshop with CSO in Cali - July 31, 2024

This initiative successfully empowered civil society actors with the skills to create peace narratives, resist harmful digital content, and contribute to a more informed and inclusive online ecosystem. Final report of the project is available [here](#).

5.12. Sowing Trust, Harvesting Democracy

Program Overview

Launched in September 2024, *Sowing Trust, Harvesting Democracy* was a four-month project developed in partnership with the University of Caldas and the National Civil Registry (RNEC). The initiative aims to strengthen trust between the RNEC and citizens, particularly youth, through educational activities that promote understanding of democracy, elections, and civil identification in experiential learning environments.

Key Components

The project includes:

1. A pedagogical toolbox (Demokit) enabling RNEC officials to visit schools and explain their role in young people's civic lives.
2. The contents of a youth leadership Certificate Program (*diplomado*) for candidates to the Local Youth Councils in Colombia.
3. Five training workshops for 250 RNEC officials, held in November and December.
4. A conceptual framework for a civic and democratic values video game.
5. A strategic roadmap for a three-year collaboration between CIVIX Colombia and the RNEC.

Implementation & Progress

During the first two months, the project focused on hiring consultants, defining a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) strategy, and developing work plans for the pedagogical resources. The University of Caldas, acting as the project's administrative manager, facilitated coordination between CIVIX Colombia and the RNEC.

In November and December, nearly 250 territorial registrars in Bogotá, Medellín, Manizales, and Tunja were trained in pedagogical approaches for engaging students. The project also introduced an innovative curriculum integrating *conscious leadership* and *challenge-based learning*, structured into four progressive modules. This curriculum incorporates a gamification system with digital badges to certify acquired skills.



In-person workshop with public officials of the *Registraduría* in Tunja - November, 2024

The Demokit: An Educational Toolbox

A central achievement of the project is the [Demokit](#), designed to introduce children and youth to democracy through the role of the RNEC. It includes:

- **A pedagogical guide** tailored to three age groups (8–11, 12–14, 15–17), covering RNEC's core functions:
 1. **Civil Registration & Identification**
 2. **Democracy & Civic Participation**
 3. **Elections & Electoral Processes**
- **18 lesson plans** (six per age group), structured with experiential learning activities.
- **Instructional materials**, including six audio capsules, six infographics, and six educational videos.
- **A hands-on analog game** to reinforce key concepts.
- **The methodological manual**, "*ABC del Demokit*" providing instructional guidelines for RNEC staff to facilitate sessions effectively.

Impact & Takeaways

By delivering a comprehensive educational package, the project successfully equipped RNEC officials with the tools to engage students in civic education. The materials developed serve as a foundation for fostering a culture of democratic participation among youth, strengthening their trust in electoral institutions, and ensuring sustained civic engagement in Colombia.

6. Challenges, Lessons Learned, and the Road Ahead

Navigating challenges and key lessons from 2024

This year has been one of transformation for CIVIX Colombia. While we celebrated significant achievements, we also faced structural and financial challenges that tested our resilience as an organization.

- The changing international funding landscape has been one of our biggest challenges. With major shifts in cooperation models and the closure of key funding agencies like USAID, we have had to rethink how we sustain our programs and scale our impact. This has reinforced the urgency of diversifying our funding sources, strengthening partnerships, restructuring governance, and exploring private sector collaborations.
- The end of CoDECo and Civic Action Against Disinformation, our two largest projects, marked a critical transition point for our organization. While these initiatives reached thousands of participants, their conclusion has required us to redefine our priorities and explore new strategies for long-term sustainability. Should CIVIX Colombia focus on breadth or depth?
- The current political climate in Colombia under President Gustavo Petro has created both opportunities and uncertainties for civil society organizations like ours. As the government continues to reshape its approach to civic engagement and education, we must remain proactive in advocating for policies that support democratic participation, media literacy, and youth leadership. The instability of key officials in ministries and other government agencies has thus far hampered the possibility of forging alliances with the State.
- Organizationally, we recognized the need to restructure our governance model to ensure long-term institutional stability. This realization has set in motion a process to change our bylaws and establish a Board of Directors, providing strategic guidance and oversight to strengthen decision-making and financial sustainability.

Despite these challenges, 2024 reaffirmed the importance of our mission. The increasing polarization, spread of disinformation, and erosion of trust in democratic institutions highlight why CIVIX Colombia's work in civic education, youth leadership, and media literacy is more relevant than ever.

Looking ahead: Plans for 2025 and beyond

As we enter 2025, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a clear vision for our next phase of impact. Our focus will be on innovation, sustainability, and deeper institutional strengthening.

- **Strengthening our financial sustainability:** We will diversify funding sources, leveraging new partnerships with foundations, private sector allies, and relevant cooperation agencies to secure the future of our programs. We will innovate by piloting a fee-for-service model and social enterprise approaches to clients interested in improving leadership, media literacy, or dialogue facilitation skills.

- **Strategically clarifying our reach and impact:** We aim to train more educators, empower more young leaders, and develop new civic education and media literacy tools that respond to the digital and political challenges of our time, but we need to do so in a sustainable way that can provide support to these communities after the end of specific programs. We need to find ways to do so.
- **Enhancing our governance model:** The establishment of a Board of Directors will be a key milestone in ensuring greater transparency, strategic oversight, and institutional resilience.
- **Leveraging research and innovation:** Building on the success of our first major study, "*Youth Online: Habits and Skills for Navigating Digital Environments of Generation Z*," we will continue to invest in research-driven approaches to inform our programs and advocacy efforts.

A Heartfelt Thank You

None of this would have been possible without the incredible dedication of our team, our partners, and the young people, educators, and civil society organizations that believe in our mission.

To our funding partners and donors, we extend our deepest gratitude for your trust and support. Your commitment allows us to continue innovating and expanding our impact.

To our team at CIVIX Colombia, thank you for your passion (*perrenque*), resilience, and relentless drive to strengthen democracy through education. Your work is shaping the future of Colombia.

To the educators, students, and young leaders who inspire us every day, thank you for your unwavering commitment to learning, leading, and creating change. You are the reason we do what we do.

As we step into 2025, we do so with determination and hope. The road ahead is not without challenges, but with a strong conviction and a clear vision, CIVIX Colombia is ready to continue building a more informed, engaged, and resilient society.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Sincerely,



ANDRÉS SÁENZ PEÑAS
Legal Representative - Fundación CIVIX Colombia
C.C. 1.020.744.919



www.civixcolombia.org

