

Bogotá Initiative 2.0

Support for refugees, migrants and host communities in Bogotá Metropolitan Area, Colombia.



The situation in Bogotá

Due to the humanitarian, political, social and economic crisis in Venezuela, more than 6 million people – around 20% of the total population – had left the country by January 2022. This is one of the largest movements of migrants and refugees in the world.. Colombia alone has taken in more than 1.8 million people – on top of the some 8 million persons internally displaced due to the country's own internal conflict.

Around 390,000 refugees and migrants have sought shelter in Bogotá, making it the city with the largest number of new arrivals from Venezuela. In addition, more than 26,000 Colombians have returned to Bogotá from Venezuela, and an estimated 360,000 more people who have been forced to flee on account of Colombia's internal conflict are thought to have settled in the city. Many of them are living under extremely difficult conditions that have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In some areas of the city, different population groups are competing for the scarce resources due to poverty, a lack of

development prospects. Many of them have experienced violence and discrimination. Conflicts between the different population groups are increasing in neighbourhoods that already have high crime rates. Vulnerable individuals are at a higher risk, particularly single mothers, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTI community, young people who are not in education or employment and children.

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| Name | Support for Refugees, Migrants and Host Communities in Bogotá Metropolitan Area, Colombia |
| Commissioned by | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| German contribution | EUR 10.000.000 |
| Political partner | Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia (Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation) |
| Implementation partner | Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá (Office of the Mayor of Bogotá) |
| Planned overall term | Aug 2021 to July 2024 |

Dealing with refugees and migrants has become one of the greatest challenges for the municipal administration of Bogotá. The economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have greatly exacerbated the situation. Government support and services play a key role in the successful integration of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and of internally displaced persons into the host communities. However, education, health, initial reception and protection centres are currently being stretched to their limits.



Delivery of food kits for the migrant population in Bogotá by the Integration Office//Migrant family from Venezuela, who have received a micro loan and advisory services from GIZ to support their launderette in Bosa.

Our approach

The project supports the district administration of Bogotá in setting up services and points of contact for the social and economic integration of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons and for the host communities. On the basis of Bogotá's Development Plan 2020–2024, the project is promoting public integration services.

It focuses on three communities in Bogotá that are hosting a particularly large number of refugees and migrants: Los Mártires, Kennedy and Bosa. In addition, it is supporting cooperation between the different departments of the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá.

The project is made up of four pillars:

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| 1 | Enhancing the capacity of the public sector |
| 2 | Improving social and legal integration services |
| 3 | Improving inclusive employment and income opportunities |
| 4 | Improving services in the field of sexual self-determination and sexual and reproductive health |

Bogotá Initiative 2.0 not only promotes cooperation between the various divisions of the district administration in the field of integration, but also supports cooperation with and among civil society actors in order to facilitate the economic and social integration of refugees, migrants and the vulnerable population of the host communities. Under a partnership with Charité Berlin, the project is collaborating with the National Institute of Health and the Health Secretariat of the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá with regards to COVID-19 management.

The project works with private companies to help integrate refugees into the labour market and at the same time to create additional new jobs. Moreover, it provides advice to Venezuelan migrants and refugees and Colombian returnees and helps them to realise their own business ideas by providing micro loans and business coaching.

By adopting innovative approaches and using new technologies, the project ensures that the target group can participate in key processes and enables integration services to be adapted to meet

people's needs. The project also includes conflict transformation activities that promote peaceful co-existence in the city neighbourhoods and create a positive discourse on the topic of migration. It takes care to consider the different needs of the target group in Bogotá, e.g. in terms of gender and the different conditions in the neighbourhoods.

The project thus devotes particular attention to improving health care for mothers-to-be, whose access to medical care is often precarious, and to enhancing health services that cater especially for the LGBTI community. In particular, the project contributes to SDGs 3 (Good health and well-being), 5 (Gender equality - Eliminate all forms of violence), 8 (Decent work) 10 (Promote regular migration) and 16 (Peace, Justice, and strong institutions).



What we aim to achieve



The Office of the Mayor of Bogotá offers improved economic and social integration services for refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons in the three prioritised communities.

Bogotá Initiative 2.0 makes a key contribution towards developing Bogotá's capacity to facilitate the socio-economic integration of refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons and host communities.

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