

Bogotá Initiative 2.0

Support to refugees or migrants and host communities in Bogotá, Colombia



The “Sowing friends” group” is part of the Procrear Fundation and is supported by the Bogotá Initiative 2.0. It brings women and transgender people from Venezuela and Colombia together in order to create new employment opportunities and combat xenophobia. © GIZ

The situation in Bogotá

More than seven million people had left Venezuela due to the ongoing political, social, economic and humanitarian crisis, causing one of the largest movements of migrants and refugees in the world. Colombia alone has received almost 2.9 million Venezuelan migrants, in addition to the 8 million internally displaced people from its own internal conflict. According to the Colombian Migration report published in October 2022, 51% of the Venezuelan migrants are women.

Bogotá is the city with the largest migrant population, attracting close to 615,000 new Venezuelan residents. More than 26,000 Colombians have also returned to the capital from Venezuela, in addition to the 360,000 people displaced by the country’s internal conflict.

Many of these people live in extremely difficult conditions, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In some neighbourhoods, communities compete over scarce resources due to their poverty and lack of development opportunities. They also experience violence and discrimination. Conflicts are on the rise in neighbourhoods that were already experiencing high levels of violence. Vulnerable people, particularly single mothers, people with disabilities, representatives of the LGBTI community, young people who neither work nor study, and children are particularly at risk.

Project name	Support to refugees, migrants and host communities in the metropolitan area of Bogotá, Colombia.
Donor	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany
German contribution	17.000.000 EUR
Political counterpart	Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia
Implementing counterpart	Bogotá Mayor’s Office
Total planned duration	08.2021-07.2024

Providing assistance to such a large number of displaced persons, migrants and refugees has become one of the city’s greatest challenges. The economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have further aggravated the situation. The offering and delivery of state services has played a key role in ensuring that migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons integrate into host communities. However, institutions responsible for providing education, health, immediate assistance and protection have already reached their full capacity.



Delivery of food packages for the migrant population in Bogotá by the city’s department for social integration. // HIV and syphilis screening days focused on members of the LGBTI community and sex workers. © GIZ

Our Strategy

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting the Bogotá Mayor's Office to provide services and establish contact points that promote the social and economic integration of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities. The project promotes public integration programmes as part of the city's 2020-2024 Development Plan.

The project mostly covers women, youth and the LGBTI population in four urban districts that have received a large number of internally displaced persons, migrants and refugees: Los Mártires, Kennedy, Bosa and Suba. The project also promotes cooperation between Bogotá's different administrative departments. The four pillars of the project are:

1	Building the capacity of the public sector
2	Improvement to social and legal integration services
3	Improvement to inclusive employment and income generation opportunities
4	Improvement to health services and the protection of the right to decide about own sexuality and reproductive and sexual health

The Bogotá 2.0 Initiative promotes greater cooperation between the different administrative entities responsible for integration in order to facilitate the economic and social integration of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable host communities. In conjunction with the Charity Hospital in Berlin, the project supports the National Health Institute and the District Health Department on prevention issues and the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and other endemic diseases such as syphilis.

The project also works with private companies to integrate migrants and the local population into the labour market and promotes job creation activities. In addition, the initiative provides advice to migrant, refugee and Colombian returnee microcredit beneficiaries so that they can successfully implement their business ideas.

The project uses innovative approaches and new technologies to ensure the participation of the target group in important processes and facilitate the provision of integration services adapted to needs. It also includes activities aimed at conflict transformation that promote social cohesion in receptor neighborhoods and create positive narratives around migration. The Bogotá 2.0 Initiative places particular emphasis on the differential needs of

the Bogotá target group, for example, in relation to gender and the variable existing conditions in the neighborhoods.

In particular, the project focuses on improving precarious health care services for pregnant women and supporting services specifically adapted to the needs of the LGBTI community through institutional allies.

The project contributes to the following sustainable development goals: 3 (health and well-being); 5 (gender equality); 8 (decent work and economic growth); 10 (reduce inequality within and between countries); and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).



The Bogotá Initiative 2.0 has provided technical and financial support to over 200 businesses in order to guarantee income generation for migrants and vulnerable people in the city. © GIZ

What we want to achieve

The Bogotá Mayor's Office and the four prioritized localities (Bosa, Mártires, Kennedy and Suba) offer socio-economic integration services to migrants, refugees and internally displaced people. In this way, Bogotá Initiative 2.0 contributes to building the city's capacity to provide better services to its migrant and non-migrant beneficiaries.

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