

# Initiative Bogotá 2.0

## Support for refugees, migrants and displaced persons in Bogotá, Colombia



*The project helped more than 73,000 people in the three years of its implementation. Of these, more than 33,000 people have received services for social and economic integration and the protection of their sexual and reproductive rights ©GIZ*

### Context

According to the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V), more than 7.8 million people had left the country by December 2024 due to the humanitarian, political, social and economic crisis in Venezuela. Colombia alone has taken in almost 2.8 million.

The capital Bogotá is the largest host department, where around 20% of migrants from Venezuela live. Many of these families have difficulties accessing food and shelter as they have informal and insecure jobs that do not allow them to earn a decent living. Therefore, some of the extremely vulnerable resort to informal jobs, sex for survival, the sale of psychoactive substances and debt (drop by drop), among other things, to cover their basic needs.

For this reason, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting the Mayor's Office of Bogotá in the socio-economic integration of refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons and people in precarious living situations as part of the Initiative Bogotá 2.0. Based on the 2020-2024

and 2024-2028 district development plans, the project has promoted measures with a focus on women and the LGBTIQ+ community.

Titel des Projekts	Support for refugees, migrant and displaced persons in Bogotá, Colombia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) European Union (EU)
Budget	17.000.000 EUR
Partner	Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation
Implementing counter-part	Mayor's Office of Bogotá
Overall term	08.2021 - 07.2025

The project also prioritized four locations in Bogotá where the district sees the greatest need for support for refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons: Kennedy, Bosa, Suba and Los Mártires. However, it has also implemented measures in other areas such as Ciudad Bolívar, Usme and Engativá. In order to develop sustainable actions, the Initiative Bogotá 2.0 has promoted coordinated actions between district institutions, civil society organizations, the Venezuelan diaspora and private companies under four lines of action:

1	Strengthening the capacities of the public sector
2	Improved access to social and legal services
3	Improved inclusive employment opportunities
4	Improved access to health and protection of sexual and reproductive rights

### What we have achieved

In the last three years, the Initiative Bogotá 2.0 helped more than 73,000 people, more than 33,000 of whom have received services for social and economic integration and the protection of their sexual and reproductive rights. It should be noted that 63% were



*Almost 40,000 people have benefited from the delivery of 25 biomedical devices to Bogotá's public sub-networks through the Bogotá 2.0 initiative. The photo on the left shows the Mayor of Bogotá, Carlos Fernando Galán, the Deputy Head of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Simon Herchen, and the District Secretary for Health, Gerson Bermont, at the handover of 8 4D ultrasound machines. The picture on the right shows a receiver of an ultrasound machine at Kennedy Hospital.*

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women, 56% refugees and migrants, 34% young people and 13% members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

In this context, more than 10,000 people have received psychosocial and/or legal support and taken part in workshops on the prevention of gender-based violence. In return, 70 civil society and diaspora organizations have been strengthened. The aim is to facilitate the socio-economic integration of the target groups by providing them with psychological support and counselling to regularize their migration status so that they can access public health services and the labour market.

In fact, the Bogotá 2.0 initiative has supported the employment of more than 400 people in decent jobs through public-private partnerships and/or the intermediation of organizations. Likewise, more than 500 companies have been strengthened with seed capital, advice on structuring their ventures and in value chains.

Meanwhile, almost 400 people have received training to improve their professional profile, CV and interview skills, and 280 HR managers have been trained in skills-based recruitment of migrants.



The project has supported the placement of more than 400 people in decent work through public-private partnerships and/or the mediation of organizations. The majority of these were women.© GIZ

In terms of institutional strengthening, the Initiative Bogotá is working with the Bogotá Mayor's Office to build an information system that articulates and facilitates the monitoring of public policies for the reception, inclusion and development of the international migrant population (PMI).

The project has also strengthened the capacity and skills of district officials and organizations by conducting three technical exchanges from Colombia to Germany, where members learned about interculturality, health, gender and diversity strategies implemented in Berlin and Hamburg. In order to better serve refugees, migrants and displaced persons, almost 2,300 civil

servants were trained in migration policies, human rights, LGBTIQ+ population, sexual and reproductive health and social skills, among others.

On the other hand, almost 40,000 people have benefited from the delivery of 25 biomedical devices to Bogotá's public sub-networks through the Initiative Bogotá 2.0, including 8 4D ultrasound scanners, 3 thromboelastographs, 4 neonatal ventilators, 1 brain monitor and 1 hypothermia device. In addition, more than 18,000 people have benefited from better services to protect their health and their sexual and reproductive rights. In particular, almost 1,000 pregnant migrant women, most of whom were undocumented and therefore had no access to prenatal care, were cared for in a mobile clinic. At the same time, the initiative strengthened long-term contraception (5 years) by providing 3,000 anatomical subdermal implants to facilitate family planning for refugees and migrants.

Finally, as part of prevention, diagnosis and treatment programs for syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), more than 15,000 people were tested for HIV and syphilis. At the same time, more than 1,400 people (medical and non-medical staff) have been certified in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and trained in the care of various population groups or the care of pregnant women.

With these measures, the project contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



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