

Medellin - Colombia

Intro: Medellin is the second biggest city after Colombia's capital: Bogota. Medellin is also the capital on Antioquia. Its estimated population is around 2.5 million and second largest urban agglomeration in terms of population and economy with more than 3.7 million people. Medellin has 16 districts, 5 townships and 271 neighborhoods. Medellin's Medellin's main economic products are steel, textiles, confections, food and beverage, agriculture (from its rural area), public services, chemical products, pharmaceuticals, refined oil, and flowers. Fashion is a major part of the economy and culture of the city. The former president of Colombia currently is Alvaro Uribe. The Medellín Metropolitan Area produces 67% of the Department of Antioquia **GDP** and 11% of the economy of **Colombia**. Medellín is important to the region for its universities, academies, commerce, industry, science, health services, flower-growing and festivals.

Colombia has no problem with accepting refugees since Colombians use to migrant over to Venezuela, but as of this time, it's getting harder and harder to easily accept refugees. A leader from Cuctana named José David Caña Pérez claims that Venezuela isn't use to accepting migrants rather than being the ones who are migrating, so it'd even harder for them to handle. Colombia wasn't prepared for such a crisis, constantly giving out medical help, food, and shelter can push them down the road of financial problems, it's a huge risk. more than 1.3 million Venezuelans have overwhelmed border zones and major cities in Colombia, this makes it hard for guardsmen to handle who gets to come in. Regarding education Medellin's goal is to provide free and easy access education to refugees from the ages 5-15. For leadership and governance Medellin's goal is to be able to start more NGOs and get international help. For economic

integration Medellin's goal is to be able to provide a way for refugees to get work. For health care Medellin's goal is to be able to provide better healthcare for refugees. For social Medellin's goal is to continue to keep borders open to refugees entering their country. For urban planning Medellin's goal is to continue the trending modern urbanization in the city.

Consequently, we want to achieve the following goals:

- Medellin's goal is to provide free and easy access education to refugees from the ages 5-15.
- Medellin's goal is to be able to start more NGOs and get international help
- Medellin's goal is to be able to provide a way for refugees to get work.
- Medellin's goal is to be able to provide better healthcare for refugees
- Medellin's goal is to continue to keep borders open to refugees entering their country.
- Medellin's goal is to continue the trending modern urbanization in the city

Melissa Fonseca

Medellin, Colombia

Education

Over the years, there has been more than 1.3 million Venezuelan refugees who have settled in Colombia. Colombia is the fifth largest Latin American country and it shares borders with Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Panama. The country's official language is Spanish, and 90% of the population is Roman Catholic. There are over 46 million people living in Colombia and some of them are refugees. Despite all the troubles, Colombia is well settled on providing an important education system for their students. Since Colombia's primary language is Spanish, most schools teach their students in the Spanish language. However, in 2004, the ministry of education launched the National Bilingual Program which means many schools are now providing English as a secondary language. In 2012, approximately 23,600 students were

studying abroad. By the year 2015, Colombia's education budget increased by 5.75%. The president at the time, Juan Manuel Santos, had a goal to make Colombia "Latin America's most educated country" by the year 2025. Colombia was extremely determined to do this in order to provide their students a better life with a better education than most countries. While the education budget increased in 2015, students from all economic backgrounds benefitted from this, especially those from low income backgrounds. The increase of students attending school in Colombia began to also increase.

Colombia has an eleven year system of elementary and secondary education with a 198 day school year. There are five years of elementary school, four years of lower secondary, and two upper secondary. During primary school, students usually begin at the age of six years old. There are nine basic learning units that most primary schools tend to follow which are: natural science and environmental education, social sciences, history, art education, ethics and human value, physical education, recreation and sport, religious education, humanities, spanish and foreign language, mathematics, and information technology. Secondary school is divided into lower and upper secondary education. Lower secondary usually starts at ages eleven for most students and lasts about three years. The learnings units are very similar to primary education but more technical subjects and foreign language. Upper secondary education usually starts between the ages of fifteen and sixteen. Students can now pick between academic (education on arts, sciences, and humanities) and technical (more into nature and focuses on preparing students to enter the workforce) learning units. The grading scale between most schools seems to be the following: superior performance (A), high performance (B), basic performance (C), and low performance (F).

While most universities in the United States cost thousands and thousands of dollars, Colombia is much different. To begin with, the basic education cycle is free between ages 5-15. Once a student decides to go to a university, the cost differs on the student's socioeconomic status. Public universities tend to cost US \$970 per semester and private universities tend to cost US \$970-5,330 per semester. The cost of education seems to be cheaper and more bearable in Colombia rather than in the United States. Colombia offers education to basically anyone. Throughout the years, Colombia has seemed to be welcoming to most refugees which means refugees could have access to an education in Colombia. The most similar thing between Colombia and the United States are the three levels universities have which are: professional (undergraduate), masters, and doctors. The top three popular studies in universities are business management (20.2%), engineering (14.4%), and social sciences (10.8%). The Ministry of Education regulates all levels of education while the state authority of education is the secretariat of education in Colombia.

<https://wenr.wes.org/2015/12/education-in-colombia>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/14/heres-why-colombia-opened-its-arms-to-venezuelan-migrants-until-now/>

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/children-colombia-education/>

Laura G Cruz

Economy integration

Medellin is the second largest economy in the gross domestic product. 11% of Medellin's economy contributes to Colombia's GDP. Even though Medellin was having problems with their economy due to the increase in oil price it has had an increase in growth of 2.5%. Grupo Empresarial Antioqueño is helping to manage the local economy in services and industries. Overall the economy is pretty good.

<https://www.liveandinvestoverseas.com/country-hub/colombia/economy-in-colombia/>

<https://www.internations.org/go/moving-to-medellin/working>

Medellin's main sectors are steel, textile and agriculture. In the agriculture sector natural resources are something that is important because of their exports of coal, gold, oil, petroleum, emeralds, minerals, bananas and cut flowers, and coffee. Migrants have historically contributed

in the agriculture sector because of the countries rural area. There's currently a problem with venezuela's refugees, the amount of refugees coming to colombia is becoming a challenge for employing them. Even though there are challenges we believe that these refugees will be great for our economy long terms due to increment in investment reports have said that economy growth will be accelerating by 0.2%. Our economy is not being affected by anything it is pretty healthy and it is not compared to the collapses that had been happening in other places such as Venezuela, Brazil, and Mexico.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/11/06/despite-challenges-venezuelan-migration-into-colombia-can-boost-its-growth>

<https://money.cnn.com/2018/02/22/news/economy/colombia-venezuela/index.html>

Migrants are being hired by people within their diaspora and by business more broadly. Mostly they are hired by their skills they have.

There is informal markets in the migration community such as them selling their product in the street, sidewalk and cities causing employment vulnerability.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5676698/>

There is migrant entrepreneurs in medellin and something they want to do is help migrants to legalize their migratory status. It Provides medical, pharmaceutical and legal services by professionals Venezuelan who want to help migrants.

<https://colombiareports.com/how-venezuela-diaspora-in-colombia-help-desperate-newcomers/>

There are different services that help migrants with finding work and making them be able to work such as IRC which supports them with economic well being, they have provided

\$125,000 cash assistance that benefits hundreds of people. It also gives them opportunities to get an income and build valuable things.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2018/10/5bb71ad34/vulnerable-venezuelans-find-help-colombia.html>

<https://www.rescue.org/country/colombia#what-caused-the-current-crisis-in-colombia>

The unemployment rate has gone up since we had refugees coming in from venezuela in december 2018 we had a rate of 9.7% and in january 2019 it went up to 12.8%.

<https://www.economy.com/colombia/unemployment-rate>

Some skills that they should have is to know english as a foreign language and spanish speaking. Any experience with other jobs. What can happen is that they have the lack of opportunity of being to be able to work with migrants that had a skill or experience with other things and put it together.

Welfare goes back to 1930. The programs comes with benefits for migrants such as health care, maternity benefits and compensation. Not only that but there is allowance for people that are unable to work for a certain circumstance.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Colombia/Welfare-and-health>

Venezuela is causing strain on the health and social service in colombia because of the amount of migrants that are coming in.

<https://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/12/01/colombia-s-venezuela-problem>

Migrants are seen as contributing to the economy in a way that it Colombia's economy is growing because of all these refuges and all the help that they are getting just shows that they are

trying to do something to work and that will reflect on the rates in employment rate and economy growth.

Adrian Abeja

Committee of Resilience

To start off, the people from medellin Colombia are very welcoming as shown by Fiona Dolan in an article received as an entry to the Generation Emigration “I love living in...” competition.

While the people in medellin might be nice, the government is going through a hard time economically because of mass influx of people shifting in from Venezuela.

Approved by Congress after four years of negotiations between the Colombian government and the left-wing rebel group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the historic peace deal ended the longest-running civil conflict in the Western Hemisphere, one that has taken a huge toll on Colombian society, most profoundly in the area of migration. Ongoing violence by other guerrilla and paramilitary groups is making return difficult for these refugees. Colombia shares a 1,400-mile border with Venezuela and has absorbed the the worst of the South American immigration crisis.

Experts said funding from the U.N. and U.S. will only make a dent in the growing needs of aid organizations and in aiding the overwhelming number of refugees and immigrants along the Colombian border towns and cities. The Trump administration said in late September it would take at least \$48 million to ease the crisis, while the United Nations planned to create an international emergency fund to help Colombia and nearby countries.

Colombia has offered hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans temporary work permits, not all migrants have had access to them. This lead to Venezuelan migrants being twice as likely to be unemployed compared to locals and about half of them are living under the poverty line. In addition, 40 percent of migrant children are not going to school (twice the percentage of Colombian children). The wave of newcomers has overwhelmed hospitals, schools and even streets. The World Bank report, titled "Migration from Venezuela to Colombia," found that sewer and water systems in some Colombian border towns needed to be upgraded to handle the increased population. In 2014 local hospitals treated 125 Venezuelan migrants, in 2017 that number went up to 25,000.

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of 2,203,961 Swiss francs on a primary basis to enable the IFRC to support the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) to deliver assistance and support to 120,000 people for 1 year, with a focus on the following areas of focus and strategies of implementation: shelter; livelihoods and basic needs; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; restoring family links, protection, gender and inclusion, and migration actions.

Is it possible for you to ensure the safety/security of migrants in your city? Why or why not?

Living conditions of refugees in the Colombian border region are tight, with things such as housing, food, and medical care in short supply. The majority of refugees are women, children, and the elderly. They are among the most vulnerable to rising crime and safety is not guaranteed.

The government laboriously manipulates humanitarian laws for political and tactical gain. There is also deep disagreement about the terms used in the laws of war to identify non-combatants and targets. While some disagreement may be the subject of debate, much of the resistance to the cooperation with laws of war in Colombia is a good example of what a government shouldn't agree upon to protect their people.

The Colombian army teaches its officers the basics of international humanitarian law and makes instructional material available to officers, professional soldiers, and recruits. Some higher classmen emphasize the importance of human rights and international humanitarian law to field officers and their men. Nevertheless, after examining hundreds of cases and interviewing many officers, government investigators, and people who have witnessed violations, Human Rights Watch concludes that the army continues to engage in serious violations of the laws of war, with no effort to investigate or punish those responsible. At the root of these violations is

the Colombian army's consistent and profound failure or refusal to properly distinguish civilians from combatants. In other words; they are corrupt.

Types of army violations vary according to region and unit. In eastern Colombia, where militaries are weak, the army is directly shown in the killing of non-combatants and fighters who have surrendered or been taken prisoner, torture, and threats. In the rest of the country, where paramilitaries have a respected presence, the army fails to move against them and tolerates their activity, including serious violations of international humanitarian law; provides some military groups with intelligence used to carry out operations.

On the Colombian side hospitals are overflowing, and there are people living in parks because they find nowhere else to stay.

By 2018, the government hopes to have 63 percent of the country connected to broadband. And according to 2013 GSMA mobile economy figures, there are already 43.9 million mobile connections and 24 million mobile users in a country whose 47 million people give it the third largest population in Latin America and third largest Spanish-speaking population in the world. These and other figures are highly encouraging for people looking to tap a rapidly growing market, and it follows that a stronger internal tech culture will also form the groundwork for Colombia's own aspirations for technology.

Representing Medellin Colombia's Resilience committee, I would say that the large influxes of people should be minimalized in a process in which people have to go through to try and enter Colombia.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/11/19/venezuela-colombia-migrants-nicolas-maduro-humanitarian-crisis-migrants-food-and-medicine-shortages/1808395002/>

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/colombia/article221012925.html>

<http://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=187010>

<https://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports98/colombia/Colom989-02.htm>

<https://techcrunch.com/2014/11/22/an-overview-of-colombia-one-of-latin-americas-most-promising-new-tech-hubs/>

<https://money.cnn.com/2018/02/22/news/economy/colombia-venezuela/index.html>

Paola Almendarez
Health care

<https://internationalliving.com/countries/colombia/healthcare-in-colombia/>

<https://co.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3314050/>

<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/feature/2013/07-10-colombia-report-health-hci>
[d.htm](#)

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/pilotcities/medellin/en/>

Healthcare Medellin

The health care for Colombia is easy access, for example: they have this public plan called EPS (entidades promotoras de salud) to qualify you must be a resident. By law everyone in Colombia must have the same basic coverage. Colombia has the best healthcare system in Latin America and it's very unexpensive compared to the US and Europe As mentioned before, Colombia has one of the best health care in all latin america so someone without really being a resident or

having a visa can have access to healthcare insurance. This plan is called prepagada, prepagada is a private health insurance is a private network of healthcare facilities. However, An estimated 30% of Colombia's five million internal refugees lack access to government-run health services in the big city slums where they seek sanctuary To sign up for an EPS plan in Colombia, you will need to have a visa and a cedula. But to sign up for a prepagada plan in Colombia, a passport is sufficient according to the broker listed below. So, a foreigner without a visa can get health insurance in Colombia. But access to health care remains an obstacle, primarily because of red tape, she adds. "The municipalities control access to health care and they demand that displaced people show their documents." Juan estimates that 75 000 residents in Ciudad Bolivar, and about one-third of Colombia's estimated five million displaced people, are excluded from the health care system. It's difficult for Colombians to get good attention or good healthcare when they can't pay for the private one. Middle or low class people don't have a good quality of healthcare like the private one. It's unusual for a person with government insurance to go to a private hospital. Not a lot of people try since they know they would be sent to a public one. This shows the inequality in Colombia within the healthcare system. It has been criticized for providing dramatically inferior care to the less wealthy. However two years ago the court forced the government to begin paying for more equitable care.

According to the article "food for cities" Medellin is the first city in Colombia with a Unit dedicated to Food and Nutrition Security . The role of the municipal authorities in public policy on food and nutritional security has been growing "El Buen Vivir"— are already starting to implement activities to build a more sustainable and resilient CRFS. More specifically, projects will follow two directions: (i) Enhancement of the agricultural production in the districts of

Medellin, and (ii) improvement of the access and availability of safe and diverse produce for city region dwellers, by strengthening the food supply system. However Colombia is one of the most populous city in all latin america which means that people from low income backgrounds don't have that easy access to healthy food. This provokes insufficient food amounts, poor delivery and lack of money, and and food costs. Regardless of the refugees the situation is also hard because not a lot of refugees will have access to food. The resources for mental health and trauma treatment are quite difficult, there's not an easy access to good mental health and trauma because of the violence. They have a lacking access to support.. And yes absolutely they will need to be expanded with the influx of migrants so they can have access.

The system for sanitation is very poor. There has been the worst droughts it has seen in decades and based on stats 15 indigenous people have died from dehydration and disease related to lack of water. However in the caribbean coast people have as much water as they need to. But people from low income don't have clean water. Based on a article "67% to 82%, but access to improved water sources⁴⁵ increased only slightly from 89% to 94%"

Kristina Bravo

Leadership of Governance

Colombia has been accepting Venezuelans after the economic crisis that occurred in Venezuela. For the past 2 years, more than 1 million migrants have tried to find shelter and food in Venezuela, but it's starting to create problems. Yes, other places like Perú, Ecuador, and

Brazil are letting Venezuelans go to their country, but most of people are staying in Colombia because it's the closest area. Experts have said that the amount of people migrating into Colombia won't decrease as time goes on, in fact, it'll continue to increase rapidly. Vice President Marta Lucia Ramirez says it's going to be hard and a huge risk accepting another million. Letting so many migrants in has put Colombia in a tight position.

Colombia and other areas have decided to make strict policies on who can go pass Colombia borders. Certain events have occurred such as the yellow tents that housed families for a temporary shelter, about 600 Venezuelan migrants, were all taken away, leaving Venezuelans to continue to live on the streets and bus terminals. Colombian President Iván Duque had promise to build a secure country based on "a culture that respects the rule of law." The president had sent 3,000 national guardsmen to the border in addition to the ones already there. Colombian police do night patrols, day patrols, but they still struggle to keep people in control when all that's on the Venezuelan migrants is food (said by Colombian police colonel, Carlos Giron). Even though the borders try to only let people with certain documents in, Venezuelans still find it easy to get in, even with cars. It's been told by Colombian police commanders that there are hundreds of illegal footprints along the Columbia border that stretches out to 1,400 miles. Colombian officers then decided to focus on arresting people who try to smuggle in Venezuelans price-controlled meat or gasoline. Officers keep their eyes on a certain river connected to Colombia and the bridge Rio Táchira where thousands of Venezuelans cross everyday.

There are NGOS such as "Giving Children Hope" and UNHCR, hosted by Medellin, accept donations to give Venezuelans shelter, food, and clothes, but that isn't enough to keep Colombia a stable country. Colombia wants to keep helping but they need help internationally

and they are already facing a bunch of government's finances, generating a burden estimated at nearly .5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the Venezuelans. Colombia is already trying to get the U.S to help by getting them to send the a Navy hospital ship, the Comfort, to provide Venezuelans medical treatment. The only problem is, experts say, getting any help financially from places like the United States and United Nations will only do so much in the growing problem in aid organizations and in handling the crazy number of refugees and immigrants along the Colombian border towns and cities such as Medellin. Even before Venezuelan migrants, Colombia already had corruption scandals, cocaine production issues, cuts in American aid, an expensive peace agreement that follows them for 50 years already, and oil situation. With Nicolás Maduro Moros, a Venezuelan politician serving as President of Venezuela, still continuing to raise food prices, it could put Colombia in economic crisis just like Venezuela.

Colombia is looking for any kind of help, technology can only do so much. The refugees camps left in Colombia does have people with cellphones and or some kind of bluetooth technology give by the United Nations or other aid groups that can help help out the migrating children who still feel the need to get an education. But there is still a long struggle on how to help everyone else survive without trying to kick everyone out.

Allan Flores

Urban Planning

Although it was known during the 1980s and most of the 1990s as the most violent city of the world, the city is putting those years behind by working toward building a more inclusive, vibrant, and resilient city.

The city of Medellín has successfully implemented an integrated and multi-sector approach that has included a combination of violence prevention programs and a deep commitment of its people to build a prosperous, inclusive and livable city. For that reason, the experience of Medellín in integral urban transformation and social resilience attracts intense interest from other cities around the world.

“I’d never been to that neighbourhood before. It was a new world to me.” The architect Luis Miguel Velez Wiesner is recalling the first time he set foot in Santo Domingo, one of Colombia’s most notorious comunas (slums), when the Medellín cable car opened in 2004. “The first time, I felt like I was going to be kidnapped. Now it’s quite different – there are lots of places to eat and shop. It feels safe now.”

For intrepid residents such as Wiesner, stepping off the cable car to enter the once out of bounds “other side” of Medellín, was a seminal moment in the history of their city.

Their photos in front of Giancarlo Mazzanti’s dramatic new España library in Santo Domingo sent an altogether different image of Medellín to the world. The long-entrenched division between the gridded city in the valley and the informal settlements on the hills was finally

disappearing. The world's most dangerous city had become accessible, and safe.

“I always lived in a gated compound,” Wiesner says. “When we were young, my mother was afraid when we had to leave the house. We were in a shopping mall once when a bomb exploded. It was quite normal. It's really different now though – they're not shooting everyone, everywhere.”

Medellín's revival is a story of dynamic interplays between key figures on either side of the divide – not least mayors Luis Perez, Sergio Fajardo and Alonso Salazar, and the drug lords Pablo Escobar and Don Berna – and of radical experiments in urban planning and participatory forms of governance.

Police and military forces storm the rooftop where drug lord Pablo Escobar was shot dead in 1993.

Police and military forces storm the rooftop where Pablo Escobar was shot dead in 1993.

Photograph: Jesus Abad-El Colombiano/AFP/Getty Images

No account of Medellín can be written without considering Escobar's role in masterminding and controlling the city's fortunes. It might seem a little unorthodox to consider one of the world's most powerful and violent criminals an urban planner, but to ignore his role in the story of Medellín's development would be to grossly distort history.

Escobar and his cartels helped set the conditions for urban change to happen. They led Medellín

to the brink of disaster, then demanded it change. In 1982, Escobar launched his “Medellín Without Slums” programme – a politically motivated but nonetheless heartfelt campaign to rid the city of its slums and provide a “life of noble dignity” for the urban poor who, in Escobar’s words, had been living in an “inferno of garbage”.

Besides increasing his popularity, power and even election-winning potential – Escobar was elected to Colombia’s house of representatives for a brief period in 1982, before his associations with drug trafficking had him expelled – Medellín Without Slums was the first effort to make change for the poor from within. Through it, Escobar – who was eventually shot and killed by security forces in December 1993 – gave the city’s comunas a political voice and a vehicle through which to demand change.

He radicalised, politicised and militarised the poor, turning them against the citizens of the formal city in all-out civil war. Escobar’s legacy, in planning terms, was this transformation of the spatial divide between formal and informal territories, between rich and poor, into a violent opposition of territories.

Medellin, Colombia Parque Biblioteca Espana

Biblioteca España, the striking public library on the hillsides of Santo Domingo, one of Medellín’s poorer neighbourhoods. Photograph: Alamy

At one point, Medellín was the most dangerous city on earth. From 1990 to 1993, more than 6,000 people were murdered annually, and not just in the slums. Drive-by shooting was regular

and indiscriminate. The accounts of suffering and violence are truly obscene – not simply of warfare between gang lords and drug criminals, but of children being tortured and mutilated for accidentally crossing an invisible territorial boundary, of growing up with homicides taking place in their bedrooms, of bullets flying through their curtains at dinner.

The need for change was urgent – and perhaps only such extreme conditions could have led to such radical urban experimentation. According to Colombian architect and UCL lecturer Catalina Ortiz, who worked on Medellín’s strategic city plans of 2005 and 2013 under Mayor Fajardo, the critical moment came a quarter of a century ago.

“For me, 1991 was a key turning point for the whole country. It was the worst and the best moment – a time of complete crisis and a moment of hope,” Ortiz says. “It was truly a moment where everyone felt it could not get any worse – we had to do something.”

Medellín’s security issues could not be dealt with through policy measures alone

Catalina Ortiz

The country’s new constitution, ratified that year, gave greater independence to local governments to elect their own leaders, offering more control over urban development to local people with local knowledge and expertise. It was also the moment when the national government, with international support from the United Nations, started to intervene in Medellín, dismantling and demobilising guerrilla paramilitary groups.

“The interest of the national government was an acknowledgement that the situation was out of control,” Ortiz explains. “They recognised that governance in Medellín had been lost.”

But this was also a key moment for urban planning – the point at which the city’s issues were considered a matter of urban design. “The government recognised that Medellín’s security issues could not be dealt with through policy measures alone. It was the point at which the governing entities started to recognise and address the urban context of the problem,” Ortiz says.

Police officer Commune

A Colombian police officer patrols the streets of Comuna 1, a comuna that had one of the highest rates of violence.

Medellín’s authorities started a series of radical programmes to reorganise the social fabric of the comunas and mobilise the poor. The city’s planners began addressing its endemic violence and inequity through the design of public spaces, transit infrastructure and urban interventions into the slums.

Key to their approach was a commitment to the public realm as a truly shared space, and a faith that they could transform Medellín’s public spaces from sites of segregation and warfare into spaces where communities would come together.

But Medellín’s social urbanism stretches way beyond the more modest experiments with

participatory planning and community consultation that are now vogue in cities across the globe. The sheer enormity and complexity of the issues here demanded something unique – an urbanism of inclusion, where the dispossessed became partners in driving urban change.

Influenced by European regeneration models, notably in Barcelona, Medellín's 1995 and 1999 strategic plans set a new agenda for the city. "They redefined the realm of what 'public work' is. Participatory planning became a key question of social equity," Ortiz explains.

In 1998, it became constitutional law in Colombia that every municipality had to develop a masterplan, and that planning could not happen without social participation.

Katlyn Vargas

Social Cohesion

Venezuela continues to collapse leaving its people to flee starvation, violence, and hyperinflation caused by the presidency of Nicolas Maduro. Many venezuelans have tried going to countries such as the U.S., Mexico, Chile and Brazil but were approached with violence forcing them to leave. Around 5,000 are migrating to Colombia per day the majority are women, usually pregnant, children, and the elderly. Since 2014, about 3 million have emigrated from Venezuela.

Colombia has kept their doors open and knowing there is no way to keep them from migrating and continuing to they've decided to help them out. A border mobility card has even been offered allowing for the migrants to come in and leave though some have been denied the ability to receive the card due to having relations to Maduro. The national migration authority in

Colombia has tried helping the migrants to get identity cards in order to be able to stay and work. Colombian authorities are even trying to get a policy that would help the venezuelans be able to produce and earn money but the speed at which the number of migrants coming in is increasing can be too much for Colombia.

On the first day that the borders in Colombia were reopened in July 2016, tens of thousands were fleeing into the neighboring country. The migrants bought such things like medicine and food to take back to Venezuela while some decided to stay. After 90 days, around 65,000 had moved to Colombia and moving to a year the number was at 470,000 venezuelans. In the month of November of 2018 the number changed to over a million. It can be said that every month around 150,000 are migrating to Colombia.

Where the migrants are settling there isn't necessarily a lot of money and schools with little resources struggle with the huge amount of children coming in. The government understands children will be vulnerable and fall into the world of drug trafficking and have made an attempt to put these children into school. A decree has been implemented since 2017 allowing for foreign children to attend the primary schools in Colombia. But of course there are still a few concerns again because of the numbers. In hospitals it is overcrowded with people waiting to get care sometimes they're even emergencies, there isn't enough hands to help venezuelans settle in and many have been left to sleep in town plazas. The government is even worried that doctors and engineers from Venezuela won't find a job and be left to pick coffee. For everyone wages can potentially go down and then children will end up in drug gangs while health problems begin to spread. Nonetheless, Colombia remains with its arms open believing positivity can come from the venezuelans like an economic growth if they can be registered and settled.

