

Boston Latin School
Tufts IGL Inquiry 2019
Cities at the Vanguard
Athens Simulation

Medellín, Colombia

Briefing Paper

Introduction:

Medellín was founded by Francisco de Herrera Campuzano in 1616 and was a power for the Paisas. In the early twentieth century, with the prevalence of the railroad, we became a major exporter of coffee. In the 1980s, we found ourselves severely challenged by the criminal enterprise represented by Pablo Escobar. We want to make it clear that we do not think that this criminal is representative of our history. We have since become a city safer than many American cities and a popular tourist destination.

At this moment in history, we find that the most pressing world issue is the migrant crisis which stems from Venezuela. We have received many new residents as a result of this issue, and are looking for solutions to these problems. We are concerned that not enough cities and nations are willing to accept those in need as much as we are. We look forward to working with all those participating in these meetings.

Demographics:

Medellín is Colombia's second largest city with a population of 3,966,906. Most of the city is female (51.9%) and between the ages of 15 and 64. Only a few more than 1 in 3 were born in the city itself, with many having immigrated into our city from the countryside. About 6.5% of our city, according to the 2005 census identified as "Black, Mulatto, Afro-Colombian or of African descent." Other visible minorities were too few to report. Nongovernmental groups estimate this number to be significantly less than the accurate number. This percentage has likely gone up with the national percentage since 2005. Our country, as a whole, is 80% Catholic. We hold an employment rate of 8.9%.

Key Points:

- To be able to sustain the influx of migrants and refugees coming into the city while maintaining the well-being of our own citizens.
- To reduce the increase of homicides, forced displacement and the high rates of extortion in the neighborhoods due to the humanitarian crisis.
- We need to ease the difficulty that the administration has had with creating policies and a dialogue with the citizens.
- Demonstrate coherence of the supposedly 'integral' policy based on human development as proposed by the Medellín administration.
- The mayor of Medellín working with the Colombian government to give the people our position on peace and peace-building in the city.
- To clear the facts on what dependence the responsibility of the issue falls and what the budget allocation is that could allow consolidating actions in this regards.
- Increase foreign investment to reach the same investment Medellín receive last year which was around \$375 million for this year as our goal.
- To create more opportunities of accessibility and resources not only for the upcoming migrant and refugee youths but also for the current citizens that may not receive the education and health services our infrastructure was not built to support.

- To present practical solutions to high-level Colombian policymakers and organizations on addressing the health needs of refugee settlements in Medellín, for Colombians displaced by the conflict.
- To create urban areas in which individuals can flourish and innovate

Background:

Since the seventeenth century, Medellín has been one of the largest and most powerful cities in Colombia. It has shown that there truly is power to be had as a city. We have been an inspiration to other cities for what change can look like when implemented correctly, and have become the model for sustainable development. We are proud of our dynamic history as well.

The idea of Medellín founded in 1616 when Francisco de Herrera Campuzano founded *San Lorenzo de Aburrá* and began expanding soon after. He brought with him 80 Indians, people whom we must never forget. We acknowledge that this is a heavy part of the colonized period serving under Spain.

We are located in the Aburrá valley and have been located there as a result of the local presence of former gold mines. These mines have developed our past, as they have contributed heavily to the size of our population and the growth of our city.

We are named for the Spanish city of Medellín, another reminder of our colonized past. Furthermore, Medellín, Spain, is most notable for being the birthplace of Hernán Cortes, born long before our city was founded. Cortes, though, is not the reason behind the naming of our city. We are glad to have been relatively free of conquistadors, save, most notably, Gaspar de Rodas. We were officially named under the concepts of Count Pedro Portocarrero y Luna, President of the Council for the *Consejo de Indias*, who brought such an idea to the Spanish Monarchy. However, we are also named for the Roman settlement Metellius. Such a settlement was established in 75 BCE by Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius with the intention of forming a military base. This is a history of strength which we have had for many years.

Under Spanish rule, much development did occur. Early in our history, we began the development of the church of *Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria de Aná* was built. Three years later, the Spaniards started construction on the Basilica of Our Lady of Candelaria, which was rebuilt at the end of the 18th century. Before the creation of the town, the future inhabitants were scattered throughout the valley, with only a few families concentrated at the confluence of the Aná (today called the Santa Elena) and the Medellín rivers; others lived in El Poblado San Lorenzo. After the royal edict, which separated the settlers from the previous capital of the region, Santa Fe. The proud rebels chose the Aná site as the heart of the future city, with the Candelaria Church at its center.

Our city slowly grew from a size of 3,000 in 1674 to 15,373, just after the winning of Colombian independence. We have grown tremendously, as we take diligent censuses in an attempt to best understand our population.

We have had many resources for our entire history. As previously mentioned, we were founded under the concept of mining gold. We were built on an economy which was meant to

harvest. For this reason, we became a major exporter of coffee during the time of the industrial revolution. This development shaped our society and created a new class of farmers and traders. Though we were not directly harmed, we do recognize the slowing impact that the Thousand Days War.

The Thousand Days War was a politically motivated civil war which occurred in our nation at the end of the nineteenth to the early twentieth century. It had started with the conservative party maintaining their power for too long a time and ignoring the will of the people, showing a fatal crumbling in the threads of democracy. We understand the need to cultivate stability and political cohesion as a result of this experience.

In the 1980s, as a continuation of our exporting history, our country and city were plagued with the actions of Pablo Escobar. We became a major exporter of cocaine and an important spot on the map for drug production. We were the center of his "Cartel del Valle," and as a result of his actions, became one of the greatest producers of death and homicide in the world. We are sad to admit this as our past.

Luckily, this all changed when Escobar died. Crime rates have dropped dramatically, and the homicide rates show that we are no longer deserving of the title of the world's most dangerous city. This all has changed due to the hard work of our government.

In October 2002, our president launched "Operation Orion," aimed at the disbanding of local, violent, rebellious groups, such as FARC and the AUC, United Self-Defenders of Colombia. These military strategies have settled many attempts at destroying the peace which we have worked so hard to build. We think that it is completely reasonable to seek peace by any means necessary.

We also have invested in our public institutions, including, most heavily our transportation systems. In 1994, we introduced our modernized metro system, one of the most renowned in the world. This has brought a level of peace, confidence, organization, and community to our city. Our libraries have brought our city closer and we have become a more closely-knit city. We are proud to see this to be so. This has connected our many once-dangerous neighborhoods and made our city extremely safe.

We have become home to many institutions of education, including over 30 universities. The oldest of these was the Royal College of the Franciscans. It was founded in 1803 with three initial departments, Philosophy, Grammar, and Theology. It has since been renamed the University of Antioquia. It has been the birth of our very precious education development.

We are largely ruled by liberal politics, with an especial focus on the Party of the U. The Party of the U was founded in 2005 in order to support then-president Alvaro Uribe. Uribe led the fight against terrorist groups such as FARC and ELN. He made the entire country safer through this work and returned much civilian traffic to roads which were previously impassable. He successfully was able to implement policy which stimulated the economy, reduced unemployment, and expanding internal commerce.

The party was heavily supported by the Colombian Conservative Party, a party which is now the country's second largest. The party was founded in 1849 by Mariano Ospina Rodríguez

and José Eusebio Caro. It has supported controversy against the Liberal party over contents of the constitution since the founding of the parties and culminated in the aforementioned Thousand Days War. The party created the Bank of the Republic and has heavily used their power. They are currently regarded as an opposition party by the governing Liberal party.

Our history of politically motivated violence continues today. We see that this must settle and that other countries must follow as well.

Today, most of our economy is supported by tourism, as we have become the image of beauty and rebirthing. We are proud to have become the magnificent city which we are.

Issues:

Leadership/Governance

As a country, we have improved significantly in participating in electoral politics, with 54% of Colombian citizens participating in the past Presidential election, which is a 13% increase from the election in 2014. In our city, migrants and other displaced people have been participating in politics and making impacts in a variety of measures, whether it is through formal petitions, holding marches in protest, or reaching out to NGOs. We have supported the creation of committees, coalitions between our government, trade unions, and other non-governmental organizations, and which listen to the voices of those displaced, which seek to assimilate and ease the joining of our city.

The system of government in Medellín is based on the concepts of majoritarian rule. We believe that it is necessary for all voices to be heard. We also believe that it is important for all to have their own independence while being a part of a larger system. It is also important to recognize that the people will not necessarily know the optimal choice for the rest if using complete majoritarian rule, and therefore individuals should, at some point, serve their government for its development and in order to improve the status of peace. These people must be able to deliberate and thoroughly weigh all options before finally choosing what ought to be implemented in society. For this reason, we tend to lean towards concepts of steering the populace by means of a sort of rule which is based on the concepts of the majority, but who choose leaders to make the decisions for them.

As a whole, we have learned the importance of being welcoming towards others. Citizens of our country have witnessed immense amounts of violence directed against the civility of our nation. Many of them have known what it is like to flee one's country for the sake of the city, and, for this reason, we wish to bring those in need into our country, and are willing to carry some of the weight which the rest of the government has handed to us. We are happy to comply with our central government, and firmly support that which they are doing.

As a city, we are seeking to create a certain degree of autonomy for the city of Medellín as well as other states of the nation. However, we do wish to express that we still do believe in the central government and would be devastated if such a system no longer existed. As a country, we have a rather coherent agenda which seeks to create equality, opportunity, and comfort for all.

Our government has several ties with other cities, for instance, it is a twin town with Colombian cities such as Bogotá and Santiago de Cali, and with other cities in Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, and the United States, and also holds partnerships with several cities in Spain. We produce 11% of the country's economy and over 60% of the GDP of the Department of Antioquia. Furthermore, our city is a primary tourism location, and we contribute to our region through our renowned universities, commerce, industry, and health services.

Historically, NGOs have mainly been able to gain popularity in our city through the mayors and governors elected by popular vote who allowed citizens to gradually hold a greater role in the financial resources of public services. This process allowed for decentralization and further established the position of municipalities as intermediaries between our government and our citizens. Our government today has a strong relationship with NGOs through municipalities, which contact local NGOs to take up public services and profit from their work.

Our national government has established a system of Border Mobility Cards (TMF), made available for Venezuelans by November 27, 2018, allowing them to acquire essential goods, in-country services, and visitations to relatives. According to the Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Groups (GIFMM), over 830,000 TMFs were approved as of January 1, 2019. Additionally, the national government offers a transit permit, which came into effect on December 27, 2018, allowing Venezuelans fifteen days to travel through Colombia to a third country, regardless of whether they have a passport or not. We also have a Special Stay Permit (PEP) as of 2017, which over 550,000 Venezuelans had by the end of 2018. The PEP allows Venezuelans to stay in Colombia for up to two years, with access to employment, health policies, and education during then.

Should undocumented migrants apply for the PEP, they are able to receive all the benefits of the permit mentioned previously. Additionally, should undocumented migrants apply for the TMF, they can receive services inside the country, including those of the police. Besides these permits, migrants can also seek help from the Colombian Red Cross, which has aided in medical consultation, delivery of medicines, nursing care, shelter, and psychological care for thousands of migrants. This past October, Víctor Bautista, the Director of the Development and Border Integration Department, reported the expansion of the Governmental Migration Management Committees, prioritizing the health services, labor inclusion, protection, and security of Venezuelan immigrants through the involvement of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Labor, Education and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, and many more.

We provide documentation of Venezuelan migrants who don't have any sort of registration in Colombia with the Administrative Registry of Venezuelan Migrants (RAMV). This does not allocate for any sort of immigration status or permanence and is meant to collect information for improving humanitarian policies regarding immigration. However, the RAMV does allow Venezuelan migrants to obtain the PEP.

Technology has allowed our government to effectively regulate and identify immigrants crossing into the Colombian border. In March of 2018, Christian Kruger Sarmiento, the Director of Migration in Colombia, announced BIOMIG, a biometric system involving iris recognition,

which has been implemented at immigration zones in airports. “The main checkpoint in Colombia is where we are today,” Sarmiento declared, voicing that BIOMIG will be a huge step forward for the immigration process, “Here, at this point, 66 percent of the migratory movements of the whole country are registered.” Additionally, on October 20, 2018, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, revealed there would a unique, improved biometric system as a result of the increasing number of Venezuelans entering our borders. Authorities hoped this would decrease the long entry process, and increase efficiency.

Technology has also aided in participation for marginalized groups. For instance, a local GIFMM (Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Groups) was recently established in Medellín last year, and has become a vital resource to provide not only assistance in health, nutrition, protection, and education for migrants, but also offers a means of representation for them in matters of both the city and all of Antioquia.

While we cannot truly speak for all residents, we do wish to say that Colombia is more accepting of newcomers than other places. We are confident to the positivity of the views of our citizens as there have been very few examples in recent memory of angry mobs demanding that we provide a greater amount of rights to those who are sidelined by our worlds. We believe both in safety and the wellbeing of the people. Furthermore, it is imperative that we can create a space in which all can be a comfortable life.

One sort of problem that we predict to see in the future will definitely stem from the influx of the presence of our neighbors within our city. We are willing to accept more refugees but are hesitant to accept too many. According to experts members of our citizenry, “the situation [with Venezuelans] is a bit newer ... But when we’re talking about almost 2 million people coming into the country, there will be a limit for sure.” We cannot let the entire country of Venezuela within our borders. We think that it will be more important to develop other nations than accepting them within our own borders. Therefore we want to address the political unrest in Venezuela.

We do not think that Venezuela can follow its trajectory of being a failing society. Whatever future Venezuela holds, we know that it cannot have the image of Maduro as the leader.

Urban Planning

Medellín is located in the Aburra Valley at an elevation of 4900 feet. The downtown area is in the center of the valley with the living neighborhoods surrounding it and expanding onto the surrounding hillsides. There are also towns and municipalities to the north and the south of the city. Medellín is divided into 16 comunas, or districts, 5 corregimientos, or townships, and 271 barrios, or neighborhoods. With so many districts and neighborhoods, it is no surprise that the Medellín area is the second most populous of Colombia, behind the capital Bogota, with a population of close to three million people and a metropolitan area with close to four million residents.

The city is also one of the densest in the world with a population density of in the center of the city 17,940 people/km². The metro area as a whole has a population density of slightly lower 16,610 people/km².

Outside of the city, there are many poorer areas that the government has put many resources into an effort to integrate them more fully into the city. The reason for these communities was a population explosion between 1950 and 1990. Before 1950 Medellín was a very small city with a population of only 350,000 people. However, political and economic unrest and uncertainty in Colombia's rural areas lead to mass migrations to the larger cities. As such Medellín's metro area population increased almost tenfold to three million people by 1990. At the time the city was fully unprepared to accommodate such a rapid influx of people. As a result, informal communities appeared on the surrounding hillsides. Due to the circumstances, these areas had fewer resources such as welfare programs, transportation, water, and electricity.

Due to this socio-economic inequality and the introduction of drug cartels in the mid-1980s, the government created a new innovative plan called "La Consejería para Medellín". This project brought city leaders together to create new plans and ideas to promote social well being throughout the entire city. An emphasis was placed on social urbanism, an idea that promoted investment in quality buildings, welfare programs, and new infrastructure. Even thirty years later there is still much to be done, but leaders still have the same motivation to make Medellín a city where all have access to resources and opportunities.

In total, over a million people from Venezuela have resettled in Colombia. In Medellín, most migrants live in the poorer areas on the hillsides surrounding the city center. However, many migrants are of middle-class background and have bought into the more expensive areas of the city closer to its center.

Due to the influence of drug cartels in the surrounding areas, Medellín used to be a very dangerous area. However, crime rates have dropped by over 80% since 2009 and are at record lows today. This makes Medellín safer than other cities in Colombia. The government has used social welfare programs as a way of giving economic opportunity to individuals and families living in the comunas. Through these programs and Medellín's investment in infrastructure, the presence of these cartels as decreased considerably.

Colombia as a whole currently has a housing shortage of roughly 3 million units. In Medellín are upwards of 66,000 Venezuelan migrants. However, immigrants are still a small percentage of the city's total population, meaning Medellín still has the ability to absorb more people. However, 50 percent of everyone who leaves Venezuela ends up in Colombia. This means that the roughly one million Venezuelan immigrants in Colombia will most likely double within the next year. This could start to put strain on the ability of Medellín to receive and integrates new refugees.

Currently, Medellín and Colombia as a whole are very open to migrants crossing the border from Venezuela. The government has made it easier for Venezuelans to get paperwork filled out to stay in Colombia. This not only allows more Venezuelans to move here but it also

increased the accuracy of data on migrants in the country, making the country safer. Other efforts by the government include job fairs and in some cases subsidized housing.

Medellín is committed to expanding transportation to all of its citizens. A 384-meter long escalator was installed in Comuna 13 to better connect the formerly isolated community to jobs. There are also gondola cars called Metro Cables that connect to the northern parts of the city's metro area. These lifts connect the hillsides to the city's economic center and carry upwards of 3000 people per hour. The city also has the only metro system in Colombia. There are five lines that connect to north and south transportation terminals within the city. In 2011 and 2013, the city opened two bus rapid transport services. These are dedicated roads that allow for high-speed bus transportation. In 2015, the city brought back a tram system in the eastern part of the city. Later this year, the city will receive 64 fully electric buses from Chinese company BYD in a continued effort to promote sustainable infrastructure. Due to these efforts in sustainable transportation, Medellín won the 2012 Sustainable Transport Award given by the Institute for Transport and Development Policy.

As part of the revitalization efforts of Medellín's social urbanism mentality, most people in poorer comunas now have power, electricity and water access. This is due to huge government investment into the comunas since the 1990s. As a result, the quality of life in these parts of the city have seen a huge increase in the quality of life. Medellín is known as being a good place to open a new business and has a higher level of education and education access than other areas of Colombia. This makes Medellín a very attractive place for Venezuelan migrants to go.

In an effort to revitalize Medellín's poorer communities, funds have been directed towards creating more green areas and meeting spaces. This has included turning a garbage dump into a garden in the neighborhood of Moravia. This hill was covered in plants that absorb gaseous toxins from the garbage. The city has also improved pedestrian walkways, provided free public bicycles, built bridges over flood channels, and built new and improved health centers. In 2008, the city opened the Moravia Cultural Development Center, which hosts music and cultural activities aimed at boosting the quality of life in the city. In 2006, the city built new libraries and green spaces in the most dangerous part of the city, Comuna 13. One of the most important projects was an investment in learning parks. These are large library campuses with buildings and green space where kids from low-income families have access to computers, internet, and other resources. One good example of these library parks is Parque Biblioteca in Comuna 13.

Economic Integration

Medellín is, for the most part, either on par with or doing better than the rest of Colombia. The only area where it lacks is in employment rates, Medellín's unemployment rate is 2.5% greater than what national statistics show. But they make up for this in other areas, as Medellín had only a 13.4% poverty rate in 2017, while Colombia as a whole had a poverty rate of 26.9%. Medellín is very business oriented, however, most businesses in Medellín are extremely small, and many are not even registered.

At this point, migrants are more able to find jobs in urban centers than in rural areas. So, it can be inferred that there are not a lot of job opportunities within the agricultural sector. At this time there is a large influx of Venezuelan refugees fleeing into Colombia, many of whom come to Medellín, due to the political issues in their home country. While these migrants are warmly welcomed into Medellín, they tend to feel more comfortable among other Venezuelans who share their situation. Seeing as migrants typically feel more secure surrounded by other migrants, there is probably some sort of an informal market, however, they are embraced within the Medellín community and economy regardless of their background. Most migrants are forced to be entrepreneurial, due to lack of permission from our government, (something which we are trying to fix), or absence of job opportunities.

In August 2018, President Juan Manuel Santos announced a policy that would regularize 442,462 undocumented Venezuelan migrants living in Colombia. This will provide the migrants with residency rights and work permits, opening up jobs for immigrants who had previously been unable to obtain one. For most migrants, the goal of moving somewhere new is to secure a better job than the one you held in our hometown. Large communities of migrants use social media platforms to share information on jobs and housing opportunities, like Facebook groups and WhatsApp. Medellín is a growing city that is well-connected with our innovative public transportation system. A larger population in the city of Medellín would necessitate a more efficient and more complex system of inner-city travel. Public projects such as this will require a large number of workers, of whom there will most likely be a majority of recent immigrants.

In November of 2017, the unemployment rate in Medellín was 11.7%, which is higher than the Colombian average. There is very little data concerning the unemployment rates of migrants in Medellín, especially due to the very recent surges of Venezuelan immigrants to Colombian cities. But with the growing population, we expect to undergo more public works projects like the recent improvement of the public transportation system. These projects will create job opportunities for thousands of migrants in search of jobs in Medellín.

We have very little data regarding the employment of migrants in Medellín. However, we must note that Medellín is known to be an “entrepreneurial city.” Large and small businesses find success in their startup efforts in Medellín, so it is likely that immigrants find similar ground for entrepreneurial platforms. Colombia has worked to regularize and provide employment for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan immigrants. Although there is not much data on Medellín’s specific contributions for securing welfare for migrants, we are adamant that immigrants are welcome in our city and we plan to provide employment for capable migrants.

Migrants in Medellín have not been studied or recorded to an extent that would prove their effect, if any, on social services. With a larger population, any city could expect a need to expand public transportation and housing opportunities. As representatives for the great city of Medellín, we stress that we are accepting of immigrants in our ever-more diverse and vibrant community. Colombia is in the process of welcoming hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan refugees, so services like public education have been under higher pressure. Many Colombian communities, especially those located near our border with Venezuela, oppose the idea of

Venezuelan immigration to Colombia. There have been bursts of violence and instability in those regions because of the tensions between the two groups and some military involvement, but the representatives for Medellín are not swayed by the supposed threat of more migrants living in our city. We welcome the increased diversity of our city and the entrance of new ideas and innovative technologies to enrich the lives of all Medellín residents.

We encourage migrants to move to cities like Medellín so that they can find jobs and contribute to the economy. This is more preferable and more comfortable for both migrants and native Colombians than migrant “tent cities” near the Venezuelan-Colombian border. In migrant camps, fewer options are available to the refugees and there is less physical space, but urban areas offer more employment opportunities, accessible education, and more. Medellín’s entrepreneurial culture offers the perfect platform to share and develop new ideas among an ever-diversifying community. To maintain such a rich pool of ideas, it is necessary that we welcome immigrants from all over so that we have a widely varying community with different experiences, but a similar goal of living a better life in a new place.

Social Cohesion

Throughout the past year, the social structure of Medellín has shifted as there has been a strong influx of migrants coming to our city, notably from Venezuela. After the death of Hugo Chavez in 2013, Nicolas Maduro has taken power in the country and due to his failure to hold a fair election, Juan Guaido, speaker of the national assembly, has inaugurated himself as president. Backed by the US, he is bringing a debated political revolution to Colombia in the middle of a time of immense food shortage and governmental instability. In February of 2013, Maduro devalued the currency due to food shortages, however, this caused a larger lack of food, specifically for children. While poverty had been prevalent before Maduro took power, intense and unrestful protesting began the next year due to a lack of food, poverty, inflation, and the government’s inability to solve such problems. In the Spring of 2017, Maduro began to be labeled as a dictator, due to his illegal actions around the polls and widespread corruption in his government. This clear political instability, coupled with mass famine and malnutrition, has caused a huge influx of Venezuelan migrants to Colombia, thanks to its comparative stability and its 2,219-kilometer long border with Venezuela.

Nearly all of these Venezuelan are Catholic, Spanish speaking and are fleeing the unrest and violence in their neighboring homeland. While there is some debate that young men, particularly those without children, are able (and more likely) to flee to farther countries, like Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, etc, there is no clear majority in terms of family makeup, age, or gender. Additionally, besides Venezuela, no country has a disproportionate amount of emigrants coming to Medellín. However, the vast majority of non-Venezuelan migrants are from Latin America, with few from Canada, The United States, and Europe and close to none from Africa, Asia, or the Middle East.

While most of the people in Medellín are generally accepting of Venezuelan migrants, however, due to the abrupt nature of this mass mobilization, it is unclear what the long term

impacts of this include. Because many Colombians have family that fled to Venezuela during Colombian instability, there is increased sympathy towards immigration. Additionally, many Venezuelan migrants have Colombian roots and were born/lived in Venezuela due to previous violence in Colombia, and are now simply returning to their ancestral home. Since the majority of immigrants are Venezuelans, they are being displaced from their country due to political unrest.

One reason drawing Venezuelan migrants to Medellín, and Colombia in general, is the convenience of location. Colombia has been modernizing in recent years and is an attractive location for people in need. The economy of Medellín is rapidly increasing, and the social/political issues of the past are no more. Historically, immigration has been low, due to high crime rates, but as Colombia improves socially, politically, and economically, more immigrants are being attracted to the country. Additionally, the relative safety and security of Medellín, especially in comparison to Venezuela, has made it a popular refuge for those fleeing. Colombia is open to immigrants, due to revisions in the national constitution opening the country to immigrants. However, becoming a naturalized Colombian citizen is still very difficult, due to the difficulty of obtaining paperwork and complicated bureaucratic procedures. Additionally, while Medellín is not actively thwarting migrants, or for that matter criminalizing them, they are a far cry away from being branded as a perfect haven for migrants, as most of them come malnourished and lack the connections and family of their home countries. However, most hospitals in Medellín do allow migrants to use them. The similarity between Colombian culture and Venezuelan culture has enabled migrants to integrate into societal culture and norms with relative ease and speed.

Most citizens of Medellín are Catholic, as are most of the Venezuelan migrants, so this creates for a common religion, which in return is an area of immigration. While many of the Venezuelan migrants are affected by Colombian and Latin American gender roles when they migrate to Medellín, it is not a particular indicator of how well one may adapt to the city. Women generally are more likely to be the primary caretakers for children, which can make it more difficult for them to find work, especially if there is a lack of childcare. Most of the media in Medellín does actively report on the migrant crisis from Venezuela, yet there is an array of opinions represented, with some advocating for increased efforts to help migrants with others projecting the migrants as unwanted.

Youth/Education

Over the past decade, Medellín has built upon its public education system. We made the biggest investment in bilingual skills that any Colombian city has made and provided incentives for areas such as health, tourism, fashion, energy and utilities, construction, and IT. The graduation rate of our public school system is approximately 65%. The racial/ ethnic distribution within the school is majority white and mestizo. Consequently, Students that are not fluent in Spanish will have difficulty learning in the primarily Spanish speaking classrooms. The majority of schools lie within major cities such as Bogota and Medellín. Transportation to school is

generally accessible through public transportation in the city but is not guaranteed for rural students traveling to urban areas. According to the Education Policy and Resource center, primary and secondary education have graduation rates fluctuating near 100%. Higher education, however, is not as common to receive and thus has lower overall graduation rates as less of the population attends college and beyond.

Our schools are well-resourced with education expenditures about 4.5% of the national GDP. Although the influx of Venezuelan immigrants and Internally displaced peoples have put a strain on the access to schools, the Ministry of Education in Colombia supports its schools

Although there are bilingual teachers and second language types of programs, the Youth and Public Policy in Colombia report found the impact of these programs limited: “In terms of the promotion of educational services for ethnic minorities, bilingual education, and culturally relevant education, the plan reaches a total harmonization of only 40%.” Although no official reports have measured the ethnic makeup of teachers, it should reflect the ethnic makeup of the country. According to the CIA, the ethnic makeup of Colombia is “mestizo and white 84.2%, Afro-Colombian (includes mulatto, Raizal, and Palenquero) 10.4%, Amerindian 3.4%, Romani (2005 est.)” Since there is an ethnic/ racial majority of Mestizo and White people, the teacher workforce should be less diverse. In 2004, a National Bilingual Program was launched and now higher education requires that a student be bilingual. The government set a goal of 100% B2 understanding of English by 2019, although no reports have stated official numbers of bilingualism or second language teachers in Colombia. By 2013, the World Education News and Reviews reported that 100% of those in undergraduate programs in Colombia was in a specialized education program.

The basic education cycle in Colombia is free and compulsory for children between the age of 5 and 15. As for higher education, about 52.1% of students are enrolled at a public higher education institution. As for accessibility for private education is less guaranteed as students have to pay tuition based on their income in order to receive a private education in higher institutions. Although access to education differs greatly across social classes and regions, there have been efforts to make education as accessible as possible in our city. In 2010, for example, the Colombian Constitutional Court that all public primary schools should be free of charge. In 2012 the mandate was also extended to public secondary schools.

The primary education system includes religious education, however, other higher levels of public education do not have religion within their curriculum. According to the ministry of Education in Colombia, primary education is guaranteed in the curriculum, but students have the option to opt out of these classes and no student can be forced to receive religious education.

Many children are being separated from their families due to forced recruitment of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). According to the Presidential Council for Human Rights, as of 31 December 2017, 135 children had been separated from FARC-EP (75 girls and 60 boys). Other groups such as the National Liberation Army and other groups have recruited children. If children return to their families, they often lack access to healthcare and education, as is common in rural Colombia. In particular, lack of access to healthcare has

correlated with the high rate of infant mortality. As of the 2018 CIA report on Colombia, the total infant mortality rate is 13.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Not only are children recruited into armies at a young age, but the conflict in Colombia has also caused children to be killed by landmines, killed extrajudicially as ‘false positives’, used as informers and sex workers within the armed groups or urban gangs, and forcefully displaced. Although healthcare does exist, it focuses on sexual and reproductive health rather than comprehensive healthcare. There are also drug related problems with youth. According to the Youth and Public Policy Report on Colombia, the average age of tobacco use starting among young people is 16.8 years of age as of 2013. The education system also has a lack of the youth population in higher education. According to the CIA, the average school life expectancy from primary to tertiary education is a total of 15 years for males and females.

Medellín receives the largest amount of Venezuelan migrants. Between March 2017 and June 2018, one million Venezuelans immigrated from Venezuela to Colombia alone. Although Medellín encourages the education of migrant children, only about 40% of migrant children attending school according to the World Bank. In July 2017, the Colombian government created a special permit, the PEP, that allows Venezuelan citizens who enter the country legally but overstay their visas to regularize their status and obtain work permits and access to basic public services. In 2017 and during the first months of 2018, 180,000 Venezuelans were granted such a permit. In July 2018, the Colombian government granted more than 400,000 Venezuelan irregular immigrants who had registered in a government survey access to basic public services, work permits, and school enrollment for their children. We have attempted to make education more accessible to migrant children through non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations International Organization for Migration which works with the government to integrate migrant children into local schools and provide them with education at refugee camps. For undocumented immigrants, however, access to education is not guaranteed.

An influx of migrant children in the Medellín population has caused a strain in the number of available resources for migrant and local children. To combat the lack of capacity for caring for migrant children, several NGOs have stepped in to improve the living conditions for migrant children. According to UNICEF’S 2017 report on Colombia, “UNICEF Colombia supported the Ministry of Education in the design and implementation of a policy guideline that allows the Secretariats of Education and educational institutions to guarantee educational trajectories in timely, complete and quality fashions, among all school-age children, from preschool to Grade 11. Another significant achievement was the support provided to the Ministry in developing the Special Rural Education Plan and the Citizenship and Education Plan for Peace. UNICEF continues to accompany the adjustment of curricula and planning of ethno-education for Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, improving access to appropriate, inclusive learning.” Several other programs similar to UNICEF Colombia’s help support migrant children in the education system.

Once again, cooperation between the government and NGOs helps Colombia meet the needs of many migrant children. Often the biggest need for migrant children after water, food,

and shelter, is education. In 2017, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Education to create a more inclusive curriculum for migrant children.

In 2018, Colombia adopted decree number 1288 which granted a special permit to stay to Venezuelan migrants. RAMP-PEP is a form of valid identification for immigrants which allows immigrants to stay for two years, granting them key rights, like the right to health, education, and employment. The rights of migrant children are addressed through cooperation between NGOs and the Colombian government. For example, UNICEF Colombia allied with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, the Intersectoral Commission for Early Childhood and Save the Children to strengthen the enabling environment for child rights.

Currently, migrant children have no barrier to being integrated with local children. One example of this comes from the fact that there are no barriers for Venezuelan children to go to school with local children. By using the same resources such as education, migrant children are integrated with local children. This integration, however, does come with its challenges, as many Venezuelan children are seen as ethnically different, and must strive to assimilate. According to the International Rescue Committee, “In Medellín, one provider is offering Learning Circles, at a rate of 14 students to one teacher for one year, and then appropriately integrating them. Another provider noted the importance of psychosocial support for children so they can appropriately integrate and limit the effects of bullying and xenophobia.”

The Colombian government has developed programs to help Venezuelan migrants including border mobility cards and the Permiso Especial de Permanencia (PEP), which has allowed hundreds of thousands to legally stay and work in Colombia for two years.

The government discourages child labor. According to the U.S. Labour Bureau of International Labor Affairs, currently out of all children from ages 5 to 15, 4.2% participate in child labor. Our city and government strive to reduce this percentage by taking part initiatives like the National Policy to Prevent and Eliminate Child Labor and Protect the Young Worker which uses a roadmap to eliminate child labor in mining. The government also updates its list of hazardous occupations for children, piloted the Model for Identification of Child Labor Risks and devoted additional resources to its Labor Inspectorate. Under the peace accord signed with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the government reintegrated over 130 recovered child soldiers in 2017. In addition, the government raised awareness of commercial sexual exploitation of children among indigenous communities and issued guidance to labor inspectors, including by providing strategies and protocols related to child labor prevention and detection. However, children in Colombia engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Additionally, the government does not employ a sufficient number of labor inspectors.

Many NGOs work to help migrant youth in Colombia including the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ibero-American Youth Organisation (OIJ), Save the Children International, USAID, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Swedish Cooperation (CIVIS). With the large influx of intra-urban

displaced peoples and Venezuelan migrants, there has been an over demand in resources like education that our infrastructure is not built to support. Nevertheless, NGO groups have helped in aiding migrants. According to a report published by Grupo Internacional Sobre Flujos Migratorios Mixtos “the Save the Children delivered 1,800 educational kits for students, 60 kits for counselors and 24 kits for teachers. UNHCR delivered 8,000 school kits facilitate access to education in Medellín, Quibdó, Buenaventura, Putumayo, Pasto, Guajira, Arauca, Cúcuta, Barranquilla” and “Bogotá and World Vision International (WVI), in collaboration with 10 educational institutions and secretariats, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and religious organizations, have provided 833 children with friendly spaces in schools in Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario y Los Patios. In Bucaramanga, Cali y Medellín, 1,702 children participated in protected spaces in host communities and 1,940 adults participated in training on child protection.” These groups are two important organization in making a transition into providing migrant children with access to education.

Health

The healthcare we give to our citizens is generous with benefits in dental, emergency and rehabilitation services and care, we are ranked highly amongst countries on the global health scale. Medellín is able to provide accessible and affordable care to all our citizens, we have one of the best public health services along with hospitals in Columbia.

With the expansion of the Governmental Migration Management Committees, more than 1 million Venezuelans in Colombia have access to information on health services, labor inclusion, protection, and security. At Migrant Assistance Centres, the Colombian Red Cross undertook medical consultations including nursing services and First Aid services. UNICEF implemented primary health services aimed at preventing acute malnutrition in children from 0-5 years and health care for children up to 9 years, as well as promoting breastfeeding and nutritional recovery with pregnant women and nursing mothers. It also provided information with key messages to improve the nutritional status of children and adolescents and trained pediatric doctors and health personnel in hospitals and health centers in health and nutrition. In Arauca, more than 200 people benefitted from these actions during October over a three day period, IOM delivered primary health care for the migrant and refugee population in the municipalities. The services included prenatal control, child growth and development, vaccinations and general medicine. A healthcare crisis would arise if someone or many of the migrants and refugees are unable to pay for the healthcare. The city will have people who are sick with the possibility of infecting others.

Columbia is ranked #22 when it came to the World Health Organization. It is better than Canada and the United States. On top of this, we have half of the top Latin American hospitals which includes one located right here in Medellín. Hospitals and clinics in Colombia’s major cities have many bilingual doctors. The majority of expats (especially those from the U.S.) will find the cost of healthcare very affordable.

Colombia's new constitution in 1993 made healthcare a basic right for all citizens and foreigners. There are three types of medical coverage available in Colombia, though only two are available to non-Colombians. The public EPS system is available to foreigners holding a Colombian resident ID. Any temporary resident holding a visa (besides the tourist visa) is issued a resident ID and therefore able to register with EPS. This system works through contracts with health insurance companies, who then refer you to a network of participating health care providers. Because this is the public healthcare system, the wait for an appointment can be long and you will always need a referral to see a specialist. Those might need to change for migrant communities by allowing migrants to be issued a resident ID to be able to register for EPS. There are actually more typical of medical coverage for non-Colombians than citizens, but it will take longer to actually get the medical coverage with more people.

Citizens do not have easy access to food as there have been many challenges for the Medellín City Region Food System. There are limited direct relationships between rural and urban spaces, with lack of interaction among producers, marketers, and consumers. As a consequence, the food provisioning systems in and around the city of Medellín is quite inefficient. There are considerable food loss and waste and limited market regulation for prices. Therefore, there is need to strengthen food production in the peri-urban areas of cities in the Medellín city region, as well as by improving linkages between urban food demand (especially from lower-income neighborhoods) and cooperatives of small agricultural producers in the city region. Public administrations should focus particularly on improving the logistical infrastructure of markets and creating 'food hubs' for local food to enter and be distributed throughout the city.

Migrant communities will face food insecurity since the citizens barely have easy access to food themselves; however, the Colombian Red Cross, in partnership with UNHCR, has distributed 2,990 individual food kits through Migrant Assistance Centres. UNHCR in association with the World Food Program (WFP) set up a soup kitchen hosting 1,800 migrants and refugees daily with breakfast and lunch.

We will treat incoming migrants who may be malnourished through programs such as Colombian Red Cross, UNHCR, WFP, and others. There is need to facilitate the establishment of inclusive food governance mechanism that could address the complexity of the food system in the city region of Medellín, to generate political, administrative and economic synergies in order to facilitate the implementation of actions in the city region.

In the passage of the Victims' Law in 2011, the Colombian government has created economic, legal, public health, medical, psychosocial and mental health programmes for millions of persons officially designated as 'victims of armed conflict', an umbrella term that includes citizens affected by death, destruction, dispossession of lands, disappearance and displacement – all the casualties of the prolonged war. Law 1616, enacted 21 January 2013, establishes mental health as a fundamental right. The Colombian state is charged with ensuring the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental illness; and providing for the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of mental disorders. Law 1616 and Resolution 5521, enacted 29 December 2013, specify the state's responsibilities to promote mental health and prevent the occurrence of

mental disorders through interventions that mitigate risk factors for psychopathology. Emphasis is placed on the early detection of psychological risk and protective factors, and actions that positively influence mental health.

With the influx of migrants and due to the security problems, very few medical actors are present and even less mental health professionals are able to work in the region. So there is a need for more professionals in the field of mental health and trauma treatment. The MSFF mental health program in Tolima was based on a short-term multifaceted treatment developed according to the psychological and psychosomatic needs of the population from 2005-2008. In order to sustain the influx of migrants, the programs should develop into long-term treatments to suit the needs of a higher population of 2019.

Before it was the Medellín River Sanitation Program that was approved in the 1980s set in place to confront the deteriorating sanitary and environmental conditions, as well as their adverse effects on resident's health and well-being. But, now we have the EPM (Empresas Públicas de Medellín), a municipally owned multi-sector utility created in 1955, who manages ten treatment plants across the Metropolitan Area of the Aburrá Valley. The Medellín River and Flowing Streams Sanitation Program, led by EPM, aims at the decontamination of the Medellín River and a reduction of the rivers biochemical oxygen demand. The public utility company, EPM is undertaking a series of actions in the Aburrá Valley, to improve the management of drinking water. In addition to providing universal access to water and sanitation, the project aims to comprehensively manage unaccounted-for water, promote the efficient use of domestic public services, and mitigate the risks associated with the irregular use of these. This is the sanitation coverage of nearly 100%; a portion representing 47% of the sanitation network is CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow). Since 1994 Colombia has pioneered many innovative approaches for basic service provision in general and for water supply and sanitation in particular.

Many people who live in rural areas barely have access to good water and sanitation coverage so they are less likely to have indoor plumbing. These statistics come via the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program and are current as of April of 2014. Surprisingly, since 1990 the percentage of the urban population that has water piped to their homes has dropped from 95% to 94%. However, the percentage of the population drinking from improved water sources rose from 92% to 93%. Overall, the percentage of people that have access to clean water in urban areas has stayed steady at 97%. This is a great number for a developing country such as Columbia.

Most of the migrants and refugees are probably coming into the rural areas where there is barely any indoor plumbing compared to the urban areas where they can't afford to live. So for the small percentage of migrants and refugees living in urban areas, about 3% have access to indoor plumbing.

The air quality in Medellín, Colombia has worsened in recent years reaching red alert levels in the spring of 2015, 2016, and now 2017. Increased automobile usage, combined with the unique topographical and meteorological characteristics of the Aburrá Valley, contributes to higher concentrations of harmful pollutants, causing public health concerns. La Ciudad Verde, a

non-profit think tank focused on mobilizing civil society to influence the creation of sustainable policies, has challenged the SIPA Capstone team to identify a policy path to improving Medellín's air quality.

The city government is not responsible for trash collection, but rather the country's government which is Columbia. It is probably for all parts of the city including informal settlements because they are part of the country. In the coming years, Colombia aims to professionalize its solid waste management, meaning: to introduce an integral and more sustainable approach, to decrease landfilling and to increase recycling. In this effort, which is commonly referred to as the 'Basura Cero' (Zero Waste) approach.

Since Medellín is known to be one of the rising innovative cities in South-America for its tech hub, many of its technology will help address the many issues in the city. As of 2013, the city government committed \$389M over 10 years to technology and innovation. An example of technology is one of Medellín's newest is the electric buses which will help transport and mobilize the migrants coming into the city.

Resilience

We have decided not to participate on this committee. However, we would like to say that we hope that this committee should find ways to stabilize the world stage and work towards a better community of this world. We will be willing to participate in treaties which address the stabilization of the problems of immigration.