
This pedagogical guide, part of the 30GREAT Voices project, is designed for educational purposes.



GLORIA MARÍA FERNÁNDEZ

[Voice #12: Gloria María Fernández](#)

Gloria María Fernández Rodríguez, 60, shares her 23-year journey in Pampa el Mirador Alto Jordán, where she built her home while raising her children under challenging conditions. Originally from Cauca, she moved to Cali seeking opportunities and endured initial hardships like lack of infrastructure and financial struggles.

Despite losing her husband and facing health issues, Gloria worked tirelessly as a cleaner and ironer to provide for her family and finish building her house. She highlights her resilience, faith, and dedication to creating a better future for her children, reflecting the strength required to overcome personal and community challenges.

Additional resources:

[Voice #8: Emilia Jiménez](#) | [Voice #10: Flor Carabalí](#) | [Voice #15: José Vicente Taticuan](#) | [Voice #19: Maria Ofelia Arellano](#) | [Voice #23: Nancy Sanchez](#) | [Voice #25: Olga Quintero](#) | [Voice #29: Ruby Moran](#) | [Voice #30: Sandra Ocampo](#)

Based on Gloria María Fernández's video, discuss the following questions with your peers:

Question 01: Gloria's story highlights the role of community leadership, such as her brother's efforts to secure roads and utilities. What strategies can urban planners use to empower local leaders and encourage collective action for the production of public spaces in underserved areas?

Question 02: Gloria's experience underscores the financial and personal struggles of building a home in informal settlements. How can urban planning initiatives address the vulnerabilities of residents while ensuring access to affordable housing and long-term security?

Exploring connections:

Below the image, you'll find additional voices that expand on themes from Gloria's testimonial. We invite you to explore these perspectives and connect Gloria's insights with broader discussions on *Care*.