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



[Voice #18: Maria Mellizo](#)

Maria Mellizo, a community leader from Brisas de Las Palmas, has been passionate about communication and leadership since her school years. She has actively participated in community projects, including water and sewerage systems and park development, while nurturing her love for communication. Maria dreamed of becoming a speaker and has supported her son, a graphic designer and publicist, in his career. Although her communications career has not fully developed, she remains committed to her community, using leadership to drive progress and unity. Maria envisions her neighbourhood being recognised as part of Cali's urban landscape.

Additional resources:

[Voice #2: Antonio Gómez](#) | [Voice #3: Ari Paz Chito](#) | [Voice #9: Fidelino Fernandez](#) | [Voice #11: Francy Mina](#) |
[Voice #13: Hoover Hoyos Girón](#) | [Voice #16: Justiniano Arias](#) | [Voice #17: Libardo Alfredo Nastar](#) | [Voice #25: Olga Quintero](#) |
[Voice #26: Petronila Trochez](#) | [Voice #28: Rosario Castillo](#)

Based on Maria Mellizo's video, discuss the following questions with your peers:

Question 01: How can community leaders like Maria Mellizo contribute to the transformation of informal settlements through local communication and leadership in urban planning processes?

Question 02: Considering Maria's vision for Brisas de Las Palmas to be officially recognised as part of Cali, how can urban planning strategies promote the integration of informal neighbourhoods into the formal urban fabric while preserving the community's identity?

Question 03: Can you provide examples of how effective communication has helped build community and foster collective action in informal settlements, as seen in Maria Mellizo's leadership and involvement?

Exploring connections:

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