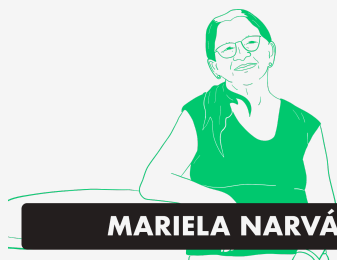

This pedagogical guide, part of the 30GREAT Voices project, is designed for educational purposes.



MARIELA NARVÁEZ

Mariela Narváez Garcés talks about her family's move to Pampas del Mirador in 2000 after many years of renting. They slowly built their home with loans and assistance from their children, facing challenges like water shortages by organising with neighbours. Over time, the community secured essential services such as water, electricity, and gas. Mariela highlights the importance of patience during ongoing improvements and expresses optimism for a better future for her family and the community.

[Voice #20: Mariela Narvaez](#)

Additional resources:

[Voice #5: Birgelina Paya](#) | [Voice #10: Flor Carabali](#) | [Voice #13: Hoover Hoyos Girón](#) | [Voice #22: Mónica Velasco](#) | [Voice #29: Ruby Moran](#)

Based on Mariela Narvaez's video, discuss the following questions with your peers:

Question 01: How did Mariela Narváez Garcés and her family navigate the challenges of accessing basic services like water and electricity in their informal settlement, and what role did community organisation play in overcoming these obstacles?

Question 02: How can loans and community funds play a critical role in supporting informal settlers, as seen in Mariela's experience, and what are the potential benefits and challenges of using these financial tools for improving housing and infrastructure in informal settlements?

Question 03: How can urban planning policies support the gradual improvement of informal settlements, as exemplified by Mariela's experience, while ensuring that community members have the agency to manage and organise their living conditions?

Exploring connections:

Below the image, you'll find additional voices that expand on themes from Mariela's testimonial. We invite you to explore these perspectives and connect Mariela's insights with broader discussions on *National Schemes for Housing and Community Funds*.