

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



### [Voice #22: Mónica Velasco](#)

Monica Velasco has lived in Brisas de Las Palmas for 21 years and is deeply passionate about social work. She has been involved in various community initiatives, including running a community kitchen with her partner Francy, which provides food and recreational activities for children. Monica is also engaged in efforts to improve the neighbourhood, which was initially in poor condition but has seen significant progress through community efforts. This includes the installation of water, electricity, and sewage systems, as well as paved streets. Monica has worked on raising funds for community infrastructure through activities such as raffles. She envisions a future where the neighbourhood has more playgrounds for children, improved schools, and better housing. She hopes to leave a lasting impact by continuing to work on projects that benefit her community.

#### **Additional resources:**

[Voice #7: Cristian Sandoval](#) | [Voice #10: Flor Carabalí](#) | [Voice #11: Francy Mina](#) | [Voice #20: Mariela Narvaez](#) | [Voice #21: Melani Escobar](#) | [Voice #24: Nury Jiménez](#) | [Voice #29: Ruby Moran](#)

Based on Mónica Velasco's video, discuss the following questions with your peers:

**Question 01:** What are the challenges and benefits of using community fundraising activities, such as raffles or communal efforts, to finance improvements in informal settlements? How can urban planners support such community-based strategies for infrastructure development?

**Question 02:** Monica Velasco envisions a future with better playgrounds, schools, and housing in her neighbourhood. How can urban planning incorporate the needs of children and families in the development of informal settlements to ensure access to quality public spaces and services?

**Question 03:** How can community-driven initiatives, like the one Monica Velasco is involved in, contribute to the improvement of infrastructure in informal settlements? Discuss the role of collective action in addressing basic needs such as water, sewage, and public spaces.

#### **Exploring connections:**

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