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



ROSALBA VELASQUEZ

[Voice #27: Rosalba Velasco](#)

Rosalba Velasco, a single mother and grandmother, has lived in the Brisas neighbourhood for 21 years. She initially faced significant challenges, including a lack of water and sewage, and worked alongside neighbours to improve their living conditions. Rosalba is dedicated to recycling, collaborating with neighbours to sort and sell recyclable materials such as plastic, cardboard, and aluminium. She also cares for her family, balancing her work in recycling with the responsibilities of raising her children and helping with community efforts. Rosalba hopes to improve recycling facilities in the neighbourhood and raise awareness about its importance for the environment and the community's economy.

Additional resources:

[Voice #1: Absalan Sabogal](#) | [Voice #11: Francy Mina](#) | [Voice #25: Olga Quintero](#)

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

Question 01: How can Rosalba's efforts in improving recycling facilities and raising awareness about environmental issues be viewed as a model for empowering residents in informal settlements to take charge of their local environment and promote sustainability?

Question 02: How does Rosalba's involvement in improving living conditions through collective action, such as recycling, challenge traditional approaches to urban development that focus solely on top-down infrastructure solutions? What might this suggest for fostering greater community participation in informal settlement planning?

Question 03: What challenges might urban planners face when trying to scale up community-driven initiatives like Rosalba's recycling program, and how can these challenges be addressed while ensuring sustainability and equity in informal settlements?

Exploring connections:

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