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



### [Voice #5: Birgelina Paya](#)

Birgelina Paya's story highlights the challenges of informal settlement development, where she and her family initially built bamboo shacks and struggled with basic services. A turning point came when the "Techo para Mí País" program provided her family with a stable home, improving their living conditions. Birgelina has since contributed to the local economy through a small fried food business while participating in community development, such as helping with infrastructure improvements. She aspires to legalise the settlement and enhance local services, highlighting the role of community solidarity and programs like "Techo para Mí País" in addressing housing needs.

#### **Additional Resources:**

[Voice #4: Aura Eliza López](#) | [Voice #8: Emilia Jiménez](#) | [Voice #13: Hoover Hoyos Girón](#) | [Voice #17: Libardo Alfredo Nastar](#)  
[Voice #20: Mariela Narvaez](#) | [Voice #23: Nancy Sanchez](#)

Based on Birgelina Paya's video, discuss the following questions with your peers:

**Question 01:** How do programs like "Techo para Mí País" support the development of informal settlements, and what are some other similar initiatives that have successfully contributed to housing and infrastructure improvements in these communities?

**Question 02:** What are the challenges and opportunities of transitioning from an "invasion" to a legally recognised settlement, and how can community-driven initiatives, like those led by Birgelina, contribute to this process?

#### **Exploring connections:**

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