



DISASTER RISKS, MIGRATION, AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

*Understanding the link between disaster risk, migration
and forced displacement in Colombia*

Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM)

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Abbreviations

DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GIDRM	Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management
IDIGER	<i>Instituto Distrital de Gestión del Riesgo y Cambio Climático</i> Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change
MMC	Mixed Migration Centre
MPI2021	Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PEP	<i>Permiso Especial de Permanencia</i> Special Permit to Stay
RID	Risk-informed Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFDRR	Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Summary

In recent years, hazards exacerbated by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic underpinned the urgent need for effective disaster risk reduction (DRR). In response, governments worldwide seek to align DRR strategies with efforts towards poverty reduction, sustainable development, and climate change mitigation. Especially in fragile contexts, hazards and disasters collide with existing vulnerabilities, conflicts, displacement and migration dynamics. Risks worldwide are becoming more and more complex requiring a systemic DRR approach to comprehend the interplay of hazards, vulnerability, exposure and capacity across sectors, communities, and regions.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) aims at understanding, reducing, and managing risks worldwide (UNDRR, 2015). In the context of minimizing climate-related disasters and displacement, the SFDRR recognizes migrants and displaced persons as key stakeholders in DRR and disaster risk management (DRM) processes. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) similarly identify the management of causes of displacement as crucial and therefore prioritize strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards. In line with these global frameworks, **understanding the systemic nature of risks** has become an urgent necessity to develop more holistic approaches to risk management that account for the interconnectivity of systems. To this end, integrated risk governance

as an inherent component of **risk-informed development (RID)** allows for the improvement of prioritization processes in decision-making.

In recent years, Colombia has experienced significant changes in migration dynamics (DANE, 2021). As a result of the social, economic, and political crisis in Venezuela, more than 2.4 million migrants and displaced people arrived in Colombia since 2015. This migration and forced displacement due to the armed conflict with FARC has created challenges for the community in Bogotá: The lack of planned urbanization in combination with other complex social dynamics creates informal settlements, in which people often are particularly vulnerable and exposed to disaster risks due to poor infrastructure or the prevalence of natural hazards.

Prepared within the framework of the Global Initiative for Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), the objective of this report is to provide an overview of the dynamics of prevailing risk conditions in informal settlements, migratory dynamics of the Venezuelan population, and disaster risk management in the district of Usme in Bogotá in reference to the findings of the Multipurpose Index 2021 (MPI2021). By examining the link between disaster risk conditions in the host communities and the vulnerability of migrants, the report aims to highlight the potential of reducing risks by incorporating risk-informed development approaches.

1. Understanding risk-informed development

Disasters can jeopardise development achievements and progress, thereby reducing the chances of sustainable development worldwide. If current trends continue apace, the number of disasters will increase by about 40% until 2030 (GIDRM, 2022). Despite increasing awareness, disaster risks are often not adequately considered in development planning and programming. To address this, **risk-informed development (RID)** takes a more holistic approach to risks and calls for stakeholders to include risk governance continuously into decision-making processes.

Addressing the systemic and interconnected nature of risks, RID is an interdisciplinary, strategic, and flexible guiding principle for decision-making towards more resilient and sustainable development progress. RID recognizes that risks are influenced by our activities and choices. One crucial component of RID is **risk governance**, which involves integrating the consideration of short- and long-term disaster risks into decision-making and management processes across administrative levels, including critical infrastructure sectors, such as healthcare, transport, energy, or water. Good risk governance considers complex and changing risk landscapes, **underlying risk drivers**, and ensures that development processes are designed flexible enough to adapt to shifting requirements. This approach requires coordinated, multilevel cooperation, and must consider the vulnerabilities and coping capacities of individuals, communities, and systems. Guided by the principle of "leaving no one behind", risk governance relies on the inclusion, representation, and participation of marginalised populations and people who face (multiple) forms of discrimination, as these individuals and communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of extreme events and disasters.

In the face of increasing interconnected risks, RID is a premise for sustainable and resilient development. It recognizes the multi-faceted, dynamic, and systemic nature of risks, and promotes the integration of risk governance into all decision-making processes.

Disaster risk management (DRM) is a cross-sectoral approach and strives towards reducing the vulnerability of individuals, households, and the society as a whole by strengthening the capabilities of individuals and communities to respond to hazards so that even if or when such an extreme

Terminology according to UNDRR:

- **Exposure** - The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.
- **Vulnerability** - The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.
- **Hazard** - A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.
- **Capacity** - The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.

Check the UNDRR terminology to learn more about disaster risk management and related terms such as hazards, residual risks or capacity.

event occurs, it will not become a disaster. Natural events can generally not be prevented – but their impact can be mitigated.

In the context of DRM, **disaster risk** refers to the potential that a hazard turns into a disaster, with serious social, economic, and environmental consequences. Risks derive from the interaction of **hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and coping capacity**—hence, risks can increase or decrease because of changes in one of these factors. Risks are exacerbated by risk drivers, such as unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation, (gender) inequality, fragility, conflict, forced displacement and migration, and intensified by climate change.

Within the disaster risk management cycle, RID focuses on prevention, reduction, and prepared-

ness in the pre-disaster phase. It specifically targets the preparatory planning processes to enhance capacities of actors, reduce disaster risks before they occur, and foster system resilience in the long term. In the context of DRM, disaster risk refers to the probability that a hazard turns into a disaster, with serious social, economic, and environmental consequences.

1.1. Applying an intersectional lens

Everyone is vulnerable to disasters. However, certain people, groups, and communities are more at risk of being affected by disaster impacts than others. Factors such as gender, income, location, age, ethnicity, disability, as well as the intersections of these categories influence how disaster risks unfold. This is particularly valid for migrant populations in informal settlements. In addition,



Figure 1: Risk drivers

migration and forced displacement can exacerbate existing conflicts and tensions and push a system to its limits.

Existing socio-economic conditions, forces of oppression and power structures shape risks and our capacities to prevent, prepare for, cope with, and recover from disasters. Intersectional thinking challenges ‘one size-fits-all’ approaches to capacity building by exposing explicit and implicit assumptions about predefined social categories. Likewise, there has been a shift in gender equality policy from a predominantly women-centered to an intersectional approach. Such an intersectional approach provides an analytical tool to enable a more nuanced understanding of people’s needs, interests, capacities, and experiences.

Risk-informed development needs to consider how social categories and power dynamics influence risk in context-specific settings. To strengthen resilience, there is the need to understand and incorporate both inequality considerations and a changing risk landscape to tailor policies, projects, and interventions.

1.2. Understanding the link between migration, forced displacement and disaster risk

In social sciences, migration is defined as a voluntary or forced movement of people that arises from various social, economic, family, political, and environmental reasons (Oswald-Spring et al., 2014). Extreme events and disasters, among others, can trigger migration, especially if state-organized response and effective recovery mechanisms, and/or necessary coping or adaptive capacities and resources are lacking within a community. From a systemic risk perspective, migration is perceived as a potential risk driver. Migrat-

ing and already migrated communities are oftentimes more vulnerable or exposed to risks due to marginalization and insecure socio-economic settings.

Analyzing migration in the context of disaster risk requires a systemic approach to understand how migration and displacement affects the relative risk levels and vice versa. Records show that disasters can disproportionately impact migrant populations due to their increased vulnerability. In addition to oftentimes living in temporary housing or informal settlements, various factors related to socio-economic status, language and cultural barriers, inadequate knowledge of local policies, limited awareness of existing hazards, marginalization, and limited social networks increase the vulnerability and exposure of migrant populations. It is important to notice that, despite the knowledge of living in hazardous and risk-prone areas, some communities self-organize risk prevention through knowledge sharing and participatory work.

Unfortunately, internal and cross-border migration is oftentimes portrayed as a threat to justify the adoption of harsh security and discriminatory measures, possibly leading to social exclusion of migrant communities and fragmentation within the society. Therefore, risk management should strive to rethink holistic solutions that do not marginalize migrants by fostering the participation of migrant populations in community processes and recognizing their capacity to act as agents in the proposed solutions. Similarly, analyzing migration and forced displacement from a systemic risk perspective can account for the pre-existing socio-economic conditions and help explain the complexity of vulnerability in a risk landscape.

1.3. Fragility

In 2018, disasters and conflict caused 28 million new displacements worldwide. The estimated 68.5 million displaced people are often more exposed to natural hazards such as floods, landslides, and severe storms (ODI, 2023). Consequently, a key responsibility for countries is how to protect not only their own citizens, but also displaced people, regardless of their legal status. However, fragile states do not fulfil this responsibility. Due to shortcomings in the democratic and statutory control of their monopoly on the use of force, in their compliance with human rights and in the rule of law, fragile states fail to meet their obligations to citizens, and their provision of public goods and services is inadequate. These weaknesses, along with violent conflict, significantly hamper these countries' scope for development and increases the citizens' vulnerability to disasters. Moreover, there is little consensus on how to include migrants and displaced people in DRR coordination and planning, especially in fragile contexts.

Prevailing climate and security narratives tend to emphasize the hazard component of risk and ignore the vulnerability component, which is easily influenced by fragility. If this connection is neglected, development, climate, humanitarian, and other policies and programs can have unintended negative effects on people and communities. Despite this evident need, DRR policymakers and practitioners continue to neglect conflict-related contexts. Therefore, information and data on how conflict increases people's vulnerability to disasters and hinders the achievement of DRR goals is lacking.

COP28 highlighted that in light of the complexity of climate risks and impacts in fragile environments, a fundamental understanding of risk must be achieved. Effective disaster risk reduction and

management relies on functioning government and administration structures to safeguard people and ensure resilient infrastructure, but these structures are oftentimes insufficient in fragile or conflict contexts. In line with the principle of leave-no-one-behind, development, humanitarian, and peace approaches have gradually recognized the complex realities of the people that development activities intend to support. Thereby, new approaches can be developed to reduce disaster risk and protect the most vulnerable communities.

The transition to a more systemic risk management requires further development of personal and **institutional capacity, better risk diagnostic tools, and operational approaches**. Multi-risk contexts increase the institutional and organizational challenges of risk governance. This must be matched by advances in institutional capacity and mandates that can break down siloed approaches to decision making (ODI, 2019). Current interpretations of societal challenges and pathways to change often reinforce isolated institutional responses that:

- Foster fragmented and disjointed approaches to risk management;
- Create implementation systems that are not designed for systemic or cause-oriented responses (SILLMANN et al. 2022);
- Fail to manage long-term change or trans-boundary risks (ODI, 2019); and
- Misalign risk through multiple risk management systems that do not consider the inter-relationships between hazards and different spatial and temporal scales (ODI, 2019).

Implementing systemic risk management requires a holistic approach to diagnose the context and identify appropriate entry points and courses of action. This means better understanding the drivers of risk and resilience including

their interrelationships as well as, at larger scale, identifying, recognizing, and addressing the structural causes of vulnerability.

2. Context: Colombia

Colombia is topographically diverse, traversed by the Andes Mountains and bordered by lowland plains to the east. This diverse landscape makes Colombia subject to the impacts of frequent climatic extreme events (World Bank Group, 2021).

Similar to most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 88% of all the disasters that have occurred in Colombia over the past thirty years are weather-related events. Furthermore, the [World Risk Report 2022](#) ranked Colombia 4th among the ten countries with the highest risk levels globally. Around 13% of the population are exposed to floods, flash floods, landslides, droughts, and other hydrometeorological hazards and lack the necessary coping capacities due to adverse socio-economic conditions; these are further strained in municipalities with a prevalence of violence and conflict.

Colombia has been facing an unprecedented migratory movement, mainly due to the economic, political, and social crisis in Venezuela. In the last five years, a considerable number of around 2.4 million migrants and displaced people arrived and settled in already exposed areas adding to the complexity of the risk conditions in Colombia. This is particularly valid for Bogotá, Colombia's largest urban agglomeration which hosts around 20% of the total migrant population. The ensuing unplanned urbanization has resulted in around a quarter of the built areas being informal settlements, which are home to almost five million people. Those informal settlements are densely

populated and have high levels of poverty and inequality. Their residents live in inadequate housing with limited to no access to basic services (MMC, 2020). These neighborhoods are particularly exposed and vulnerable to disaster risks due to poor infrastructure and the locations being prone to hazards.

Although Colombia has established a solid institutional and regulatory platform for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, which is considered a model in Latin America, efforts to promote risk-informed development need to be strengthened to understand and reduce complex risks and safeguard development achievements in the long-term. Breaking the cycle of disasters and crises relies on continuous, coherent, and decisive DRM in all stages and across contexts, levels and sectors.

This report focuses on the **locality of Usme** in the city of Bogotá and the **informal settlements in Compostela II and San Juan de Usme**, where unplanned urbanization and urban sprawl was already prevalent before the displacement and migration movements from Venezuela since 2015. The locality of Usme is focus of this report due to the prevalence of complex risk zones, migrations dynamics and existing conflicts. An Intersectoral Commission was set up by the district municipality of Bogotá to converge institutional, technical and cooperation efforts to overcome identified barriers that limit the integration of the Venezuelan migrant population and the improvement of their socio-economic status and living conditions.

2.1. Hazard, Exposure, Vulnerability and Capacities

Hazard and exposure factors identified during the interviews with a female Venezuelan migrant group: Overall, the findings of the study are considered typical for informal settlements and are in line with recent findings within the scientific community.

1 | The Local Risk Management Plan of Usme identified that the main risk scenarios constitute of natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and mass movements. In addition, anthropogenic hazards such as forest fires, road accidents, construction of inadequate housing, unplanned extraction of minerals and construction materials contribute to increased risk levels.

2 | Landslides have been identified to be the main hazard in the locality of Usme. Their occurrence is favoured through the mountainous landscape characteristics, unplanned urbanization of slopes, deforestation, slope instability through mining activities, and deficiencies in drainage systems.

3 | According to the District Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change (IDIGER, 2021a), around 78.98% of the locality of Usme is exposed to landslides and erosion processes.

4 | Criminal groups known as "Los Tierreros" are selling properties and land on the informal market in risk-prone areas, such as, Usme, Kennedy, Ciudad Bolívar, San Cristóbal, or in nature reserves to people with a low income. Through the lack of control by district entities, scarcity of economic resources, and limited access to affordable housing, this presents an affordable option to migrant populations. The construction of illegal housing, as well as the disposal of sewage and rainwater on slopes reinforce the landslide hazard.

5 | Littering and inadequate disposal of waste present a significant environmental risk. Although waste collection services are provided, effective waste management is not imposed or taken up by the residents, which generates pollution and affects slope stability.

The following **vulnerability** factors were identified during the interviews with a focus group comprised of female Venezuelan migrants:

- Having the migration status defined and formalised through the Temporary Protection Permit (TPP) reduces the conditions of vulnerability of the population.
- Unawareness of the natural elements within daily interaction, results in very low perception of natural risk conditions in the area.
- The migrant status excludes people from observing and participating in community processes related to emergency- and disaster risk management.
- Criminal activities and domestic violence result in a sense of insecurity and vulnerability.

- Unavailability of disaster-risk-related information result in a lack of awareness of risk conditions and community contingency plans.
- Inaccessibility of the community through long staircases and narrow paths disadvantage elderly and people with disability.



Figure 2: Housing and collapsed electrical infrastructure

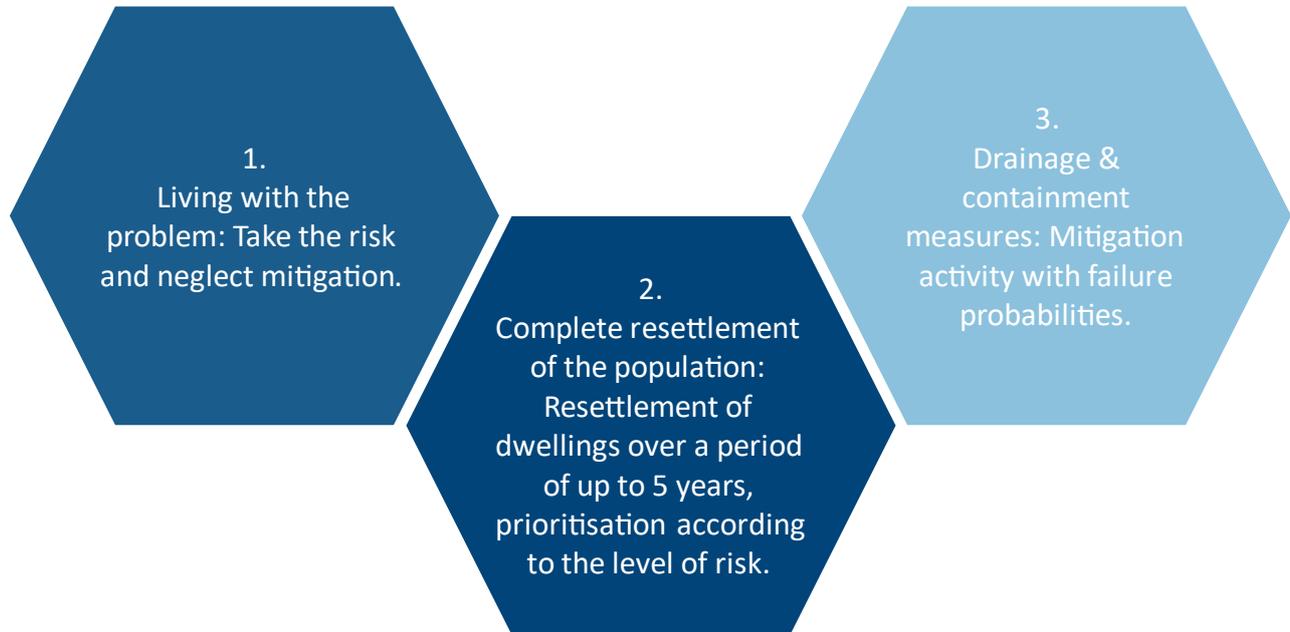
Case study San Juan de Usme: Hazard zoning and resettlement

The case of San Juan de Usme serves as an example of partial interventions that, by not considering pre-existing situations of vulnerability, encourage the emergence of new risks. In 2010, a technical report (CT-5824) highlighted the prevailing landslide hazard in the area. After evaluating mitigation options, the municipality favoured the legalization of the settlement. However, when the landslide hazard increased drastically due to (sub-)surface water leakages resulting in high-risk hazard zones, a resettlement program was drawn up according to hazard zones (see Figure X). This exemplifies how risks can emerge as a result from decisions that were not risk-informed enough. In the case of Usme, the legalization of the settlement entailed mitigation measures, such as water management and stabilization measures leading to the expansion of the urbanized area and more informal housing. This, in turn, increased the landslide hazard and the exposure of the settlement as such. While the government tried to manage the existing risk, additional risks emerged, which shows the dilemma of implementing insufficient mitigation measures in already hazard-prone areas.



Figure 3: Damaged road infrastructure

Three options were proposed by the government to address the problem of landslide risks:



To understand the settlement dynamic, an interview with a community leader was conducted, who emphasised that the needs and expectations of the affected residents are not reflected in the proposed government interventions and the resettlement program. The offered alternative housing locations and conditions are deemed insufficient by the community. Therefore, residents prefer to remain in the hazardous areas of the settlement. At the same time, the settlements are in a persistent process of abandonment and deterioration, due to the advanced landslide processes (see Figure 4 and Figure 5). The residents claim to not have been addressed by the government in the resettlement process and perceive this insufficient communication undermining trust and cooperation efforts.

Additionally, risk governance is not always within the sole responsibility of IDIGER but requires the cooperation of several district entities. Resettlement processes are complex, as they require implementing a series of actions involving homeowners, residents, district authorities, environmental agencies, and public service providers. This slows down the resettlement and the restoration of the area, sometimes resulting in tensions within the community, inter-institutional disputes and new occupations in already vacated settlements.

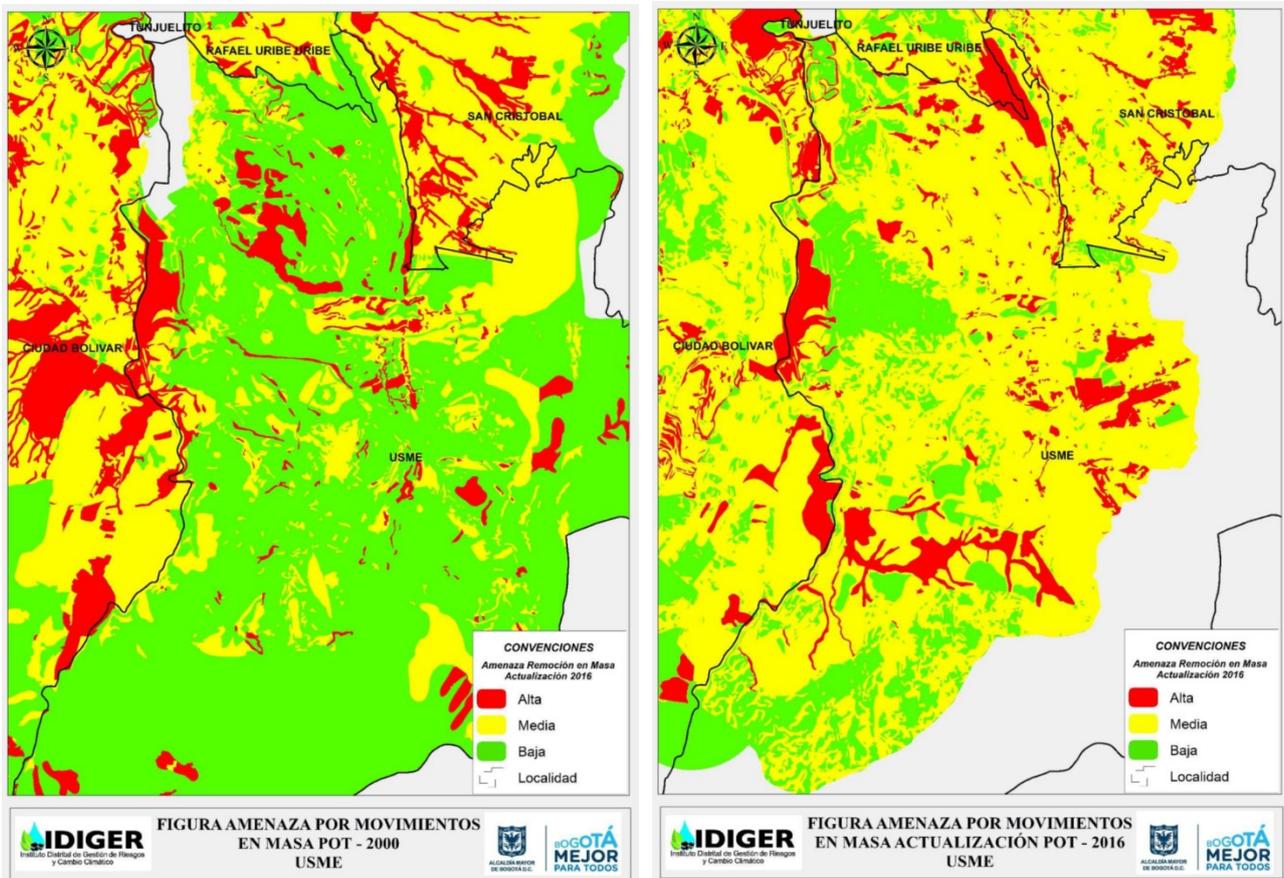


Figure 4: Comparison of hazard zones between 2016 and 2000 in Usme (IDIGER, 2021a)

Results of the intersectionality assessment in Usme, Bogotá

- Compared to the average in Bogotá, there are more children aged 0 to 14, more women aged 15 to 29, and less women between 30 to 49 in Usme. This implies targeted measures are needed for girls and young women related to child health care, access to education, work in formal employment, policies to prevent school drop-out, and access to sexual and reproductive health for young people, to prevent child and adolescent pregnancy, unwanted pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases.
- In Usme, 3 out of 4 people aged 50-64 are women, which implies gender-specific vulnerabilities related to income generation and sustainability, health risks and propensity to chronic degenerative diseases, and social risks.
- There are no significant differences between people of different genders in possession of the PEP in Bogotá, however, Usme shows the greatest gender inequality regarding the access to PEP, with only 13% of women residents in Usme having PEP, as opposed to 20.8% of men located in the same area. This situation may result in limited access to programs and services in the district, placing women at a disadvantage compared to men.

There is also little interaction between the Venezuelan migrant population and the institutions to understand and assess the risk conditions more comprehensively. In the interviews with the women's group, the lack of interaction is explained by the migrant population's lack of knowledge of the institutional processes.

Social Condition of Vulnerability in Usme

The following section summarizes the scientific data from the MPI2021 in connection to the personal experience shared by female Venezuelan migrants in Usme in focal group discussions:

According to the MPI2021, Bogotá has a **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** of 6.4%, while Usme has an MPI of 12.8% for the entire population and 39.2% for the Venezuelan migrant population. Measuring the proportion of people in households whose income does not allow them to cover the basic requirements of food, public services, housing, and education, the Monetary Poverty Index lay at 38.5% for Bogotá and 57.8% in Usme in 2021. The data shows that monetary poverty in Usme grew by more than 20% since 2017, which needs to be reviewed in light of the arrival of Venezuelan migrants to Usme in 2018 and 2019, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the female residents stated that their **income** depends on informal sales, collection of recyclable material, or casual jobs, with a daily pay of between \$7-9, working 8 hours or more per day, including weekends and holidays. Irregular income creates conditions of vulnerability, as it limits their abilities to access housing, food, and basic utilities. According to the MPI2021, around 13.4% of Bogotá's population was living in **extreme poverty** and in Usme around 17.9%, where the number for Venezuelan migrants living there increases to 26.7%.

Regarding **housing and public services**, Usme is well covered in terms of water, energy, sewage, and gas services provision, among others. However, the migrant population has limited access to these services due to high costs. The participants of the focal group workshop stated that the payment of public services as tenants is generally shared with other families living on the same property. There is no way of knowing the consumption level for each family, nor is there the possibility of making a complaint to the landlords, which results in non-transparent and potentially unfair payments. Additionally, there is an **overcrowding** of 34.9% in Usme and critical overcrowding for the Venezuelan population with 9.2%, preceded only by the locality of Bosa with 13% of critical overcrowding. The average **household size** in Usme is 4.7 people.

Regarding **age distribution**, people in Usme are on average 25 years old, which creates needs and pressure in terms of work, education, sexual and reproductive health, and use of free time. An average of 7.4 years of schooling is achieved. In terms of **labor market characteristics**, Usme has the highest percentage of informality in Bogotá (55.7%) as well as for the population coming from Venezuela (64.5%) compared to the other areas. According to the testimonies of the migrant women from the Compostela area, the way to generate income is through informal employment, oftentimes creating dependencies on partners, children, or other relatives; especially, as they do not have access to social benefits and are not paid the legal minimum wage. The **unemployment rate** of the Venezuelan migrant population in Usme is 10.1%. Overall, Usme has a formal employment rate of 48.8% among the Venezuelan immigrant population.

The migratory dynamics and the consolidation of disaster risk in the sector of Usme share the common element of vulnerability. Many of the migrant population in the analyzed area carry pre-existing vulnerabilities—oftentimes related to their socio-economic condition before migrating (e. g. not having completed secondary education, which limits their source of revenue to the informal employment sector). For some, this condition, in combination with no access to social protection schemes, created the pressure to migrate in the first place.

It is not possible to conclude that disaster risk scenarios in Usme have been exacerbated by the arrival of the Venezuelan migrant population due to no empirical evidence. At the same time, migrants and, in particular, migrated women are more vulnerable and exposed to hazards than other residents in the areas (due to housing, income, access to social security schemes etc.) calling for a systemic gender-responsive and intersectional approach to disaster risk management measures. The socio-demographic indicators analyzed showed that there is a higher correlation between poverty conditions in Usme compared to other localities with migrant populations from Venezuela. Although Usme does not accommodate the highest rate of migrant population, it shows the highest rates of social, economic, and demographic inequalities.

Limited risk awareness and preparedness can exacerbate vulnerability considerably, resulting in more loss and damage. Migrant population lack knowledge about past events in the area affecting their risk perception (for instance, the women interviewed migrated from a coastal region to a mountainous area with different hazards and risks). In the interviews, for instance, the women voiced their concerns on social-determined risks, especially regarding their personal safety in the area, while not recognizing other risks, e.g., triggered by hazards such as floods or landslides. Urban areas have limited options for affordable housing with low exposure to natural hazards. As a result, urban expansion often occurs within areas prone to hazards. Additionally, the delayed action by the government to apply sufficient risk governance and safety measures in Usme manifested once more residents arrived, driving the creation of high-risk informal settlements. The mandatory resettlement plans then resulted in tensions within the community, as residents perceive this lack of action as the driver of risks, especially as the planned resettlements do not meet their needs.



2.2. Recommendations

The Intersectoral Commission has identified entry points to reduce barriers related to fostering resilience. However, the focus remains on disaster response rather than risk prevention. Joint action and advocacy to reduce the community's vulnerability and risk conditions need to be improved. This can only be done by understanding the complex and systemic dynamics of local risk emergence and ensuring inclusion through deliberate integration policies. Although the Intersectoral Commission allows for the participation of NGOs working with the migrant population, it is necessary to raise the level of participation of diverse actors to reflect the district and gather actual needs. In summary, there needs to be a higher awareness of multidimensional risks in communities. For this reason, further research, policies and capacity building is essential to promote and develop citizen empowerment and participation schemes that allow for greater consolidation of the various pathways, taking into account risk prevention and reduction measures. This means that not only participation in decision-making processes is important, but also the promotion of an active and dynamic role of communities in building a vision of local development. Additionally, the approach taken in Usme and the experiences gathered can be applied and scaled up in different localities of Bogotá or throughout Colombia.

Recommendations in a nutshell:

- Allow for and empower a wide and continued participation of civil society. Ensure that the community and those in vulnerable situations are involved in decision-making processes that deal with risks, including those related to intersectionality.
- Ensure capacity building trainings to reduce, prepare for, manage and respond to disaster risk.
- Use clear and targeted risk communication with easy concepts and measures (in capacity building, awareness campaigns, early warning systems).
- Monitor how power structures and intersectional categories in a context change depending on stressors, such as climate change, fragility, or disaster impacts.
- Refrain from simplifying a context – acknowledge the complexity. Avoid generalizations and recognize intragroup differences in risk exposure, vulnerability and that communities are neither homogenous nor static. Find measures to ensure the involvement of individuals and groups in particularly vulnerable situations.
- Raise awareness that risk is systemic and that if intersectionality and (gender) inequalities are not addressed, vulnerabilities are increasing.
- Find, collect, and share as much disaggregated data about the context as possible to track existing social inequalities and intersecting modes of discrimination that include categories such as gender, age, disability, income, ethnicity, and more. Use existing data or analyses on inequalities as a starting point to find entry points.
- Design and share data collection and databases that are accessible, practical, and user-friendly.
- Conduct qualitative interviews and multistakeholder dialogues where quantitative analyses leave blind spots.

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