

# Cities of Solidarity in the Americas

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

In the Americas, most displaced and stateless people live in urban or peri-urban areas. In this context, local authorities play a leading role in the search for and achievement of local integration. Local authorities can provide access to services in their territory and are in a position to bring about rapid changes in local policy that can have a positive and immediate impact on the lives of the people UNHCR works for in the Americas. However, there are significant challenges in achieving integration at the local level, especially in the case of small municipalities and peripheral cities, due to limited human and financial resources or poor support and coordination from central government.



## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The “Cities of Solidarity” initiative is based on the recommendations identified by the States in the region under the [2004 Mexico Plan of Action](#) and the [2014 Brazil Plan of Action](#), with the objective of recognizing the efforts of local governments to provide protection and integration.

The initiative has developed a [self-assessment tool](#) aimed at providing diagnostics and prioritization on public policy issues related to the inclusion of the people for whom UNHCR works. This framework was developed based on **10 basic criteria**, a stylized representation of aspects of local integration, forming the backbone of the Cities of Solidarity framework.



**60 Cities 7 Provinces  
2 Municipality Associations**

## FROM THE FIELD

**UNHCR, IOM and ILO congratulate the Ministry of Justice and Public Security for the creation of the National Network of Welcoming Cities (RNCA) in Brazil**

The RNCA is the collaborative [forum](#) for the free membership and participation of municipal managers, who collaborate by suggesting, debating, and proposing policies, programs, and actions for migrants, refugees, and stateless people.

**The Guatemala City Municipality and UNHCR open a Refugee and Migrant Care Center**

In February 2023, UNHCR, in coordination with Muni Guate, set up CAPMiR, a Migrant and Refugee Care Center. Since March 2023, 1165 people have benefited from programs such as: The Municipal Football School, Senior Citizen Program, Municipal Libraries, and MuniEduca. The activities have involved 1030 Guatemalan children in mixed streams, promoting inclusion.

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## ONGOING INITIATIVES

### Venezuelan engineer discovers her passion for urban agriculture in Argentina

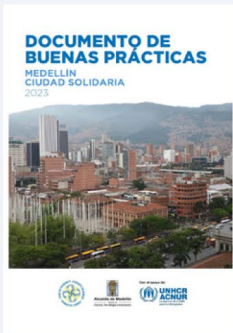


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Cities of Solidarity, the Municipality of Córdoba and the Business Incubation Foundation (FIDE), with the support of UNHCR, organized events that allowed various companies to meet refugees with relevant professional profiles for their businesses. This is how **Abelis Carrillo**, 29, met Loopfarms, an innovative venture that promotes sustainable food cultivation, and not only found a job but a passion.

After five months as an intern, Abelis now oversees the production of microgreens and edible mushrooms at one of Loopfarms' facilities. Abelis has found hope far from home working at Loopfarms: "I hope to stay here, keep learning and growing," she says. "Argentina is now my home."

### Medellín joins Cities of Solidarity and launches best practices report



Historically, the District of Medellín has been an epicenter for welcoming diverse vulnerable populations. The arrival of refugees and migrants presents both challenges and opportunities for the city. In its continued commitment to the integration of refugees, migrants and internally displaced people, the city has made progress in formulating concrete and inclusive policies and programs.

Medellín has recognized the importance of addressing the situation from a rights-based approach, focusing its efforts on ensuring that these populations have access to essential services and opportunities for a dignified life.

The District of Medellín joined the Cities of Solidarity initiative in March 2023 and systematized its best practices in a [document](#) that is expected to serve as a guide and inspiration for other local authorities in the region.

### Montevideo supports vocational training for refugees

In Montevideo, refugees, asylum seekers and people in need of international protection, mostly women, are taking courses in business management and training in care services. These training programs, aimed at promoting labour integration, are carried out in collaboration with UNHCR, the Montevideo Municipality and the Casa de la Mujer de La Unión organization. The project is part of the Cities of Solidarity initiative, to which the Uruguayan capital has been committed since 2009 (and renewed this commitment in August 2023).

Belkis, originally from Cuba, completed one of these courses in care services between March and July 2023. She currently works caring for the elderly and is happy with her work. "I see myself as a support for those people who need it. Many of them are in nursing homes or hospitals and need love, which is very important. Older people need a lot of love."



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