

## **Displaced But Not Defeated**

### **Film Summary:**

María Ceballos Paz, a 16-year-old Colombian girl, has been living in displacement for the past nine years as a result of Colombia's civil war. Decades of fighting between the army, paramilitary, guerrilla groups and drug cartels has forced approximately 4 million Colombians from their homes, creating the largest internally displaced population in the world.

After her father was killed by guerrillas, María and her family fled their farm. Now living in the slums of Cali, María shows us her family, friends and community as they rebuild their lives.

María directed, filmed and narrated this award-winning documentary that puts a human face on the statistics of displacement. Her story is like those of millions of people facing similar upheaval, not only in Colombia, but in other war-torn countries around the world. (Source: [BYkids](#))

### **Brainstorm:**

- 1) *Push factors* are circumstances or events that force a person or group to leave their home and migrate to a new place. Based on the short summary above, what do you think were the push factors for María and her family?

- 2) What are other push factors that would force someone to leave their home?

- 3) *Push factors* are circumstances that encourage a person or group to settle in a new place. Based on the summary, what do you think were the pull factors that brought María and her family to Cali, Colombia?

- 4) What are other pull factors that would draw someone to a new place?

**Background Information:**

Sources: [As Colombia Emerges from Decades of War, Migration Challenges Mount](#), [Colombia profile - Timeline](#), [Colombia and the FARC](#)

Examine the sources above to better understand the history behind María's displacement. As you read, create your own timeline that includes at least ten dates (with descriptions of what happened) that you think are most important in contributing to the instability and violence that has created a displaced persons crisis in Colombia.

**Watch the documentary [here](#):**

Content notes: violence, sexual assault, death, police violence

As you watch, take notes in the chart below.

	Notes	Key moments or quotes that reflect this
Experiences in Nariño (where the family lived before displacement)		
Experiences of displacement (the forced movement)		
Experiences in the illegal settlement (the displaced persons camp)		
Moments of resilience and agency (agency = someone's ability to take control in their lives and take action, through strength and courage)		
Moments of joy and community		

- 1) After watching, summarize the push factors in greater detail than in your brainstorm. Provide specific examples from the film.

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- 2) After watching, summarize the pull factors in greater detail than in your brainstorm. Provide specific examples from the film.

- 3) What are María's goals? And her family members' goals? What needs to change or occur to support these goals?

**Extension:** The U.S. Role in Colombia

**U.S. Role Focus Question:** How has U.S. intervention shaped political, economic, and social developments in Colombia, and what have been the long-term impacts?

**Sources:**

- [How and why did President Roosevelt intervene in Colombia in order to secure Panama's independence? - Choices Program](#)
- [U.S.-Colombia Relations](#)
- [The U.S. war on drugs helped unleash the violence in Colombia today - The Washington Post](#) - a perspective by Kyle Longley
- [Biden, Colombia's Petro meet amid growing policy differences | AP News](#)

After examining the sources, answer the focus question: How has U.S. involvement and intervention shaped political, economic, and social developments in Colombia, and what have been the long-term impacts?