



## **Summary**

This report responds to the questionnaire provided to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which references activities undertaken or being planned by IOM of specific relevance to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing projects that respond to indigenous peoples' particular needs and are culturally appropriate.

**1. At its tenth session in 2011, UNPFII will review its recommendations in relation to (a) Economic and Social Development; (b) Environment; (c) Free, Prior and Informed Consent.**

**(i). Please provide information on how your agency is dealing with this important issue in the seven regional areas of the Permanent Forum<sup>1</sup>.**

### **IOM Colombia**

IOM's field mission in Colombia has based its work with ethnic communities on its "Ethnic Assistance Strategy with a Differential Approach", designed in 2009. This strategy defines the principal parameters for the inclusion of an ethnic approach for indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, in the identification, design, implementation and follow-up of all related projects within the Mission, and is oriented to protect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the peoples in accordance with international treaties, the Colombian Constitution and laws and norms.

During 2010, IOM Colombia concentrated additional efforts to improve livelihoods of indigenous communities within the country by implementing 54 projects directed to assist indigenous peoples under the different IOM Programmes. Projects directed to assist indigenous communities implemented by IOM during 2010, aimed at improving food security conditions (15%), access to education (13%), enhancing income generation (11%) and promoting community/institutional strengthening (11%). Under IOM's Internally Displaced Population Programme, a total of 24 projects were targeted to improve living conditions within indigenous communities through September 2010, reporting assistance towards 7,022 indigenous beneficiaries.

Geographically, in 2010 IOM concentrated its projects with the indigenous peoples in the Departments of: Nariño (where OIM has worked with the Awá Community since 2008), Valle del Cauca and Putumayo. In addition, IOM worked during 2010 with eighteen different indigenous communities, located in thirteen departments of Colombia as detailed below:

	<b>Community</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Sikuani	Arauca
2	Embera-Chami	Caldas

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<sup>1</sup> UNPFII's seven socio-cultural regions are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.



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3	Korebaju	Caquetá
4	Wipiwi	Casanare
5	Guambianos	Cauca
6	Kankuamos	Cesar
7	Wiwa	Guajira
8	Nukak Makú	Guaviare
9	AWA - UNIPA	Nariño
10	Awa Camawary	Nariño
11	Eperara Siapidara	Nariño
12	Pastos	Nariño
13	Motilón Bari	Norte de Santander
14	Inga	Putumayo
15	Katsa	Putumayo
16	Siona	Putumayo
17	Embera-Chami	Risaralda
18	Resguardo Kwet Walla	Valle del Cauca

Projects by IOM-Colombia were implemented with indigenous communities under the following programmes:

**Projects Targeted to Assist Indigenous Peoples under the IOM-Colombia IDPs Programme**

Through USAID funding IOM implemented with the Embera Chami community of El Dovio municipality (Valle del Cauca) a project aimed at training health agents in a culturally appropriate manner. In April 2010, IOM held a ceremony to award certificates to these 209 health agents, increasing the access of this indigenous community to health services. Furthermore, looking forward to guarantee access to health services within this indigenous community, the project was able to affiliate 254 members of the community with an indigenous EPS (Private Health Provider). This project was the result of a joint effort between IOM, the Regional Indigenous Organization of Valle del Cauca (ORIVAC), Acción Social (Bolívar), the Mayor's Office of El Dovio, the Governor's Office of Valle del Cauca, and the World Food Programme.

In Nariño Department, the Awá Community asked IOM to implement a Primary Health Assistance Project (the project was included in the communities' Life Plan), to train a group of Awá community members as Public Health auxiliaries to respond to the specific health requirements from their particular perspective and cultural context. In addition, the training was endorsed and certified by SENA (acronym in Spanish for National Learning Service), and the project was supported by local and regional health authorities and international cooperation agencies, working in the region. As a result, 33 public health auxiliaries graduated from this project and are now in charge of carrying out health promotion and disease prevention activities within the community.

Under the income generation strategies directed to improve internally displaced indigenous peoples' employment opportunities, IOM through USAID funding implemented three projects in 2010: 1) "Business strategies-ACOPI in Putumayo", 2) "Displaced craftsmen/women in



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Putumayo” and, 3) “Indigenous based handicrafts in Valle del Cauca.” As a result of these projects, beneficiaries had the opportunity to sell their products at trade fairs while also learning business skills including customer interactions.

The “*consulta previa*” mechanism has been used also by IOM under the implementation of indigenous communities’ projects. As an example, in Antioquia Department (Bajo Cauca region), IOM consulted with indigenous traditional authorities the implementation of the project “Peaceful Rural Villages”.

### **Projects Targeted to Assist Indigenous Peoples under the IOM-Colombia Programme to Support Child Ex-combatants and Prevent Recruitment of Children by Illegal Armed Groups**

Under the Programme to Support Child Ex-combatants and Prevent Recruitment of Children by Illegal Armed Groups, IOM implemented in 2010 a total of 20 projects aimed towards preventing recruitment of indigenous children by illegal armed groups. This IOM Programme has been able to promote children’s rights within the indigenous communities, protecting them and impeding child recruitment by illegal armed groups.

IOM implemented a highly successful project with the Embera community (Risaralda) to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and promote reproductive and sexual health and women’s reproductive rights through the Projects: “Strengthening Embera women’s rights, held in the municipalities of Pueblo Rico and Mistrato”, and the “Embera Wera Initiative”. Firstly, IOM together with the National Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) and UNFPA, held past July in Pereira (Risaralda Department) the International Seminar on Inter-cultural health. In line with the event’s conclusions, on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 the Embera Chami community leader publicly committed to suspend FGM from its community practices.

Also in 2010, IOM through the child ex –combatant and recruitment prevention programme received funds from the Displayed Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF) to assist afro-Colombians and indigenous communities. In this context, the Programme started the implementation of a project aimed at preventing indigenous, and Afro Colombian children and youth by illegal armed groups in high-risk areas of the Colombian Pacific coast (Departments of Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Chocó) and the central Department of Tolima. The general objective of this project is to reduce the vulnerability for recruitment of these children and youth by strengthening the capacity of the social and institutional networks and systems. In this line, three specific objectives were agreed: i) support for participatory and developmental activities for 10,000 indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and youth; ii) strengthening of ethnic family and community ties in Indigenous and afro-Colombian populations and iii) support to key Colombian Governmental agencies and public policies that directly support Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities. Currently, under the “Improvement of life Conditions of the Children in the Department of Choco” IOM jointly with the Ministry of Education has already assisted a total of 17,250 children under the age of five of which 29% are indigenous children.

As a strategy to prevent the recruitment of Afro-Colombia children and youth and promote their rights in Arauca department, IOM implemented in 2010 a project to support families of the Sikuani indigenous community. The objective of the project intended to contribute in a



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“Participative way to improve the living conditions of the Sikuni community, through cultural strengthening, access to health services, improvement of nutritional conditions, and the promotion of traditional knowledge”, carried out in the Department of Arauca. As a result, 19 indigenous families benefited from a food security project which provided them with sheds to raise birds, training on how to manage the birds and the farm. Capacity development on improving family ties and protection of families was also implemented.

IOM, ICBF and USAID designed a new intervention approach called “*Hogar Tutor Indígena*”, a mechanism in which the Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) identifies indigenous families willing to receive indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and youth disengaged from illegal armed groups, in order to provide them with information regarding their rights for restitution. By August 2010, four Emebera Chami children were placed with a family in Rio Sucio (Caldas).

### **Projects Targeted to Assist Indigenous Peoples under IOM-Colombia’s Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) and Reparation Programme**

With the Kankuamo Indigenous Organization, IOM worked to set up all subsistence agriculture crops, such as coffee, minor vintages and plantain as a step towards reaching food self-sufficiency and improving income generation opportunities. Currently, 59 indigenous victim women benefit from the initiative; in addition they received training on women’s rights and indigenous legislation.

IOM also worked with the Wiwa Tayrona Organization to mitigate and address the effects of violence and forced displacement on indigenous families. To date, IOM jointly with the Wiwa Tayrona Organization has been harvesting beans, corn, cassava and sugarcane, and initiated the cocoa installation process in each of the properties planned for this task.

Despite the positive results of both projects, heavy rainfalls affected the crops and some activities under the projects were suspended.

IOM’s Land Protection Programme has worked with indigenous communities since 2005. In 2010 the programme published a Guide for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Over Lands, which is a special mechanism to protect land while contributing to secure the property rights of these communities. As a complement, a training plan targeted towards governmental institutions in charge of protection indigenous ethnic territories was established. This project designed a methodology to process the applications to secure indigenous peoples’ rights over their territory and issued a document on the “Differential approach to protect the indigenous people’s rights over lands” which incorporates differential operational strategies that could be used for the protection of the territorial rights of indigenous communities.

### **IOM Ecuador**

IOM through the Northern Border Development Program will provide potable water to the Santa Rosa de los Eperas indigenous community in Esmeraldas province in order to improve their living conditions, and their health with drinkable water, because the river has high levels of contamination. The mission has also constructed bridges and sanitary units for the Awa and Shuar communities in Carchi and Sucumbios provinces respectively.



**(ii). What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?**

As an intergovernmental organization which is project-based and decentralized, lack of core funding hampers IOM's implementation of recommendations. Lack of core resources to address indigenous peoples and migration can only be overcome by donor support through project funding.

In Colombia despite the efforts and advances made through the projects implemented to assist indigenous peoples, violent actions through armed groups affected project implementation and vulnerable populations.

**(iii). What are some of the factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?**

With more than 400 field offices globally, IOM has a presence in nearly every country. However, each office is supported by donors through project funding. Further identification of and support from donors with an interest in indigenous issues, along with a mandate from the national/local government, would further facilitate IOM's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, along with further activities with indigenous peoples.

**2. Given the Forum's recommendation for the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your agency has:**

**(i). A policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples' issues;**

IOM Mission in Colombia has based its work with ethnic communities on its "Ethnic Assistance Strategy with a Differential Approach", designed within the Mission in 2009. This strategy defines the principal parameters for the inclusion of an ethnic approach for indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, in the identification, design, implementation and follow-up of all related projects within the Mission, and it is oriented to protect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the peoples in accordance with international treaties, the Colombian Constitution and laws and norms enforced.

**(ii). Recent programmes on indigenous peoples' issues;**

Please see the responses to item 1(i) above.

**(iii). Budgetary allocations for indigenous peoples' issues;**



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Lack of core funding in the Organization does not allow for budgetary allocations for indigenous peoples issues in IOM. Donor support is sought by IOM field missions for specific project funding for indigenous peoples' issues.

**(iv) Projects/activities on indigenous peoples' issues,**

*(In order to facilitate the quantification of data by the Forum, please indicate the number of programmes and projects/activities devoted to indigenous peoples issues in the past year).*

Fifty-six projects in total were implemented by IOM Colombia and Ecuador with respect to indigenous peoples' issues in the past year. These are all highlighted under Section 1(i).

**3. Does your agency have regular or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for staff, or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?**

As referenced in Section 1(i), IOM field personnel are actively engaged on indigenous peoples' issues and/or projects.

**4. Does your agency have a focal point on indigenous issues? If so, please provide the name and contact information of this person.**

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**5. Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your agency on indigenous issues for the current year as well as next year.**

There are none planned yet as of January 2011.