



Indigenous communities & social inclusion in Latin America

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some relevant literature

1. United Nations, World Conference on indigenous people
 2. United Nations, DESA, *State of the world's indigenous people* (3 vols), ECLAC, *Indigenous people in Latin America*
 3. United Nations, ECLAC – CELADE, SISPPPI
 4. Word Bank, *Indigenous Latin America in the 21st century*; IWGIA, *The indigenous world 2018*; Minority Rights Group International; and other NGOs & think tanks
- &
5. Experts and scholars work



main findings

- Legislation aims to protect indigenous people & their rights, but exclusion and usurpation of ancestral land occurs
- Poverty & lack of access to services is prevalent
- Fragmentation of families
- Girls and women are most vulnerable
- Most indigenous people reside in urban areas
- Morbidity rates are higher & life expectancy is lower
- Upper mobility limited by poor educational attainment
- Paradox:
 - social movements initiated by indigenous women, yet burden falls on their shoulders



Indigenous Population, ca 2010s

Latin America				Caribbean			
		million	%			million	%
1	Bolivia	6.2	62	9	Honduras	0.5	7
2	Guatemala	5.9	41	10	Colombia	1.6	3
3	Peru	7.5	24	11	Venezuela	0.7	3
4	Mexico	17.0	15	12	Uruguay	0.1	2
5	Panama	0.4	12	13	Argentina	1.0	2
6	Chile	1.8	11	14	Costa Rica	0.1	2
7	Nicaragua	0.5	9	15	Paraguay	0.1	2
8	Ecuador	1.0	7	16	Brazil	0.9	1
					Total	45.4	7.2



diversity

- 15th century: +56.3 million people in the Western Hemisphere
- Demographic collapse
- 800+ indigenous communities plus 200 living in isolation
- Difficulties in estimating size of population
- Presence of Afro- and Asian descendants
- Indigenous families increasingly fragmented (rural/urban), remittances (kind/monetary), and assimilation to non-indigenous cultures
- Dependency ratios and aging vary across countries



People living on poverty, ca 2000s

□

Countries(*)	Less than \$1.25/day	Less than \$2.5/day	Less than \$4/day
Indigenous	9	24	43
Non-indigenous	3	9	21

(*) Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico & Peru.



poverty

- More indigenous people in extreme poverty (3 to 1) and poverty (2 to 1)
- Higher probability of being poor if mom heads the household
- In most countries overall poverty decreasing, except Guatemala
- Substantial gaps in access to services for indigenous people
- Poverty reduction strategies are insufficient. More comprehensive policies that include access and reduction of gaps are needed



indigenous girls and women

- Machismo and patriarchal structures
- Violence, harassment and abuse, labor exploitation, discrimination
- Higher mortality rates among pregnant indigenous women, high teen pregnancies, high illiteracy rates among women of childbearing age
- Globalization implications on indigenous women

health & education

- Large majority seek traditional therapists
- More research & data are needed to incorporate indigenous understandings of health life and healing
- Lower life expectancy
- Malnutrition (often, anemia)
- Untreated mental health issues leading to depression, drug abuse, delinquent behavior
- Fewer indigenous children complete secondary education



Recommendations

- National educational campaigns to affirm the indigenous legacy in collaboration with indigenous communities representatives
- Acknowledge the crucial role of indigenous women and communities in informing policies
- Respect of ancestral land and previous consult for development projects
- Intentional policies to eliminate public service gaps
- Collaborative strategic health care interventions working specially with girls and women
- Collaborative strategic educational interventions to ensure 100% completion of high school
- Technical and financial assistance in support of indigenous entrepreneurship
- Need for data, research, monitoring of progress



iThanks!