



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

## **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. Given the Permanent Forum's decision that the eighth session will include follow-up to recommendations on:**

- a) Economic and Social Development**
- b) Indigenous Women**
- c) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples**

**Please include information on how your agency is dealing with these important issues and the regional areas that are specific to your agency's work.**

## **Asia**

Based from our regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, IOM co-chairs the UN Regional Thematic Working (TWG) Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, with ESCAP. One of the concrete outputs of this Thematic Working Group has been the "Situation Report on International Migration in Southeast Asia" which includes a chapter on "Indigenous People and Migration". This chapter examines indigenous peoples' migration, citizenship issues, economic development, environmental

factors, push/pull factors, consequences and risks. The report can be downloaded from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20080>.

### **Latin America**

#### *Ecuador*

In partnership with Fundación Nuestros Jóvenes and indigenous representatives, IOM is developing guidelines to assist indigenous victims of trafficking, specifically addressing problems encountered during the reintegration process and takes into consideration specificities of indigenous populations needs.<sup>1</sup>

IOM participates in the Working Group on Labor Migration (Mesa de Trabajo sobre Migraciones Laborales) which produces “Entre Tierras”, a bi-monthly magazine that focuses on a different a migration theme. The July 2008 publication focused on Migration and Indigenous Peoples and was launched at an inter-institutional dialogue which included the Ecuadorian Council on Nationalities and Peoples, the Sub-secretary of Consular Services, the Public Ombudsman, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) the Ecuadorian Confederation of Peoples of Kichwa Nationality, UNFPA and with IOM moderating. The recommendations and conclusions of this dialogue were forwarded to the National Secretariat for Migrants (SENAMI) in order to encourage pertinent government action in the context of the obligations and commitments assumed by Ecuador as a party to various international treaties on the human rights of indigenous peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> Through its Counter-Trafficking Division, IOM has for the past decade worked with governments and communities to combat human trafficking. IOM counter-trafficking activities include more than 150 projects in some 70 countries of origin, transit, and destination, providing direct assistance to more than 10,000 persons. These activities are developed and implemented within a framework centered on the concern for the well-being of the victim.

In 2007 IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a long-term cooperation agreement through 2010 to carry out projects along Ecuador's northern border region, with a focus on the Federation of Awa Indigenous Communities of Ecuador (FECAE).

Other projects through IOM's Integrated Municipal Development Program (IMDP) included the building of productive and social infrastructure projects to support the indigenous population. These projects have assisted some 4,210 indigenous peoples including:

- 1) The potable water system in Santa Rosa, Napo Province (indigenous population: 100% Kichwa) – number of beneficiaries: 700
- 2) Potable water system for the community La Esperanza (indigenous population: 50% Awa) – number of beneficiaries 200.
- 3) Rehabilitation of irrigation channel for the Caryacu community, Imbabura Province (indigenous population: 100% Kichwa) – number of beneficiaries: 800
- 4) Rehabilitation of irrigation channel for the La Magdalena community, Imbabura Province (indigenous population: 100% Kichwa) – number of beneficiaries: 250
- 5) The potable water system in San Francisco, Sucumbios Province (indigenous population 80%) – number of beneficiaries: 320
- 6) The construction of a pedestrian bridge in Tigre Playa, Sucumbios province (indigenous population 100% Kichwa) – number of beneficiaries: 620
- 7) The potable water system in El Pintor and Capuli, Esmeralda province

(indigenous population 100% Chachi) – number of beneficiaries: 1320

### *Costa Rica*

IOM facilitates the “*Finca Sana*” (Healthy Farm) project in Costa Rica which contributes to improved health and human development among migrant indigenous workers of the Ngäbe-Buglé who travel into Costa Rica from Panama following the seasonal coffee harvest. The health of the estimated 12,000 indigenous Ngäbe-Buglé who migrate annually into Costa Rica is precarious. Medical teams have discovered alarming rates of diseases, low vaccination coverage, preventable occupational injury, and a crisis of infant mortality due to lack of access to obstetrical care. Many are without access to potable water, cooking areas, or sanitation facilities. Existing medical services do not reach these highly mobile migrants and emergency evacuation is slow or unavailable.

Through a unique collaboration between Costa Rican and Panamanian public health authorities, coffee producers, and the Ngäbe-Buglé, IOM facilitates *Finca Sana*. This project is based on: public-private partnership as an effective and sustainable way to promote health and human development; decentralizing health services as a cost-effective way to increase healthcare access and community participation; using traditional healers who are important resources for the provision of culturally competent care; and promoting personal accountability and health self-sufficiency.

*Finca Sana* builds on previous successes in creating health workers within the indigenous community. Ngäbe-Buglé traditional healers are community leaders who are trained for emergency first aid and become part of a communications network linking farms to

regional health centers using telehealth technology. Participating farms provide space for a “*Hogar Comunitario*” (community home) as a hub for all program activities. Health workers have medical kits and access to radios for coordination with local health authorities. In addition, through targeted capacity building among healers and leaders within the community, this partnership fosters the development of social capital within the Ngäbe-Buglé.

Ngäbe-Buglé health workers meet with regional health authorities on a weekly basis. This ongoing dialogue between the Costa Rican National Health Service (CCSS), Ngäbe-Buglé health workers and plantation owners helps promote improved health surveillance and the identification of priorities and opportunities. Furthermore, a Community Advisory Board brings together all stakeholders including Ngäbe-Buglé, local farm owners and coffee cooperatives. Access to health services has increased during this project due to the network of health promoters and their ongoing communication with CCSS partners. In addition, health knowledge and health prevention practices among Ngäbe-Buglé migrants are improved. Extensive health education and promotion activities are carried out at the *Hogares Comunitarios* by the health promoters.

The Ngäbe-Buglé targeted by this project will benefit in a variety of ways. First, they receive direct health services from the CCSS mobile team and health promoters. Ngäbe-Buglé migrants on participating farms receive health education and training on topics that will impact their daily lives, such as injury prevention, hygiene and nutrition. Key leaders within the migration population who have been selected as health promoters

receive intensive training and ongoing support from health partners, thus building the health capacity within the migrant population.

In a separate activity and within the UN Consolidated Action Plan for Avian and Human Influenza, IOM is working on strengthening disaster and pandemic preparedness in Central America to include migrant populations through a pilot project. The project will raise awareness among the targeted migrant populations on influenza and related prevention measures and to promote related behaviour change; strengthen existing national preparedness plans to meet the needs of migrant populations; and build capacities among community health and social workers and other government officials, who work with migrants to identify influenza and other communicable diseases that can become epidemics among migrants, and respond to their needs in the event of an emergency. The Ngäbe-Buglé community is one of the target groups of this project and a health post will be established for assessments at the border point where the Ngäbe-Buglé enter Costa Rica from Panama. The information collected will be essential for indigenous health promoters on farms who carry out visits to Ngäbe-Buglé on farms during the coffee harvest.

### *Colombia*

Since 2007, IOM Colombia has developed and documented a crosscutting guideline for its programs entitled *Strategy for Responding to the Needs of Ethnic Groups using a Differential Approach*. This strategy has been strengthened and restructured in line with

current laws and public policy in the country and involves the recognition of the conditions and situations of the different social actors including indigenous peoples.

The objective of this strategy is to manage, develop and support plans, programmes and projects appropriate to the different ethnic groups that favor their inclusion within the framework of migratory processes and in collaboration with the Government of Colombia. IOM supports the consolidation and execution of public policies in the different areas of national legal legislation that promote the real and effective exercise of the individual and collective rights of these populations.

This strategy is updated in accordance with the needs of the interest groups and in accordance with social, political and legal circumstances. The strategy is oriented to protect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the peoples in accordance with international treaties, the Colombian Constitution and the laws and norms in force. The principles of this differential approach are respect for life, recognition of specific characteristics of the group, identity, equity, self-determination, participation, territoriality, and affirmation of the individual.

In 2008, IOM collaborated with USAID, UNHCR and the Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation (Acción Social) on the project “Legal Protection of IDPS (internally displaced person) Property in Colombia” which places a special emphasis on the protection of indigenous groups’ territories. This project has so far

succeeded in protecting 2.9 million hectares for displaced people, consisting of 91,818 plots located in 116 municipalities.

Direct education for displaced populations has enabled them to be aware of their heritage rights, has facilitated socioeconomic stabilization and has strengthened their social networks. The implementation of this project has taken into account the collective nature of indigenous communities and their territories, and the capacity building of their institutions and organizations. Some examples include:

- In the Department of Chocó, in conjunction with the ethnic authorities of Alto San Juan, a working group was set up, made up of indigenous leaders and community councils, to identify affected territories and the requirements for getting title deeds.
- The Project contributed to two declarations related to the protection of indigenous territories in the Department of Meta in the indigenous “resguardos” of Caño Jabón, Mocuare and Barranco Ceiba.
- Participation of more than 60 representatives of 17 Colombian ethnic groups including: Cubeo, Tuyuca, Caravana, Guanana, Pijao, Curripaco and Totuyo, coming from the Departments of Meta, Vaupés, Guaviare, Vichada and Amazonas to receive capacity building on territory protection.
- The start of the project in the Departments of Nariño and Chocó, which have a high percentage of the indigenous populations. In these regions work has been done



directly with indigenous communities in building awareness and capacity mechanisms for protecting territorial rights.

- In the Department of Caquetá, IOM takes an active role in Departmental and Municipal Committees responsible for responding to the humanitarian needs of Embera-Chami and Huitotos indigenous communities which were displaced from the rural zones of the municipality of Florencia. Activities are coordinated with the Departmental Office for Indigenous Affairs, Acción Social and the Embera-Chami Community.

IOM also administers the “Post Emergency Assistance to Displaced Groups and Receptor Communities” project funded by USAID. The project has benefitted some 8,327 indigenous peoples in 2008 and has 5 components: institutional strengthening, income generation, education, health and housing. Some activities have included the following:

- As part of the institutional strengthening component, in the Florida Municipality of Valle del Cauca, a booklet was developed with the Nasa indigenous community which gathered their experiences and helped establish a method for responding to their specific needs following displacement.
- With assistance from IOM, the Kwet Wala indigenous community built a refuge house in accordance with their customs, traditions and materials.

- With the aim of improving income opportunities and food security for families that live in the region of the northern Nariño Pacific area, IOM is participating in the development of “Territorios Étnicos Productivos” (Productive Ethnic Territories) funded by USAID and the Program for Responding to the Needs of Afro Colombian and Indigenous Peoples in the Department of Nariño and the municipality of Buenaventura in Department of Valle del Cauca. These income generating projects include agro-forestry and efforts to grow cocoa, plantains, timber, rice, different types of bananas, and other minor crop species.
- In the municipality of Santander de Quilichao, in the Department of Cauca, in alliance with the Ministry of Culture, Project “Radios Ciudadanas” was developed to strengthen the indigenous community radio station “Radio Payumat”. Assistance was provided in production, broadcasting, broadcasting schedules, editorial committees, and participation in local forums; inter institutional coordination, revision of thematic contents, and recognition of indigenous language in the productions.
- In the municipality of Silvia, Department of Cauca, the project “Radio Ciudadana” was developed where eleven indigenous Guambiana were trained in radio production. They formed part of the collective 96 local and 24 national programs that are produced and broadcast. In addition three alliances were formed with the collectives and radios outside the municipality.

Also funded by USAID, is the “Support Programme for Ex-combatant Children in Colombia” which emphasizes an ethnic component, with specific reference to indigenous peoples and afro descent communities. The focus of the work has a differential approach, both in recognizing that children belonging to different ethnic groups face specific risks and vulnerabilities associated with: their location (generally in remote places with a precarious government presence); their own cultural characteristics (in some communities there is no concept of adolescence; it is considered a mistake to link oneself with any armed group); by sex, as girls are discriminated against with regard to participation and opportunities; and by the presence in their territories of illegal armed groups.

The strategies employed by the Programme are consistent with those established by the indigenous peoples themselves. These include strengthening of territorial jurisdiction and autonomy; empowerment of the individual; improvement of the conditions of quality of life; and protection and development of cultural identity. In this sense, some of the components developed have supported education and culture through appropriate education (Ethno education) and with the Agropecuarian Technical Institutes. The programme also helps to establish adolescent organization of and participation in support groups and their participation in the *cabildos* (indigenous councils); provides support for food and subsistence security projects linked to the family economy; provides support for the development of a legal procedure for ex-combatant children; and provides support for the development of children’s rights, human rights and international humanitarian rights for the prevention of the recruitment of minors.

This programme is nation-wide with the largest projects being in the Departments of Cauca, “Cabildos” in Chocó, Putumayo, Huila, Meta, in the regions of Montes de María (Sucre), Nariño and Norte de Santander. The latest statistics as of October 2008 indicate that the following people have been assisted:

Support for food security programs:

- 250 children from indigenous and afro Colombian communities in the last three years.
- 41 afro Colombians and indigenous children helped by the “ICBF” (*Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar* - Colombian Family Welfare Institute).
- 2,500 indigenous and afro Colombian children and 1,400 adults participated in recruitment prevention activities.

Technical and financial assistance to educational models:

- 4,349 indigenous and afro Colombian children.
- 1,550 indigenous and afro Colombian adults.
- 1,351 afro Colombian adolescents.
- 2,371 afro Colombian adults.

Training and transfer of “tools” for teaching:

- 276 indigenous leaders trained
- 27 indigenous teachers trained.

- 448 indigenous authorities trained.

In other activities, IOM encourages health actions of the internally displaced person (IDP) program with the Awa Camawari community. IOM has also provided humanitarian assistance with other organizations to the indigenous Embera from the municipality of Bagadó, Department of Chocó who were seeking shelter in Bogotá.

For 2009, the following activities are being planned:

- Creation and start up of the training school for Camawari leaders (men and women) and indigenous governors in the municipality of Ricaurte, Department of Nariño.
- Social development project for 100 indigenous ethnic Bari adolescents, in the Department of Norte de Santander.
- Project to strengthen participation and development of women in the Bari community in the Department of Norte de Santander.
- Project for the building of traditional indigenous housing, as a cosmos and pathway in memory of the indigenous Awá population, in order to take care of and prevent forced displacement in the “cabildo”.

- Training process for IOM administrators and officials in Colombia about organizational, cultural and legal issues for indigenous peoples.
  
- Managing an agreement with the direction of indigenous communities with the Ministry of the Interior and Justice for supporting the institutional strengthening of its operating capacity, the capacity building of human resources in indigenous issues, the strengthening of organizational processes, and the diffusion and execution of state policies for indigenous communities.

**2. Outline the basic obstacles your agency faces in implementing the Permanent Forum's recommendations, 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.

**3. Outline the facilitating factors that enable your agency to implement the Permanent Forum's recommendations, including those addressed specifically to your agency.**

With more than 300 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.

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

- a) has a policy of other similar tool on indigenous peoples’ issues;**
- b) has recent programmes on indigenous peoples’ issues;**
- c) has budgetary allocations on indigenous peoples’ issues;**
- d) has 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.**

- a) As further explained in Section 1 above, IOM-Colombia has developed and documented a crosscutting guideline for its programmes entitled “*Strategy for Responding to the Needs of Ethnic Groups*” which involves the recognition of the conditions and situation of different social actors, including indigenous peoples.
- b) IOM has several activities on indigenous peoples’ issues as explained under Section 1.
- c) As an intergovernmental organization which is project-based and decentralized, core funding is not available for specific budgetary allocations on indigenous peoples’ issues. Lack of core resources to address indigenous peoples and migration can only be overcome by donor support through project funding.
- d) IOM has a number of activities on indigenous peoples’ issues as described under Section 1 above.

The number of IOM activities on indigenous peoples’ issues is 13. These include 4 activities in Ecuador, 3 activities in Costa Rica, 5 activities in Colombia and 1 activity in Thailand.

**5. Outline whether your agency has 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?**

IOM has a number of headquarters and field personnel who are actively engaged on indigenous issues and/or projects. Specifically in Colombia for 2009, IOM is arranging a training process for IOM administrators and officials about organizational, cultural and legal issues for indigenous peoples. IOM will also manage an agreement with the direction of indigenous communities with the Colombian Ministry of the Interior and Justice for supporting the institutional strengthening of its operating capacity, the capacity building of human resources in indigenous issues, the strengthening of organizational processes, and the diffusion and execution of state policies for indigenous communities.

**6. 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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**7. Please provide a list of conference and other meetings under your agency regarding indigenous issues in the current year as well as next year.**

None are yet planned.

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