

Peru

Chirapaq (Center for Indigenous Peoples' Cultures of Peru)

Executive Summary

In our commitment to indigenous peoples, we have promoted policies and actions for the integrated development of indigenous peoples based on a cultural conception of rights and intergenerational and gender equity. In this process we have achieved national and international recognition for the impact of the indigenous agenda, in contributing to the creation of public policies to eliminate hunger and poverty, and in exercising the full rights of indigenous organizations and leaders in local, regional, national and international arenas.



Our agenda is implemented through the Indigenous Women's Program (PMI) with actions that promote the integral development of the Andean and Amazonian indigenous women. PMI enhances women in their roles as the main actors of their own processes of change. The indigenous peoples, and their organizations, are strengthened through capacity building in the development of proposals, influence activities, program management and public policy training. Through their own empowerment, they give strength to other women, children, adolescents and youth, and strengthen democratic, intercultural and intergenerational practices and gender equity.

Under the strategic alliance between Chirapaq and The Hunger Project (THP), the actions of indigenous women are organized in the fight against hunger and poverty, making it possible for 1,473 members of indigenous organizations (146 men and 1,327 women) to actively participate and influence decision makers in local government. By developing projects to improve living conditions, indigenous peoples develop their own capacity to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Details on Progress

The training and organizational strengthening activities implemented this year have empowered leaders to implement actions to improve their living conditions and that of their families.

Women from indigenous organizations from the three regions of Huancavelica, Ayacucho and Ica prepared and submitted four proposals for strengthening entrepreneurial skills, an agricultural seed bank and local participatory budget processes. They proposed a management platform through which regional and local authorities and social organizations would focus resources, taking into account the objectives of the Coordinated Development Plan. Adoption and implementation in the three regions are set for the financial year of 2011.

- In Huancavelica, the approval of the proposal for organizational strengthening of five indigenous women's organizations will benefit approximately 1,500 women in developing skills to improve their living conditions.
- In Anta (Cusco), the Federation of Women Farmers in the province of Anta (FEMCA) is comprised of 3,500 women and was negatively affected by torrential rains. They will work to improve their living conditions and ensure food for their families by implementing the harvesting of guinea pigs. A draft proposal was prepared, submitted and approved in the participatory budget Anta provincial government. Juana Segura, former President of FEMCA, had this to say about the proposal, *"It will help us to succeed. The rains had ruined all our crops, and the animals. We have almost nothing left. With that, we could get up."*
- In the Ica region, the Association of Families Displaced by Violence Policy (ADEFAP), comprised of 2,500 families, obtained land enabling them to have a place to develop actions to improve the quality of life for displaced families. The development of managerial skills has enabled the State, through the leadership of the Displacement and Peace Culture Ministry of Women, recognize them as subjects of law. They are now in the process of implementing individual reparations to those affected by political violence, which affected Peru from 1980-1990. Mary Mancco from ADEFAP, said: *"... Women and men need to train more, to know better how to exploit the opportunities presented...thanks to this training on the organization of people displaced by violence, we have organized ourselves better and we have to be recognized individuals...At first we were discriminated against, but now we are happy because our efforts have been successful."*

Details on Progress

Political Participation

The development of indigenous women's capacities to exercise their rights and political participation has empowered them to improve their level of participation in the electoral process for local district, provincial and regional elections in 2010. Sixteen indigenous women leaders participated in the electoral process and saw the election of two councilors in the district of Laramate, one in the Lucanas district and a district mayor in Lucan, all in the Ayacucho region.

Awareness and Impact on National Policies

In the regions of Ayacucho and Ucayali, CHIRAPAQ, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-Peru, asked nine indigenous organizations in the two regions to be involved in the development and validation of the Regional Plans for Equal Opportunities (PRIOS). PRIOS is a regional management tool, which seeks to ensure the implementation of sectoral policies that promote equal opportunities, social value and rights to achieve gender equity.

This partnership addressed intercultural maternal health concerns and methods to encourage pregnant women to utilize health facilities for quality care from trained health care providers. This will reduce the risks of maternal mortality, as most women prefer to give birth at home for fear of mistreatment in health facilities.

Indigenous women leaders were sensitized in an intercultural health workshop organized by the Ministry of Health, UNFPA and local health care providers (doctors, midwives) about the need for an intercultural approach to assist indigenous women in receiving better care and service at health facilities. This has initiated a process to influence health policies with an intercultural approach with the input of health leaders from South America.

Sexual and reproductive health has been something that male leaders of organizations raise awareness about and incorporate into the agendas of their organizations, raising awareness about the value of the role of women in families and their organizations. Ucayali Shipibo, leader of the Federation of Native Communities and Ucayali (FECONAU) had this to say at a workshop on sexual and reproductive health surveillance: *"...for male leaders, the most important thing is to work on land and territory, these are the most important rights, but now we see that health is also a fundamental right. If we do not have health care for women and men, we cannot do anything."*

In Junin, the Black River District Municipality in the province of Satipo has requested the formalization of an alliance to support training for indigenous organizations in the area, on topics such as management rights and capacities. This will contribute to the strengthening of six organizations in the Ashaninkas area to be in a better position to promote and defend the rights of indigenous men and women.

At the national level, the National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru (ONAMIAP), formerly called the Permanent Workshop of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru, is working to better promote and defend the rights of indigenous women. Progress has been made to formalize the legal status of indigenous women, making enrollment in public registers possible. We are also strengthening their management capacity through the development and implementation of strategic plans. Additional efforts have been made by ONAMIAP to participate in the Consultative Committee of the National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Ministry of Health, so women can influence public health policies. And lastly, a process has begun to coordinate national indigenous organizations to influence national agenda issues.

Actions promoted in the indigenous agenda have promoted the strengthening of the institutional image of Chirapaq for advocacy, with regard to issues of racism and discrimination, violence against indigenous women, health, climate change, education, and intercultural approaches to policy. Chirapaq has participated in different thematic panels regarding intercultural policy with: Pacific University, the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ), Ministry of Health, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Ministry of Women Development Social (MIMDES) and the Ministry of Environment.

Strengthening Indigenous Regional Platforms

Indigenous Regional Platforms are spaces created by Chirapaq for indigenous organizations to impact public policy and discuss common themes that connect them, allowing visibility of their agendas and empowerment of indigenous organizations. This linkage enables local and regional governments to incorporate proposals built by indigenous organizations into their programs, plans and policies. These platforms benefit the indigenous population of regions, and value the right to culture.

- In Ayacucho, the awareness and dissemination of ILO Convention 169, made by the member organizations of the Indigenous Regional Platform Ayacucho (PRIA), FEDECM, Ñoqanchiq Youth Network, Network Ayacucho Quechua communities and Chirapaq, has enabled approximately 60,000 inhabitants of the province of Huamanga to become informed on the rights of indigenous peoples. In virtue of these actions, PRIA has gained recognition, respect, visibility and positioning and become the main reference of the region on issues of indigenous rights and multiculturalism.
- As a regional benchmark, Chirapaq has been invited by the Institute for Development of Indigenous Peoples and Afro (INDEPA) and UNFPA Peru to join them in regional activities within their program of intercultural dialogue with health care providers.

"... it is better that you will listen to the track with clarity and strengthen and support us, because doctors find it difficult to understand the issue of identity and an intercultural approach to health services and want to move so that the population has a best service, with respect and dignity ... " - UNFPA Representative of Ayacucho

- Chirapaq is currently involved in a proposal document to raise awareness among local and regional political candidates on issues of the regional indigenous agenda, making many of them included in their government plans.
- A Regional Plan incorporating health issues and intercultural education is underway. This will contribute to the awareness of health and education providers in respect to cultural awareness.

Respect for Rights and Access to Justice

In the Cajamarca region, indigenous young patrolmen were inspired by the achievements in Ayacucho and Junin and are promoting their own recovery of the mother tongue (native language) in partnership with Academia de la Lengua Quechua, Cajamarca.



In the administration of justice, women patrollers led all the desks in the International Congress on Intercultural Justice in the Andes and peasant patrols. They are raising awareness among judges of ordinary courts in the ILO Convention 169 and asking to be incorporated into the Justice Management Institute recently established. Cleotilde Villanueva of the Federation of Rural Women in northern Peru had this to say about their efforts:

"... First they did not want us involved. The leaders of the national organizations said that women would not participate, but we did everything to be there, and we were on every table for discussion... The judges did not know ILO Convention 169, the common law and why the Constitution is not known... They have now established the Institute for Community and Justice Administration and asked us to be part of it."

On violence against women, GTZ as an ally of Chirapaq acknowledges the role and contributions of indigenous women in the development of their people, adding 12 leaders to the

process of building the path to justice for elimination of violence against women, due to their vision and intercultural approach.

Photo: Women participating in NO VIOLENCE demonstration on World Day Against Violence in Lima, Nov 2010

Racism and Discrimination

Chirapaq has been working towards the implementation of five observatories against discrimination in Ucayali, Ica, Ayacucho, Cajamarca and Junin. With input from the Ford Foundation, where young people are taking leading roles, we are collecting and documenting case discrimination, which will fuel the development of a shadow report to be submitted in 2011 before the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Climate Change

In relation to climate change, a process initiated by Chirapaq to raise awareness and influence policies to protect the environment and natural resources for indigenous peoples has gained support in young indigenous organizations in Cajamarca, Huancavelica and Ayacucho. They have conducted sensitization campaigns to public officials and the general public for the recovery of rivers and environmental care. With Yaneshas Community Federation-Central Selva (FECONAYA) is reclaiming ancestral knowledge and technologies for women for mitigation, adaptation and coping with new weather events, aimed at the recovery of agriculture for food. These alliances are made with support from NORAD TEBTEBBA-Filipnas.

Economic Entrepreneurship

As an organization within the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas, we are implementing a proposal to combat hunger and poverty, with two components: organizational and economic. The proposal is aimed at two indigenous women's organizations: the Association of Rural Women Vilca Basin (ASMUC) in Huancavelica and the Women's Federation of the Province of Lucanas in Ayacucho. These organizations seek to improve the quality of life of 884 indigenous women and their families. They have been working with women on the production of vegetables and textiles, the development of capacities for local economic enterprise, generating additional income for households, and strengthening their leadership in economic management by introducing their products to local markets.

These actions were complemented by organizational strengthening through training. Workshops implemented this year are: tools for local management and communication for leadership.

At the program level, indigenous women have been able to reach 2,881 persons of indigenous organizations.

Partnerships, Broader Awareness and Advocacy

Region	Organization	Indirect impact
Huancavelica	Women Farmers Association Vilca Basin - ASMUC	1,500 people
Cusco	Rural Women's Front of the province of Anta - FEMCA	3,500 people
Ica	Association of Families Displaced by Violence - ADEFA	2,500 people
Ayacucho	Indian Regional Platform Ayacucho	60,000 people
TOTAL		Participants 65,250

Source	Project	Direct Impact
The Hunger Project	Organizational strengthening and joint ventures with organizations of indigenous women	1,473
Ford Foundation	Inclusive societies against racism and discrimination	140
UNFPA	Strengthening indigenous women's organizations and breast health systems from an intercultural and human rights	291
AECI / ACH	Strengthening and support of networks and organizations of indigenous women	884
TEBTEBBA	Climate Change	155
TOTAL		2,943 participants

Profile of a Leader in the Community



My name is Martha Corahua Quinte. I'm Quechua from the Acobambilla community in Huancavelica.

I have always worked on a farm grazing my sheep, and some alpacas, but mostly sheep. I have not yet finished elementary school.

After I married, I joined the organization ASMUC (Association of Women Basin Vilca-region Huancavelica) and I am now the vice president. There, women learn to work together to meet the many needs in our families. Women are not important to the authorities; we had no support, but after meeting with rights organizations, the women realized they had rights. With

Chirapaq we have learned that we have rights and we can participate in meetings of the municipality. Because our community is well away from the city, nobody ever had invited us to the trainings, so we invited ourselves.

When I was a young girl, my mother and my grandmothers taught me to spin and weave the wool from my sheep. But despite being able to weave and sell wool, sometimes there is not enough profit to eat. My area does not give much agriculture, so spinning and weaving the wool of sheep is our only income.

With Chirapaq, we learned our rights and how to improve what we do. We learned to weave the most beautiful wool and sell it to authorities. That helps us very much, because now we have the support of the Mayor. We submitted a proposal to the district participatory budget and we managed to pass it. Now the Mayor has asked other organizations to participate.

I am very happy because now we know that women can do more things. The distance to the city makes us cringe at times because cars do not come every day to my community, but we learned that it gives us more strength when things are harder, because now we feel we are better. We have a small income for our families and that makes us happier.

Quotes from Chirapaq Members

"... We must prepare and show that individual reparation will improve the economy of our families ..." (Maximiliana of Chincha, Workshop on Productive Communication for Leadership, October 2010)

"... We work on the farm, we have not completed high school, we learn about health, and participate in the participatory budget that does not marginalize us. I want my children to live better than me, so I always learn more ..." (Theophilus of Lucanas workshop: Local management tools, participatory budget in March 2010)

"... We are calling participatory budget for youth in the district of Jesus of Nazareth, but the proposal we think we are going to present to the municipality, is a workshop to recycle paper and a little help to the economy of the house ... " (workshop: local management tools, participatory budgeting, October 2010)

"... Be responsible at all, as we hear, what we say and what we do, we must convey to be better leaders and our authorities to take more into account ..." (Betsi, displaced Huancayo Quechua, productive communication workshop for leadership, July 2010)