

LATIN AMERICA

THEMATIC NEWSLETTER THE AMAZON



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I. INTRODUCTION



The Amazon watershed is the largest river basin in the world. However, it is estimated that **7 out of 10 people living there do not have access to safe drinking water.**

Man using a net to catch what will be the day's food in the river. Amazon, Colombia.

The Amazon is a territory rich in natural resources and biodiversity, but it is also an area of great vulnerability. The Amazon River basin drains an average of 209,000 m³/s of freshwater to the Atlantic, making it the most important river in the world. However, it is estimated that 7 of every 10 people living there do not have access to drinking water. Similarly, in one of the areas of the world with the greatest diversity of species suitable for feeding, its inhabitants are facing enormous challenges in accessing food, while the situation is aggravated by the climate crisis.

At Action Against Hunger, we have decided to dedicate this bulletin to tell the situation we see in the indigenous communities of the Amazon, because we feel it is important to give visibility to the problems that plague these territories, and to the possible solutions that are being promoted by their inhabitants.

THE REALITY OF THE AMAZON

The Amazon has traditionally been recognized as a demarcation formed by borders between countries, but defining it implies talking about its common physical, environmental and cultural characteristics. The 7.5 million square kilometers of the Amazon area spread over 8 countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Guyana, Suriname and Ecuador) represent 40% of the American

continent and 6% of the land surface. This portion of transnational territory is known as the Amazon Biome. It is worth noting that the Amazon appears on the global political agenda as a central territory in the context of the climate change processes we are facing:

Environmental wealth

Scientific studies are still astonished by the complexity of the Amazon, which functions as the planet's main carbon dioxide sequestration sponge. In fact, it not only creates its own climate, through rainfall, but also serves as a regional and global climate regulator.¹

- Between 2001 and 2021, forests managed by indigenous communities in the Amazon collectively removed 340 million net tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere each year, equivalent to the annual fossil fuel emissions of the United Kingdom.²
- In terms of water, the Amazon is also the largest freshwater reservoir on the planet, holding 20% of the world's total. The Amazon River is the largest in the world with 6,900 kilometres of extension and nearly a thousand tributaries³.

¹ Scientific America (2023) Why is the Amazon so important for Climate change? 20.02.2023

² World Resources Institute (2023) Indigenous Forests Are Some of the Amazon's Last Carbon Sinks. 06.01.2023

³ ACTO (2018) Climate Change in the Amazon region. Actions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

- It represents 40% of the planet's tropical rainforests, 25% of terrestrial biodiversity and the greatest diversity of fish in the world⁴.
- 40,000 plants have been identified in the Amazon, of which 2,000 have been classified as suitable for food, medicinal or other purposes.
- It's diversity allows the development of cultural services (recreation, ecotourism), regulating services (improving water and air quality, rainfall formation), provisioning services (water and food production) and sustaining services (nutrient cycles, soil formation)⁵.
- As part of this natural wealth, a large part of the territory is protected by the different countries under figures such as National Natural Parks and some other legal forms, such as the Central Amazon Conservation Complex (Brazil) declared World Heritage.

Cultural richness

The Amazon Biome is inhabited by 40 million people, including 385 indigenous and tribal peoples using more than 86 languages and 650 dialects⁶. By the second decade of the 21st century, 71 peoples have been living in complete isolation. To date, 27% of Amazonian territory is owned by recognized indigenous peoples, with Brazil being the largest country with 1,153,843 km² in 2022.⁷

Although the population is dispersed in hard-to-reach areas, the urbanization process in the Amazon has also led to accelerated urban population growth. The fast paced urbanization and the arrival of population from remote areas has also generated impacts due to the difficulty of accessing services and the high levels of poverty in the communities⁸.

Transnational dynamics

The environmental wealth narrative of the Amazon contrasts with the living conditions of its communities, where the presence of different types of violence, armed groups and illegal economies generate environmental degradation and economic, social, and cultural impacts. However, the visibility of humanitarian crises in the area is limited by factors such as the concentration of populations in highly dispersed areas, difficult access, reduced state presence and few channels of communication. Action Against Hunger considers it essential to draw attention to the Amazon in order to address the pressing humanitarian needs of these communities.



Presidential Declaration on the occasion of the Amazon Summit

On August 9, 2023, the 8 countries that make up the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) signed a declaration that seeks to establish a joint vision and action on the multiple challenges and issues the Amazon is facing. The declaration states the need for "cooperation, integrated vision and collective action (...) to address the political, social, economic and environmental challenges of the Amazon Region, in particular those related to the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, water and soil pollution, deforestation and forest fires, increased inequality, poverty and hunger, in order to prevent the Amazon from reaching a point of no return"⁹



Action Against Hunger staff crossing a wooden bridge to reach the home of a family with difficult access, during a community visit, Colombia.

⁴ World Bank (2019) Interview with Thomas Lovejoy: Why Amazon biodiversity is critical for the planet. Ambiente. 22.05.2019

⁵ WWF (2022) Amazonía Viva Report. Quito. November 2022

⁶ ACTO (2018) Climate Change in the Amazon region. Actions of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

⁷ WWF (2022) Amazonía Viva Report. Quito. November 2022

⁸ Science Panel for the Amazon (2021) Amazon in motion: Changing politics, development strategies, peoples, landscapes, and livelihoods. In: Amazon Assessment Report. Sustainable development solution

⁹ OTPC (2023) Belém Declaration. Amazon Summit -IV Meeting of Presidents of the States Parties to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty

II. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE AMAZON

The population living in the Amazon region is living in an environment with limited capacity to respond to the risks existing in the territory.



The scarcity of medical resources and geographical distance hinder access to **health care**.



Food insecurity is exacerbated by extreme climate change and deforestation.



Access to **drinking water** is limited due to extractive activities that pollute water resources.



Internal displacement, caused by illegal activities and conflicts between armed groups, threatens the physical and mental **security** of indigenous communities, affecting their traditions and cultural roots.

These problems demand comprehensive strategies to address the immediate needs and protect the fundamental rights of the populations of this region, which is vital for our planet.



Mother playing with her child in her home during a community visit. Amazonas, Colombia.

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL PROBLEMS IN THE AMAZON

HEALTH

Resource constraints, such as deficiencies in the cold chain in health centres, lack of access to electricity and inadequate supply of medicines, hinders planning to ensure adequate health coverage of the population. Regarding vaccines for example, it is not possible to ensure the first dose of hepatitis B at birth or crucial vaccines during the second month of life, such as MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine or polio.

The barriers that have been identified for the correct exercise of the right to health by the Amazonian populations can be grouped into 4 areas:

- 1. Geographic barriers:** The distance between the population and health centres, the lack of adequate transportation and seasonal geographic isolation makes it difficult for these populations to receive the continuous medical attention they need. Their dependence on river transport, which involves obtaining the means of transportation and paying for fuel, makes these communities highly vulnerable to health problems. In Colombia, the maternal mortality rate in indigenous communities is four times higher than the national average (219 vs. 51 deaths per 100,000 live births).
- 2. Cultural barriers:** The cultural and health perception differences between those who live in the Amazon and those who establish health policies generate incongruent practices, as inadequate care models are implemented not only culturally but also logistically (health centers with opening hours incompatible with the population dynamics, located in areas of difficult access for the indigenous communities).
- 3. Economic barriers:** According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, indigenous peoples are almost three times more likely to live in extreme poverty¹⁰. In countries such as Bolivia and Peru, 75% to 80% of indigenous people live in poverty, which hinders their access to health care due to economic constraints.¹¹ The lack of resources in health facilities in the Amazon region aggravates the situation. In the Peruvian Amazon, 33% of health centres lack essential cold chains to preserve medicines, and 13% have inoperative cold chains without maintenance.¹²
- 4. Social barriers:** Mainly caused by the level of education of the population. According to the National Household Survey (ENAHU Peru 2018), the illiteracy rate of the population aged 15 or older was 5.1%, while it rose to 13.5% in indigenous-speaking population.



Pregnant woman receiving medical care, zonas rurales en Colombia.

¹⁰ [About Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights | OHCHR](#)

¹¹ <http://otca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Situacion-y-Perspectivas-de-la-Seguridad-Alimentaria-en-la-Amazonia.pdf>

¹² <http://otca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Situacion-y-Perspectivas-de-la-Seguridad-Alimentaria-en-la-Amazonia.pdf>



Project participant preparing food in the community's common kitchen.



Boy returning to his home carrying buckets of water after training in Water Sanitation and Hygiene. Putumayo, Colombia.

FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean increased by 28% between 2019 and 2021, affecting the Amazon region even more due to difficulties in accessing food during the crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In addition, despite the natural wealth of the Amazonas, the challenges of climate change, extreme temperatures, or forest fires and deforestation, limits food availability, leaving many inhabitants in a food insecurity situation.

In Colombia, Amazonian indigenous communities deal with changes in settlement patterns and consumption habits due to their dependence on the external market, facing deculturalization. The loss of seeds and traditional knowledge related to food production processes, and the lack of integration of the social and cultural aspects of Amazonian communities by policy makers¹³, weaken their food security. Meanwhile in Peru, the Awajún and Wampis peoples face health problems due to water contamination by extractive industries and poisons in fishing, generating concern regarding anaemia, malnutrition and diseases associated with poor nutrition. In Venezuela, the lack of control over mining in Amazonian territories has devastated large swathes of forests, leaving barren areas, and contaminated freshwater sources, with short- and long-term consequences for the health of their populations.

Food security in the region goes beyond food availability; it is related to access, distribution and use, linked to land tenure systems and specific policies yet to be developed to benefit these populations. At the same time, climate change and its increasingly intense consequences represent a serious threat to the region, evidencing changes such as a drier Amazon in the east and wetter in the west, which affects agricultural production. These changes in climate patterns generate impacts on local economies, highlighting

the urgency of implementing adaptation and risk management strategies, particularly for indigenous peoples.

WATER RESOURCES

The issue of access to water in the Amazon is alarming. There are multiple international regulations that include specific obligations in relation to access to drinking water, such as the prohibition of contamination of water resources or non-discrimination in access to drinking water and sanitation. Despite being home to 20% of the planet's freshwater reserves¹⁴, **7 out of 10 people in the region lack access to drinking water.** This situation is aggravated by the presence of contaminants derived from extractive activities such as illegal mining, oil spills, and even drug trafficking¹⁵, that directly impact the physical and mental health of communities, as well as their food systems.

Deforestation is having a significant impact on water resources in the Amazon region and, in turn, on climate change. For example, the forests of the Colombian Amazon lost 196,525 hectares in 2020, an increase of 68% over the previous year, and a significant reduction in the forest's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, generating devastating conditions for both the environment and daily life of its inhabitants.

As a result of climate change, extreme droughts have triggered extreme droughts, leading to historic lows in the region's rivers. This situation has isolated entire communities and negatively impacted native fauna, including species such as freshwater dolphins. In addition, these changes in climate have also caused flash flooding of rivers to historic levels, creating extreme hardship for indigenous and riparian communities.

¹³ Tropenbos Food security in the Colombian Amazon rainforest: The forest as a food provider. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, Netherlands. <http://www.tropenbos.org/>

¹⁴ <https://www.iagua.es/noticias/europa-press/siete-cada-diez-habitantes-amazonia-no-tienen-acceso-al-agua-potable>

¹⁵ https://infoamazonia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DEFORESTACION-AMAZONIA-2025_21032023.pdf

In Colombia, the Negro River recorded a series of historic lows, dropping in October to 12.7 meters at the port of Manaus, the lowest level recorded in 121 years. At the other end of the scale, in June 2021, during an unprecedented flood, it reached an all-time high of 30.02 meters.

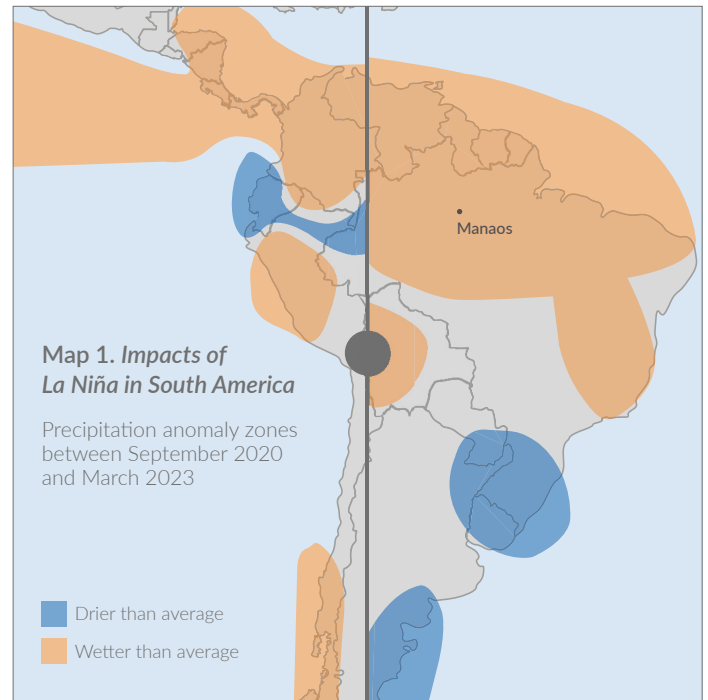
The impact of climate change is not limited to natural phenomena. An increase in previously non-endemic diseases has been observed in the Amazon due to temperature changes, heat waves and other extreme events. This situation has exacerbated morbidity and mortality in the region, drastically affecting the quality of life and health of people living in this crucial area of the planet.

INTERNAL MOVEMENTS

The displacement of people in the Amazon is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by various factors. Indigenous peoples, culturally rooted in their territories and customs, suffers not being able to grow according to their habits and are forced to leave their territories and adopt new ways of life due to the threats posed by illegal activities and security force operations^{16, 17}. This forced displacement impacts their community and family way of life, which prevents this population from exercising their right not to be displaced¹⁸.

Increasing mining activity in indigenous territories, violence generated by irregular armed groups, and lack of access to basic services such as health care have led to displacement to neighbouring countries or within the country itself. Illegal mining by settlers¹⁹ causes deforestation and contamination of rivers, profoundly altering the ecosystem. The arrival of settlers and religious groups in remote areas of the jungle has generated tensions with indigenous communities. The imposition of foreign beliefs and cultural practices has generated conflicts by attempting to change the customs²⁰ and local language of their communities.

Illegal coca plantations drive deforestation and violence in the Amazon. The global demand for drugs has led to conflicts between groups involved in their production, which in turn causes displacement and human rights violations. In addition, human trafficking, especially of women and girls, is an alarming reality in the Tri-Border area between Colombia, Peru and Brazil, which is the ideal enclave for illegal trafficking, not only of drugs or natural resources, but also of people, 62% of the time women and 23% girls, with the aim, in 80% of cases, of sexually exploiting them²¹.



Source: Colombia Climate Data Library • Map: [Diálogo Chino](#)



Families returning to their homes after receiving food donations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Colombia

¹⁶ <https://provea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Informe-PN-Yapacana-2023.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://provea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Migracio%CC%81n-y-Desplazamiento-de-Poblaciones-Indi%CC%81genas-de-la-Amazoni%CC%81a-Venezolana-hacia-Colombia.pdf>

¹⁸ Recognized by the Inter-American Court through a judgment "through an evolutive interpretation of Article 22 of the Convention, taking into account the applicable rules of interpretation and in accordance with Article 29.b of the Convention -which prohibits a restrictive interpretation of rights- this Court considers that Article 22.1 of the Convention protects the right not to be forcibly displaced within a State Party to the Convention" (IACHR, 2005, para. 188)

¹⁹ <https://provea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Migracio%CC%81n-y-Desplazamiento-de-Poblaciones-Indi%CC%81genas-de-la-Amazoni%CC%81a-Venezolana-hacia-Colombia.pdf>

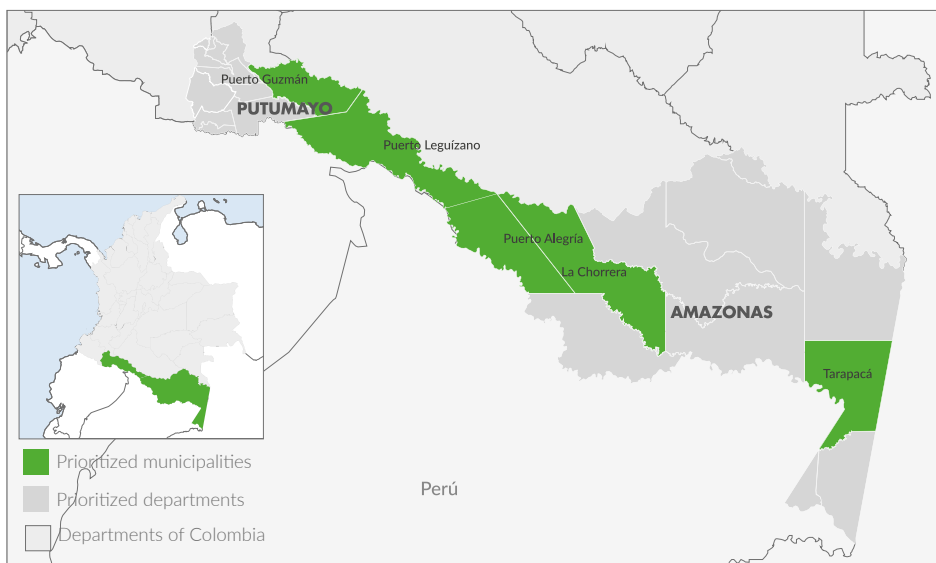
²⁰ http://www.scielo.org.co/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0121-86972018000100203

²¹ https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/07/27/planeta_futuro/1595858396_100114.html

III. OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE AMAZON



The Alianza Amazonía project, funded by the European Commission's Office for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), and in consortium with the Norwegian Refugee Council and Doctors of the World, aims to improve protection and access to basic services for vulnerable groups such as conflict-affected communities, neglected minority groups and indigenous populations affected by humanitarian crises in the departments of Putumayo and Amazonas. Within the framework of the project, we seek to serve a total of 19,500 people, through activities in Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction in 5 prioritized municipalities.

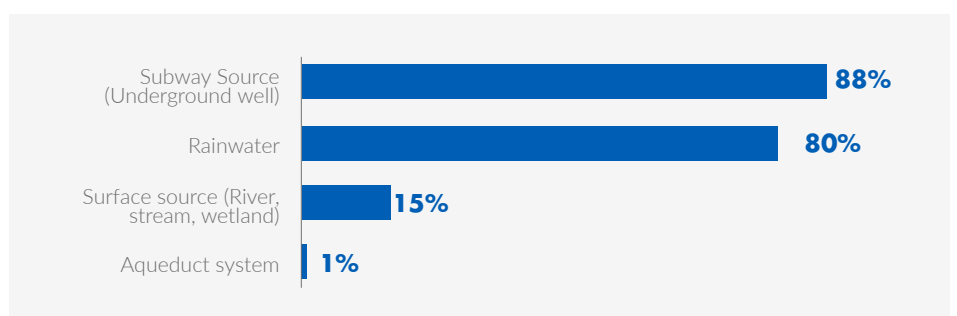


This region of the country is characterized by:

- The presence of a dispersed population in areas that are difficult to access, where mobility is centered on river travel, and there is little or no state presence.
- Access to safe water is non-existent, as well as to a quality sanitation system, which generates a high prevalence of waterborne diseases and is linked to poor excreta management, that affects nutrition and health.

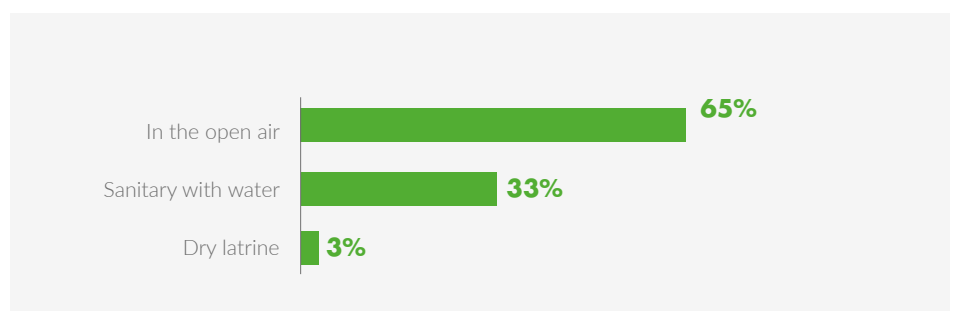
Map 2. Prioritized zones in the Colombian Amazon

The Action Against Hunger teams, through participatory community assessments, identified that, within the prioritized communities, the main sources of water supply (see graphic 1) are rainwater storage, and water harvesting from rivers and streams. None of the families carry out any type of water treatment for consumption. In addition, only 1% of the prioritized communities have access to water through aqueduct systems, which operate in precarious conditions.



Graphic 1. Water supply sources

Regarding **sanitation**, only 36% of the population was found to have access to improved sanitation systems through sanitary units and dry latrines. This is related to the prevalence of water-borne diseases, contamination of water sources, and malnutrition.



Graphic 2. Access to sanitation



With regard to **food security**, it is important to note that there are multiple security and protection risks due to the armed conflict, since the imposition of restrictions on mobility by the Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) has a strong impact on livelihoods, especially on the indigenous population who already live in hard-to-reach areas, and whose subsistence depends on activities such as hunting or fishing.

The boom in the illegal extraction of minerals, especially gold, in these areas, has increased problems associated with environmental degradation, including not only mercury contamination of water sources and fish, but also deforestation, thus affecting the realization of economic income-generating activities.

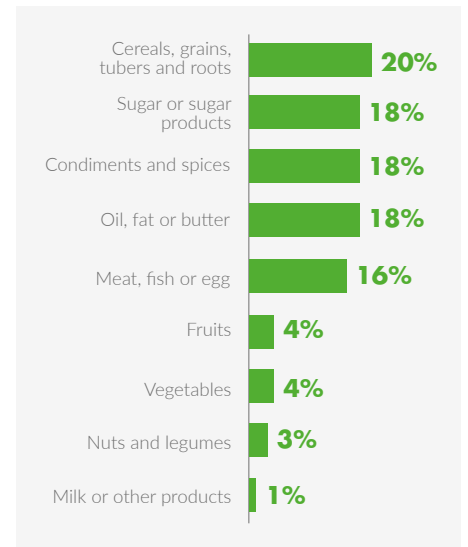
Our field teams identified that households have a low food consumption score, with limited access to certain food groups such as animal protein due to restrictions on activities such as hunting and fishing, and livelihoods such as raising animals for self-consumption and marketing surpluses. In addition, factors such as soil availability, the effects of armed conflict, population

dispersion and limited mobility between communities have led to a reduction in traditional livelihoods associated with the cultivation of food crops such as vegetables and fruits. For instance, only 4% of the households interviewed had access to vegetables and fruits during the last seven days.

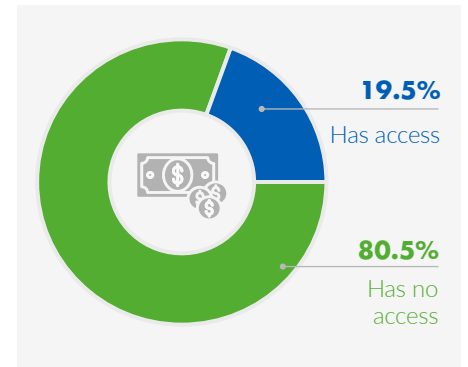
This low food consumption and the food insecurity situation of households has led families to implement coping strategies such as reducing portions and/or number of meals per day.

Finally, climate change and extreme weather events further increases the vulnerability due to a variety of factors, for example:

- i) High dependence of Amazonian communities on river transport. Drought or increased rainfall affect navigability and limit their access to health, access to education, or the provision of food and basic inputs that increase transportation costs or simply fail to reach them.
- ii) Changes in harvest periods that generate losses, threatening the food security of the communities.



Graphic 3. Food consumed every day of the week every day of the week



Graphic 4. Access to stable and regular economic income



Amazonas, Colombia

OUR ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED:



Construction and rehabilitation of basic community sanitation systems (sanitary units and septic tanks).



Construction or rehabilitation of water storage and/or supply systems.



Implementing and strengthening of water and sanitation committees.



Training for community groups and Community Water and Sanitation Committees in hygiene promotion, basic sanitation, and solid waste management.



Creation of community risk management committees and implementation of community risk management plans in coordination with local authorities (includes provisioning the visibility committee/emergency brigades) Amazonas.



Training program for professionals, community agents, midwives and traditional doctors in health promotion and disease prevention.



Distribution of hygiene/habitat kits according to gender and delivered with a differential approach.



Strengthening community health as part of risk management preparedness.



Cleanup days for the protection of water sources.



Amazonas, Colombia

"As we were giving a talk on good hygiene practices and the essential steps for proper handwashing at school, I saw how the children paid close attention and timidly began to repeat each step for effective handwashing.

Training in schools with differential materials, in the case of Amazonia adapted to indigenous communities, achieves greater appropriation of the messages, allowing children to become spokespersons in their own homes. Prioritizing the strengthening of water and sanitation infrastructure in rural schools became a key strategy for impact on improving children's health, community development, inequality reduction and emergency preparedness.

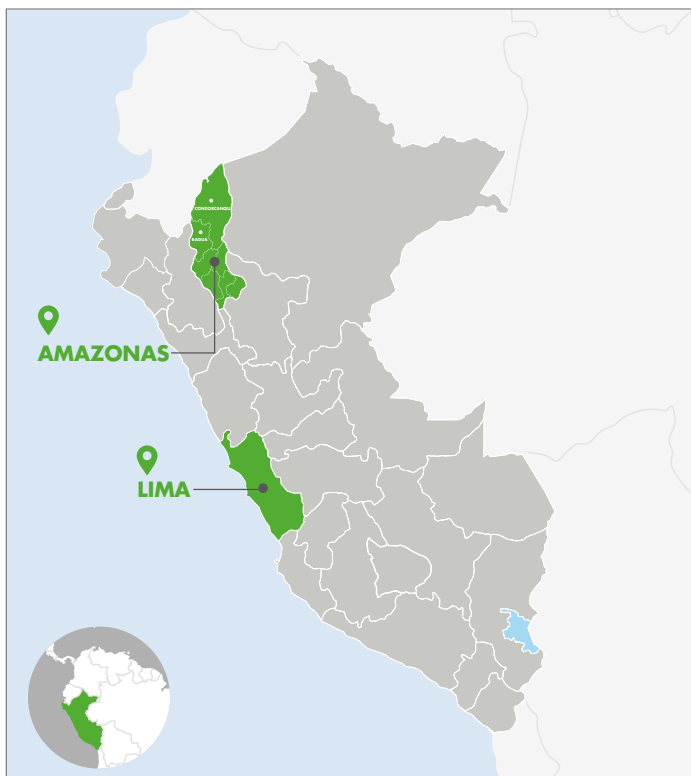
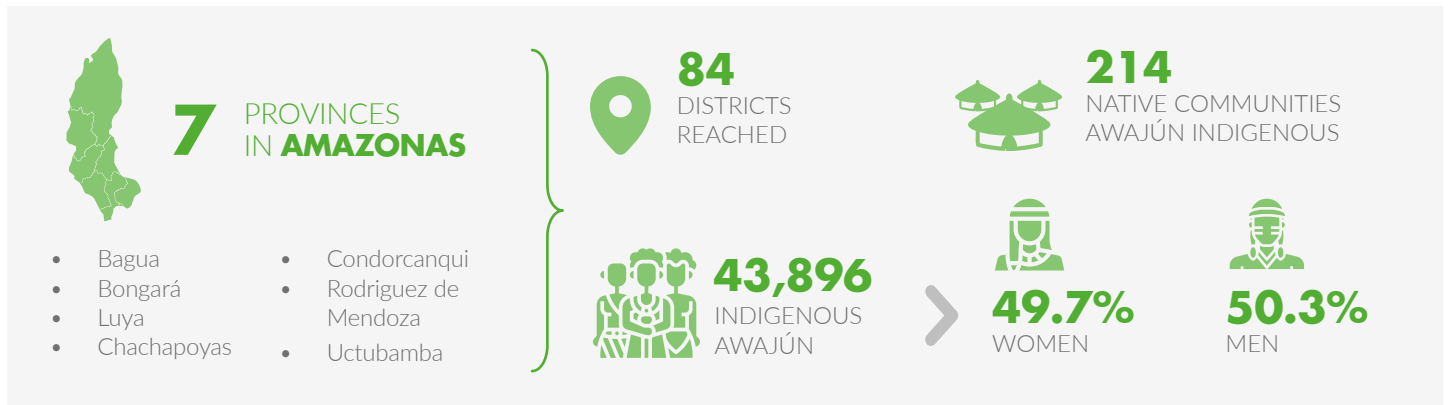
The Amazon challenges us; there is still much to do. In this new phase of the Alianza Amazonia consortium, we are reaching out to "non-municipalized areas", characterized by their dispersion and lack of essential services such as water, sanitation, and health, which requires protection strategies to improve living conditions at the individual and community level. The Consortium presents itself as a unique opportunity to reach places that have never been supported by others, extending its support to rural communities in Putumayo and those immersed in the Amazon jungle, to continue strengthening capacities and training more spokespersons to join in the fight against hunger."

ANGELA VALENCIA

AMAZON ALLIANCE CONSORTIUM COORDINATOR



Acción contra el Hambre, with the support of ECHO, is developing the project "[Indigenous Rapid Response - IRR](#)" in the Department of Amazonas, in northeastern Peru, where 43,896 Awajún indigenous people are located out of the estimated 70,000 in Peru, distributed in 214 native communities, composed of 100 or more members up to a thousand.



Map 3. Geographic access in Peru

The indigenous people in Peru present a critical situation considering human development indicators; for example, most indigenous households do not have basic water, sanitation and electricity services, and present "average" chronic malnutrition rates of 22%.

On the other hand, indigenous people such as the Awajún in the Amazon are exposed to multiple threats such as hydrocarbon exploitation, with its environmental, health and protection risks. Also concerns the invasion of the territory by settlers and religious congregations, indiscriminate logging and its consequent deforestation, the intensive use of pesticides, drug trafficking and threats to environmental defenders. All the factors mentioned also influence the destruction of indigenous governance systems, which in turn ends up strongly affecting all communities.

Faced with this increasingly complex context, under the umbrella of the United Nations Convention 169, indigenous Autonomous Territorial Governments (GTAs) have emerged. Currently in the country there are the [Wampis Nation's ATG](#) and the [Awajún ATG](#).

Action Against Hunger, from our office in Bagua, is currently working in alliance with the Awajún GTAA (GTAA), an indigenous authority that works in the elaboration of a code of justice and the generation of proposals for solutions in conflictive zones due to the presence of illegal activities, in coordination and articulation with public and private institutions Our team has initiated activities to strengthen the emergency response capacities of Awajún citizens in 2023 and will continue its activities until 2025.

The scope of intervention of this project covers part of the Awajún territory in Amazonas, as well as Metropolitan Lima for coordination actions with national agencies.

The territory where the project is being developed is geographically complex, as there are no nearby airports. The communities are dispersed, and similarly with many of the Amazonian indigenous people it requires hours of navigation and walking to reach them.

In January 2023, the last major spill recorded in the Awajún territory occurred, with 62 native communities located on the banks of the Nieva and Marañón Rivers affected by crude oil, including those located in the impact zone and others that depend on water from the affected streams. Between 2000 and 2019, 474 oil spills were recorded in the Amazon and the Norperuvian Pipeline, which would be equivalent to one spill every two weeks. This has had a strong impact on indigenous communities and peoples, on their food security, biodiversity surrounding their territories and traditional sources of water supply, such as streams or wells; in addition to the effects on humans in case of acute exposure to oil. There are evaluations of health effects in populations exposed to oil spills that indicate higher than normal rates of mental health effects (depression, anxiety disorder, event-related psychological stress, neurological effects, traumatic symptoms and post-traumatic stress disorder), physiological health effects (respiratory problems, irritations), genotoxicity parameters and alterations in the levels of several hormones, lymphocytes and cytokines associated with exposure. Data indicate that several symptoms may persist years after exposure.

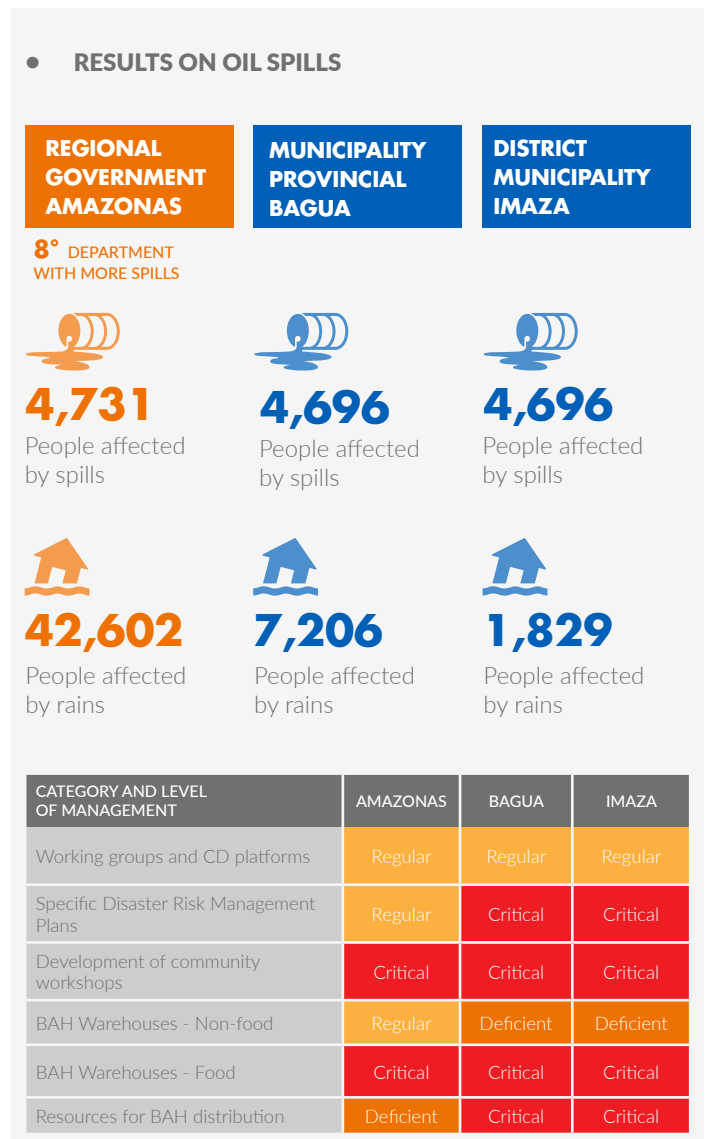
The Indigenous Rapid Response (PRI) project seeks to generate the necessary capacities for the implementation of mechanisms for preparedness and rapid response to oil spill emergencies, both at the level of native Awajún communities and the Awajún indigenous institutions .



Review of maps during a coordination meeting on Disaster Risk Management, Amazonas, Peru.



To this end, emergency preparedness and rapid response plans are being developed in a participatory manner in the selected communities, as well as a continuous work of institutional strengthening with the authorities, in order to include risk management in the territory, in a communitarian manner. The survey we have conducted in the area indicates that there is a large knowledge gap on disaster risk management at the community level, or a critical absence of community emergency plans or early warning systems. Today, in the event of another disaster similar to the Chiriaco spill, the response capacity would be similar. However, the impact could be multiplied by affecting a population that has not yet recovered from the damage caused in 2016, as indicated in the sentence issued by the Civil Chamber of the Superior Court of Justice of Amazonas in May 2022.



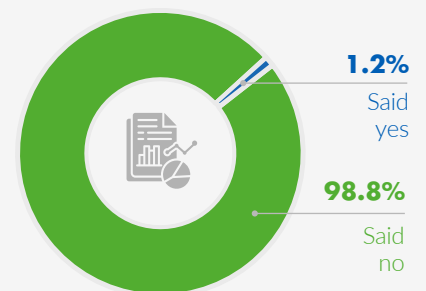
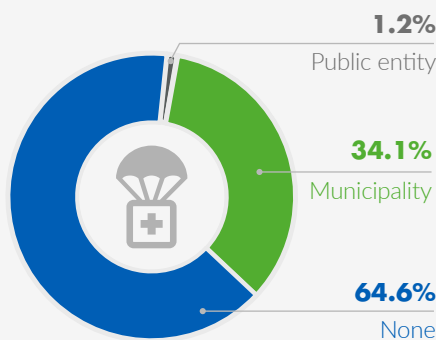
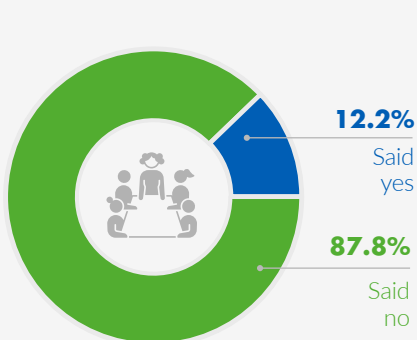


● RESULTS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

Community participation in awareness-raising and training events on Disaster Risk Management

Entities from which it has received humanitarian aid goods during an emergency and/or disaster

Existence of any study, report, diagnosis or investigation on the occurrence of an oil spill or other hazard in the community



64%
Has not received humanitarian aid

75%
Communicate through speakers

0%
Assured they had community maps

0%
Assured to participate in Disaster Risk Management meetings

CATEGORY AND LEVEL OF MANAGEMENT	NIVELES
Knowledge in Disaster Risk Management	Critical
Community brigades	Deficient
Community plans	Critical
Early warning systems	Critical
Procedures to apply for BAH	Deficient
BAH Reception	Deficient



Coordination meeting on Disaster Risk Management in the face of oil spills. Amazonas, Peru.

LESSONS LEARNED

It is important to implement appropriate risk management initiatives to deal with disasters such as oil spills in territories where multiple vulnerabilities intersect, such as access difficulties, language, ethnicity and discrimination, which is often associated with the situation of lack of protection, especially for women and girls in these contexts. For this reason, it is therefore essential to have solid allies, such as indigenous leaders.

Coordination between actors in the territory is a key element to overcome the various barriers, whether logistical, accessing or cultural, and to achieve greater reach. In the Peruvian Amazon context, several initiatives have been identified to address oil spills. One of the most implemented along time in various territories is the indigenous environmental monitoring. For example, in the northern Amazon, in Loreto, 36 communities of four indigenous people - Kichwa, Tikuna, Yagua and Maijuna - have up to 120 monitors using drones and satellite maps to fight against illegal loggers in the Napo and Amazon basins. The generated material is included in the investigations carried out by the Environmental Evaluation and Oversight Agency (OEFA), which receives complaints with geo-referenced data and verifies in the field the points of contamination detected. Initiatives have also been developed for strategic

litigation, such as the lawsuit for health care to be provided to the communities affected by the spill of 3,000 barrels in Chiriaco, in the north of Peru which has ended in a second instance ruling in favor of the affected communities, and which orders the Regional Health Directorate of Amazonas (Diresa) and the Ministry of Health (Minsa) to approve, implement, direct, and supervise public health actions and strategies, and to comply with emergency medical care in the native communities Nazareth, Wachapea, Pakun and Umukai.



Learn more [HERE](#) ✨




Gil Inoach Shawit is the pamuk (president) of the Awajún Autonomous Territorial Government. He has witnessed the impact on the health and food security of his people. The people affected by the spill of 3,000 barrels of crude oil in Chiriaco in 2016 have suffered the health, food and lack of protection consequences originated by this disaster. The leader denounces that there have been no studies that would reveal objectively the situation of the community and the risk to which they were exposed to. Inoach stresses the importance of having (as GTAA), the capacity to manage and react quickly, and to channel demands to the State or the private sector, in order to access emergency aid.

GIL INOACH SHAWIT
PAMUK OF THE AWAJÚN
AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

IV. CONCLUSIONS



We believe that it is key to continue working on and developing the following topics:

- 

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Promote coordinated actions to guarantee the human right to drinking water and sanitation, balance and harmony with the ecosystems linked to water and its healthy balance with food and energy needs in the Amazon.

- 

RISK AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Deepen cooperation in risk and disaster management, particularly to deal with floods, intense droughts, and forest fires, with coordination in different areas of emergency response of national civil protection and humanitarian cooperation systems in accordance with the demand of the State where they are developed.

- 

HEALTH

Promote actions and services that provide knowledge and detection of changes in social and environmental determinants that interfere with human health, considering the One Health approach, with the purpose of recommending and adopting measures to promote health, prevention and monitoring of risk factors related to diseases or health problems.

- 

FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

Initiate a process of dialogue for the elaboration of an Amazonian strategy for food and nutritional security and sovereignty, with attention to production, availability, supply and access to food from Amazonian biodiversity, in which priority is given to combating chronic child malnutrition.



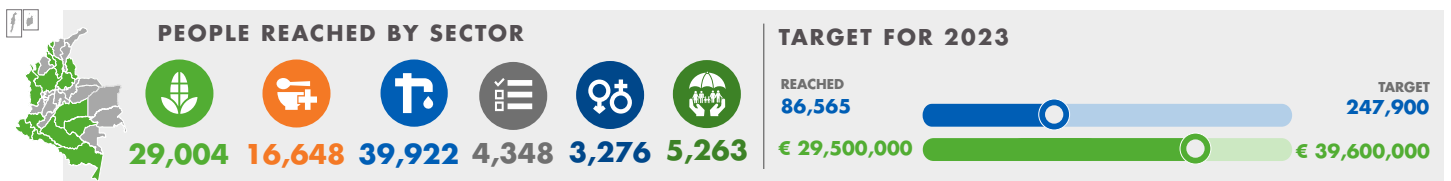
REGIONAL RESPONSE



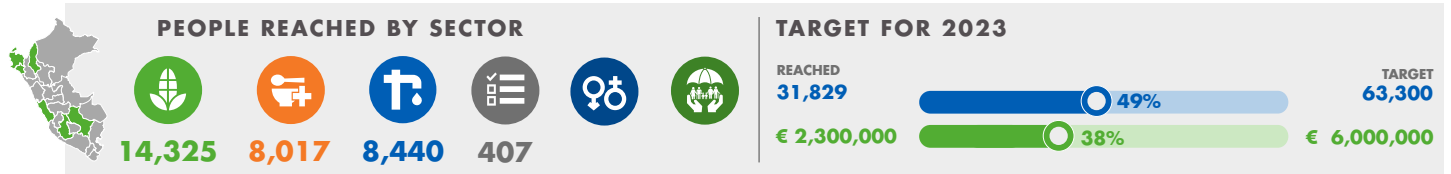
CENTRAL AMERICA



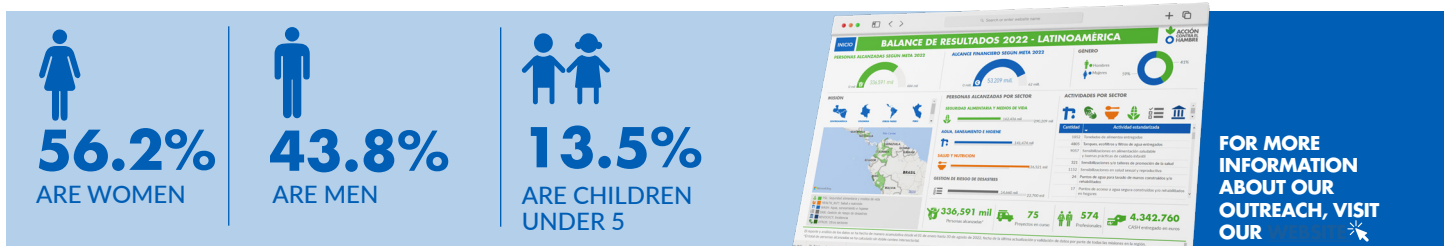
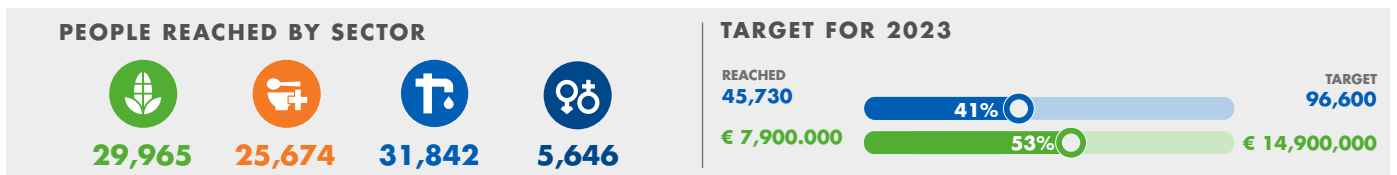
COLOMBIA



PERU



OTHER COUNTRIES





STRATEGICS ALLIES



Unión Europea
Protección Civil y
Ayuda Humanitaria




USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Suecia
Sverige



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo
y la Cooperación COSUDE



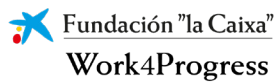

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DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**
*Liberté
Égalité
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LA IGLESIA DE
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**ACTION
AGAINST
HUNGER**