



OAS | More rights
for more people

MANAGEMENT REPORT

SECRETARIAT FOR
ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND
EQUITY

2022

SARE

GUARANTEEING
“**MORE RIGHTS** FOR MORE **PEOPLE**”
IN THE AMERICAS



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01

SARE

SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY

The Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) was created in 2015, with the objective of supporting Member States in their efforts and initiatives to improve the conditions of access to rights and to promote greater equity in the region. The SARE seeks to promote and expand the work agenda of the General Secretariat in matters of social inclusion, prioritizing work in favor of populations in vulnerable situations, the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, and citizen participation.

This work is carried out with special emphasis on groups that are in a situation of vulnerability (GSV)¹, such as indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities, LGTBI persons, youth and children at risk, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, older people, among others, from a transversal and intersectional perspective.

In this sense, the work of SARE is important, as it focuses on the critical points needed to achieve the global and regional goals of reducing social gaps and inequality by promoting equity and social inclusion. Without this line of work within the OAS, populations in vulnerable situations, which represent a high percentage of the total population in the region, would not be able to see their interests represented and would be unable to participate in the construction and strengthening of democracy from the perspective of cooperation, shared responsibility, and assistance that the most important forum for political dialogue in the Americas can provide.

SARE promotes permanent dialogue with and among OAS Member States, becoming one of the most important forums at the regional level for building consensus and setting agendas for the whole hemisphere. SARE's work aims to promote equity and social justice in the region through the effective exercise of human rights, the social inclusion of groups in vulnerable situations, and citizen participation. To optimize the fulfillment of its task in the hemisphere, SARE has created alliances with government institutions, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other international organizations at both regional and global levels.

Through the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI) and the Section of Relations with Civil Society, the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity, continued working towards the consolidation of the agenda of social inclusion and access to rights in the Region during the year 2022. This work focused on the empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations, the eradication of discrimination, racism, and intolerance in the Americas, addressing

¹ Groups in vulnerable situations refer to the group of people who, due to race, color, lineage or national or ethnic origin, cultural identity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, migratory or refugee status, repatriated, stateless or internally displaced person, disability, genetic characteristic, bio-psycho-social conditions or any other, have historically been discriminated against and the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of their rights denied or violated (definition based on the Inter-American Convention against all forms of Discrimination and Intolerance). Available in: http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/tratados_multilaterales_interamericanos_A-69_discriminacion_intolerancia.asp

multidimensional poverty, mapping priorities in matters of Social development, the participation of the civil society, the protection of consumer rights, and the promotion of the rights of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons in the region.

In this Management Report for 2022, SARE reiterates its commitment to continue working with its partners to support Member States in the development and adoption of inclusive public policies that make it possible to eliminate the gaps caused by discrimination, and to achieve the necessary conditions for the full exercise of human rights so we can build more just and inclusive societies together.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE SECRETARIAT OF ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY (SARE)

The Strategic Plan of the SARE is aligned with the objectives of the OAS Comprehensive Strategic Plan. This Plan established the following:

Mission

Work together with OAS Member States in **building more inclusive and equitable societies, promoting access to rights, the empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations, and citizen participation.**

To carry out its work, SARE prioritizes initiatives that have equity as a goal, social inclusion as a process, and

Vision

To be the **hemispheric reference in terms of dialogue, technical cooperation, design and implementation of policies** and initiatives with a rights-based approach to social inclusion with equity.

02 | Strategic Objectives

- 1 Promote **hemispheric dialogue and technical cooperation** with and among OAS Member States on issues related to access to rights, social inclusion with equity, the empowerment of groups in situations of vulnerability, and citizen participation, to strengthen the capacity of state institutions in charge of these areas.
- 2 Generate **knowledge bases**, build capacities, and manage and disseminate information on public policies, laws, programs and good practices of Member States aimed at promoting social inclusion with equity, the empowerment of groups in situations of vulnerability, citizen participation, and access to Justice.
- 3 Contribute to the **observance of human rights** in the region by monitoring the norms and standards of the inter-American system.
- 4 **Strengthen the capacities of civil society** and other social actors, and facilitate their participation and articulation in OAS activities.
- 5 Intensify efforts for the institutional **strengthening of SARE** to guarantee optimal working and budgetary conditions that allow it to effectively fulfill its mandates and responsibilities.²

To implement these objectives and continue its results-based management, SARE has organized its work under the strategic programs presented below. During 2022, these programs guided the work carried out by SARE to respond to the mandates established by the OAS Member States and the challenges that the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery has generated in the region.

² See SARE's Strategic Plan at the following link:
http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/publicaciones/SARE_Strategic_2020_ESP.pdf

KEY PROGRAMS | 03

Program 1:

Promotion of Hemispheric Dialogue and access to rights, social inclusion with equity, empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations, and citizen participation

Within the framework of this program, SARE provides support to meetings of high authorities to promote the exchange of information, promising practices, and priorities for regional cooperation. It should be noted that the forums supported or promoted by SARE focus on promoting dialogue oriented towards concrete results such as the adoption of "declarations", "action plans", "guidelines", among others. Within this program and during 2022 Progress was made in the following processes:

Ministerial Meetings on Social Development (REMDES)

During the regular meeting of CIDI, held on February 22, 2022, the Member States approved the call for the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (V REMDES) to be held in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on the 17th and November 18, 2022, under the motto "Strengthening Hemispheric Cooperation towards Resilient Reconstruction and Sustainable Social Development in the Americas"

At the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES) held on March 22, the 24 delegations present agreed on the activities for the preparation of the Fifth REMDES and the authorities presented the preliminary versions of the central documents. At the regular meeting of CIDI on April 26, 2022, the Member States received the proposed negotiation methodology and the following documents: Draft Declaration, Draft Action Plan, Draft Agenda and Draft Annotated Agenda. These documents describe the topics that will be addressed at the V REMDES, the objectives and expected results, as well as the proposed structure for the meeting. These documents were approved at the regular meeting of CIDI held on May 31, 2022.

As part of the triennial sectoral process of social development, the formal preparatory meeting of the V REMDES was held on October 20, 2022, where representatives of the permanent missions of the OAS Member States and the

sectoral authorities for social development finalized the negotiation of the document proposals to be formally approved during the ministerial meeting. The draft calendar of the ministerial meeting was also presented at the meeting, and other issues related to the organization of the meeting were addressed.

V REMDES

The objectives of the V REMDES were to identify regional priorities in terms of social development; to share effective experiences and innovations in social protection policies as a fundamental strategy to address persistent gaps and needs in the Americas, including those emerging as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic; to expand and consolidate regional cooperation alliances through the reactivation of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (RIPSO); approve the "[Inter-American Declaration of Priorities in Social Development](#)" in which priority lines of action are established to advance social development in the region and the [Action Plan](#) of the Dominican Republic 2022 which outlines the specific activities that will be implemented by the members of the Working Groups that have been operating since 2019, during the next triennial cycle 2022-2025.



Official photo of the V REMDES

23 OAS Member States, represented by their Ministers and High Authorities, participated at the V REMDES: Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

The V REMDES was inaugurated by the President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader; the Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS, Maricarmen Plata; and the General Coordinator of the Cabinet for the Coordination Social Policies of the Presidency of the Dominican Republic, Francisco Antonio Peña Guaba.

During the First Plenary Session, the Report of the Technical Secretariat and the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES) was presented as a follow-up to the Fourth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (IV REMDES), led by Dr. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, Director of the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity, OAS.

Later on, the [“Compendium on experiences and lessons learned in measuring multidimensional poverty in the Americas”](#) was launched. This document was prepared by Working Group 1 “Measurements of multidimensional poverty and the design of public policies focused on guaranteeing well-being and enjoyment of a good quality of life” of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES) made up of Mexico, Canada, Guatemala and Paraguay. This unpublished publication includes contributions from Michelle Muschett, Senior Public Policy Advisor, and Ricardo Nogales, Research Associate of the Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

During the 2 days of the V REMDES, the Ministers and High Authorities shared experiences, good practices and lessons learned from their countries in matters of social development. In addition, there were presentations by experts from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the World Bank (WB), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and the Assistant Secretary General of Human and Social Development of CARICOM.

As part of the proposed agenda for the V REDMES, the election of the new authorities of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES) for the 2022-2025 cycle also took place. The new authorities are: Chile was elected to the Presidency, while Paraguay and the Dominican Republic were elected to the two Vice-Presidencies. It was also established that Mexico will be the venue for the Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (VI REMDES) in 2025. The OAS Department of Social Inclusion, as the Technical Secretariat of the Meetings of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development, supports the Member States in the preparation of the inputs and substantive content of the ministerial meeting on social development within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

Working Groups of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES)

Working Group 1: “Measurements of multidimensional poverty and the design of public policies focused on guaranteeing well-being and enjoyment of a good quality of life”: Presidency, Secretariat of Welfare of Mexico; Vice Presidency, Department of Employment and Social Development of Canada; Other Members: Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala and Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay. The working group held the workshop titled [“Multidimensional Poverty Indices, Good Practices and Lessons Learned from the Americas and the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Poverty”](#) on April 26 and 27, 2022. The workshop was held in two virtual sessions that had simultaneous interpretation in the 4 official languages of the OAS, which facilitated greater participation and sharing experiences on measuring multidimensional poverty by a diverse group. This exchange included experiences from Latin America, North America and the Caribbean. Experts on the subject shared information on the regional context and about recent advances in measuring multidimensional poverty in the Americas. During the second part of the workshop,

officials from ten Member States shared the experiences of their countries, pointing out the challenges and innovations they implemented for adapting their methodologies for measuring multidimensional poverty during the pandemic. 149 people from institutions that measure poverty in the countries of the region, representatives of civil society organizations, and academic institutions participated during both days of the workshop. 21 delegations from OAS Member States, including high authorities from national social development organizations as well as representatives of the Permanent Missions to the OAS, also participated in the sessions.

Number of participants: 240.

This working group, with the support of the SARE/DSI Technical Secretariat, is preparing a compendium titled "Compendium on experiences and lessons learned in the measurement of multidimensional poverty in the Americas" which will be presented during the V REMDES and systematizes information on the different methodologies used by the countries of the region to measure multidimensional poverty with an emphasis on the lessons learned and innovations that were implemented to adapt these methodologies to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This compendium incorporates the experience of 14 countries in the region, as well as contributions from the Oxford University Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).



Flyer of the webinar

Working Group 2 "Social protection systems that lead to social development through the reduction of poverty and inequality and expand social protection with a comprehensive approach": Presidency, Social Policy Coordination Cabinet of the Dominican Republic; Vice Presidency, Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica; other members: Ministry of Social Development of Guatemala, Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay and Ministry of Social Development of Argentina. Working group 2 organized a workshop titled "Policies and innovations in social protection to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic", virtually on May 26, 2022. 139 people participated in the workshop, and were able to learn about some of the region's experiences on innovations in social protection systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, about the challenges and opportunities of monetary transfers, and about solutions for the fiscal and financial sustainability of social protection systems.

As a strategy for the dissemination and promotion of the OAS social development agenda, the SARE organized and convened OAS Member States to a meeting that facilitated the dissemination of the progress that has been made on the social development agenda. The event also served as a space to share the challenges faced by the implementation of the agenda, and to discuss the various ways in which OAS Member States can contribute to its implementation (for instance, through contributions to the voluntary social development fund and other modalities of support for the Action Plan of the ministerial process). This meeting was held on July 25, 2022, with the participation of ambassadors and representatives of the Member States to the OAS.



Flyer of the webinar

Dialogues of Member States on Social Development

The Member States met on three occasions at the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to discuss issues related to the region's social development agenda. The Department of Social Inclusion provided support in the preparation of concept notes, invitation to speakers, and preparation of presentations. The first meeting "The role of the OAS in a sustainable and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery in the region" was held on January 25, 2022. The second meeting "Strengthening social protection networks for an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery from a human rights approach" was held on February 22, 2022. The third meeting "Food and Nutritional Security" was held jointly between CIDI and the OAS Permanent Council on June 21, 2022.

The Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN)

Various meetings of CIDI and CIDES have highlighted the relevance of the purpose of CIDES Working Group 3 for forging partnerships, financing and strengthening hemispheric cooperation and technical assistance to promote social development through the Inter-American Network of Social Protection (IPSO). Certain countries have expressed an interest in joining this group and promoting the relaunch of the IPSO, which is an aspect that is expected to materialize as a result of the V REMDES.

Action Plan for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025

In 2016, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Plan of Action for the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025. OAS Member States made a commitment to gradually adopt administrative, legislative, judicial, and budgetary measures to ensure Afro-descendant populations in the Americas the enjoyment of their economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights.

In 2018, as part of the implementation of the Action Plan, the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for Afro-descendant Populations (RIAFRO) was created. RIAFRO's mission is to promote dialogue, coordination, and permanent collaboration between national authorities, with the objective of implementing policies for people of African descent, in accordance with international and regional obligations in the Americas.

As part of the follow-up to the Action Plan of the Decade of People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025, the **IV Extraordinary Meeting of the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro-descendant Population** took place on March 22, 2022. This meeting's objective was to facilitate discussions and the exchange of experiences and good practices among OAS Member States, representatives of Afro-descendant organizations, civil society, and academia on the topic of reparations for the Afro-descendant population. In addition, on March 24, 2022, the webinar titled "[Reparations for Afro-descendants in the Americas: A pending and necessary debate](#)" was held.



Flyer of the webinar

Main achievements:

- For the first time in the history of the OAS, the issue of reparations was debated at the regional level
- 68 people registered to participate in the IV Extraordinary Meeting on March 22 via Zoom
- Regarding the March 24 webinar that was open to the public, 47 people registered to participate via Zoom, and 486 people watched the Facebook livestream.
- The [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) page of the RIAFRO were updated.

Beneficiary countries:

All OAS Member States

LAUNCH OF THE METHODOLOGY OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUES

*Flyer of the webinar*

The [webinar](#) took place on June 17. Its main objectives were informing and training national authorities, representatives of civil society, and academia on the methodology of intercultural dialogues.

Beneficiary Countries

All OAS Member States

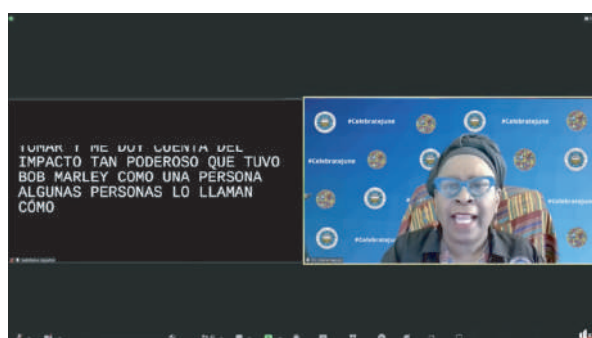
WEBINAR "PEOPLE OF CARIBBEAN ORIGIN IN THE AMERICAS: AN EVOLVING LEGACY"

On June 30, the webinar "[People of Caribbean Origin in the Americas: An Evolving Legacy](#)" was held in Celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Its main objectives were:

- To highlight the contributions of Caribbean descendants in the fields of politics, economy, culture, arts, and sports.
- To recognize the impact of CARICOM's unity and integration efforts in the Americas.
- To foreground how persons of Caribbean descent see their role and their future, not only in the context of the United States, but in the Americas as a whole.
- To show the resilience of the Caribbean diaspora in facing the structural racism and discrimination they encounter outside of the Caribbean.
- To offer an opportunity for dialogue about the diversity and richness of Caribbean culture as a driver of social inclusion and equity.

Beneficiary Countries

All OAS Member States

Reach: 202 views on Facebook*Picture of the webinar*

On August 31, 2022, PAHO, OAS, and the RIAFRO (Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for Afro-descendant Populations) organized a session to address racial discrimination, not only from the point of view of metrics and measurement, but also in combination with a rights-based approach that recognizes different Afro-descendant perspectives.

Goals:

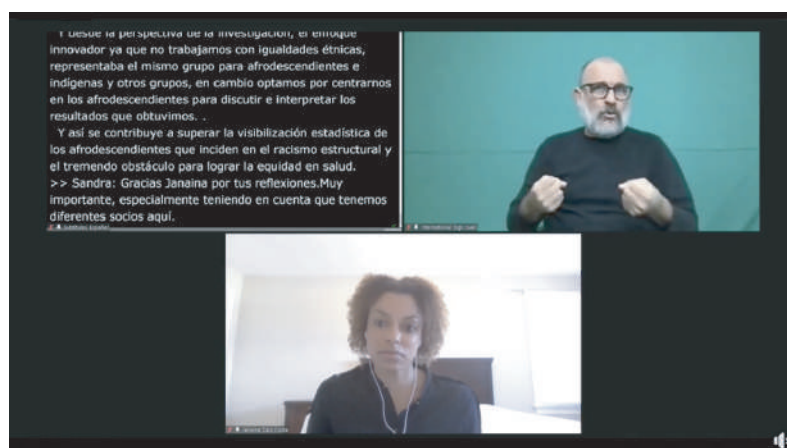
- To address issues related to racism and racial discrimination from a perspective of human rights and social determinants of health, in combination with efforts to monitor ethnic-racial inequalities in health.
- To discuss how to strengthen collaborations with strategic partners to confront racism and racial discrimination
- To discuss how to strengthen the capacity for accountability in efforts to leave no one behind that incorporate the ethnic-racial dimension, focusing specifically on the health of populations of African descent.
- To provide an overview of the scope and trends in health inequalities of the populations of African descent in the Americas.

More information can be found [here](#)

Reach: 252 views on Facebook

Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS Member States



Picture of the webinar

Structural racism, xenophobia, and childhood in Latin America: a pending and urgent agenda

On October 4, in collaboration with Save the Children, CEDET, and CHIRAPAQ, the Parallel Meeting to the OAS General Assembly was held in Peru (hybrid event). The intergenerational dialogue about "[Structural Racism, Xenophobia and Childhood in Peru](#)", aimed to make visible the experiences, voices and priorities of indigenous, Afro-descendant, migrant and refugee children, and the impact of racism and discrimination in the configuration of structural inequalities that reduce their opportunities and generate barriers to the full realization of their rights.



Photo of the event

Main achievements:

To date, the video on Facebook has reached approximately 2,900 people.

A document that makes visible the impact and proposals to promote the ratification and/or accession of Member States to the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, as well as the implementation of actions within the framework of the Decade of Healthy Aging and the campaign world against ageism.

Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS Member States

More information is available [here](#)

Extension of the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2022-2026

In 2016, the OAS General Assembly approved the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - after 17 years of negotiation. The Declaration is the OAS instrument that promotes and protects the rights of the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

In 2017, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Plan of Action on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021). The main objective of the plan is to contribute to the full recognition, exercise, and enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples at the national and hemispheric level through the support of the Organization of American States and other bodies of the inter-American system.

On November 11, 2021, through a [resolution of the OAS General Assembly](#) it was decided to: "Extend the Action Plan on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021) for one more period (2022-2026) in order to give it due follow-up and compliance, given the obstacles imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic."

In this context, a webinar titled “[Extension of the Action Plan on the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(2022-2026\): Progress and Challenges](#)” was held on May 31, 2022. Its objective was to discuss the progress made by different national and inter-American institutions and to share the challenges in the implementation of the Plan and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2022-2026). The webinar reached 274 people on Facebook.

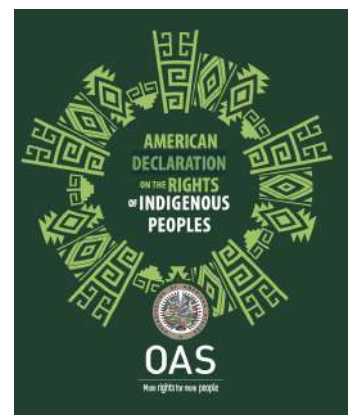
Beneficiary Countries:
All OAS member states



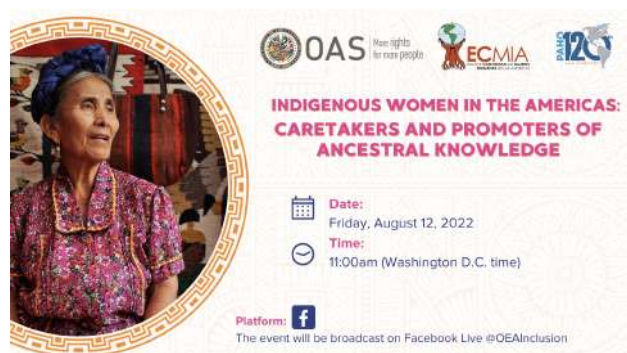
Flyer of the event

During 2022, from the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity, the following has been achieved regarding the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples:

- Support in the celebration of the V Inter-American Week of Indigenous Peoples.
- The creation of the communication campaign about the Extension of the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Webinar: Caregivers and Promoters of Ancestral Knowledge



Flyer of the event

The objective of the webinar was to create visibility on the importance of caregivers and promoters of indigenous ancestral knowledge, particularly indigenous women, in the context of the Inter-American Week of Indigenous Peoples. The webinar reached 641 people on Facebook.

Commission on Migratory Affairs (CAM)

The Commission on Migration Affairs (CAM) is the body of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), which addresses migration issues in the Americas. In its work, it takes into account the different dynamics throughout the migration cycle, and the existing realities at the hemispheric level.

The CAM also enables Member States to participate in an informed and constructive dialogue on the causes of international migration and the responses required to better address the challenges posed by this phenomenon and maximize the opportunities it generates.

One of its mandates is the accountability of institutions of the inter-American system that have under their jurisdiction the transversal implementation of activities related to international migration.

As Technical Secretariat of the Commission on Migration Affairs (CAM), the DSI team supported the organization of its thematic sessions during 2021.

During the first half of 2022, DSI supported the CAM Presidency in the organization of its thematic sessions, during which 10 priority topics were addressed:

- CIDI/CAM/doc.104/22: Thematic Session: Migration in the Americas: Main Migration Dynamics and Figures (March 15, 2022)
- CIDI/CAM/doc.106/22: Thematic Session: Migration in North America and Migration in Central America and Mexico (April 5, 2022)
- CIDI/CAM/doc.109/22: Thematic Session: Migration in South America and Migration in the Caribbean (April 28, 2022)
- CIDI/CAM/doc.111/22: Thematic Session: Migration Governance and International and Regional Mechanisms and Processes on Migration towards the Development of a Comprehensive and Hemispheric Approach (CRM, CSM, CAM, MIRPS, Quito Process, R4V Platform, GCM, GCR (May 17, 2022)
- CIDI/CAM/doc.113/22: Thematic Session: Migration, Natural Disasters and Climate Change and the Role of Local Authorities in the Reception and Integration of Migrants (June 22, 2022)

During the second half of the year, DSI supported the CAM Presidency in the development of the 4 sessions for the negotiation process of the OAS Member States, which agreed on various paragraphs on migration. These paragraphs were included in the strategic document "Promote the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrant workers and their families, in accordance with the Inter-American Program on the matter, to enhance their contribution to development." In addition, DSI supported the CAM Presidency in the preparation of 2 Reports: the Presidency Report which reported on the activities carried out during the period 2021-2022, and the report on the Follow-up Process of the Inter-American Program to the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families, which includes contributions from different organizations of the inter-American system and technical areas of the OAS, including DSI.

Program 2:

Promotion of Technical Cooperation

SARE's initiatives under this program have focused on supporting technical cooperation activities among Member States, facilitating dialogue, knowledge transfer, and exchange of experiences with a focus on access to human rights, inclusion, and intersectionality. Since 2020, the differentiated approach has been emphasized in the responses of Member States to the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery for GSV: indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, LGBTI people, people of African descent, young people, and older persons. Below are the technical cooperation initiatives being carried out by the SARE that correspond to this program:

Program to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS) - GS/OAS-UNHCR Joint Unit

To address forced displacement in Central America and Mexico, seven Central American States, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Mexico have joined the MIRPS Regional Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Framework. MIRPS was established by the Declaration of San Pedro Sula in October 2017. MIRPS is a pioneering initiative in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and is also a concrete contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees. It is a collaborative effort between governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, regional and international organizations, and development banks, serving as a practical tool to mobilize support for international cooperation.

The DSI of the SARE and UNHCR comprise the Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS). This regional cooperation framework promotes mechanisms of shared responsibility in terms of prevention, protection, and solutions for refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and returnees with protection needs in Central America and Mexico.

Member States:

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama.

During 2022, the main achievements we accomplished as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS were:

❖ **Commission on Legal and Political Affairs (CAJP)**

A session of the CAJP on the progress made by the States Parties to the MIRPS in 2021 and the activities to be developed by the Pro Tempore Presidency in 2022 took place on March 24, 2022. The session was attended by 24 Member States, with the participation of and comments by UNHCR, in its capacity as Joint Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS; Representatives of the Permanent Missions

of Guatemala in their capacity as Pro Tempore Presidency 2021 of the MIRPS and of Honduras as Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS in 2022, and of the Department of Social Inclusion of the SARE as Joint Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS. Additionally, delegations from 7 OAS Member States, MIRPS Member States, and the MIRPS Support Platform: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, as well as Venezuela. During the meeting, the Guatemalan delegation presented a summary of the activities and achievements during its mandate as Pro Tempore Presidency in 2021, and the Honduran delegation presented its regional vision for its work plan in 2022. UNHCR presented an overview of the situation of forced displacement in MIRPS countries and highlighted the key role of the MIRPS mechanism in harmonizing and promoting a coherent and collaborative approach involving governments, international organizations, regional bodies, and civil society. The DSI presented the monitoring of the MIRPS and the main actions that were promoted by the Technical Secretariat of this mechanism. This session enhanced the positioning of the MIRPS mechanism in this hemispheric forum and mobilized support of the OAS Member States.

❖ **Negotiation Process of the Promotion and Protection of Refugees in the Americas section - paragraphs corresponding to the MIRPS**

The DSI, as Technical Secretary of the MIRPS, supported Honduras as Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS and the delegates of the MIRPS States in organizing 3 sessions which were held for the negotiation process of the paragraphs on the MIRPS. These paragraphs were included in the section on Promotion and protection of refugees in the Americas of the Resolution on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, to be adopted during the OAS General Assembly to be held in Lima, Peru in the month of October.

❖ **Second International Solidarity Event to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced people and host communities in Central America and Mexico**

Canada, as the second presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform, in collaboration with the United States of America, co-organized in collaboration with Honduras as Pro-Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS, the International Solidarity Event to strengthen protection and promote solutions for forcibly displaced people and host communities in Central America and Mexico, as a parallel event to the United Nations General Assembly in New York and which took place on September 21, 2022. OAS, through the Department of Social Inclusion, and UNHCR supported the organization of this event.

During the Event, the members of the MIRPS Support Platform made new commitments to provide political, technical, and financial support for MIRPS States. Over Two Hundred Ten (210) million dollars (USD) were pledged, in addition to in-kind contributions, to continue strengthening the regional response and the National Action Plans of the countries in 2022 and 2023. On the other hand, the World Bank announced its intention to join as a member of the MIRPS Support Platform.

More information is available [here](#)

❖ **Round Table of Experts of the MIRPS Support Platform: The voice of companies in supporting the employability of forcibly displaced persons**

On June 29, 2022, the OAS Department of Social Inclusion organized a round table with Canadian companies that operate in Central America. The roundtable was organized in collaboration with UNHCR and Canada, as President of the MIRPS Support Platform. This roundtable involved Canadian companies with operations in the MIRPS countries and served as a space for discussions to expand the participation of the Canadian business community based in Central America and Mexico to promote inclusive hiring practices and the employability of the displaced population. Panelists included the General Director for Central America and the Caribbean of Global Affairs Canada, the Director of the General Directorate of Protection of Honduran Migrants of Honduras as Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS, the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion/SARE, the Regional Vice President of Operations of Telus International, the Principal Technical Advisor of the AK Tenamit Foundation/ Rotary International, the Director of Institutional Development and Communications of the Honduran Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (FUNDAHRSE). The event was also attended by approximately 15 representatives of the Canadian private sector with operations or interests in Central America and Mexico, officials from the Government of Canada, the Organization of American States (OAS), and UNHCR. Participants heard about the initiatives and programs implemented by companies in Central America and Mexico to help displaced populations. The session was a starting point for discussions and to encourage other companies to implement their own inclusive hiring practices or initiatives in the future.

❖ **Consultation on the underlying causes of displacement: Natural disasters and climate change**

On August 9, 2022, a consultation and dialogue session was held between the seven MIRPS Member States on displacement in the context of disasters and climate change. This session follows the strategic objective of the Regional Work Plan of Honduras as Pro-Tempore Presidency of MIRPS 2022 related to strengthening regional dialogue and increasing visibility on the underlying causes of forced displacement. This session was organized by the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, UNHCR and DSI, in collaboration with the Disaster Displacement Platform, whose purpose is to improve the protection of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters. and climate change.

The session hosted 84 participants, from all the National Technical Teams of the MIRPS States, focal points of the Ministries of the Environment, civil defense institutions, and academia of the MIRPS State Parties. At this meeting, the States exchanged their perspectives on this issue and discussed progress in the implementation of the Agenda for the protection of persons who are displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

More information can be found [here](#)



Flyer of the event

❖ **Consultation on the underlying causes of displacement: extortion**

The session on the underlying causes of displacement: extortion, organized by the MIRPS, was held on November 10, 2022 and had three segments.

1. Presentation of the extortion problem in Central America, using trends identified through the work of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in the region and highlighting effective responses at the national level.
2. Presentation of responses by organizations that work closely with victims, allowing for responses that offer lessons learned and the potential for replicability.
3. Facilitated discussion of the problem and identification of short and medium-term community actions that could mitigate the impact of extortion.

More information can be found [here](#)



Flyer of the event

❖ **MIRPS Annual Meeting**

The V Annual Meeting of the MIRPS was held on December 13 in Honduras. During the Meeting, the Member States of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS) – Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama – adopted the Tegucigalpa Declaration, which includes agreements to continue strengthening the structure and operation of the mechanism, to strengthen national and local institutions, and to promote dialogue and actions for shared responsibility and regional solidarity in favor of displaced persons in the region.

The Declaration, which will be a roadmap for 2023, is a reaffirmation of the commitment of MIRPS Member Countries five years after the creation of MIRPS, which is an innovative mechanism to implement the Global Compact on Refugees, coordinating efforts to find solutions and for the protection for displaced people in the region.

During the V MIRPS Annual Meeting held in Honduras, Member States highlighted their achievements in strengthening their asylum systems, generating new national and local policies to prevent, address, and respond to forced displacement and continuing to mobilize economic, technical, and material resources to continue supporting more than 1.3 million people forced to flee in Central America and Mexico.

More information can be found [here](#)



*Authorities of the
MIRPS Annual Meeting*

❖ **MIRPS Fund**

During the First MIRPS Solidarity Event the MIRPS Fund, which was created by the MIRPS States within the framework of the OAS, was made available for the first time to international cooperation as a complementary fundraising mechanism. At the end of 2021, the Government of Spain announced the first contribution to the MIRPS Fund so that the MIRPS States can carry out actions to benefit people on the move across Central America and Mexico.

On July 1, 2022, the Guidelines for the operation of the MIRPS Fund were published. This was the result of an extensive consultation process with the MIRPS Member States and the MIRPS Technical Secretariat. Subsequently, the process of selecting the members of the High-Level Selection Committee of the MIRPS Fund, and the review and decision body for the proposals that the Fund will finance, began. The CSAN will be made up of 2 representatives of the MIRPS Technical Secretariat, the DSI and UNHCR, a representative of the Presidency of the Support Platform, as well as 2 independent experts of international renown on displacement, for a total of 5 members. The independent experts have been nominated and selected by the MIRPS States.

❖ **Technical sessions with the MIRPS Support Platform**

During the months of March and April, in collaboration with UNHCR, the DSI supported Canada, as the Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform, in the organization of 4 Technical Support Sessions of the MIRPS Working Groups with the Members of the Platform support. These spaces were also used to identify potential future technical assistance collaborations with other areas of the organization and the MIRPS Member States in priority areas.

❖ **Flagship event of the MIRPS Support Platform on Resettlement, Complementary Pathways, and Integration**

From May 24 to 26, 2022, Canada, as Support Platform Chair, hosted a Flagship event on resettlement, complementary pathways, and integration in Ontario, Canada. The event brought together the members of the MIRPS Support Platform, MIRPS Member States, United Nations Agencies, DSI Representatives as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, and other strategic actors such as the private sector and organizations led by refugees to share best practices and promote the expansion of mobility and admission channels for people in need of international protection, as well as to leverage networks to share best practices and innovation.

During this event, on May 26, a panel on Private Sector Mobilization was organized to explore ways to involve this important actor in the implementation of solutions for displaced populations. The panel was moderated by the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion/ SARE, as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS. The panel was made up of the Director of Fragomen/Toronto Office, the National Director of Government Alliances of Windmill Microlending, the Head of the Regional Office in São Paulo in the General Coordination of the National Committee for Refugees of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security from Brazil, and the President of Palliser Furniture. The panel showed some examples of private sector involvement in refugee protection and solutions, primarily in Canada, and panelists also provided ideas on how to foster private sector involvement and collaboration between public and private actors, as well as ideas on how to leverage their capabilities to contribute to the responses.

❖ **Rotary International Convention**

During the Rotary International Convention that took place in Houston, Texas, from June 4 to 6, 2022, the DSI, as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, participated in a Round Table on June 6. During this roundtable, the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion highlighted the value of public-private partnerships as the only effective way to address forced displacement in Central America and called on Rotary's network of clubs, districts, and members to tangibly support Central American communities to achieve the required social impact. As a result, other Rotary districts in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua joined efforts to support the inclusion of displaced populations in MIRPS countries. This expanded partnership will allow a broader geographic area to be covered.

MIGRATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT

❖ PICAD PROJECT

Beginning of project execution: “Supporting OAS Member States in their efforts to prevent, investigate and counteract criminal activities related to the exploitation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants”

In October 2022, actions that aim to prevent, investigate and counteract criminal activities related to the exploitation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, started being carried out. This work is being carried out as a collaboration between the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity and the Working Group on the Crisis of Venezuelan Migrants and Refugees.

Within the framework of this project, the DSI Migration Team will lead the creation of a regional manual with guidelines for the inclusion of a rights, gender, and intercultural approach in the actions carried out by immigration authorities in four States: Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Colombia and Costa Rica. There will also be round tables with experts at the regional level and the creation of spaces for dialogue with the competent authorities to strengthen the integrated response to the needs of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the destination and host countries.

❖ **Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI): Session on the Multilateral Approach to Migration in the Hemisphere.**

On May 31, 2022, the DSI supported the CIDI Presidency in organizing a CIDI session on the Multilateral Approach to Migration in the Hemisphere. During this session, Member States discussed priorities to advance regional collaboration through comprehensive and sustainable hemispheric migration governance as a vital strategy to meet the human development needs of countries of origin, transit, destination and return of migrants in the Americas, including the needs derived from the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting had 2 segments, a high-level segment featuring the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, as Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile; the Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia; the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, a segment that was moderated by the Permanent Representative of Panama and President of CIDI. The second segment of a technical nature included the participation of the representation of the focal point of Brazil as Pro Tempore Presidency of the Quito Process, the Special Envoy of the Director General for the flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Deputy Regional Director for the Americas of UNHCR, a Human Rights Specialist from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); and the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS.

❖ Parallel Events to the Ninth Summit of the Americas

Grow: Bringing prosperity to migration-prone areas in Central America

On June 7th in Los Angeles, California the Event was held "[Grow: Bringing prosperity to migration-prone areas in Central America](#)" organized jointly by DSI and the International Trade Center. The objectives of this event were to promote prosperity in areas prone to migration, make effective solutions visible, and prioritize forgotten areas for investments and public policy. The event included the participation of the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS; the Head of the ITC Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Honduras as Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS; the CEO of the Santa Eduvigis Bakery in El Salvador; the Vice President of Trade and Customs Policy of the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA); the Executive Director of the CDE MSME of Honduras; the Executive Director of the Foundation for the Development of Guatemala (FUNDESA); the Managing Officer of Central America of the ITC; the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion/SARE; the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; the Executive Director of the USAID Northern Triangle Task Force; the Director of Equitable Growth, Finance and LAC Institutions of the World Bank; the Urban Development Manager of the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF); the Mayor of Goascorán, Honduras; and Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS.



Photo of the event

❖ Towards regional governance of migration and forced displacement in the Americas

On June 9, 2022, the event "[Towards regional governance of migration and forced displacement in the Americas](#)" took place. It was organized by DSI in conjunction with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), UNHCR, IOM, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Migration Policy Institute (IPM), the World Council for Refugees and Migration (WRMC), Open Society Foundations, and the Emerson Collective Fellowship. This event brought together representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and academia to discuss concrete tools and actions related to regional governance on migration and international protection and to identify potential areas for carrying out more holistic and coordinated work based on human rights, sustainable development, and the principle of shared responsibility. The Assistant Secretary

General of the OAS participated in the opening event, as well as the Executive Director of PADF; the President of Colombia; the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Honduras as Pro Tempore Presidency of the MIRPS; the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States Department of State; the Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS; the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion/SARE and specialists from the Department of Social Inclusion/SARE; the Special Envoy of the Director General of the IOM for the Regional Response to the Situation of Venezuela; the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas; the Policy Analyst of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI); the Special Assistant to President Biden; the President of the Hispanic Caucus of the Congress of the United States of America; the UNHCR Regional Director for the Americas; the Director of the ILO for the United States and Canada, and the Joint Special Representative of UNHCR and IOM for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.



Flyer of the event

Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)

The CSHN is an inter-American mechanism of an interdisciplinary nature specialized in promoting, at the national and hemispheric level, the protection of the rights of consumers in monitoring the safety of consumer products and the impact on their health and well-being.

In 2010, the OAS Member States created the Consumer Safety and Health Network, to strengthen national and regional cooperation capacities and to contribute to the early detection of dangerous consumer products and the adoption of coordinated actions among the competent organizations to combat their circulation in the markets.

The protection of the rights of consumers, through monitoring the safety of consumer products, requires coordinated actions between competent organizations to combat the circulation of dangerous consumer products in the markets.

❖ Ninth Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN)

The Ninth Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), sponsored by the Undersecretary of Actions for the Defense of Consumers of Argentina, was held in a hybrid manner on November 2. This year, Network members had the option to participate in person or online as the Network attempts to return to normality following the COVID-19 pandemic, which made the annual meeting be held virtually for the past 2 years. Of the 21 CSHN Member States, 19 participated in this year's plenary meeting: 7 countries, including host country Argentina, met in person in Buenos Aires while the other 12 participated virtually.

During the meeting, the outgoing president of the 2021-2022 Management Committee, Colombia, and the coordinators of the 5 working groups shared the progress that has been made in the execution of the work plan for the period. Some of these advances were the continuation of Colombia's efforts to refine the SIAR 2.0 which was launched in 2021, the continuous improvements in the Network's communications strategy, the promotion and strengthening of strategic alliances with other multilateral organizations, the presentation of a webinar on consumer protection in digital environments, the continuation of work on the risk management of potentially harmful products in each country and the preparation of guidelines for consumer protection in the early detection of unsafe consumer products.

The meeting also celebrated the inauguration of the 2022-2023 Management Committee, which is now comprised of Argentina as president, Colombia (president 2021-2022) as 1st vice president, El Salvador (president 2023-2024) as 2nd vice president, Costa Rica and United States as delegate members, and Chile and Jamaica as associate members.

During this meeting, Argentina also presented its proposed work plan for 2022-2023, which includes the reactivation of the 5 existing working groups: strategic alliances with other multilateral organizations, communications, consumer protection in digital environments, product risk management of potentially harmful or unsafe products in each country, and guidelines for consumer protection in the early detection of unsafe consumer products. In addition, a new working group will be formed to respond to the mandate of the 2022 OAS General Assembly, which has requested "the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN) to prepare a report describing the measures that have been adopted to protect the health and safety of consumers in the period 2021-2022."



Official photo of the event

Later that same day, Argentina, as president of the Network, hosted the International Workshop on Product Safety in the Americas 2022, which was carried out in a hybrid manner and had 2 panels. The first was titled "Challenges of product safety in cross-border trade" and the second was titled "the relevance of consumer education in product safety: good practices related to information and prevention."

Beneficiary Countries:

Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

❖ **International workshop on product safety in the Americas of the OAS Consumer Safety and Health Network (hybrid event)**

On November 2, 2022, the CSHN organized a workshop with the aim of discussing topics of mutual interest for the members of the Network and sharing information about what the different countries of the Network are doing in the field of consumer protection. This year the panels were titled: "THE CHALLENGES OF PRODUCT SAFETY IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE" and "THE RELEVANCE OF EDUCATION FOR CONSUMERS IN THE FIELD OF PRODUCT SAFETY. GOOD PRACTICES REGARDING INFORMATION AND PREVENTION."



Main achievements:

Information shared between network members and relevant civil society and private sector organizations working in the field of consumer protection.

Beneficiary Countries:

Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

Program 3:

Systematization and Generation of Information and Knowledge

Under this strategic program, SARE provides OAS Member States with information that can be key when reviewing, designing, and implementing public policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at guaranteeing full access to human rights and greater equity in the countries of the region.

Second Edition of the Digital Diploma in Digital Diploma on Leadership in Social Inclusion and Access to Rights

The Second Edition of the Digital Diploma on Leadership in Social Inclusion and Access to Rights was carried out by the DSI, with the support of the Civil Society Section of the OAS, the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of People with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS) and under the umbrella of the OAS School of Government.

This is an initiative that emerged to contribute to reducing inequalities by strengthening leadership skills for political change and social participation from an intersectional approach on access to rights, aimed at key actors of this agenda at the national and regional level.

The general objective of the Digital Diploma was to update and integrate the main knowledge and practices in terms of the international and inter-American framework on human rights of GSV, as well as the debates on the subject, and the experiences and practices related to access to and exercise of human rights of these groups in the region, political leadership and social activism. It promotes among participants the development and strengthening of assertive and effective leadership skills for political advocacy, strategic communication (including in virtual modes), negotiation and developing public policies which are oriented towards full inclusion, equity, social justice, and access to human rights for all citizens in the region.

The Digital Diploma took place from March 15, 2022 to May 5, 2022 and was aimed at government officials, members of civil society organizations, and other key social actors in the social inclusion agenda and human rights at the regional level. In its second edition, the Digital Diploma, its contents and speakers, had excellent evaluations by the participants, and the established objectives were achieved with the benefit of having begun to generate a community of leadership at the regional level committed to the agenda of inclusion and rights.

Main achievements:

- More than 1,700 applications were received, increasing by 400% the number of applications received in the 1st Edition.
- Over 700 scholarships covering 100% of tuition fees were awarded to people from 27 countries in the Americas (Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, USA, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela).
- The people who were selected are part of key institutions for the Inclusion and Equity agenda:
 - 54% State
 - 18% Civil Society Organizations
 - 11% Other social actors
 - 7% International Organizations
 - 6% Private Sector
 - 4% Academia
- There was Spanish-English interpretation and automatic subtitling.
- Creation of a community of leadership at the regional level committed to the inclusion and rights agenda.
- At the Graduation Ceremony there were interventions by the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro; the former Vice President of Costa Rica, Epsy Campbell; the OAS Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Patricia Velásquez, and Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, Transformational Leadership Consultant.
- Due to the self-management of the program, the experts who taught the 12 sessions of the Digital Diploma did not charge any fees.
- There was a Communication Plan for the dissemination of the Digital Diploma (before, during and after), which allowed maximizing the digital reach of this initiative through tweets with videos, flyers, photographs of the sessions and panelists, etc. In addition, the Diploma became known thanks to dissemination by the students through their own social networks by sharing:
 - Acceptance letters
 - Photographs of the sessions
 - Screenshots of their photo in the graduation video.

3rd Edition of the Inter-American Course organized in conjunction with UNHCR

On Tuesday, December 6, the 3rd Edition of the Inter-American Course on Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returned Persons with Protection Needs in the Americas was held.

This space for learning and professional development aimed to strengthen the technical knowledge of officials of the Permanent Missions of OAS Member States, Observer States to the OAS, Offices in countries, and officials of the General Secretariat, and other national bodies interested in the issue of forced displacement, the principles of international protection of refugees, the protection of internally displaced persons, in addition to the challenges and opportunities presented by the current context of mixed

movements in the Americas, which involve both refugees as migrants, based on the current reality of the region.

The third edition of this course aims to strengthen the technical knowledge of officials by contributing to the response of States in the context of current migration and displacement dynamics, providing a space for the exchange of good practices, as well as the review of universal and inter-American standards.

The course had a teaching staff comprised of experts on the topics covered, transmitting technical knowledge to the participants and reviewing current practices in the regional context of the Americas. The aim of the course is to ensure that the participants could contrast and describe the main characteristics of mixed movements in our region, distinguishing principles and regulatory frameworks, as well as the different concepts and legal statutes applicable to each situation.



Flyer of the event

Coffee for Integration: Good practices on employability and socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees in the Americas

On May 3, 2022, the Government of Colombia, DIS/SARE, and the Keough School of Global Affairs Washington Office of the University of Notre Dame organized the discussion on [Good practices on employability and socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees in the Americas](#) with the objective of making a comparative review and discussing the good practices that have been implemented in Latin America, in terms of employability and socioeconomic integration of migrants and refugees, as well as sharing lessons learned that can be replicated by other States of the Americas. At the same time, it explored how the international community can support the efforts of the States of the region in this matter, and proposed some lines of what could be a future work agenda on the matter. Professors of Political Science and Global Affairs from the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame; the Border Manager of Colombia; the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion; the Vice Minister of Employment and Pensions of the Ministry of Labor of Colombia; the National Director of Employment of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Costa Rica; the Director of Social Security and Labor Migration of the

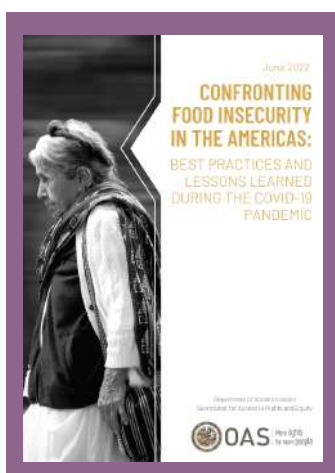
Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion of Peru; the Deputy Director of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS and the Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS participated in this event.

More information can be found [here](#)



Official photo of the event

Hemispheric Report titled “Confronting food insecurity in the Americas: best practices and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.”



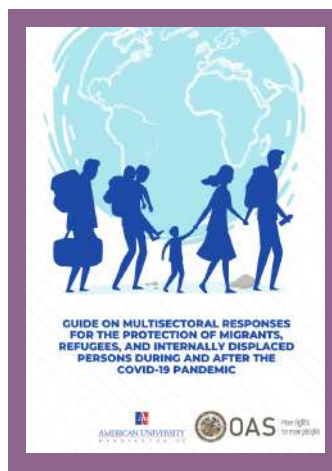
Report cover

The Department of Social Inclusion, following up on the mandate of the General Assembly AG/RES. 2956 (LO/20) “The challenges for Food and Nutrition Security in the Americas in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic within the framework of the Guatemala Action Plan 2019” prepared a Hemispheric Report called “[Confronting food insecurity in the Americas: best practices and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)”. This report, published in Spanish and English, compiles the experience of 16 countries in the region and also includes contributions from the World Food Program. It was presented before a joint session of CIDI and the OAS Permanent Council on June 21, 2022 and subsequently distributed to all Member States as a tool for the review of national strategies and the strengthening of processes towards guaranteeing food sovereignty and nutritional security.

Launch of the “Guide on multi-sectoral responses for the protection of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons during and after the COVID-19 pandemic”.

On September 15 the [Guide](#), which was prepared in conjunction with the Academy of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) and with the support of the Center for Public International Law Studies of the Faculty of Law of the University of San Martín de Porres, was launched. The guide makes recommendations to States so they are able to design multi-sectoral responses that facilitate addressing the needs of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons in the context of COVID-19 in an effective manner. These recommendations were collected through a series of events held with representatives of international organizations, state authorities, civil society organizations, academia, the media, and people in vulnerable situations. The guide is also aimed at all actors involved in the care, protection, and inclusion of migrants and refugees and in particular, at States, which are the primary responsible actors for guaranteeing, respecting and protecting human rights in the design of inclusive migration policies that embrace a human rights perspective.

The Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS; the Director of the Department of Social Inclusion/SARE of the OAS; the Directors of the Academy of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Washington College of Law of American University (AUWCL) and adjunct professors of this university and the President of the Center for Public International Law Studies of the Faculty of Law, University of San Martín de Porres, participated in the launch event.



Report cover

Program 4:

Monitoring of Resolutions, Declarations, and Conventions

This program seeks to strengthen the capacities of the specialized bodies that follow up on the implementation of resolutions, declarations, and conventions of the Inter-American Human Rights System. To achieve this objective, the expansion of the activities of these bodies and their cooperation with other political bodies of the OAS, Member States, and other international organizations is promoted. Likewise, SARE encourages dialogue between these technical bodies to promote cooperation between them and establish a more intersectional and transversal work methodology.

Monitoring and Compliance Mechanism of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Within the inter-American human rights system, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) establishes the obligation to exercise economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (ESCER), namely, the right to work and to fair, equitable and satisfactory working conditions, trade union rights, the right to social security, health, a healthy environment, food, education, and the benefits of culture.

The "Protocol of San Salvador" is a binding legal instrument that has been signed by 20 countries and 16 have ratified it. Article 19 of the Protocol provides for the monitoring of the progressive implementation of ESCER rights through a national reporting system of the States Parties to the Protocol. This monitoring is possible thanks to the work of the Working Group for the Analysis of National Reports provided for in the Protocol (GTPSS). The Group is made up of four experts proposed and chosen by the States Parties to the Protocol, two independent experts proposed by the States Parties and appointed by the Secretary General of the OAS and the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (RESCER) of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

The SARE DSI plays the role of Technical Secretariat of the GTPSS, supporting the working group, as established in its regulations, with technical assistance, during its sessions, during its hearings and meetings, in the preparation and review of documents, drafting of notes and publications, and in its relationship with the States Parties to the Protocol and other OAS bodies.



OAS | WGPSS

❖ Monitoring and Compliance Mechanism of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Working Group for the analysis of the National Reports provided for in the Protocol (Working Group or GTPSS), held its XIV Session on September 23 and agreed to continue with the publication of the series of manuals "Measuring all the gaps" and to publish the Study on the regional situation of the right to culture in Latin America based on the reports presented by the States Parties to the GTPSS. The Working Group held its XV Period of Sessions on November 30, 2022, within the framework of the First ESCER Forum that was organized with the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (RESCER) of the IACHR.

The GTPSS experts presented their observations and recommendations as a result of the evaluations of the third cycle reports of Uruguay and Brazil.

In support of the preparation of Costa Rica's next national report on compliance with the San Salvador Protocol, the GTPSS organized a training on August 4, 2022 which hosted over 40 people representing different ministries and institutes, gathered in the Inter-institutional Commission for the monitoring and implementation of international Human Rights obligations (CIIDDHH) on the reporting procedure of the San Salvador Protocol.

The Working Group also organized two training sessions in which they provided technical assistance to Argentina and Guatemala for the preparation of their national reports corresponding to the fourth cycle.

❖ Guide for the Operationalization of the Indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from a transversal perspective on indigenous peoples

On September 23, 2022, the GTPSS published the second guide in a series of thematic guides it has been developing, called "Measuring all the gaps".

According to figures from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 826 different indigenous peoples live in the countries of the region. According to data from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 54.8 million indigenous people live in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 7.6 million, in North America. The ["Guide for the Operationalization of the Indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from a transversal perspective on indigenous peoples,"](#) provides suggestions and recommendations based on the progress indicators of the San Salvador Protocol, in order to make visible the real state of ESCER for indigenous peoples and improve the collection of data that adequately identifies the challenges that indigenous peoples and their members face, and thus facilitate the design of public policies to address these challenges.



Guide cover

This series of thematic manuals called "Measuring all the gaps" aims to review the status of the Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (ES CER) of various groups in vulnerable situations, taking into account the progress indicators of the Protocol of San Salvador. The first in this series is the "Guide for the operationalization of the indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from a transversal LGBTI perspective." Other guides that the GTPSS hopes to develop in the future are the "Guide for the Operationalization of the Indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from a transversal perspective of people in situations of human mobility" and the "Guide for the Operationalization of the Indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from a women's rights perspective".

The series "Measuring all the gaps" is one of the contributions of the GTPSS to contribute towards the construction of more inclusive and equitable societies, by promoting access to rights for groups in vulnerable situations.

Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS)

The Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2026 (PAD) are the two legal instruments of the Inter-American System that promote social inclusion and the exercise of the rights of people with disabilities. These legal frameworks encourage Member States to gradually adopt, within a reasonable time, the administrative, legislative, judicial measures, as well as public policies necessary to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

To support Member States in the implementation of these instruments, the SARE has established two lines of action: a) monitoring regulatory frameworks, and 2) promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

a) Monitoring of regulatory frameworks

Article VI of said Convention provided for the establishment of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) to monitor the commitments assumed by the 19 States Parties to the CIADDIS,³ and encourage cooperation and exchange of experiences. The SARE, through its Department of Social Inclusion, also plays the role of Technical Secretariat of the aforementioned Committee and is in charge of coordinating the activities inherent to the Action Program for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities 2016-2026.

b) Promotion of rights of people with disabilities

This line of action to promote rights is aimed at raising social awareness, generating and strengthening the capacities of government authorities or entities,

³ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

judicial operators and legislators, civil society organizations, the academic and business sector, and areas of the General Secretariat of the OAS. In general, it aims to adopt inclusive public policies, mainstream the disability perspective and eliminate gaps caused by discrimination. The objectives of this line of action are: 1) train the different public and private actors and decision makers in the Member States on the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, social inclusion and intersectionality, as well as the inter-American regulatory framework and universal protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and 2) provide technical support and advice to government authorities on public policies and legal reforms related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

Addressing the area of persons with disabilities, the Department of Social Inclusion in a coordinated effort with the Member States, has been carrying out activities that promote the full participation of people with disabilities in society. Within this context, meetings are periodically held with national government authorities, representatives of international organizations, academic institutions, and civil society organizations with the aim of disseminating regulatory frameworks on the rights of people with disabilities; sharing successful inclusion experiences; entering into cooperation agreements; evaluating the progress and difficulties registered in the region; providing institutional support in awareness-raising or rights promotion events, and providing technical advice and support, among other actions.

The management of the Department of Social Inclusion on the issue of disability includes six lines of action:

1. Monitoring of the main regulatory instruments of the Inter-American System on people with disabilities:
 - A. Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS).
 - B. Action Program for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD).
2. Establishment of institutional alliances for the generation of activities and projects that contribute to the social inclusion of people with disabilities.
3. Establishment of cooperative relationships with external organizations and other GS/OAS agencies.
4. Promotion of cooperation links with civil society.
5. Providing technical support to OAS Member States.
6. Coordination of disability mainstreaming activities.

Main results

The main results achieved during 2022 are presented below, in line with the indicated axes.

❖ Cooperation agreement with the Saraki Foundation

In July 2022, through the management of the Department of Social Inclusion, the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Saraki Foundation signed a cooperation agreement with the purpose of implementing joint actions that contribute to the implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), and the Program of

Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The agreement also seeks to facilitate the process of collecting data on the situation of people with disabilities and their socio-economic inclusion in the region.

Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS Member States

❖ **Satellite Summit for Latin America and the Caribbean**

On February 10, 2022 in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Panama, International Disability Alliance (IDA), Latin American Network of Organizations of People with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS), the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities of the Organization of American States (CEDDIS), the Department of Social Inclusion and the ONCE Social Group, the "Satellite Summit for Latin America and the Caribbean" was held with the objective of generating regional inputs to be considered during the Second Global Disability Summit held on February 16 and 17, 2022.

Main achievements:

- Information on the prevalence of disability at the regional level was presented.
- Regional and national commitments to eliminate barriers were generated.
- Representatives of governments, donors, international organizations, civil society organizations, and other actors met to establish alliances.
- Various high-level panels of experts were formed to address issues of inclusive health, inclusive education, inclusive jobs and livelihoods, strengthening the capacity of organizations of people with disabilities, and inclusion in situations of displacement, crisis and conflict.

More information is available [here](#)



Flyer of the event

❖ **Masters in Disability Rights**

On February 18, 2022, in collaboration with the "Center for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland Galway", the work of the Department of Social Inclusion in the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities was presented.

Main achievement:

- Dissemination of the institutional agenda on disability to students from other countries outside the region such as Lesotho, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ireland, and Ukraine.

❖ **Forum "Disability, Human Rights and Access to Justice" in the framework of the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the National Secretariat of Disability (SENADIS) of Panama.**

The SENADIS of Panama participated and provided support in the organization and implementation of the Forum "Disability, Human Rights and Access to Justice" with the objective of learning about the pending challenges to guarantee full access to justice for people with disabilities. which took place on July 18.

Main achievement:

- The conclusions of a regional assessment on access to justice and the legal capacity of people with disabilities were reopened.
- The objectives set by the OAS member states on access to justice for this group were reviewed when renewing in 2018 the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.
- The proposed solutions for the elimination of barriers in the guide for the exercise of legal capacity of people with disabilities adopted by CEDDIS in 2021 were shared.

❖ **Discussion on the relevance of regional monitoring on the rights of people with disabilities**

On August 23, 2022, the monitoring mechanism for the regulatory instruments of the Inter-American System specialized in disability was presented in the [conversation](#) organized by the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico.

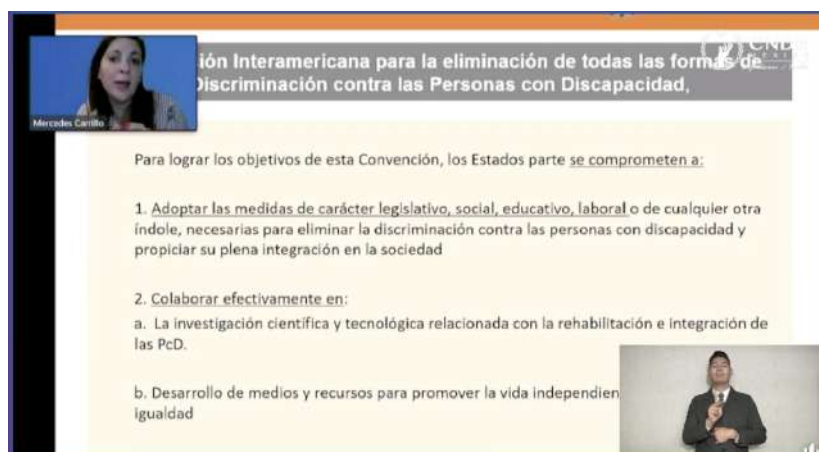


Photo of the event

Through this activity, we contributed to the development of the modules of the Specialized Diploma in the Development of Strategies for the Protection, Promotion and Supervision of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

More than 700 viewers were reached on the Facebook platform.

❖ **Second Regional Seminar on ICT Accessibility and Digital Car**

On November 10, 2022, participants participated in the "Second Regional Seminar on ICT Accessibility and Digital Care" organized by the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), the National Communications Entity of Argentina (ENACOM), and the Secretariat of Public Innovation of Argentina of Head of the Cabinet of Ministers of Argentina.

The objective of this activity was to create a space to discuss aspects related to the use of information and communications technologies as a tool for digital inclusion and facilitator of access for the full participation of everyone in an interconnected and digitally accessible world.

Main achievements:

- The scope of the right to accessibility was presented, with an emphasis on digital accessibility.
- The objectives set by the OAS Member States in accessibility when renewing in 2018 the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities were reviewed.
- Materials and compendiums promoted by the Department of Social Inclusion were shared to contribute to the analysis of the matter.

More information is available [here](#)



Flyer of the event

❖ Talk “Tourist accessibility as a right and opportunity”

On December 14, 2022, the talk titled “Tourist accessibility as a right and opportunity” took place. It was organized by the Accessible Tourism Node of Uruguay and the Uruguayan Inclusive Business Network with the aim of generating a space to discuss accessible tourism as a right.

Main achievements:

- The elements that make up the accessibility chain in tourism activity were presented.
- The enforceability of the right to accessibility was explained in accordance with international human rights treaties.



Photo of the event

❖ Commemoration of the International Day of People with Disabilities

In a regular session of the Permanent Council on December 7, 2022, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was commemorated. The motto for the year 2022 was to promote transformative solutions for inclusive development, highlighting the role of innovation to promote an accessible and equitable world. The Session was organized jointly by the Department of Social Inclusion and the Group of Countries Friendly to Persons with Disabilities, and included the participation of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS), with the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for Disability and Accessibility, Soledad Cisternas, and special guests from the Saraki Foundation of Paraguay and the United States Department of State, followed by a dialogue between the delegations.

❖ Launch of the Regional Disability Observatory

On December 7, 2022, the regional disability observatory was launched within the Permanent Council of the OAS. The observatory consists of a platform that systematizes the information that is presented by the OAS Member States in national reports that they present every four years to account for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against People with Disabilities and of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities. Users of the observatory will be able to access information according to thematic axes, indicators and standardized criteria such as good practices, legislation, public policies, and projects.

The observatory is a great tool for the preparation of academic reports, assessments, and statistics that promote legislative improvements or adaptations in public policies that are compatible with international Human Rights Conventions.

Other achievements:

- Update of the indicators that make up the format for the presentation of national reports of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities (PAD), to include information on the situation of people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Systematization of the CIADDIS and PAD monitoring mechanism, so that OAS Member States can fill out their national reports, present them verbally to the Committee, receive their evaluation, and know the status of each phase of the process online.

Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons

In 2015, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. This Convention is the world's first legally binding instrument on the subject, and aims to promote, protect, and ensure the recognition and full enjoyment and exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, under conditions of equality, to contribute to their full inclusion, integration, and participation in society.

The SARE, under this program within its Strategic Plan, carries out the agenda of rights and social inclusion of older people, having the Convention as its framework for action.

On October 3, within the framework of the XLII General Assembly of the Organization of American States "Together against Inequality and Discrimination" and the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat of Access Rights and Equity of the OAS and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) organized the Round Table titled "Older Persons in the Americas: Progress and Challenges"

The flyer is for a roundtable event titled "Older People in the Americas: Progress and Challenges". It features a blue background with yellow and white text. At the top right, there is a registration link: "Registration: rojas@oas.org". The event details are listed as follows:

- ROUND TABLE**
- OLDER PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES**
- In-Person participation**: Salón de los Espejos del Teatro Municipal de Lima (Jirón Ica 337, Lima, Perú)
- October 3, 2022**
- 2pm (Peru time)**

 Three circular portraits of older individuals are shown on the right side. At the bottom, logos for PAHO, OAS, and the Municipality of Lima are displayed.

Flyer of the event

Goals:

- Generate a dialogue on the rights of older persons in the Americas, with the purpose of promoting the ratification and/or accession of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, as well as the implementation of actions within the framework of the Decade of Healthy Aging and the global campaign against Ageism.
- Make visible the experiences, voices and priorities of older persons, public officials, civil society representatives, caregivers of older persons, and the impact of ageism and discrimination in the configuration of structural inequalities that reduce their opportunities and create barriers to the full realization of their rights.

Main achievements:

- To date, the video on Facebook has reached approximately 900 people.
- A document that makes visible the impact and proposals to promote the ratification and/or accession of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons, as well as the implementation of actions within the framework of the Decade of Healthy Aging and the campaign world against ageism.

Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS Member States

Promotion of the rights of young people

According to the United Nations report on young people which was published in 2020, the youth represents 16.5% of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁴ Young people experience a higher level of unemployment and receive lower wages than other generations, which affects their ability to exercise their rights. In this context, in 2016, the OAS General Assembly approved the resolution [AG/RES.2887 \(XLVI-O / 16\)](#), "[Promotion and Protection of Human Rights](#)" with the aim of strengthening existing promotion and protection systems to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of children and adolescents in the region and to promote inclusive public policies with special attention to groups in vulnerable situations.

The SARE, through its Department of Social Inclusion (DSI), focuses its work on the inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations, working with Member States to strengthen promotion and protection systems, aiming to create and promote inclusive policies that reduce the situations of vulnerability faced by young people. In 2019, the OAS General Secretariat signed a cooperation agreement with the Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide Inc., a non-profit organization which has been working for over 100 years with youth, to prepare them for employment and entrepreneurship. Under this agreement, activities have been carried out that promote the social inclusion of young people who are in vulnerable situations.

⁴ United Nations (2020). YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE 2030 AGENDA, p. 40. Available in English at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/07/2020-World-Youth-Report-FULL-FINAL.pdf>

In economic and social terms, the pandemic had a strong impact on young people. Young people lost their jobs, or were forced to reduce their working hours. In terms of education, young people without access to information and communication technologies (ICT) and the Internet were unable to keep up with their education like their peers who did have access, putting them at a disadvantage in the future.

Beneficiary countries:

All Member States

Main activities:

- In 2021, the Vulnerable Groups Section continued its cooperation with Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide Inc., a non-profit organization which has been working for over 100 years with youth, to prepare them for employment and entrepreneurship. Under this agreement, activities have been carried out that promote the social inclusion of young people who are in vulnerable situations.

Main achievements:

- Strengthening the working relationship between JA Americas and the OAS to make an impact on the lives of the most vulnerable young people in the Americas.

Promotion of the rights of LGBTI people

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people are in a particularly vulnerable situation, as they face discrimination, stigmatization, and intimidation due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. In 2013, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. This is the first inter-American instrument and the only one worldwide that includes LGBTI people as subjects of international protection.

In 2016, the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the United States, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay decided to establish the LGBTI Group in the OAS, which aims to strengthen collaboration on OAS issues that impact LGBTI people, to contribute to dialogue and the exchange of good experiences between countries. Currently this group is made up of the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States, Mexico, and Uruguay.

Beneficiary countries:

All Member States

Main activities:

❖ **VIRTUAL SEMINAR: "CHALLENGES FACED BY LGBTI PEOPLE IN SITUATIONS OF HUMAN MOBILITY"**

On April 29, 2022, the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat of Access to Rights and Equity of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the coordination of the LGBTI Core Group of OAS, led by Costa Rica, and in

collaboration with Synergia, organized a Webinar on the specific challenges faced by LGBTI people in a human mobility situation in the Americas.

Goals:

- To explore the challenges that LGBTI people face in the Americas, including the reasons they feel forced to leave their homes, the challenges they face while in transit, and the difficulties they face when they arrive in their destination countries. The debate was approached from an intersectional perspective, taking into account that LGBTI people not only face discrimination due to their LGBTI status but also due to their other identities.
- To highlight best practices to protect the human rights of LGBTI people at different stages of the migratory process.

Main achievements:

- To date, the video has more than 1,208 views on Facebook.
- A summary of the webinar has been published.

Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS Member States

Program 5:

Promotion and Expansion of the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the activities of the OAS 2022

Due to their presence on the ground, civil society organizations and other social actors are in a key position to support the work of the Organization and the Member States in promoting human rights in the region. The participation of civil society, including local organizations and broad networks of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social actors, in OAS activities has contributed to achieving hemispheric goals in strengthening democracy, protecting human rights, the promotion of comprehensive development and multidimensional security, as well as other ongoing initiatives within the OAS, which are part of the inter-American agenda. Mutual trust and understanding between civil society organizations (CSOs), social actors and the OAS have increased significantly over the years, which has been reflected in an increase in the level of CSO participation and social actors in initiatives, projects and activities carried out by the institution.

❖ **Participation of civil society in the 52nd General Assembly of the OAS**

The Civil Society Relations Section facilitated the participation of 455 people representing civil society for the 52nd General Assembly of the OAS.

In addition, the section carried out the following activities during 2022:

- The number of civil society organizations registered with the OAS rose from 635 to 650.

- Supported the Secretariat of Hemispheric Affairs in the process of registration and holding of Civil Society dialogues during the IX Summit of the Americas.
- Held two thematic events in preparation for the 52nd OAS General Assembly: 1) "Structural racism in the Americas", and 2) "Breaking down prejudices: rights of LGBTI people in the Americas".
- Meeting of preparatory sessions for the Dialogue with the Permanent Mission of Peru and representatives of civil society, addressing topics under the theme "Together against inequality and discrimination."
- Registration of +309 Civil Society Organizations to participate in the 52nd OAS General Assembly, and 455 individual participants for the first in-person session since 2019.
- Within the framework of the 52nd General Assembly of the OAS, the "Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and the Representatives of Civil Society, Workers, the Private Sector and other Social Actors" was held.
- Signing of the cooperation agreement between the LGBTI+ Coalition, the General Secretariat, and the Human Rights Clinic of the University of Virginia, with the objective of evaluating the current OAS coalitions-based system.
- Cooperation with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to connect the work being done with the ongoing efforts of the civil society Coalition for Women's Rights.
- Held a meeting of a civil society coalition with the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Held +30 informative meetings with civil society organizations.
- Carried out 9 training presentations on civil society participation in OAS activities.
- Updated the Database of CSOs registered with the OAS.
- Issued three press releases from the office of the Secretary General and Coalitions.

Other activities carried out during 2022 under the program "Cooperation with civil society and other social actors for the promotion of human rights"

❖ First Regional Meeting of Women Leaders of the Venezuelan Diaspora

From August 9 to 12 in Panama, DIS/SARE in collaboration with the Office of the IOM Special Envoy for the Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation, organized the first meeting of women leaders of the Venezuelan diaspora. The meeting aimed to contribute to improving the impact and capabilities of the leaders of Venezuelan diaspora organizations by strengthening their leadership skills, in support of an agenda of inclusion and migrant rights, for change and social participation at the national and regional level, and from a gender and diversity approach. 22 leaders from 11 countries in the region participated in the meeting, representing 19 organizations of the Venezuelan diaspora.

The meeting included speakers from the SARE and the Department of Social Inclusion (DSI), IOM, the Technical Secretariat of the Quito Process, UNHCR, the coordination of the R4V Platform, Queen's University, and McKinsey & Company, the World Bank, the Chamber of Venezuelan Entrepreneurs Abroad (CAVEX), and international experts in advocacy, and in communication and leadership. The event had the following results:

- Publication of the [Declaration of the First Regional Meeting of Women Leaders of the Venezuelan Diaspora](#).
- Creation of the Regional Network of Venezuelan Women Leaders.
- Two virtual meetings of Venezuelan Leaders after the Meeting to follow up on the commitments established in the Declaration.
- The Creation of the Colibrí Network of Venezuelan Women Leaders in Colombia



Official photo of the event

04 | FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The efficient use of the Secretariat's small budget has made it possible to achieve the results presented in this report.

In 2022, SARE received 2% (US\$1,733.2), of the total budget of the Regular Fund of the General Secretariat of the OAS (US\$ 81,000,000).

To counteract budget constraints, several outreach efforts have been undertaken to attract funds through different strategies, such as:

- Preparing project proposals for different donors and strategic partners
- The creation of communication campaigns to disseminate the work carried out by SARE and the dissemination of information on how to contribute to the Voluntary Funds.

Voluntary Funds administered by the Department of Social Inclusion

1. Voluntary Fund Protocol of San Salvador
2. Voluntary Fund - People of African Descent in the Americas
3. PAD Fund - Mixed Group
4. Social Development Fund
5. Declar Rights Indig Persons (DADIN)
6. CEDDIS Fund
7. Consumer Safety and Health Fund
8. MIRPS Fund

More information is available [here](#)

We appreciate the contributions received during 2022 from Japan, Chile, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, UNHCR, and IOM.

05 | PARTNERS

SARE has established alliances to optimize the fulfillment of its strategic objectives with these government institutions both in the OAS Member States and in other countries around the world and with civil society organizations, academic institutions, and other international organizations:



MEMBER STATES

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Las Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba¹
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
México
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
SaintKitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
United States
Venezuela

¹ On June 3, 2009, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas adopted Resolution AG/RES.2438 (XXXIX-O/09) which resolves that the 1962 Resolution that excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the Inter-American system, ceases to have effect in the Organization of American States (OAS). The 2009 resolution states that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.



OAS | More rights
for more people

GUARANTEERING
"MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE"
IN THE AMERICAS



Website

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