



**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

# MANAGEMENT REPORT

SECRETARIAT FOR  
ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND  
EQUITY

# 2023

**SARE**

GUARANTEEING

**“MORE RIGHTS FOR MORE PEOPLE”**

IN THE AMERICAS



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**OAS**

More rights  
for more people

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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)<sup>1</sup>, 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 2023. This work focused on the empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations, the eradication of discrimination, racism, and intolerance in the Americas, addressing

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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 2023, 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 the promotion of the full exercise of human rights as a strategy. This work is carried out with an emphasis on the populations that are most vulnerable and on the transversal intersectionality of these groups.

### 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.<sup>2</sup>

To implement these objectives and continue its results-based management, SARE has organized its work under the strategic programs presented below. During 2023, 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.

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<sup>2</sup> See SARE's Strategic Plan at the following link:  
[http://www.oas.org/es/sadye/publicaciones/SARE\\_Strategic\\_2020\\_ESP.pdf](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 situations of vulnerability, 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 2023 Progress was made in the following processes:

### Commemoration of World Day of Social Justice

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On February 22, 2023, the Secretary of Access to Rights and Equity, Maricarmen Plata, spoke at the extraordinary session of the Permanent Council, in **commemoration of World Day of Social Justice**: under the motto "*Address inequitable privilege and unfair advantage in access to social services in the Americas*", outlining the main critical issues that affect the Americas in terms of social inequality and inequity; highlighting the projects and initiatives promoted by the SARE to address the most pressing problems and direct hemispheric strategies for the reduction of poverty and inequalities, from a focus on expanding access to rights.

### Presentation of results of the V REMDES before the CIDI

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The SARE in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES) supported a series of meetings with the Commission authorities to present the main results achieved in the Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (V REMDES) and to prepare the draft [CIDES Work Plan](#), which defines the activities that the OAS Member States will launch for the execution of the [Dominican Republic Action Plan](#) in the period 2023-2025.

On February 2, 2023, CIDI held its regular meeting, in which the Technical Director of the Social Policy Coordination Cabinet of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Van Elder Espinal, in representation of the host country of the Fifth REMDES, presented the Final Report of the meeting to the Council (CIDI/REMDES/doc. 12/22: [SPA](#) | [EN](#) | [PORT](#) | [FREN](#)), highlighting the main results achieved, as well as the next steps to achieve the three-year cycle of social development.

#### **Main outstanding results of the V REMDES:**

- Participation widely representative of all regions of the Americas, including delegations from North America, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, with more than 120 representatives from 23 OAS Member States, including ministers of social development, authorities cooperation, and strategic partners.
- Addressing crucial issues for the region that require collective action, such as; the need to improve technical tools to better understand how to measure the multiple dimensions of poverty and how to use the results of these measurements to improve public policies to eradicate it.
- Launch of the "Compendium on experiences and lessons learned in measuring multidimensional poverty in the Americas" ([Spanish](#) | [english](#)) prepared by Working Group 1 of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES) and OPHI-University of Oxford.
- Presentation of the "[Regional Guidelines for the Social Inclusion of Survivors of Human Trafficking in the Americas](#)", document prepared jointly by the OAS and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as a non-binding guide for guidance on the actions and areas of intervention that must be present in the planning and execution of strategies to facilitate the social inclusion of survivors of trafficking and their active participation in the communities where they reside.
- Approval of the "[Inter-American Declaration of Priorities in Social Development](#)" (CIDI/REMDES/DEC. 1/22) and "[Action Plan of the Dominican Republic 2022](#)" (CIDI/REMDES/doc. 7/22) that will guide the work of CIDES and its Working Groups during the next three years, until the celebration of the Sixth REMDES in Mexico in 2025.
- Election of new CIDES authorities for the 2022-2025 cycle: Minister of Social Development and Family of Chile, Giorgio Jackson, as president of CIDES; Minister of Social Development of Paraguay, Cayo Cáceres, as first vice president of CIDES, and General Coordinator of the Social Policy Coordination Cabinet of the Dominican Republic, Francisco Antonio Peña Guaba, as second vice president of CIDES.

## **Thematic/sectoral session of the Commission on Solidarity Policies for Development of CIDI to report progress in ministerial processes**

On April 5, 2023, the Department of Social Inclusion, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the ministerial process of social development, presented the progress in the preparatory process of the Work Plan of CIDES for the period 2023-2025 to the OAS Member States, through the CIDI Policy Commission; reporting that the CIDES authorities held informal meetings where they agreed on a date for the Planning

Meeting of the Authorities of the Ministerial Process of Social Development (May 24, 2023); they shared initiatives that they would be interested in promoting through the Commission's Working Groups and evaluated strategies for their financing.

## Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Ministerial Process of Social Development

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On May 24, 2023, the Planning Meeting of the Authorities of the Ministerial Process of Social Development was held virtually, with the participation of representatives from 19 OAS Member States, and was chaired by the Minister of Social Development and Family of Chile, Giorgio Jackson, president of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES). The main objective of the meeting was to present and agree on the draft CIDES Work Plan for the period 2023-2025, defining concrete actions for the implementation of the "Action Plan of the Dominican Republic 2022" (CIDI/REMDES/doc. 7/22).

During the meeting, comments were received on the different proposed activities framed in the three Working Groups of the Commission, which address topics such as: multidimensional poverty, strengthening of Social Protection Systems in the region, and promotion of hemispheric cooperation to advance social development. In an informative manner, the president of the meeting announced the candidatures that were received to form the authorities of the working groups: Panama for the presidency of working group 1; Colombia for the presidency of working group 2 and Argentina for the vice presidency. Likewise, he was pleased that, to date, representatives of the Ministries of social development and equivalent institutions from 13 countries make up the working groups. The increase of countries in the working groups is an important indicator of the interest that the social development agenda promoted by the CIDES authorities, with the support of the Technical Secretariat, has aroused in recent years.

Likewise, a methodology was agreed upon to receive comments on the draft CIDES Work Plan 2023-2025 and the next steps to follow for its formal approval were presented through the CIDI Solidarity Cooperation for Development Policies Commission and its subsequent execution (2023-2025).

At the end of 2023, the Working groups were confirmed as follows:

### **Working Group #1: Measurements of multidimensional poverty and design of public policies focused on guaranteeing well-being and the enjoyment of a good quality of life**

Presidency: Panama

Vice Presidency: Trinidad and Tobago

Member countries:

- Guatemala
- Paraguay
- Canada
- Mexico
- Barbados

**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: Colombia

Vice Presidency: Argentina

Member countries:

- Guatemala
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Dominican Republic
- Costa Rica
- Barbados

**Working Group #3: Alliances, financing and strengthening of hemispheric cooperation and technical assistance to promote social development, through the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IPSO)**

Vacant group

It is important to mention that for the first time - in recent years - in 2023, Caribbean countries have joined the social development agenda. Trinidad and Tobago as Vice-Presidency of WG 1 and Barbados as a member of WG1 and WG2.

## **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 and the 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, whose 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 III Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro-descendant Population. In addition, on December 15, 2023, the webinar "Afro-descendant Seniors: Realities and Challenges" was held.

## Webinar on Education and the Afro-descendant Population: Progress, Challenges and Recommendations

The webinar "Education and the Afro-descendant Population: Progress, Challenges and Recommendations" was held on March 28, 2023, and its objectives were to promote the exchange of experiences and reflections on the situation of education of the Afro-descendant population and to strengthen and promote dialogue between those responsible for the Racial Equity Offices, international organizations, Afro-descendant civil society, and academia, for the design and evaluation of inclusive and intersectional public policies that reduce gaps in the education of the Afro-descendant population.

### Main achievements:

Promote a regional dialogue on educational policies for the Afro-descendant population.

### Beneficiary Countries

All OAS member states

### Link:

ESP: <https://www.facebook.com/OEAInclusion/videos/229349189624898/>

### Range:

So far around 450 people have watched the webinar on the OAS-Inclusion Facebook



## Webinar: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Afro-descendant Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean: Reality, Challenges and Recommendations

The webinar "Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Afro-descendant Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean: Reality, Challenges and Recommendations" was held on May 30, 2023, and its central objectives were to continue the regional dialogue on economic, social, and cultural rights of Afro-descendant youth, present research

results related to the economic, social, and cultural rights of Afro-descendant youth; and finally, provide recommendations to eradicate racism and generate the inclusion of young people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Main achievements:**

Promote a regional dialogue on the economic, social and cultural rights of Afro-descendant youth.

**Beneficiary Countries**

All OAS member states

**Link:**

ESP: <https://www.facebook.com/riafroredautoridades/videos/1409053569871379/>

ENG: <https://www.facebook.com/riafroredautoridades/videos/255687180465143/>

POR: <https://www.facebook.com/riafroredautoridades/videos/505093011743633/>

**Range:**

So far around 550 people have watched the webinar on the OAS-Inclusion Facebook.



## Meeting: “Beyond Affirmative Actions: Inclusive and Intersectional Public Policies with Afro-descendant Populations in Latin America and the Caribbean”

The meeting was held from August 14 to 16, 2023, and its central objectives were to promote the exchange of experiences and reflection on the actions required to strengthen reparation policies for the Afro-descendant population in the region. Thus, how to strengthen and promote dialogue between the head of the Racial Equity Offices, international organizations, Afro-descendant civil society, and academia, for the design and evaluation of inclusive and intersectional public policies that reduce the development gaps of the Afro-descendant population in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Main achievements:**

- Continue with the regional dialogue on reparation policies for the Afro-descendant population.
- 50 participants trained in reparation policies for the Afro-descendant population.

**Beneficiary Countries**

All OAS member states



## The March on Washington: Its Legacy and Impact on the Americas

The U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS, in collaboration with the OAS Secretariat, through the Department of Social Inclusion for Access to Rights and Equity, and other interested parties (including the Ministry of Racial Equality of Brazil, the International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights (Race and Equality), and the George Washington University Law School (International and Comparative Law Program), organized this panel on August 24, 2023 to analyze how The March on Washington sparked the call for social justice in the Americas and how its central objective continues today and will continue into the future.

The event explored the March's enduring message of ending "employment discrimination, civil rights abuses against Black, Latino, and other disenfranchised groups" through eliminating discrimination and promoting equity and social inclusion.

During the event, the panelists:

- They analyzed the historical importance of the March on Washington.
- They evaluated the impact of the March on Washington on race relations in the United States and America.
- They recognized how the March served as a springboard for other movements in the region, and
- They analyzed international, regional, and national efforts to address racism, racial discrimination, and all forms of discrimination and intolerance to date, and propose the way forward.
- They identified how the principles underlying this mobilization are relevant to the consolidation of democratic governance.

About 60 people attended the meeting in the Hall of the Americas. Participants came from OAS Member States, Permanent Observation Missions, the OAS General Secretariat, the private sector, civil society, and universities in the Washington, D.C. area. Because the event was hybrid in nature, some participants watched the event online.

### Beneficiary Countries

All OAS member states

#### Link:

- [The March on Washington: Its Legacy and Impact in the Americas | . | By Organization of American States \(OAS\) | Facebook](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndwAMrF7rp4>

#### Range:

To date, approximately 850 people have viewed the event on the OAS Facebook page since it was broadcast live on the day of the event. On YouTube there have been about 260 views.



## III Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro-descendant Population

The Third Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for the Afro-descendant Population was held on December 14 and 15, 2023, with the objective of facilitating the debate and exchange of experiences and good practices on public policies for the Afro-descendant population among the Member States of the RIAFRO. In the same way, the RIAFRO work plan was prepared for the period 2023-2025, and the update of its statute.

The above reflects the commitment of the RIAFRO Member States to strengthen and improve policies aimed at the Afro-descendant population, as well as establish a roadmap for the coming years. The update of the statute also suggests the adoption and continuous improvement of the structure and operation of the network to meet its current objectives and challenges.

#### Main achievements:

- The preparation of the 2023-2025 Work Plan.
- The incorporation of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as a collaborating member of the RIAFRO technical secretariat.
- RIAFRO website and Facebook updated  
<https://www.somosafro.org/gobiernos/riafro/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/riafroredautoridades/>





### Beneficiary countries:

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.

## Webinar on Afro-descendant Seniors: Realities and Challenges

This webinar took place on December 15th and aimed to generate meaningful dialogue about the realities and challenges faced by older Afro-descendant people in the Americas.

### Main achievements:

Initiate for the first time an intersectional dialogue on older Afro-descendant people in the region.

### Beneficiary Countries

All OAS member states

### Link:

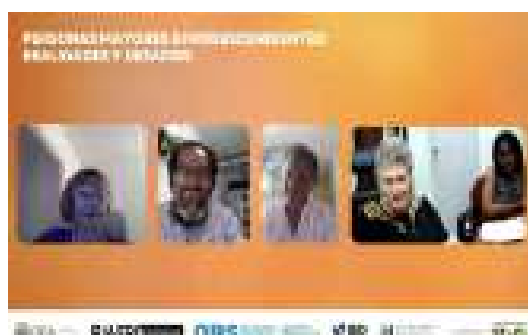
ESP: <https://www.facebook.com/OEAInclusion/videos/309019762106888/>

ENG: <https://www.facebook.com/OEAInclusion/videos/1023539072062419/>

PORT: <https://www.facebook.com/OEAInclusion/videos/855031383083483/>

### Range:

So far around 500 people have watched the webinar on the OAS-Inclusion Facebook



## Extension of the Action Plan 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 instrument of the OAS 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.

In this context, the **I Inter-American Meeting on the Implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DADIN)** was held from March 20 to 22, 2023, with the main objectives of generating a report on the actions implemented within the framework of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017-2021). As well as analyzing the possibility of creating an institutional monitoring mechanism within the framework of the OAS, based on experiences acquired in other international organizations, to monitor the implementation of the DADIN at the hemispheric level, and address the issue of health as a transversal axis, including a training session for participants on advances in regional mandates and tools in interculturality and health.

### Main achievements:

- The preparation of the Consensus Document on the Working Group for the Implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The creation of the Working Group for the Implementation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 60 participants trained in regional mandates and tools in interculturality and health.

### Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS member states



## Freedom of Conscience, Religion or Belief and Pluralism in the Americas

### Dialogue in Support of Freedom of Conscience, Religion or Belief and Pluralism in the Americas

The hybrid event organized by the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Canada, and Chile to the OAS, and DSI/SARE sought to foster dialogue and cooperation on the crucial issues of religious freedom and tolerance in the Americas. The event included a high-level panel discussion with US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Rashad Hussain, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief Nazila Ghanea, other multilateral stakeholders and representatives of civil society from across the Americas, who discussed how States should address the multidimensional discrimination suffered by marginalized communities, including minority religious and spiritual communities, and many other issues.

Around 60 people participated in the event in person and 100 joined through the Kudo platform. The participants came from OAS Member States, Permanent Observation Missions, the General Secretariat of the OAS, civil society, international organizations, and universities in the Washington, D.C. area.

#### Link:

2023 SEP 29 Dialogue on Religious Pluralism - YouTube

#### Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS member states



## People with disabilities

### Commemoration of World Down Syndrome Day

Washington, D.C., the Department of Social Inclusion, together with the OAS Group of Countries Friendly to Persons with Disabilities, celebrated World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness about the dignity, value, and contributions of people with Down Syndrome as promoters of the well-being and diversity of their communities;

highlight the importance of their individual autonomy and independence, and provide guidance on the measures that must be implemented by OAS Member States to guarantee the right of people with Down Syndrome to make decisions for themselves in the public and private spheres.

A video prepared by the Department of Social Inclusion was also broadcast with the participation of civil society organizations that provided guidance on Down Syndrome, the main barriers faced by people with Down Syndrome in terms of education, work and attitude, among others; the related legislation in some countries in the region, and the importance of celebrating this date.

**Results:**

More than 14,000 views of the video prepared by the Department of Social Inclusion aimed at making visible the situation of people with Down Syndrome.

**Beneficiary Countries:**

All OAS member states

**Link:**

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1638256677534199815](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1638256677534199815)



## Commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day

On April 20, 2023, at the regular session of the Permanent Council held in Washington, D.C., the Department of Social Inclusion, together with the Group of Countries Friends of Persons with Disabilities of the OAS, celebrated World Autism Awareness Day to learn about the initiatives promoted in the Region for the recognition and full exercise of the rights of autistic people and reflect on the challenges that still persist to eliminate material, attitudinal, communication or accessibility barriers that prevent autistic people from having full access to education, work and citizen participation, among other rights.

**Results:**

More than 5000 views of the message of the Department of Social Inclusion aimed at making the situation of autistic people visible.

**Beneficiary Countries:**  
All OAS member states

**Link:**  
[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1649078509082476545](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1649078509082476545)

## Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of CEDDIS

From May 15 to 17, 2023, the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) was held in Panama City to update the format of the presentation of the Fourth National Report on 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 (PAD), to include indicators that collect information on the situation of people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account that the Fourth Report that will be presented in 2024 will cover the period 2020-2023. A space was also dedicated for the presentation of the Regional Disability Observatory; for the presentation of successful national experiences between countries, and for the celebration of holding a dialogue with civil society organizations.

**Beneficiary Countries:**  
All OAS member states



### ❖ Commemoration of the International Day of People with Disabilities

On November 29, 1013, at the ordinary session of the Permanent Council held in Washington, D.C., the Department of Social Inclusion, together with the OAS Group of Countries Friends of Persons with Disabilities, celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disability that takes place every December 3rd. The purpose of this event was to promote a dialogue between the delegations about the importance of the right to political participation of people with disabilities through voting in elections or popular referendums; the right to nominate candidates; membership in political parties; community activity or the

exercise of public positions of political leadership, among other actions, and the need to adopt measures to recognize legal personality and guarantee the exercise of legal capacity through appropriate safeguards that respect the will and preference of the person. They also shared a set of measures aimed at eliminating the multiple barriers that people with disabilities face in exercising their right to vote, to be a voting authority or to be elected to public office.

**Results:**

- Six practical recommendations delivered to OAS member states to guarantee the exercise of people with disabilities their right to full political participation.
- More than 4,700 views on X of the video prepared by the Department of Social Inclusion on the political-electoral rights of people with disabilities.

**Beneficiary Countries:**

All OAS member states

**Link:**

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1729994893601165736](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1729994893601165736)

## Commission on Migratory Affairs (CAM)

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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 taking into account the different dynamics throughout the migration cycle, and realities that occur at the hemispheric level.

It also enables OAS 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 the CAM's 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.

During 2023, the DSI as Technical Secretary of the CAM, supported the Presidency of the CAM in the preparation of 2 Reports, the Presidency Report to report on the activities carried out during the period 2022-2023 and the report on the Monitoring Process of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, including Migrant Workers and their Families.

## Program 2:

### Promotion of Technical Cooperation

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

#### Meeting to promote the implementation of the Dominican Republic Action Plan, identifying financing strategies through the Voluntary Social Development Fund

On October 20, 2023, the Meeting was held in Washington, D.C., to discuss the importance of joining the efforts of the OAS Member States and Observer Countries to jointly face the multiple challenges posed by social development in the region, and ensure compliance with the Plan of Action agreed upon in the **Fifth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development (REMDES)** that was held on November 17 and 18, 2022 in the Dominican Republic. This Plan of Action defines the lines of work and specific activities that the OAS Member States prioritize to *“advance in strengthening social protection policies and programs as indispensable tools for the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities that characterize our region and that have deepened due to the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.”* 19; *highlighting the instrumental role of hemispheric cooperation for the promotion of social development in the Americas”.*

To finance the activities defined in the Action Plans adopted within the framework of the REMDES, the OAS Member States have a **“Voluntary Fund for Social Development” created through resolution AG/RES. 2988 (LII-0/22) “Promoting Hemispheric Initiatives in Comprehensive Development: Promotion of Resilience.”** As established in the resolution itself, they can contribute to the Fund *“Member States, permanent observers, international, regional and subregional organizations and the private sector through voluntary contributions, to the extent of their possibilities.”*

During the Meeting, a call was made to OAS Member States and Observer countries to make contributions to this Fund by supporting the implementation of these initiatives, aimed at strengthening the capacities of the institutions in charge of social policy through the exchange of knowledge, horizontal cooperation, and strengthening political and technical dialogue.

**Photos:**

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZzLP>

## Meeting for the approval of the CIDES Work Plan

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On December 13, 2023, the draft work plan, agreed upon by the social development authorities during their planning meeting for the implementation of the ministerial mandates, was made known to CIDI, through its Policy Commission, which was formally approved by the CIDI Policy Commission in this instance.

## Political Dialogue: European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean on Multidimensional Poverty, Intersectional Inequalities and Social Inclusion

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On October 19, 2023, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) co-organized the conference with the European Union "Political Dialogue: European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean on Multidimensional Poverty, Intersectional Inequalities and Social Inclusion" held in Washington, D.C.

The EU and the GS/OAS are committed to fighting against inequalities and poverty. This commitment has been reflected through the program «Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values» (CERV) of the EU, which promotes justice and equal opportunities for all. Likewise, the GS/OAS is determined to address different forms of poverty and intersectional inequalities, with the support of instruments such as the Inter-American Declaration of Priorities in Social Development, approved at the Fifth REMDES that took place in 2022 in the Dominican Republic. This declaration underlines the urgent need to reduce poverty and inequality, especially in the post-COVID framework.

In this context, the EU and the GS/OAS, through its Department of Social Inclusion (DIS, SADYE), organized this conference with the objective of establishing an agenda of common priorities as a basis for more dynamic cooperation between the OAS and The EU. Ministers of Social Development and High Authorities of the Americas and the European Union, together with experts on these topics, exchanged experiences, promising practices, and lessons learned on the creation of social policies to address multidimensional poverty and intersectional inequalities, promoting inclusion and social justice in both regions.

The dialogue had the participation of 80 attendees in person and a reach of 1,251 people virtually.

**Photographs of the Dialogue:**

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZ2iL>

**Press notice:**

[https://www.oas.org/es/centro\\_noticias/comunicado\\_prensa.asp?sCodigo=AVI-207/23](https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=AVI-207/23)

**Facebook Live:**

<https://www.facebook.com/OEAInclusion/posts/pfbid02bWLznJtkfFJSJiQvTKZgC5B7Xeig5ZYjrf5MQnhoEoU9DSvFTCEDPmgKjVP7yZgSl>



## 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, 7 Central American States: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Mexico make up the MIRPS Regional Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Framework. The MIRPS, established in the Declaration of San Pedro Sula in October 2017, is a pioneering initiative in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and a concrete contribution to the Global Compact on Refugees. It also reflects a clear expression of collaboration between governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, regional and international organizations, and development banks. The MIRPS serves as a practical tool to mobilize support for international cooperation.

The DSI of the SARE and the UNHCR make up 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, applicants for refugee status, 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 2023, the main achievements obtained as the MIRPS Technical Secretariat were:

#### Work Event with Rotary International

On May 8, 2023, a working lunch was held, with the participation of the Secretary General of the OAS and the CEO of Rotary International, as well as the ambassadors of the MIRPS countries and the governors of the Rotary districts of Central America to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the General Cooperation Agreement GS/OAS - Rotary, where the parties committed to collaborate in the implementation of labor insertion initiatives for young returned unaccompanied Guatemalan migrants and others activities related to the implementation of the MIRPS under its fourth pillar of work which refers to "expanding opportunities for durable solutions." Likewise, new opportunities for collaboration to benefit displaced people were explored within the framework of the MIRPS.

Since this lunch, we have been working together with the Rotary districts in the region to better support the efforts of MIRPS, and more specifically, contribute to expanding the impact of the initiatives that are currently part of the first portfolio of projects of the MIRPS Fund.

### Event “Migrant and Refugee Children in the Americas”

On June 23, 2023, on the margins of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, the Department of Social Inclusion, together with the Government of Chile, the Government of Colombia, and the Inter-American Dialogue, organized the parallel Event “Migrant and Refugee Children in the Americas.” This event aimed to generate a conversation about the challenges faced by migrant and refugee children in the American continent, and the responses to face them, including effective hemispheric coordination and cooperation mechanisms to best protect their rights under the international Law of human rights and its best interests. Likewise, during the event, the Declaration on Migrant and Refugee Children in the Americas was presented.



### Virtual seminar “Involving the private sector in solutions to forced displacement in Panama”

On July 11, 2023, the Department of Social Inclusion, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS, together with the Government of Canada, in its capacity as past presidency of the MIRPS and UNHCR Support Platform, organized the virtual seminar “Involving the Private Sector in Solutions to Forced Displacement in Panama,” where spaces for cooperation from the private sector were discussed to support the economic and social inclusion of forcibly displaced people in Panama. The event brought together representatives of the governments of Canada, the United States, and Panama; members of the Canada-Panama Chamber of Commerce, the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Panama, and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture of Panama; other companies; the UNHCR and the OAS.



## Second World Refugee Forum

From December 13 to 15, 2023, the Second World Refugee Forum was held in Geneva, Switzerland. This event is the largest international meeting on refugees and is held every four years. Its purpose is to provide support to achieve the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees. Five countries – Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan and Uganda – were co-conveners of the event, which has been jointly organized by UNHCR and the Government of Switzerland.

The General Secretariat of the OAS, through the Department of Social Inclusion, participated in the plenary session of the Forum where it presented its commitments as Technical Secretariat of the MIRPS. Likewise, it participated in the parallel events on the MIRPS Support Platform, and the coordination of local actors to promote social cohesion and resilience of refugees and their host communities. Also, the DSI organized, together with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) and the Coalition for Venezuela, the parallel event "Localization in Action: The Role of Local Actors in the Reception and Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Cities of the Americas".



## MIRPS Fund

During the First MIRPS Solidarity Event, the MIRPS Fund 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 forced to move from Central America and Mexico.

On July 1, 2022, the Guidelines for the operation of the MIRPS Fund were published, which was the result of an extensive consultation process with the MIRPS States and the MIRPS Technical Secretariat. Subsequently, the process of selecting the members of the High-Level Selection Committee of the MIRPS Fund, 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 that make up 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.

### **MIRPS Fund Launch Event**

On May 16, the event called "Launch Event: Presentation of Projects Financed by the MIRPS Fund for the Benefit of Displaced People in Central America and Mexico" was held, with the objective of presenting the projects financed by the MIRPS Fund, starting from the contribution made by the Government of Spain, and which will be implemented by the MIRPS countries in 2023 and 2024.

The event was held in hybrid mode, representing a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities related to the displacement of people in Central America and Mexico, as well as to encourage the mobilization of additional bilateral and multilateral resources, including possible future contributions to the MIRPS Fund, to support the response of the governments of MIRPS countries to forced displacement in the region.

Through the MIRPS Fund, the forcibly displaced population of Central America and Mexico is supported.

#### **Link:**

[https://twitter.com/Almagro\\_OEA2015/status/1658933108299780096](https://twitter.com/Almagro_OEA2015/status/1658933108299780096)

On September 16, 2022, DSI/SARE announced the launch of the First Call for Proposals of the MIRPS Fund, which was open until October 17, 2022. To this end, question and answer sessions were organized in October, as well as coaching for the preparation of proposals with the MIRPS States.



### **HONDURAS: Official signing event of the agreement between the SG/OAS and the SEDH**

On September 5, 2023, the signing of the agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Secretary of State at the Human Rights Office of Honduras (SEDH) took place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for the execution of the project "Strengthening the response of the State of Honduras to care for people internally displaced by violence" financed by the MIRPS Fund, which will benefit more than 100 displaced people in the communities most affected by the phenomenon of internal displacement due to violence in Honduras through:

- The delivery of humanitarian assistance and inter-institutional coordination of protection measures for people internally displaced by violence and/or at risk of displacement.
- The delivery of seed capital to people internally displaced by violence and/or at risk of displacement.
- Institutional strengthening through training processes focused on improving care for displaced people.

**Links:**

<https://t.co/Z9AHNgxte0>

<https://t.co/60XPShbdt>

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_Inclusion/status/1699214636556464432](https://twitter.com/OEA_Inclusion/status/1699214636556464432)

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1701338792584441905](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1701338792584441905)



**EL SALVADOR: Official event for signing the agreement between the GS/OAS and CONAPINA**

On September 21, 2023, El Salvador became the second country to sign the agreement that marks the starting point of the implementation of the project financed by the MIRPS Fund, called "Linking returned girls, boys and adolescents with protection needs and their families to livelihoods in El Salvador", which will benefit more than 60 families of returned children and adolescents with protection needs through:

- The provision of humanitarian assistance.
- The provision of seed capital for ventures.
- Scholarships for studies and/or technical specialization.

Said agreement was signed with the National Council for Early Childhood, Children and Adolescence (CONAPINA).

**Links:**

<https://twitter.com/cancilleriasv/status/1704931462275879027>

<https://twitter.com/OeaElSalvador/status/1704964647617507777>

<https://twitter.com/AgenciaEsco/status/1705007557452963881>

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_Inclusion/status/1704991896479707232](https://twitter.com/OEA_Inclusion/status/1704991896479707232)

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1706431315090809074](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1706431315090809074)

<https://t.co/7ViBuYleac>



### **PANAMA: Official signing event of the agreement between the GS/OAS, MINGOB and the City of Knowledge Foundation**

On October 4, 2023, the signing of the agreement between the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Ministry of Government of the Republic of Panama, and the City of Knowledge Foundation was celebrated in Panama City, this was for the execution of the project that marks the starting point of the project "Strengthening humanitarian care, integration and protection of refugees, refugee seekers and host communities in Darién, in line with the MIRPS National Action Plan, with special emphasis on children, adolescents and women."

This project will benefit more than 800 refugees and refugee seekers through:

- The delivery of basic humanitarian assistance kits for health and hygiene (taking into account the differentiated needs of women, men and girls and boys);
- The delivery of school kits for boys, girls and adolescents;
- Training in micro-businesses and basic equipment for entrepreneurial women in the area.

#### **Links:**

<https://twitter.com/MinGobPma/status/1709660532775567850>

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_Inclusion/status/1709742904107741571](https://twitter.com/OEA_Inclusion/status/1709742904107741571)

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1710291390867914756](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1710291390867914756)

<https://t.co/jG8FPVn6TC>



### **COSTA RICA: Official signing event of the agreement between the GS/OAS, the DGME and the UCR Foundation**

On November 10, 2023, Costa Rica joined the countries in the region that are executing initiatives financed by the MIRPS Fund, by signing the agreement that marks the starting point of the implementation of the project called "Strengthening the Identification and Referral of People Seeking Refugee Status and/or with Particularly Vulnerable Profiles, through the Modernization of the Platform of the Refugee Unit of Costa Rica." With the implementation of this project, improvements will be made in the procedures of the Refugee Unit of the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration, to provide more agile attention to people seeking refugee status deserving of international protection. Some 23,000 people will directly benefit, as well as around another 10,000 people seeking refugee status with some type of vulnerability, located throughout Costa Rica.

#### **Links:**

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_Inclusion/status/1723155854625525821](https://twitter.com/OEA_Inclusion/status/1723155854625525821)

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1724439379706347698](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1724439379706347698)

<https://t.co/gP0tftnsVK>



## **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 collaboration with 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, the execution of the activities that They aim to prevent, investigate, and counteract criminal activities related to the exploitation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

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 functions 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 refugees and migrants in the destination and host countries.

## People with disabilities

### Cooperation with the Museum of the Americas (AMA) and the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the OAS for the Art Exhibition "Petrona Viera: Endless Creation"

On June 15, 2023, the Department of Social Inclusion participated in the launch of the Art Exhibition of the work of Petrona Viera, a Uruguayan painter with hearing disabilities, in Washington, D.C., and also provided support in the dissemination actions of said exhibition in their media, in order to support efforts to raise awareness about the value and contributions to society of people with disabilities, encourage cultural development by them, promote their works and cultural products, and strengthen a culture of positive perception of the human potential, self-determination, merits, abilities, and contributions to society of people with disabilities.

#### Beneficiary Countries:

All OAS member states





## Technical Cooperation with the Network of Accessible Companies of Argentina and Uruguay

On June 20, 2023, the Department of Social Inclusion participated in the series of virtual seminars, promoted by the Inclusive Business Networks of Argentina and Uruguay "Derribando Barreras", in order to publicize the progress and difficulties identified in the region regarding labor and educational inclusion for people with disabilities. Statistics and relevant information on good practices, legislation, and programs were shared by the OAS Member States during the reporting cycles on compliance with the Inter-American Convention on 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 (PAD).

### Beneficiary Countries:

Argentina and Uruguay



## Cooperation with the Foundation for the Americas and Microsoft for the Event "Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence and Inclusion"

The Department of Social Inclusion supported the holding of the event "Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence and Inclusion" organized by the Foundation for the Americas and Microsoft, within the framework of its third inclusion week, on October 5, 2023, to address the importance of accessibility in responsible artificial intelligence systems and the need to include people with disabilities in their creation processes. The Department provided support with the dissemination of the event and technical support, providing contextual information about groups in vulnerable situations and how artificial intelligence can favor their inclusion.

### Result:

More than 7,700 reproductions in X of the intervention of the Department of Social Inclusion on the impact of artificial intelligence on the inclusion of groups in vulnerable situations.

### Link:

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_Inclusion/status/1710299998531780825](https://twitter.com/OEA_Inclusion/status/1710299998531780825)



**Technical Cooperation with the Network of Accessible Companies of Argentina Through Participation in the “Seal Argentina Valora” Program of the Network of Inclusive Companies of Argentina as a Member of the Evaluating Jury.**

Argentina Valora is a recognition that is given annually to public and private organizations that develop concrete and demonstrable actions that promote the development of an inclusive culture of people with disabilities in the workplace, highlighting good practices at the national level that favor models to replicate in other organizations. The annual delivery took place on November 25, 2023.

**Results:**

7 companies awarded the Seal to generate greater motivation in the business sector to replicate the recognized inclusive initiatives.

**Beneficiary Countries:**

Argentina

**Link:**

[Argentina Values](#)



### **Technical Cooperation with the Government of Guanajuato, Mexico, and with the Working Group of the San Salvador Protocol (GTPSS) for the Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

Within the framework of the XVII Period of Sessions of the Working Group of the San Salvador Protocol, on November 27, 2023, the Department of Social Inclusion led and participated in the panel on mechanisms for monitoring the progress of the rights of people with disabilities, through the presentation of the follow-up mechanism on the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS).

#### **Results:**

More than 100 people trained on the regulatory frameworks of the inter-American system for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities.

#### **Beneficiary Countries:**

Mexico



### **Technical Cooperation with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), to disseminate, together with the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS), the Joint Declaration on the Right to Political Participation of People with Disabilities**

On November 29, 2023, the CRPD and the CEDDIS, with the support of the Department of Social Inclusion, presented a joint declaration to the Permanent Council of the OAS to raise awareness about the political-electoral rights of people with disabilities; they were delivered with a set of recommendations to the OAS Member States, such as guaranteeing and promoting that people with disabilities can apply before the electoral authority to compete for a popularly elected position, the importance of applying support mechanisms and reasonable adjustments throughout the electoral process, and the need to have mechanisms for access to communication and complete information during all electoral stages (for example, nominations, campaigns, training, elections or monitoring) with universal accessibility criteria, among others. The urgency to repeal provisions that deprive people with disabilities of the right to equal recognition before the law, those that favor interdiction processes and those that restrict decision-making processes or expression of the will of persons with disabilities were also emphasized.

**Results:**

- More than 4700 views on X.
- 6 recommendations delivered to Member States with precise instructions to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in political life.

**Beneficiary Countries:**

All OAS member states

**Link:**

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_oficial/status/1729994893601165736](https://twitter.com/OEA_oficial/status/1729994893601165736)

## Safe Consumption and Health Network (RCSS)

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The RCSS 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 Safe Consumption and Health Network, to strengthen national and regional cooperation capacities and contribute to the early detection of dangerous consumer products and the adoption of coordinated actions among the competent organizations to combat its circulation in the markets.

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

### 10th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the OAS Safe Consumption and Health Network

The Tenth Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the OAS Safe Consumption and Health Network (RCSS), was celebrated on November 3, 2023.

During the meeting, the annual work plan of the RCS 2023-2024 was considered and approved, the progress reports of the working groups were received, as well as the status of the Inter-American Rapid Alert System SIAR. Likewise, the location of the headquarters of the ordinary annual meeting of the Plenary in 2024 (Chile) was approved and the election of authorities of the 2023-2024 management committee was carried out.

At the meeting, the installation of the 2023-2024 Management Committee was also celebrated, which is made up of the Consumer Ombudsman of El Salvador as president, the Undersecretariat of Actions for the Defense of Consumers of Argentina as 1st vice-presidency, and the 2nd vice-presidency, the National Consumer Service (SERNAC) of Chile, the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce (MEIC) of Costa Rica and Prices and Consumer Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Antigua and Barbados as delegate members, and the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC) of Colombia and the Federal Consumer Protection Agency (PROFECO) of Mexico as collaborating members.

**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.

**Third Edition Digital Diploma in Leadership and Social Inclusion and Access to Rights**

The Third Edition of the Digital Diploma in 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 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 to 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 the access and exercise of rights. humans of these groups in the region, political leadership and social activism; promoting in the participants the development and strengthening of assertive and effective leadership skills for political advocacy, strategic communication, including in virtual modes, negotiation and proposal in public policies, which are oriented towards full inclusion, equity, social justice, and access to human rights of citizens in the region.

From March 14, 2023 to May 4, 2023, the Digital Diploma took place, which was aimed at government officials, members of civil society organizations, and other key social actors in the social inclusion and human rights agenda at the regional level. In its third edition of 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 2,200 applications were received, increasing the number of applications received in the 2nd Edition by 29%.
- +800 full and partial scholarships were awarded, including to State officials, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security. of 26 countries of the Americas (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, USA, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela).
- The people who were selected are part of key institutions for the Inclusion and Equity agenda:
  - 36.4% State
  - 28.3% Civil Society Organizations
  - 8.1% Other social actors
  - 10.1% International Organizations
  - 10.1% Private Sector
  - 7.1% 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.
- 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 the dissemination of the students on their own social networks by sharing:
  - Acceptance letter
  - Photographs of the sessions
  - Screenshot of your photo in the graduation video.

## **Inter-American course on protection of internally displaced persons, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, survivors of human trafficking and returnees with protection needs in the Americas**

The Fourth Edition of the Inter-American Course was organized by the Department of Social Inclusion, in collaboration with UNHCR, the Keough School of Global Affairs, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Pulte Institute for Global Development of the Keough School, Office in Washington, D.C. of the University of Notre Dame, with the endorsement of the OAS School of Government, and took place on June 28 and 29, 2023. This learning and professional development space was aimed at strengthening the technical knowledge of more than 100 officials from the Permanent Missions of the OAS Member States and Permanent Observers to the OAS,

the General Secretariat, national institutions and other interested actors on forced displacement, asylum, and migration, based on the current situation in the region.



## MIRPS Learning Activities

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In the implementation of the Regional Strategy of the MIRPS Support Platform, led by the United States as Presidency of said mechanism, the DSI supported the organization in four learning events aimed at officials from the MIRPS countries. The first took place on May 30th, in Tapachula, Mexico, where experiences and procedures on registration systems, digital transformation, and the interoperability of documentation systems were addressed; as well as methodologies that simplify and expedite the processing of applications for recognition of refugee status. On September 26th and 27th, in San Salvador, El Salvador, the topic "Access to Mental Health Services and Psychosocial Support for Displaced Families as Key Aspects of Integration" was addressed. Subsequently, on October 17th and 18th, the MIRPS Learning Activity "Comprehensive Approaches to the Economic Inclusion of Displaced People: Increasing Resilience and Valuing Contributions to Host Communities" was held in San José, Costa Rica. Finally, from October 24th to 26th, in Bogotá, Colombia, government officials from El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, as members of the MIRPS Working Group on Internal Displacement, participated in the Learning Activity "Moving Towards Protection and Durable Solutions of Internally Displaced People in MIRPS Countries".



## PICAD Project: “Supporting the efforts of OAS Member States to prevent, investigate, and counter criminal activity linked to the exploitation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants”

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### Development of “Regional Guidelines for the Social Inclusion of Survivors of Human Trafficking in the Americas”

The Equity Promotion Section of the DSI/SARE together with the IOM developed some [“Regional Guidelines for the Social Inclusion of Survivors of Human Trafficking in the Americas.”](#) an unpublished document that constitutes the first regional framework of reference for the comprehensive care of survivors of human trafficking. Following the provisions of the 2023-2025 Work Plan of the Inter-American Commission for Social Development (CIDES), [workshops for the dissemination of these “Regional Guidelines](#) in 2 beneficiary countries: Colombia (July 2023) and Costa Rica (December 2023) and in 2024 other workshops will be held in Panama and Guyana.

The objective of these workshops was to disseminate the Guidelines and promote a space for exchange where participants could identify the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities faced by trafficking survivors, sharing lessons learned, good practices, and useful recommendations for the design of public policies, programs, and initiatives for their effective social inclusion; from a human rights, gender equity, and victim-centered approach. Additionally, possible synergies and opportunities for the incorporation of the Guidelines in existing national strategies to care for survivors of trafficking.

On June 28 and 29, 2023, the first workshop was implemented in person in Bogotá, Colombia, with the participation of 42 officials from 16 national entities competent in the matter. The workshop was co-organized by the OAS, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity of Colombia, and the Interinstitutional Committee for the Fight against Human Trafficking in Colombia; whose support was instrumental for the excellent development of the activity and so that this training instance could be translated into opportunities for action and progress in matters of public policy for the social inclusion of this especially vulnerable group.

The active participation of officials enriched the inter-institutional exchange, as well as the results obtained; concretely identifying possible lines of action to include survivors of trafficking, for example, in active benefits and benefits that would have the potential to transform the reality of these people, addressing some of their most pressing needs.

#### Photos from the workshop in Colombia:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/198681431@N07/albums/72177720309570495>

## People with disabilities

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### Launch of the Regional Disability Observatory

On May 16, 2023, the Regional Disability Observatory was launched, a platform that systematizes the information reported by the OAS member states in their national



reports on compliance with the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Disability 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 (PAD). This platform, which is emerging as the most complete data repository in the Americas, contains data on programs, policies, good practices, and legislation in 15 thematic axes, including health, education, work, political participation, participation in cultural, artistic, recreational, and sports activities; specialized care in cases of emergencies, accessibility, access to justice, personal autonomy and independent living, habilitation and rehabilitation, and legal capacity, among others.

This platform will facilitate the generation of statistics, scientific research, and the formulation of inclusive public policies based on the trends generated by the information it feeds on, coming from government agencies, civil society organizations, and social actors that participate in the preparation of CIADDIS-PAD national reports.

**Results:**

- More than 50 CIADDIS-PAD implementation reports systematized in the same database.
- More than 10 years of information on public policies, legislation, programs and activities in favor of people with disabilities in the region emptied into the observatory.

**Beneficiaries:**

All OAS member states

**Link:**

[OAS-Observatory \(derechos-humanos.io\)](https://derechos-humanos.io)

**Event to Present Experiences on Data Collection on People with Disabilities for the Design of Public Policies with an Intersectional Approach**

On June 14, 2023, the Department of Social Inclusion, together with the World Federation of Deaf People (WDF), and with the support of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations (UN), the Saraki Foundation, and the CBM Global Disability Inclusion, held the event "Experiences on Data Collection on People with Disabilities for the Design of Public Policies with an Intersectional Approach" within the framework of the Sixteenth Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York.

The objective of the event was to present successful initiatives for the collection of data on people with disabilities that have been implemented by the OAS and the WDF at the regional and local level to promote reliable situation diagnoses; to facilitate academic research, evidence-based advocacy; to have a database that is comparable between countries that makes national and regional progress and challenges visible, and to support the formulation of effective public policies.

**Results:**

More than 50 people trained on the subject

**Beneficiaries:**

All OAS Member States (online transmission available to the general public)



## 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 "San Salvador Protocol" 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 group, as established in its regulations, with technical assistance, during its sessions, during its hearings and meetings, in the preparation and review of documents, notes, and publications, and in its relationship with the States Parties to the Protocol and other OAS bodies.

### **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), is made up of 7 experts.

The Working Group successfully held two statutory sessions that the Group must hold annually. The XVI Period of Sessions was held on July 27 and 28, 2023 in Washington, D.C. and the XVII Period of Sessions was held from November 27 to 29 in Guanajuato and in Guadalajara, Mexico.

It should be noted that this was the first time that the Working Group received an invitation from subnational governments to meet in cities outside the capital, which made it possible to bring the ESCER monitoring mechanism closer to governments and civil society at the local level.

### **Technical Assistance and Training:**

In 2023, in compliance with the requests of Colombia and Chile, the GTPSS held training sessions on the ESCER monitoring methodology and guidelines for the preparation of national reports. In this technical assistance, the GTPSS Experts exchanged with officials from the different Ministries and institutions involved in the process of reporting, monitoring, and compliance with ESCER at the national level. This technical assistance constitutes one of the most important activities carried out by the GTPSS to contribute to strengthening the institutional capacities of the States Parties to the Protocol to measure and report progress in compliance with the ESCER.

### **Reception and Evaluation of National Reports and Recommendations to the States Parties:**

During 2023, the Working Group received four national reports corresponding to the fourth reporting cycle for evaluation.

On September 28, 2023, in a session coordinated by the Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the GTPSS delivered its recommendations and observations to the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on its Third National Report.

## Publications:

In 2023, the Working Group prepared the following publications:

[Practical guide for the operationalization of the indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from a transversal perspective on indigenous peoples.](#)

This guide is an instrument that contains suggestions and recommendations based on the progress indicators of the San Salvador Protocol on how to better collect the data that is essential to design and implement effective public policies that improve the living conditions of indigenous peoples. In the Americas.

["Guide for the Operationalization of the Indicators of the San Salvador Protocol from Transversal LGBTI Perspective"](#)

["Study on the regional situation of the right to culture in Latin America,"](#) developed with the support of the University Human Rights Program of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (PUDH-UNAM).

## 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, and 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 OAS Member States in the implementation of these instruments, the SARE DSI 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<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

### 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, 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 people with disabilities, the Department of Social Inclusion, in a coordinated effort with the OAS Member States, has been carrying out activities that promote the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life 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; share 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:

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

### Main results

The main results achieved during 2023 are presented below, in line with the indicated axes.

## **Digitization of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS)**

The Department of Social Inclusion, with the support of the Saraki Foundation, successfully completed the project to digitize the process of submitting national reports on compliance with the CIADDIS, which for three consecutive cycles developed between 2008 and 2021 was carried out manually.

In September 2023, the States that are part of the Convention, were requested to present the Fourth National Compliance Report of the CIADDIS, using for the first time a new platform that will allow the information to be emptied online, on an unprecedented platform that will guide the State that reports on the level of progress in completing the indicators, and will allow you to authorize simultaneous access to various government entities that will be able to support with the emptying of relevant information to complete the 17 thematic axes of the report.

This platform will allow for more precise information on each of the report's indicators and a more detailed evaluation for the reporting State.

### **Results:**

First reporting platform implemented with which it is expected to encourage other mechanisms for monitoring inter-American treaties.

### **Link:**

<https://oea.derechos-humanos.io/public/>

### **Other achievements:**

- Reports on issues in vulnerability situation groups before the Commission on Legal and Political Affairs (CAJP).
- Support to the permanent missions of the OAS in the organization of special sessions on issues of groups in vulnerable situations before the Permanent Council and the CAJP.
- Support to the Office of the Deputy Secretary General in activities for the Inter-American Weeks on Afro-descendants and Indigenous Peoples.

## **Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons**

In 2015, the OAS General Assembly adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of 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, under conditions of equality, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, to contribute to their full inclusion, integration, and participation in society.

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

## Promotion of rights of young people

According to the United Nations report on young people which was published in 2020, the young population represents 16.5% of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>4</sup> 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 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 OAS Member States to strengthen promotion and protection systems to create and promote inclusive policies that allow reducing the situation of vulnerability faced by young people.

## Promotion of 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:

<sup>4</sup> 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>

### ❖ Regional Efforts for LGBTQIA Equality

This event was a webinar and included 2 panels. It was organized by the US Mission to the OAS, the Member States of the LGBTI Central Group of the OAS, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) of the OAS and the OAS LGBTQIA+ Staff Group. The first, titled "Fight Against Anti-LGBTQIA+ Laws," brought together activists who highlighted their work to demand respect for their human rights and fight against bills and laws directed against LGBTQIA+ people. Trans, non-binary, intersex, and gender diverse activists were given priority when sending invitations.

The 2nd panel, titled "Ending 'conversion therapy' Practices in the Region," brought together activists and state representatives to discuss strategies to end so-called conversion therapy practices in the region. The panelists shared reflections on how we can move the hearts and minds of societies so that they stop perceiving human diversity as something that needs to be "cured."

The event helped raise awareness and visibility of the many rights violations that LGBTQIA+ people continue to suffer, as well as the ways in which people are fighting and resisting violence.

Between 60 and 70 people joined the event via zoom during the webinar and others joined us via social media.

#### **Links:**

ENGLISH: [https://fb.watch/lqo\\_1iPxsa/](https://fb.watch/lqo_1iPxsa/)

ESP: <https://fb.watch/lqoYQcxnDo/>

## Program 5:

### Promotion and Expansion of the participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the activities of the OAS 2023

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 OAS activities

The Civil Society Relations Section focused mainly on strengthening the relationship with civil society organizations, other Secretariats and technical areas of the Organization and the Member States. All of this, with the purpose of strengthening and improving the participation of civil society.

The main activity of civil society organizations in the OAS during the year was the 53rd General Assembly of the OAS, which was held in June 2023 in Washington, D.C.. To achieve their participation, the Section:

- Prepared and sent 750+ civil society participation invitations for the 53rd General Assembly of the OAS.
- Facilitated the participation of 400+ people representing civil society in the Assembly.
- Coordinated the participation of 31 civil society representatives in the Dialogue with the Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General and Heads of Delegation, within the framework of the 53rd General Assembly of the OAS.
- Coordinated the participation, as observers, of 150 people in the Plenary sessions of the General Assembly.
- Participated in parallel events held within the framework of the General Assembly, aimed at strengthening participation of the society in OAS activities.

In addition, the Section carried out the following activities during 2023:

- 50+ informative notes on OAS activities sent to civil society organizations.
- 35 analysis of applications for registration of civil society organizations carried out and presented to the CISC. With this, the number of civil society organizations registered with the OAS rose to 685.
- Analysis of composition and participation of the Coalitions in the General Assemblies accomplished.
- 15 training presentations on civil society participation in OAS activities carried out.
- Co-coordination and moderation in the Digital Diploma in Leadership in Social Inclusion and Access to Rights.
- 10 coordination meetings held in follow-up to the cooperation agreement with the Human Rights Clinic of the University of Virginia.
- Five press releases from the office of the Secretary General and Coalitions issued.
- Cooperation meetings held with the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Summits Secretariat, the Institute for Children and Adolescents and the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment.
- Cooperation meeting with counterparts at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund held.
- 20 informative meetings with civil society organizations.
- Update of the Database of CSOs registered with the OAS and the information of all organizations registered on the new website of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity.

## Other activities carried out during 2023 under the program “Cooperation with civil society and other social actors for the promotion of human rights”

### Dialogue with Civil Society and CEDDIS

Within the framework of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) held in Panama from May 15 to 17, 2023, organizations of persons with disabilities registered with the OAS were convened that represent people with disabilities and their families to hold a dialogue with the representatives of the Committee and the General Secretariat of the OAS aimed at receiving proposals from said organizations on the best implementation of the CIADDIS and taking note of the challenges that require the more urgent attention.

More than 20 civil society organizations were represented among the participants in the dialogue, whose interventions were focused mainly on the following topics: women with disabilities, accessible transportation, and inclusive education.

OEA – Inclusión  
@OEA\_Inclusion

Algunas de las #OSC participantes 🇵🇸

@fundasoycapaz

ALAMUD

RELAVIN

Secretaría de las mujeres ciegas de 🇵🇸

Asoc. Nal. de Familiares, amigos y personas con enfermedades mentales

Lucha contra la epilepsia

@BestBuddiesPana

Fund. pro-integración

@anspa14

@Fanlyc

@Fievantateyanda



OEA – Inclusión @OEA\_Inclusion · 17 may, 2023

Fraternidad Cristiana de Personas con Discapacidad

Mesa de análisis de leyes y políticas públicas sobre discapacidad

Asoc. Nal de personas con Discapacidad

Asoc. De estudiantes y egresados ciegos universitarios de Panamá

Agrupación lazos de unión inclusiva familiar



# 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 2023, SARE received 2.27% (US\$1,885,100.00) of the total budget of the Regular Fund of the OAS General Secretariat (US\$82,800,000.00).

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

- Preparation of 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 2023 from Canada, Guyana, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, UNHCR, Latter-Day Saint Charities, CESO Internacional S.A., Italy, Portugal, Korea.

During 2023, the SARE Specific Fund was: \$11,321,045

# 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  
Cuba<sup>1</sup>  
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

<sup>1</sup> 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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@OEA\_SocCivil @OASCivilSociety @SociedadCivilOEA