



**Students'  
Philanthropic  
Foundation**

**PROJECT**

# GIRL NETWORKS

## TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG

### What awaits us

Latin America is considered to be one of the regions with the greatest inequalities in the world. Indigenous girls and young women in particular are often discriminated against because of their age, gender or membership of an indigenous population. Unfortunately, they can hardly voice their concerns to local authorities or governments because there is a lack of appropriate participation structures. They lack the opportunity to draw attention to grievances, such as the lack of access to education, poor job prospects, sexual violence or child marriage, so that these issues can be addressed together.

### What we want to achieve

With this project, we empower indigenous girls and young women to stand up for their rights. They learn to exert influence so that political decision-makers change the framework and give them the opportunity to participate in public decision-making processes. To achieve this goal, we cooperate with local and international partners who are particularly involved in the rights of indigenous young women. In Guatemala, at the local level, these are the youth movement MOJOMAYAS and the indigenous widows' and women's association CONAVIGUA. In Peru, we are working with the Indigenous Women's organization in Chumbivilcas Province and the Center for Indigenous Cultures CHIRAPAQ. Our international partners are the continental network of indigenous women ECMIA and its Commission for Childhood and Adolescence.

In Guatemala, 1,000 young people between the ages of 14 to 18 years and in Peru 1,080 young adults aged 14 to 21 are taking part in the project activities. In addition, as part of the project, we are also supporting 300 indigenous youths and young adults in nine Latin American countries.



### PROJECT COUNTRIES

Guatemala and Peru (In a regional context project work also takes place in Ecuador, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Colombia, Nicaragua and Mexico).

### PROJECT DURATION

February 2018-February 2023

### BUDGET

Guatemala: 2,034,879 €

Peru: 2,082,379 €

Regional Office: 1,100,000€

### PROJECT REGION

**Guatemala:** Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz und Quiché

**Peru:** Cusco und Loreto

### GOALS

- Provide Indigenous girls and young women with the tools and skills to demand their rights and and political participation
- Governments should strengthen participation structures for Indigenous youth, especially girls and young women



Girls and young women want to influence decisions that affect their lives.

## What we do to achieve these goals

### Empowering young people to exert political influence

In training courses, we provide young people - including many of girls and young women - with the knowledge they need to advance equal rights. They learn to reflect critically on social and gender-specific roles and to discuss them with their parents, community members and local decision-makers, as well as to exert political influence.

### Focus on key topics

Together with the girls and young women, we develop plans in which we determine the important issues for which they would want to become politically involved. We then determine how these plans will be implemented and which partners should be involved in the political influence work. These advocacy plans begin at the community level and through advocacy groups for girls and women they reach regional and national decision makers. .

### Raising public awareness

In order to eliminate stereotypes and role attributions that limit girls and young women in the realization of their projects, we organize dialog events in the social environment of the girls and women. In particular, parents are to support the children and value their work for more political participation. In addition, together with these youths, we plan and implement actions and information campaigns on the topic of child marriage and the problems of discrimination and stigmatization of indigenous cultures. In this way, the public will become more aware of the rights of women, girls and indigenous peoples and rethinking these issues within society can be initiated.

## Create participation structures

We actively involve local authorities and governments in our work. Together with them and local youths, we identify the factors that hinder their political participation.. We then conduct training sessions to show how important it is for young people to participate in public and political processes. In the next step, we work together on ways in which fixed mechanisms and participation structures for young people can be created.

### Empowering girls and their networks

In order to improve the opportunities for indigenous youth and young women, we work with the indigenous associations and organizations MOJOMAYAS, CONAVIGUA and CHIRAPAQ. Above all, we promote the work of the youth and young women in networks, so that they can work effectively and sustainably for their political participation. On an international level, we strengthen the work of indigenous women in the ECMIA network, so that they are more involved in decision-making processes and in international committees, networks and discussions.

## Review and evaluation of the project activities

Throughout the duration of the project, regular meetings with the young people are held to discuss the progress of the project, exchange experiences gained, and make necessary corrections in the implementation of the chosen measures. Halfway through the project an internal review of the project's progress takes place and an external evaluation is carried out at the end of the project.

## Help with a Donation

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