



Photograph by Stephen Ferry. "Parir en tierra ajena" report.
Journalistic special "Salud en el Exilio".
Available on CDR [LINK](#)

LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY - LHSS

November 2020 – November 2021

Through the LHSS project, a project funded by USAID Colombia, Internews contributed to strengthening the governance and management of the health response for migrants by strengthening community information and communication strategies.

Why does participatory and community communication matter?

Communication pieces produced by community media and filmmakers are important **because they highlight issues that other media and institutions have overlooked**. These pieces **facilitate safe and inclusive access to information** for marginalized populations, such as indigenous and migrant populations. In addition, they strengthen the information ecosystem to the extent **that communities can see themselves represented in high-quality productions**, with clear references to their culture, language, and landscapes, which does not happen frequently in traditional mass media.

Furthermore, journalists paid particular attention to the focus on health and migration that shaped the technical assistance activities. To improve the quality of the reports, **the participants had included quality parameters such as "fact-checking" to avoid misinformation**. They also mentioned the inclusion of health and migration issues in their media and **the creation of support networks between journalists and community media**.

Both achievements were reached by implementing two activities:

Activity 1:

Information Needs Assessment (INA) in Bogotá, Cundinamarca and La Guajira

The INA shows how people and communities consume, share, value, and trust information in their local contexts. This assessment takes into account the information produced and consumed at the community and local levels. This project specifically inquired about the information Venezuelan migrants need to access the Colombian health system in Bogotá, Cundinamarca, and La Guajira.

The final report brings together the responses of

668 people

who participated in surveys, interviews, and focus groups during the first quarter of 2021

Some of the main findings/recommendations are presented below:

The perception of trust impacts

access to information: When institutions or NGOs are considered trustworthy by the community, migrant community participation increases, and barriers to information access reduce.

Migrants' priorities are inherent to the kind of information they seek out:

Health is not a top tier priority, but work opportunities, housing, and livelihoods are considered priorities. Some features of housing and livelihoods solutions also affect migrants' access to information.

Improving access to official information

on COVID-19: The State should improve its communication practices to facilitate access to information regarding the migrant regularization process and to gain the trust of this population. This could also be an opportunity to deliver better information on COVID-19 and the vaccination program.



Photograph by Stephen Ferry.
"Los cuadernos salvavidas de Yanosky Semprun" report.
Available on CDR [LINK](#)

Technical Assistance to Local Media in Bogota, Cundinamarca, and La Guajira

Technical assistance included training activities for communities in audio and video, training for journalists, provision of technical equipment, and support for the creation of content under a participatory media approach. The main objective of this approach was to **involve the community in the creation of the materials and thus a safe space to share feelings and knowledge that were representative of their lived experiences**. Through these activities, 5 radio stations, 12 community media sources and 7 groups of filmmakers produced 18 radio products, 11 journalistic reports, and 7 short films on health and migration.



Editing process,
Wayuulab

Participant organizations:



24 organizations
5 radio stations
12 community media
7 groups of filmmakers

Participants:



140 participants
77 women
63 men

Products:



10 radio spots
8 radio shows



7 short films
10 journalistic reports



12 workshops
1 media plan



14 unexpected products
 (journalistic articles and reports; YouTube videos)



+4000 online reproductions

Development of communication strategies and content for migration and health access for the Wayuu people

WayuuLab was established in 2019 as an initiative of the Wayuu Communications Network to train members of the Wayuu community in cinematography. In 2021, the LHSS project and Internews supported the second edition of WayuuLab, in which 15 Wayuu filmmakers produced 7 short films on health and migration in La Guajira.

Duplicada (Duplicate),

one of the short films, narrates the experience of Mrs. Leonida Koen Epieyu, a Colombian woman who emigrated to Venezuela and returned recently to Colombia.



“Duplicada” poster, Wayuulab Shortfilm [LINK](#)

In addition, the short film **Pa’inwashi** had an impact in the communities that had not received attention from Colombian Migration Office (Migración Colombia).



Filming process of “Pa’inwashi, Wayuulab Shortfilm [LINK](#)

The problem:

The Colombian State duplicated the identity and the name of Leonida by giving her two IDs with different names. Given the multiplicity of IDs and her status as a returned citizen, she had not been able to access the necessary health services to treat her chronic condition.

The solution:

Thanks to the dissemination of the short film and the conversations held during its filming with the entities in charge of both identification documents and health services, Mrs. Leonida received a single ID with her real name and access to the requested services.

The context:

Shared at the Wayuu Film Festival, this film shows a female organization in one community aiming to guarantee access to health for their families and their community.

The solution:

According to community, Migración Colombia carried out an activity after the film was shared to provide documents and requirements for documentation for migrants.



Mentory Sessions for Community Media Network , CDR
Wayúu Communications Network Training

Training as a stimulus: the production of community communication pieces

Journalists and representatives from local media who participated in Internews' supported trainings produced at least 14 unexpected communication pieces.

One of these pieces is the special, **"Migración. Historias en pequeñas voces" (Migration. Stories through children's voices)**. One of the journalists who took part in the workshop titled, **"A journalistic look at the right to health of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia,"** produced the special, which collects the stories of children and adolescents who crossed the border between Venezuela and Colombia. Other pieces by the participating journalists include journalistic reports that denounce access to health services and booklets to journalists on strategies to address health, migration, and environmental issues.