

FINAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

THE POWER OF TRUST

Countering Vaccine Hesitancy and
Misinformation in Bolivia, Colombia,
and Peru

INDEX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
KEY NUMBERS	4
HIGHLIGHTED IMPACTS	7
DETAILED REPORT:	9
I. CONTEXT	16
II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES:	10
A) GLOBAL	11
B) PER COUNTRY	12
III. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED	18
CONTACT	20



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Internews designed “The Power of Trust” to strengthen intercultural health networks and provide information to build trust around COVID-19 vaccines. Over 11 months, Internews and local partners continuously listened to the information needs of the communities. In response, we developed forums in conjunction with knowledgeable health professionals and promoted media coverage of topics based on feedback in partner meetings and reports. Partners maintained ongoing relationships with Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural, last-mile, and marginalized communities with insufficient health care, building capacities of local media sources and communicators to increase access to COVID-19 information.

Internews collaborated with local partners, community communicators and media sources to adapt project activities to priority community needs. As a result, co-created sessions actively centered participants, were in local languages, used cultural codes specific to each community, and focused on context-specific concerns. In addition, Internews helped facilitate discussion spaces for community members to build dialogue with health experts to bridge gaps across Western and traditional medicine in addressing COVID-19 and other health issues.

As the pandemic evolved, Internews also identified changing health priorities among focus communities and adapted trainings to mitigate the perceived changes, allowing project participants within these communities to more effectively reduce the spread of rumors related to COVID, vaccines, and other emerging health crises. Weekly radio programs on platforms like local Indigenous radio Radio Waira in Putumayo, Colombia incorporated intercultural approaches to discussing health topics to build trust. Furthermore, “The Power of Trust” also equipped community members in Bolivia and Peru with tools to self-sustain critical communication systems amidst rising emergencies and crises. Previously disconnected Indigenous communities in these countries learned to install and maintain high frequency radios, and seven Indigenous communities at risk of disappearance now have methods to coordinate care with other community leaders and request urgent medical attention during emergencies. Ultimately, community members shared that the project left them with sustainable capacities to produce journalistic content and to identify priority topics for health communication initiatives in their territories. They also built new connections through Internews' HJN, an international health journalism network, for continuous support and updated resources.

KEY NUMBERS

1,320,534

estimated beneficiaries reached

+1,681

journalists, communicators, collectives and social leaders developed critical knowledge to disseminate accurate information on public health issues

102

participants trained in project focus countries through health and communication course

276*

journalists, communicators and leaders trained in communication skills

101

content pieces created relevant to local communities

20% Youth (13-19 years old)

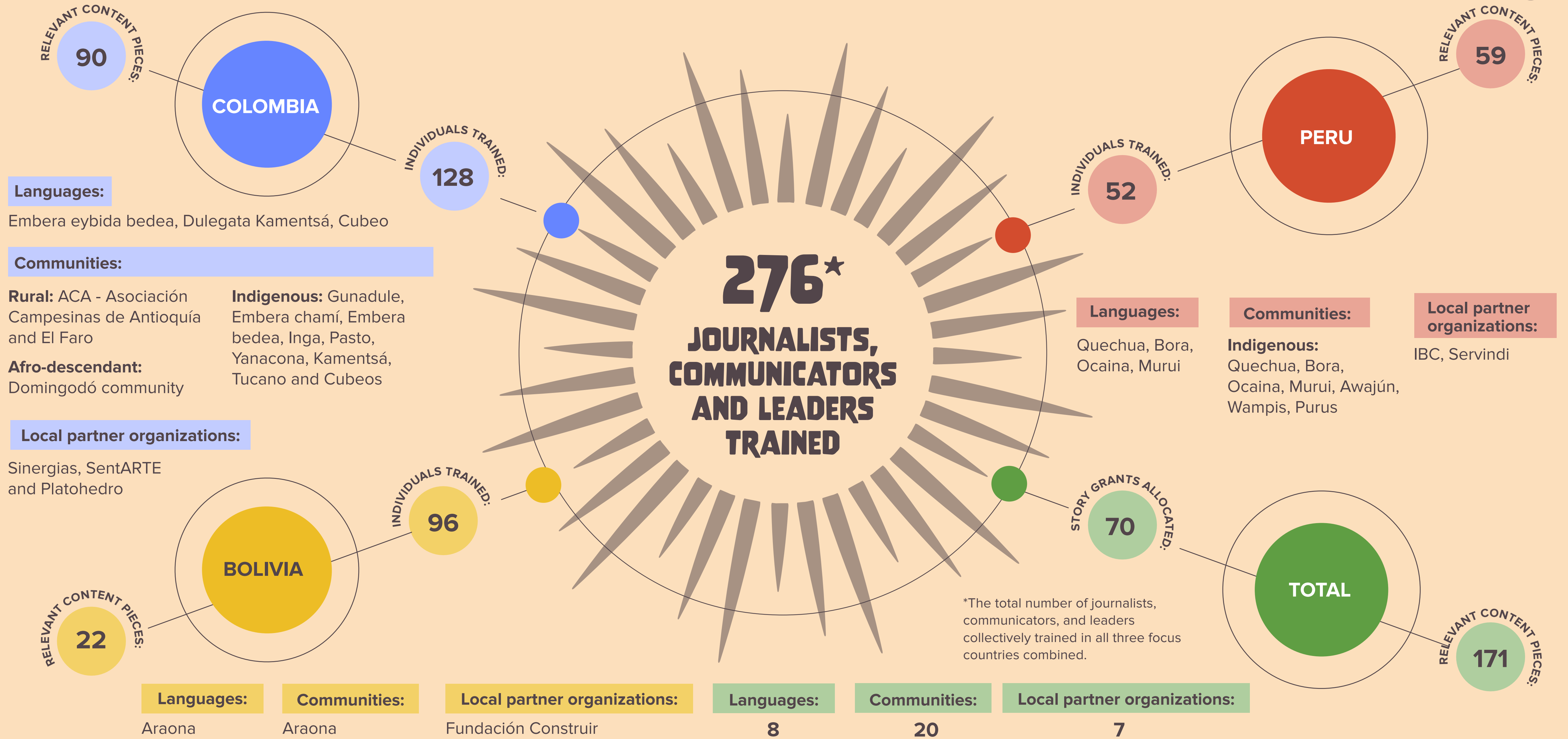
80% People who are a racial/ethnic minority in that community

1% LGBTQ+ communities

1% Inmigrants

*The total number of journalists, communicators, and leaders collectively trained in all three focus countries combined.







Eight remote, previously disconnected communities in Peru and Bolivia gained access to a life-saving communications platform through High Frequency (HF) radio installation workshops.

Four workshops for members of Indigenous Araona communities, which are in danger of disappearing due to minimal health services, learned about the operation and maintenance of HF radio systems. After this project, 50% of the Araona territory is now equipped with HF radio access. Indigenous community members installed radios in four communities in Putumayo, Peru and on the border with Colombia, as well as in the Araona territory in Bolivia. With technical knowledge to sustainably maintain HR radios, communities in Peru and Bolivia that previously lacked communications tools are now prepared to resiliently face urgent health emergencies provoked by COVID-19 to ensure their lasting livelihoods.



More than 1,681 journalists, communicators, collectives and social leaders across Bolivia, Colombia and Peru developed critical knowledge to disseminate accurate information on public health issues.

This number reflects 100% of the project's initial target. Through five virtual "Claves de Salud," or "Keys of Health" events, attendees built a foundational understanding of public health topics such as COVID-19, vaccination, mental health and monkeypox. Speakers included specialists, journalists and Indigenous sages whose work connected to the health contexts of Indigenous territories. As a result of these events, journalists, communicators, collectives and social leaders grew empowered to raise awareness among community members about rising public health emergencies in their territories.



Total number of journalists from Peru, Bolivia and Colombia participating in Internews' HJN increased by 45% following the start of "The Power of Trust."

Before the project, there were 138 members registered from Bolivia (12), Colombia (103), and Peru (23). At the project's end, the number of members registered increased to 251 in total from project focus countries with the following breakdown: Bolivia (85), Colombia (22), and Peru (6).



One hundred communicators from marginalized communities connected with international experts through training to exchange contextually relevant health knowledge.

In these courses, participants established new connections with doctors and other communicators interested in the region's issues, drawing landmark attention to project focus communities' critical health needs for the first time. The courses were titled "Health Training on Covering Vaccination Topics" (in June 2022, with 50 participants from Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia) and "How to Report Public Health Emergencies Caused by Infectious Diseases" (in September 2022, with 52 communicators from all three focus countries). Participants in the September course emphasized the prior lack of health information capacity-building initiatives with an intercultural approach available for communicators in South America.

WHAT HAVE THE COMMUNITIES ACHIEVED UNDER THIS PROJECT?

In Bolivia's Araona territory, HF radios now offer one of the only means of communication for community members to request critical medical attention and exchange information, reducing the likelihood of community disappearance.

The CDP-supported installations came at a crucial moment to ensure that Araona communities are not only prepared to respond to ongoing challenges, such as COVID-19, but are also well positioned to prevent future crises and to strengthen their economic livelihoods through access to good information and points of contact. By accessing a direct line of communication with health experts at the Sena Hospital (in the Department of Pando), Araona communities are now able to receive life-saving responses to urgent health emergencies without any reliance on the State or outside support.



Support for Radio Waira enabled Indigenous community radio stations to strengthen capacities for long-term sustainability.

Internews helped devise a strategy to assist Radio Waira in facing government penalties. The station is one of the few remaining Indigenous community radios in the region, and most that exist cannot offer 24-hour broadcasting due to government sanctions. The State requires radios to pay for proprietary software licenses and pay other organizations to collect and distribute royalties for musical content, making operation unfeasible. Radio Waira is the only Indigenous radio and media platform covering emergencies in the Putumayo region, providing vital information to Indigenous listeners during crises. To extend Radio Waira's reach, Internews supported the station in building an alliance for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and other vulnerable communicators from various regions of Colombia to publicize their journalistic content and bring visibility to their communities. During the last months of the "Power of Trust" project, Radio Waira broadcast audio content created through project trainings in their daily schedule and co-produced three radio shows that included the voices of participants, local partners, and Internews staff. These collaborations will ensure Radio Waira can sustainably continue programming moving forward and prepare communities that often lack attention from the State to confront health and environmental challenges independently in the future.



HJN vaccine training motivated Bolivian radio with approximately 800,000 listeners to prioritize health programming and inspired subsequent partnership with UNICEF.

Thanks to the HJN's training on COVID-19 vaccination, [Radio Santa Cruz](#), a radio with an estimated audience of 800,000 listeners, decided to incorporate health as a key focus of its institutional framework. While Radio Santa Cruz was not a subgrantee under "The Power of Trust," they produced content for Indigenous communities through project grants. This experience enabled them to develop the critical expertise necessary to then partner with UNICEF in a new project to produce disease prevention materials in Indigenous languages to reach vulnerable communities. This new initiative was unanticipated and indicates this project's lasting role in increasing the availability of accurate, independently produced health reporting in Bolivia.

Published report motivated advocacy for a more inclusive political agenda to improve medical care and COVID-related emergency response for Awajún and Purús communities in Peru.

Servindi conducted a study on the health situation of the Wampis, Awajún and Purús peoples, leading the Ombudsman's Office in Peru in Amazonas to elevate public concern through their website. They published a note advocating for the Regional Health Directorate to address the critical conditions of the Santa María de Nieva Hospital that serves the Awajún and Wampís communities, explaining that the hospital "still does not have an ICU, in addition to problems with electricity in the operating room and lack of basic equipment." This diagnosis highlighted the lack of resources and State attention available for Indigenous communities in Peru, motivating the Awajún community to strengthen its health networks to guarantee equitable access to community health services in the communities and increase trust in reliable information. The health diagnosis also strengthened Servindi's relationship with Purús communities after the Peruvian State suspended all flights to the territory in July 2022, making access completely unfeasible and forcing Purús community members who could not return to their homes in Purús to flee to Brazil. In response, Servindi documented the health emergency they faced and advocated for a response from Peruvian ministries. With support from "The Power of Trust," Servindi has provided critical information access and raised awareness about the Purús inhabitants' pressing needs as this situation has remained ongoing.

Afro-descendant and rural communities representing migrant or host communities in the Darien Gap region established initial, culturally relevant health and communications initiatives tailored to their information needs.

Internews began building crucial relationships with last-mile Afro-descendant, indigenous and rural communities in the Antioquia regions of Chocó and Urabá. These areas are highly affected by the Venezuelan migration crisis and recently experienced many deaths, infrastructure damage, and temporary and permanent displacements due to the March-June 2022 rainy season. At the beginning of November, Colombia's national government declared a state of emergency due to heavy rains in the country. Now, participants in "The Power of Trust" have reported their reliance on the communication skills they learned to organize their communities for emergency response in territories often forgotten by the State. These territories require priority attention due to their intersecting health, migration, and environmental crises, highlighting the importance of continuing the efforts initiated under "The Power of Trust" moving forward.



I. CONTEXT

BOLIVIA



Bolivian government faced resistance to COVID-19 vaccination from extreme religious groups and Indigenous communities, emphasizing key role of trustworthy communications platforms:

At the start of 2021, Bolivia faced an intense fourth wave of COVID-19 cases, leading the government to require a vaccination card or proof of a negative PCR test to enter government buildings and public institutions. While this requirement quickly rose vaccination rates in one of the countries with the lowest rates in Latin America, it also sparked pushback among religious groups and Indigenous communities in particular. Mis- and disinformation about vaccines circulated on social networks, contributing to the rise of violence targeting vulnerable and marginalized communities. In remote, Indigenous communities such as the Araona territory, a focus area in “The Power of Trust,” neither COVID-19 vaccines nor reliable public health information was reaching community members due to their isolated location and lack of connectivity. As public health emergencies continued to rise, the need for communications platforms like High Frequency radios grew increasingly urgent.

COLOMBIA



National election campaigns posed security risks for vulnerable and marginalized communities but built hope for more inclusive future policies:

In the period leading up to Colombia’s national elections in May 2022, physical security risks heightened due to political tensions, inhibiting travel in project areas, mainly the region of Antioquia. Meanwhile, hate speech and disinformation circulated at high rates, targeting vulnerable and marginalized communities. Local partners had to quickly adapt to protect the safety of participants and opted to re-schedule originally planned activities in order to maintain a diverse participant pool with lower risk levels

following the elections. However, the results of Colombia’s run-off election in June 2022 established hope for marginalized communities, as Gustavo Petro (President) and Francia Marquez (Afro-descendant, female Vice President) ran on promises of sizeable health, agricultural and tax reforms. Following the run-off election, safety levels improved in project focus areas, enabling partners to equip Afro-descendent, Indigenous and rural communities in Colombia with the tools to autonomously access life-saving health information moving forward.

PERU



Disparate COVID-19 vaccination rates between Peru’s Indigenous communities and general population highlighted critical need for health information access in native languages.:

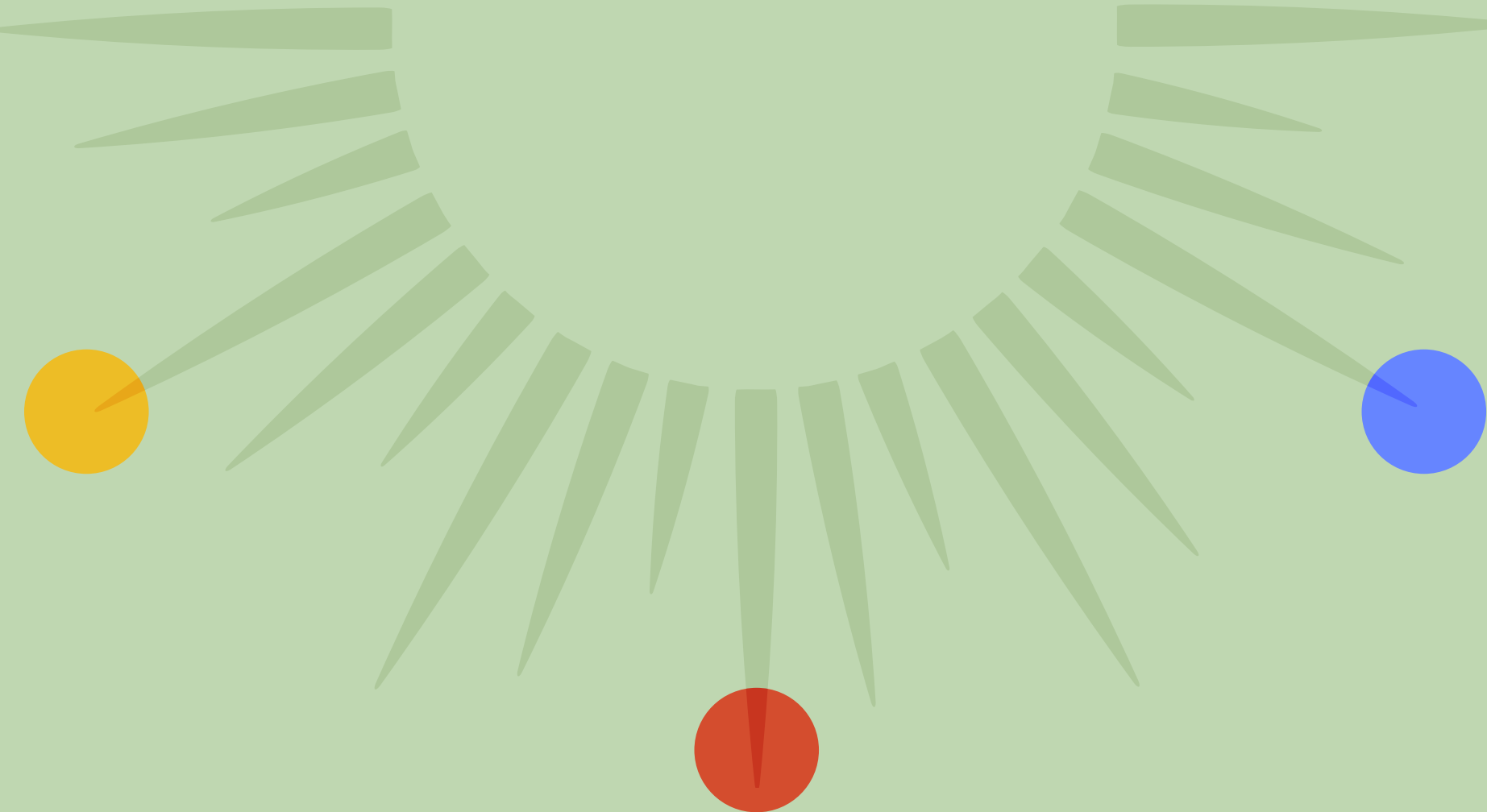
Although Peru documented an 85% two-dose vaccination rate for the country’s overall population in 2021, wide gaps emerged in the rates for Indigenous and youth populations. In Indigenous Amazonian communities, the two-dose vaccination rate was less than 53%, according to open data from the Ministry of Health. Similarly, the two-dose vaccination rate for youth between 5 and 11 years old was less than 60%. Although Peru emerged as one of the first countries in Latin America to reach a national two-dose vaccination rate of 70%, the gaps in rates among specific communities have highlighted the need for the Ministry of Health to reconsider their vaccine information campaign strategies with Indigenous community priorities at the forefront. According to the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (known as AIDSEP for its name in Spanish), more accessible information about the benefits and side effects of COVID-19 vaccines in culturally relevant formats is crucial to developing trust with Indigenous communities that had especially low vaccination rates. This need highlighted the critical role of communications platforms like High Frequency radios installed through “The Power of Trust” to equipping remote Indigenous communities with the quality information necessary to protect themselves against health threats like COVID-19



II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Internews designed “The Power of Trust” to strengthen intercultural health networks and provide information to build trust around COVID-19 vaccines. Internews identified changing health priorities among focus communities and adapted trainings to mitigate the perceived changes, allowing project participants within these communities to reduce the spread of rumors more effectively. Ultimately, community members shared that the project left them with sustainable capacities to produce journalistic content and to identify priority topics for health communication initiatives in their territories.

A) GLOBAL



INTERCULTURAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

empower communities to face rising emergencies and disasters

Internews has succeeded in generating a pioneering dialogue with Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural communities on health issues through the Internews Health Journalism Network (HJN)'s "Claves de Salud" series, a space to explain complex health concepts and scientific news to communities while promoting dialogues between traditional and Western medicine. These events mark one of the first initiatives in the world to center Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural community worldviews in public health discussions with an intercultural approach.



After completing four initially planned events, members of **marginalized communities who attended requested more information** on diseases beyond COVID-19. In response, Internews team members and the HJN coordinated a talk on monkeypox, a rising health emergency that exacerbated the mis/disinformation crisis among communities already lacking adequate health information during the pandemic. Titled “Monkeypox: What Do We Know So Far?,” becoming the most viewed video in the “Claves de Salud” series.

Internews’ HJN expands accessibility of resources following feedback from project participants: To more effectively reach Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural communicators in the region, Internews’ Health Journalism Network (HJN) began developing a

resource portion of their website in Spanish. A version is currently available to enable more Spanish-speaking communicators, journalists, and content creators to access health and journalism-related information. Many of these resources were developed through initiatives under this project, contributing to HJN’s increased membership in Latin America. Internews is also now finalizing an initiative to categorize resources that relate to the concept of One Health, based on the idea that the health of humans, animals, and the environment is interconnected, as an approach to mitigate mis/disinformation. These resources will ensure that focused communities have better access to linguistically and culturally relevant information to strengthen their communities’ health long-term.

B) PER COUNTRY



BOLIVIA

In Bolivia, Internews worked with Fundación Construir to build a strategy for working with Araona communities to expand their knowledge of issues related to human rights and health. Fundación Construir and Rhizomática has also provided technical training in HF radio installations and maintenance, equipping Araona community members to maintain their own communication platform to request assistance during health emergencies for the first time.



“We brought it [the HF radio] from Riberalta after traveling for four days. When we installed it, all of us who live in the community of Chacra were present. We [cut a stick to use for the antenna], we installed it, we took out the radio, we put it on the table, then [we connected] the cables to the battery, and then we turned it on.”

-- Santos Matahua. President of the Araona Territory, Vice President of the Central De Pueblos Indígenas de La Paz (CPILAP).

High Frequency (HF) radios represent the only form of communication to request support in health emergencies for vulnerable and at-risk communities in Bolivia.

Four HF radios are now operating as a result of “The Power of Trust” (one in Riberalta and four in the following Araona communities: Puerto Araona, Chacra, and Barrero), meaning that 50% of the Araona territory is now equipped with HF radio access. In Bolivia, Rhizomatica offered three-day training sessions on radio installation and maintenance for ten members of the Araona Indigenous communities. Rhizomatica held sessions in Riberalta, the nearest city to the Araona Territory. Those trained were then able to replicate similar workshops in their communities for 22 additional people, expanding the network of individuals capable of installing and maintaining radios.

“I know where the battery goes, where the radio goes, and how you have to take out the screws, how the antenna has to be installed—all those little things.”

-- Santos Matahua. President of the Araona Territory.



In the Araona territory, an HF radio is now operating, allowing the community to send alerts about critical health emergencies and expand their information access.

After this process, Internews helped community communicators and journalists document the lack of vaccine access among Araona community members, underscoring the critical importance of expanding available health information. In response to the lack of adequate health information, Bolivian communicators and media journalists received training from Internews’ HJN, enabling them to produce 22 materials in Spanish and Quechua describing strategies for communities to prevent viruses and deal with health problems exacerbated by COVID-19. Chequea Bolivia and national media outlet El Deber also published articles highlighting the lack of vaccine access for Araona communities, including in cities like Riberalta, which has more than 99,000 inhabitants. As exemplified by publications in both national and Indigenous media sources, efforts to increase relevant health and vaccine information in accessible languages remain key to mitigating the Araonas’ risk of disappearance and supporting their basic health rights.

COLOMBIA

Internews implemented project activities in Colombia together with local partners Sinergias, SentARTE and Platohedro, which focus on addressing the needs of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural and last-mile communities. Sinergias has worked with Indigenous peoples on issues such as the SISPI (Sistema Indígena de Salud Propio Intercultural), a system that combines traditional and Western medicine by respecting Indigenous world views, which has also been the basis for training and meeting spaces in communications and health. Through this approach, Internews has built collaborative connections between communities that suffer from poor connectivity and limited health care, ensuring that communications content stems from a diverse, intercultural approach.

“In this workshop, I understood that health is not only not being sick; health covers many issues. Communication is an integral part of health; if we base our care on misinformation, we’ll get sick.”

--Luz Maria Agreda, a 48-year-old Indigenous Camentsá participant



Community participants developed radio show that prepares communities to face long-term critical health emergencies.

In Colombia, partners worked primarily with last-mile communities with little-to-no internet connectivity. From January to February 2021, Sinergias developed a community health journalism manual to implement trainings and expand participant inclusivity in communication tools workshops. As a result of Sinergia’s trainings, community participants are now presenting a local radio program broadcast on Radio Waira, an Indigenous community radio station in Mocoa, Putumayo, which regularly reaches 500,000 listeners, including in the Peruvian Putumayo and part of Ecuador. The program is hosted by Indigenous community members who established dialogues with health experts and local government officials following the Health Journalism Network’s “Claves de Salud” events, expanding access to information infrequently available in traditional media. By drawing on resources such as the manual, podcasts produced under other Internews projects, and audios created during this project, radio presenters are raising awareness about critical health issues among diverse audiences.

Twenty diverse COVID-19 and health-related stories from five Indigenous towns inspired the creation of an Amazonian journalist network in the Colombian Putumayo.

Sinergias provided health reporting grants and mentorship to Indigenous, Afro-Descendant, and vulnerable community members, enabling participants to produce 20 content pieces (including videos, audios, photographs, and text-based articles) about COVID-19 and other pressing health issues. In addition to providing financial assistance for content production, Sinergias supported the grantees for two months with mentorship during their research and production phases. National media outlet El Espectador published one of the pieces created through the project's fellowships, marking a notable opportunity to report in the Amazon through the project's deep community engagement with Indigenous communicators in last-mile territories. Thanks to the fellowships, Sinergias and Internews also facilitated community conversations about the possibility of creating a local communication group in Putumayo to continue covering local and Indigenous health issues. The group is currently applying for various local-level grants and fellowships, such as through the MINTIC (Ministerio de Cultura de Colombia) and Internews' Earth Journalism Network (EJN), to enable further content production. Now, Indigenous communicators have a direct link to a national media outlet to bring visibility to their communities' issues, expand access to life-saving information in the future, and build dialogue with traditional media journalists about effective strategies for covering community health priorities.



Workshops in Colombia raised awareness about community representation in media outlets and key community health issues.

Opening a conversation about the lack of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural representation in Colombian media outlets, workshop participants stated they did not feel included in traditional media and identified the importance of narrating their own stories and sharing their worldviews at a national level. In response, Colombian partners Platohedro, SentARTE, and Sinergias developed 20 workshops on audio, video, and social media content production with an intercultural approach. According to participants, this was one of the first time Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural communities accessed workshops and content creation sessions that prioritized approaches to covering health issues grounded in their worldviews. Participants especially highlighted the opportunity to learn from journalists from other regions (including those of non-Indigenous or Afro-descendant backgrounds) and discuss storytelling strategies for representing their communities outside of their territories. This exchange established a basis for more inclusive and respectful representation of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural communities in Colombian national media, marking a key shift for the future.



PERÚ

In Peru, Internews worked with partners Servindi and IBC in the Loreto region. IBC specifically works with Bora and Quechua Indigenous communities to build their capacities in audio production and HF radio use, equipping them to face health emergencies with an intercultural approach. Servindi is working with Awajún, Purús and Wampis Indigenous communities to develop a health diagnostic report examining the impact of COVID-19 in the communities. This diagnostic will subsequently equip authorities to effectively address the most pressing health needs and identify areas most in need of medical attention.



“In Putumayo, we don’t have cellular lines [or a way to call me on a] cellular phone [...]. For example, during the time that the river floods, we have diseases like diarrhea, dengue, and malaria, [but] through this radio, we are going to have a great [mechanism] to connect with our base.”

-- Edison Rodríguez, President of the Federation of Native Border Communities of Putumayo.



HF radio installation workshops equip Peruvian Indigenous communities to independently address health emergencies for the first time and create crisis response network.

In Peru, communities were already participating in an installation process, so Rhizomatica offered training directly in their territories. Thirty Indigenous community members now understand the basic principles of installations and are prepared to replicate similar trainings in other communities that lack connectivity. Four HF radios were installed in Bagazán, Puerto Elvira, Santa Lucía, and Maridicai (the closest community to emergency services). HF radio systems are widely used in nearby areas, so Peruvian Indigenous communities were able to connect with the Federation of Indigenous Communities of the Lower Putumayo (FECOIBAP), thus generating an extensive communication network to respond resiliently to health emergencies like COVID-19.

In Peru, IBC supported a group of national media journalists and local communicators in El Estrecho to create stories about their community realities with a One Health approach, bringing visibility to the intersectional nature of their communities' most pressing issues.

Through IBC, national media outlets [Mongabay](#) and [Ojo Público](#), AIDSEP, and an independent journalist gained access to border communities in El Estrecho, Putumayo to narrate their realities and work with four local communicators from the following communities: 8 de diciembre, Maridicai, Puerto Aurora and Nuevo Horizonte. The local communicators and national media outlets brought visibility to the increase in violence and lack of essential services in these communities following COVID-19. In addition, [Mongabay](#) and [Ojo Público](#) published materials detailing how High Frequency (HF) radios have helped communities coordinate life-saving health care and described how a new highway construction would affect the territory. This was the first time that outlets such as [Mongabay](#) gained access to these communities and the first opportunity for young communicators to receive journalistic guidance through a new network equipped to provide accurate information on health, education, and violence-related issues facing vulnerable Indigenous communities. With this collaborative approach, national media outlets and local communities will now be able to coordinate to draw greater attention to community health needs that previously lacked visibility in mainstream media.



Four Indigenous communicators from FECONAFROPU received training in radio production to become the Federation's official communicators.

Three men and one woman from 8 de diciembre, Maridicai, Puerto Aurora and Nuevo Horizonte participated in two of IBC's in-person workshops in El Estrecho, receiving audio production equipment that will enable them to become community reporters in their territories. The communicators will broadcast their materials in community spaces through tools such as radio loudspeakers, which provide daily announcements and capture the full attention of El Estrecho's 8,000 inhabitants in an accessible format. Indigenous leaders are also seeking out local media sources that will allow young people to disseminate stories recounting their communities' realities more widely and provide critical information about pressing health emergencies.



III. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED



Lack of reliable connectivity required hybrid formats to effectively engage last-mile communities.

Marginalized communities in project focus countries continue to need more consistent access to online platforms and technological equipment, making digital platforms challenging to use for training processes. Particularly in Colombia, a notable digital gap appears between urban and remote communities, causing significant variance in participants' levels of connectivity and availability. Given this scenario, Internews offered both virtual meetings that allowed participants to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in their communities, as well as short audios on WhatsApp to ensure participants could access materials asynchronously. Local partners also sent USB drives with these audio recordings to territories and in-person project close-out sessions to disseminate them over loudspeaker radios, on local radio stations, and in meetings. With diverse format options, trainings became accessible to community members with varying levels of connectivity and facilitated widespread access to life-saving information about the pandemic.



Trainings adapted to local contexts of Araona community members vital to promoting trust in COVID-19 vaccination.

During the pandemic, Araona Indigenous communities in Bolivia lacked access to fact-based information about COVID-19 and, in turn, expressed mistrust in vaccines. Little information about vaccination had reached their territory, and some members heard rumors that vaccines could cause sterility or death while traveling to Riberalta, the nearest city. Araona communities responded negatively to forceful vaccine advocacy, so trainings focused on strategies to ensure health rights rather than promoting vaccination. Vaccine communication processes co-created with Araona community leaders, who had already developed the trust of their territories, proved much more successful in accounting for communities' localized contexts.

MOVING FORWARD



i. Communities highlighted their critical need for information about health and social services to support migrants.

Rising numbers of Venezuelan, Haitian and African migrants in Colombia have intensified the urgent need for trusted information about health and social services in formats accessible to migrants. These priorities underscore the critical necessity to expand reliable communications platforms for marginalized and vulnerable communities in focus countries.



ii. Afro-descendant, Indigenous and rural communities representing migrant or host communities in the Darien Gap region established initial, culturally relevant health and communications initiatives tailored to their information needs.

Internews began building crucial relationships with last-mile Afro-descendant and rural communities in the Antioquia regions of Chocó and Uraba. These areas are highly affected by the Venezuelan migration crisis and recently experienced many deaths, infrastructure damage, and temporary and permanent displacements due to the March-June 2022 rainy season. At the beginning of November, Colombia's national government declared a state of emergency due to heavy rains in the country. Now, participants in "The Power of Trust" have reported their reliance on the communication skills they learned to organize their communities for emergency response in territories often forgotten by the State. These territories require priority attention due to their intersecting health, migration, and environmental crises, highlighting the importance of continuing the efforts initiated under "The Power of Trust" moving forward.



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