

PARTNERING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT IN WORLD BANK PROJECTS

The World Bank is committed to ensuring the development process fully respects the dignity, economies, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples Policy is a key part of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguards, however, engagement by World Bank projects and Programs could be improved based on broader knowledge of how to apply Indigenous Peoples' rights. In support of this critical agenda, the NTF funded four grants in 2016 which aim to enhance knowledge on Indigenous Peoples' human rights, particularly in World Bank operational work through engagements in Africa, Latin America, and East Asia, and through direct engagement with Indigenous Peoples themselves to develop sectoral guidance notes for the World Bank and other development partners.

Grants to the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory function and other teams at the World Bank have focused on enhancing staff awareness of Indigenous Peoples' human rights and how these relate to their work. This has included a series of workshops at the global and regional level on international standards related to Indigenous Peoples, as well as direct input on operational work to strengthen the consideration of Indigenous rights and the challenges they face and to encourage the adoption of a human rightsbased project approach.

With the support of the NTF, the World Bank has also worked with Indigenous leaders in Latin America, human rights experts, government representatives, and sectoral specialists to develop concrete guidance on how to operationalize Indigenous Peoples' rights in health, education, natural resources, and rural development projects. Through this project Indigenous Peoples have taken a leading role in articulating their rights in operational terms based on good practice. Using human rights lenses, rights holders and duty bearers have been brought together to translate broader principles into operational guidance. Sectoral guidance notes have



A member of the Tariana tribe in the Amazon region of Brazil. Photo: © Julio Pantaja / World Bank

been developed which identify key Indigenous rights in each sector, barriers to their realization, and specific steps to overcoming these barriers based on good practice experiences from Latin America.

This project was designed, developed, and is being implemented jointly with a Latin American network of Indigenous organizations, "Foro Indígena Abya Yala" (FIAY), and has been part of the World Bank's strategic engagement and dialogue with Indigenous organizations in Latin America over the past three years. It has not only strengthened FIAY as a regional organization and built their capacities to develop and implement joint projects, but has also reinforced the World Bank's relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and demonstrated to clients the role the World Bank can play in promoting practical approaches to the respect and implementation of human rights.

Out of four Sectoral Good Practices Notes, drafts of three have been developed and the fourth will be developed in Spring 2017. For each sector, a round table was organized, bringing together Indigenous Peoples delegates representing different sub-regional networks, experts on Indigenous Peoples' individual and collective rights for the sector¹, World Bank sector specialists, and Government officials. During these round tables, participants shared good practices and lessons learned from different parts of Latin America and jointly developed draft Good Practice Notes based on a template and preparatory documents prepared by the project team. Participants not only highly valued the resulting Good Practice Notes, but have utilized the knowledge gained to enhance their

current projects and work, as well as pursue new initiatives with other roundtable members.

The Good Practice notes, which articulate a comprehensive and balanced vision of how to operationalize rights in specific sectors, will serve as a public good that can be used by World Bank sector and social development specialists, relevant Government counterparts, other development agencies, Indigenous organizations, and Indigenous Peoples' rights specialists. In addition, the project team, together with FIAY and a partner university, aims to develop a training course, building on the results of the sector notes that can be offered to development agency and government staff, private sector specialists, Indigenous authorities, and other relevant actors to improve mutual understanding and capacity to support development in respect of Indigenous rights. "What we are expecting to do with this grant is to de-mystify human rights and demonstrate how much of the World Bank's work is actually implementing, or with improved understanding could implement, Indigenous Peoples human rights," said Dianna Pizarro, Senior Social Development Specialist and task team leader of the NTF grant.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, NTF-supported work has focused on Indigenous Peoples' rights related to land tenure. It has supported a case-study to illustrate several challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and analyze the impact of projects that implemented mitigation and Indigenous Peoples' development activities. The action plan has the overall goal to expose the very concrete issues faced by Indigenous communities in claiming their land tenure rights and to set good governance standards and promote a right-based approach for future projects.

In Colombia, World Bank teams have worked closely with a project on Afrodescendants which aims: (i) to deepen the empirical understanding of the status, needs, and human rights situation of Afrodescendants in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) to increase the visibility of Afrodescendants' special needs and rights in World Bank operations and strategic documents; and (iii) to identify opportunities to strengthen Afrodescendants' voices and agency in the regional development agenda.

In East Asia the work is focusing on gathering cross-country evidence on the socioeconomic conditions of Indigenous Peoples. It is building on knowledge about the diversity of Indigenous Peoples in the region, which run the gamut from ethnic minorities, hill tribes, nomadic herders, and minority nationalities, to local traditional communities with ancestral attachments to natural resources. Additionally, in Vietnam the work is supporting ethnic minority youths in sustainable livelihood development by promoting Indigenous products' value chain. This entails identifying concrete

examples of best practices and successful cases in other parts of the world. The work will expand the scope of the Vietnam social development team's engagement in the area of ethnic minorities, as well as engage them in a human rights-based and culturally sensitive approach toward Indigenous Peoples. All of the knowledge generated through these activities will contribute to a knowledge management platform and dissemination strategy. Through this platform the varied experiences across the World Bank and the world will be consolidated and made available to World Bank teams to further guide their operational engagement with Indigenous Peoples across all sectors.



In 2016, the Nordic Trust Fund (NTF) continued to provide a vibrant venue for human rights related debates, discussions and learning among World Bank staff, management and partners. Through the knowledge and partnership program and an internal grant system, work focused on pursuing the NTF's objective to develop a more informed view of how human rights relate to the work of the World Bank.

The knowledge and partnerships program continued to support the objective of international knowledge sharing and deepened relationships with key external stakeholders such as governments, NTF donors, the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, other multilateral organizations, and NGOs active in human rights. It is the aim of the NTF that through these linkages World Bank teams will become more familiar with human rights initiatives in their spheres of work, as well as more comfortable with incorporating human rights standards and principles into their day-to-day work at the World Bank. The NTF also continued to benefit from excellent collaboration with the offices of the World Bank Executive Directors for the Nordic and Baltic constituency (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) and Germany. The grant program under which task teams across the World Bank Group receive financial and technical support to explore and operationalize human rights in their particular tasks.

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