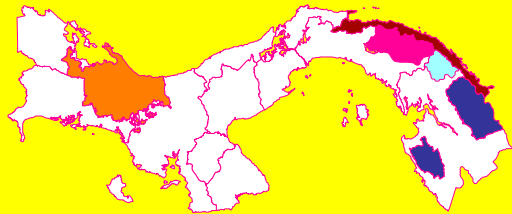




The Indigenous Reserves in Panama



- Kuna Yala
- Madugandí
- Ngöbe-Buglé
- Wargandí
- Emberá-Wounaan

There are seven Indigenous Reserves in the Republic of Panama, classified by their language: the Ngöbe, Buglé, Emberá, Wounaán, Naso, Kuna and Bri-Bri. They live in five territories recognized by the Government (see map). Their regions are rich in cultural and biological diversity, yet they are the poorest ethnic group in the country: according to official data, 10% of the Panamanian population (some 285,500 people) is Indigenous, 95.4% live in poverty and 38.4% live in extreme poverty. Half -50%- of indigenous the boys and girls are malnourished, with all of the negative consequences to their growth and development.

WHAT WE DO?

- UNICEF has been working for more than a decade with the “Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas de Panamá (CONAMUIP)”, or National Group of Indigenous Woman of Panama, and community members in all seven Indigenous Nations, to strengthen leadership capacities and human right’s approaches in Education, Health, Child Labour and Birth Registration. A training manual has been elaborated to train community women on strengthening Women and Children’s rights.



- More than 50 Ngobe, Buglé and Naso women have been trained as Human Rights community promoters, and to fortify community participation.

- To support Intercultural Bilingual Education, we are elaborating culturally pertinent didactical toys and literature for children 3 to 5 years of age, for the Emberá, Wounaán and Ngnobe. We also support Cultural Centers and Early Development Centers in the Emberá and Wounaán communities.

- Mothers, teachers and health personnel have been trained in Early Childhood Development methodologies for children from birth to 3 years of age.

WHY WE DO IT?

- So Indigenous women can have an input in the growth and development of their children in the first years of their lives.
- So Indigenous boys and girls can live in adequate conditions, with protection, supervision, and opportunities for their normal development.

- So boys and girls in Indigenous communities have the same opportunities as children from the rest of the country: quality education, in their maternal tongue, exalting their culture and traditions.

- To strengthen the cultural identity of the Indigenous Nations in Panama.

BENEFITS FOR THE CHILDREN

- An opportunity to develop to their full capacity in an intercultural World.
- Security and protection of their environment, in their community.
- An intercultural education from pre-school, so they can become young men and women with leadership and decision-making abilities, ready to assume the challenges in their communities.
- The promotion of indigenous youth leadership.

