

NEWSLETTER

Project Contingency Plan for Health Protection of Highly
Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples and in Initial Contact

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Technical
Mission in the
lower basin of
Madre
de Dios, Peru

Project Contingency Plan for Health Protection of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples and in Initial Contact

This initiative consolidates the cooperation actions conducted in border territories in the Amazon Basin, creating a favorable context to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 and the threats of emerging and endemic tropical diseases in the highly vulnerable Indigenous Peoples that inhabit those areas, with special emphasis on the Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) and on the neighboring populations to these Peoples.

This project is being coordinated by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) jointly with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and is financed by the Inter-American

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Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization– ACTO

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Project Contingency Plan for Health Protection of Highly Vulnerable
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Photographs and Maps: Technical Mission of ACTO.

Front Cover Photo: Palma Real community, Madre de Dios, women
from Ese Eja village, Peru.

Technical Mission in the lower basin of the Madre de Dios, Peru

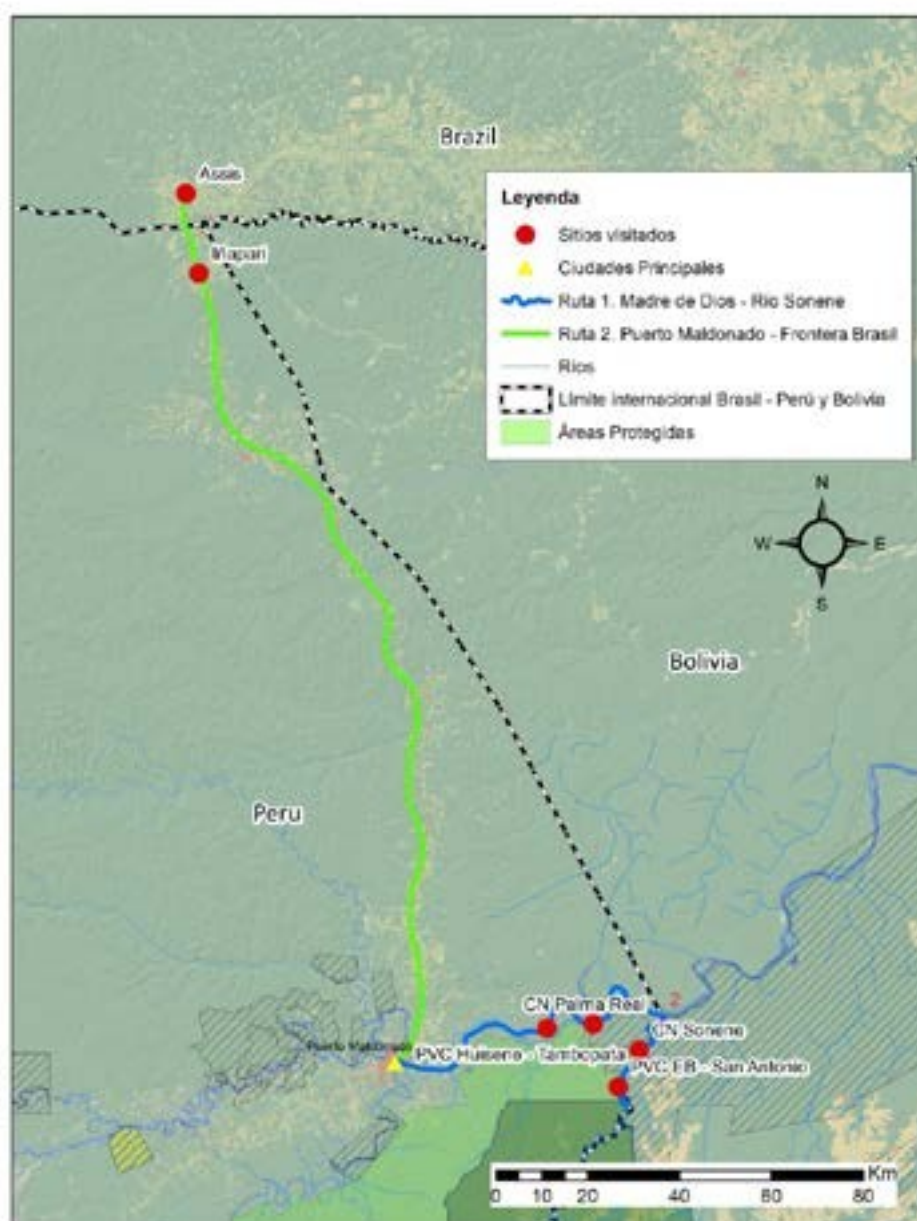
As part of the implementation of the Contingency Plan for the Protection of the Health of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact Project, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), from July 22 to 29, 2022, carried out a technical mission to the Ese Eja village in the Madre de Dios Region, in the Palma Real and Sonene native communities.

During the technical mission, made up of representatives of the Ministries of Health and Culture, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and ACTO, it was shown the efforts in the region to address some of the specific concerns. These include the vulnerability of the health of indigenous peoples; the risk of losing the knowledge of traditional indigenous medicine; the increase of medicinal plant supplies and their use beyond the communities (during the Covid-19 health emergency); the limited logistics for the care of indigenous communities during the pandemic; as well as the need for contingency and early warning plans to deal with epidemiological emergencies.

Prior to the trip to Ese Eja village, in Lima, the delegation of ACTO held meetings with governmental entities, and in the city of Puerto Maldonado, Madre Dios, with local health entities and indigenous organizations. During these meetings, participants exchanged experiences and information on health and ancestral knowledge and interculturality in the health care of Indigenous Peoples. The technical mission was supported logistically by the Association for Research and Integral Development (AIDER), through the regional coordination in Madre de Dios under the responsibility of engineer Lis Cántaro, regional coordinator of this organization.



THE MADRE DE DIOS REGION is inhabited by 7 Indigenous peoples in 37 native communities and several peoples in isolation and initial contact who live, mainly, in the areas of Manu National Park, Bahuajá Sonene National Park, Tambopata National Reserve, in private conservation areas (CICRA Los Amigos), on native community lands and in the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve. Accordingly, the technical mission proposes to conduct on-site work in the lower basin of the Madre de Dios River, which is home to the Ese Eja people as well as Isolated Peoples in the process of identification, and it is a transboundary area with Bolivia, inhabited by indigenous peoples and the Toromona people in isolation.



- Map: 2020 - Indigenous Lands and Peoples in Amapá and Northern
- Pará Source: Iepé - Indigenous Research and Training Institute
- Available through <https://institutoiepe.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/MAPA-Povos-iepe-2020-PORT-WEB.pdf>
- Accessed on 06/07/2021.

MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AND MISSION ACTIVITIES



The ACTO, represented by the coordinator of the Contingency Plan project, Carlos Macedo, together with the representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Carlos Arosquipa, held meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Health of Peru and Bolivia. During these meetings, the results of the situational study on the health of indigenous peoples in the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Tambopata National Reserve in Peru and Madidi Park, in Bolivia, were presented.

They also met with the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Jungle (AIDESEP) to present the mission planning and exchange experiences with the health team of this indigenous organization.

Meeting between representatives of the Peruvian Ministry of Health and ACTO

In a meeting with representatives of the Peruvian Ministry of Health (MINSA), the coordinator of the Contingency Plan project, Carlos Macedo, presented the situation study on the health of Indigenous Peoples in the Lower Madre de Dios River, Bahuaja Sonene National Park and Tambopata National Reserve (Peru) and the Madidi Park region (Bolivia), home to communities of the Ese Eja people. On this occasion, he emphasized the need to strengthen primary health care in these communities.



In addition, mention was made of the pre-existing bi-national agreement for the conservation of nature in both parks, with the "Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Health Protection between the Bahuajá Sonene and Madidi Parks", which stresses how the health component promoted by ACTO and the Ministries of Health of both countries is essential to respond to the demands of health services for the Indigenous Peoples of this transboundary subregion.

ACTO organized a meeting between the delegations of the Peruvian and Bolivian Ministries of Health at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

ACTO also promoted a hybrid meeting between the foreign ministries of Peru and Bolivia, during which inputs focused on the importance of Indigenous medicine practices and the strengthening of first level health services.

The delegates agreed on the need for coordination among Indigenous community health agents, agents for the protection of Isolated Peoples and park rangers in the Bahuaja Sonene, Madidi and Tambopata National Reserve natural areas, based on training events with an intercultural approach.

At this meeting held on July 21, it was also decided to incorporate the health component in the Lower Madre de Dios River, inhabited by Indigenous communities of the Ese Eja people, located adjacent to the natural areas of Bahuaja Sonene and the Tambopata Reserve (Peru) and Madidi (Bolivia). A major outcome was the draft agreement between the ministries of health of both countries, in which specific health components will be included in their work plans.

This document is part of the agreements between the National Nature Conservation Services (National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State -SERNANP, Peru/ National Service of Protected Areas - SERNAP - SERNAP, Bolivia).

Simultaneously, delegations and representatives of the Ministries of Health, the National Nature Conservation Services, the Ministry of Culture and Indigenous Affairs of Peru and Bolivia met at the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to draw up a document that will provide the basis for health care activities for Indigenous Peoples in protected natural areas and the territories of Indigenous Peoples. This meeting was promoted by the ACTO delegation.

Strategies for the protection of the health of Indigenous Peoples and training of community agents.



In a meeting with the AIDSESP, the ACTO presented the program and field planning for the technical mission to the Lower Madre de Dios River, inhabited by the Indigenous communities of Palma Real and Sonene of the Ese Eja people (Peru), adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve and the Bahuaja Sonene National Park (border region between Peru and Bolivia).

Furthermore, experiences were exchanged with the Indigenous Health Strategy teams in the Amazon region and ACTO, in connection with contingency plan mechanisms, as well as early warnings to face outbreaks and epidemics threatening the communities in the region.

MEETINGS IN PUERTO MALDONADO MADRE DE DIOS

Exchanging experiences in health with local entities



With a view to exchanging experiences, the ACTO held a meeting with the Regional Health Directorate of Madre de Dios (DIRESA) and the Native Federation of the Madre de Dios River and tributaries (FENAMAD).

The FENAMAD delegation and the representatives of DIRESA Madre de Dios shared their experiences during these two years of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Indigenous communities of Madre de Dios and also presented the implementation of intercultural health and early warning mechanisms.

On the other hand, the experiences were gathered for the proposal of contingency plans to face outbreaks and epidemics that may threaten the communities in the region, as well as vaccination and prevention procedures.

Finally, ACTO explained the objective and itinerary of the technical mission to the buffer zone of Bahuaja Sonene National Park (Peru-Bolivia border region) to the Palma Real and Sonene communities of the Ese Eja people (Peru).

Coordinating meeting for the Second International Meeting of Community Health Agents

Representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), the Ministries of Health and Culture, the Native Federation of the Madre de Dios River and tributaries (FENAMAD) and ACTO visited the headquarters of the *Universidad Nacional Amazónica de Madre de Dios* (UNAMAD) to coordinate the activities for the "Second International Meeting of Community Health Agents: Our Territory, Our Health", to be held on October 12 and 13.

UNAMAD will provide the infrastructure



in Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, to gather health agents, protection agents and forest rangers working in the Amazon basin.

The meeting aims to promote the exchange of ancestral knowledge and interculturality in health care for Indigenous Peoples. Over 60 Indigenous representatives from ACTO Member Countries are expected to participate. It will also be sponsored by governmental institutions, civil society and Indigenous organizations.

ACTO donates radio equipment to DIRESA Madre de Dios for the health center in the Indigenous community of Sonene.

Pursuant to the Contingency Plan project, ACTO donated a radiophonic equipment, with antenna and photovoltaic system (solar panel, battery and controller) and accessories, for the health center of the Indigenous community of Sonene, Madre de Dios region.

Project coordinator Carlos Macedo, responsible for delivering the donation, was received by Jorge Luis Ascencio Rivero, director of the Regional Health Directorate (DIRESA) of Madre de Dios.

This equipment will be part of the early warning mechanisms foreseen in the recommendations and guidelines for the Contingency Plan prepared by the technical staff of the ACTO, jointly with the public health services and the Indigenous communities.

Basically, these recommendations address articulation and coordination actions among the different actors involved in health protection in situations of outbreak and epidemic threats identified in regions adjacent to the Indigenous communities of the Bahuaja-Sonene Park and the Tambopata National Reserve, on the Amazonian border between Peru and Bolivia.



The donation was handed over in the auditorium of the DIRESA Madre de Dios, Puerto Maldonado, by the technical team of the ACTO, during a ceremony with the participation of the Director of Integrated Health Care, Yenny Guevara; the coordinator of the Regional Health Strategy for Indigenous Peoples, Gustavo Andía Choque; the representative of the Ministry of Health, Judith Díaz; the representative of the Ministry of Culture, Nora Binari; and the ACTO consultant, Fritz Villasante.

The ACTO technical team and the delegation of the technical mission review the field visit and the meetings held.

On July 27 and 28, the ACTO technical team, representatives of the Ministries of Culture (MINCUL) and Health (MINSA), DIRESA Madre de Dios and PAHO convened to review the objectives and scope of the technical mission *in situ*, as well as the results of the health situation study of the Indigenous Peoples in the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Tambopata National Reserve (Peru) and Madidi Park (Bolivia), the buffer zone of the Bahuaja Sonene National Park (border region between



Peru and Bolivia), and the communities of Palma Real and Sonene of the Ese Eja people (Peru).

Collectively, the delegation drew up the general conclusions of the technical mission, gathering the recommendations and suggestions from the meetings in Lima, Puerto Maldonado, the Palma Real and Sonene Indigenous communities, the health personnel of the Palma Real and Sonene health posts, the Madre de Dios DIRESA, MINSA, MINCUL, PAHO and the indigenous organizations AIDSEP and FENAMAD.

FIELD MEETINGS ON THE LOWER MADRE DE DIOS AND SONENE RIVERS

The mission visits the Palma Real community of the Ese Eja Nation, Madre de Dios Region.

On July 24, the technical mission embarked on a field trip leaving from Mirichi Port, located on the Tambopata River in the city of Puerto Maldonado, to the Palma Real community on the Lower Madre de Dios River.

On Sunday, the mission, composed of the project coordinator, Carlos Macedo, and representatives of the Ministries of Health and Culture, the Regional Health Directorate (DIRESA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), arrived in the community of Palma Real, in the Madre de Dios region, located in the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve, Peru.

The Palma Real community comprises a population of 450 people and is part of the Ese Eja people of the Takana linguistic family. Upon arrival, the delegation was received by César Augusto Yojajé, president of the Ese Eja Nation, by the fiscal Isabel Mechi and by the person in charge of the health center, Theysi Carpio Silva. The mission members performed their activities in the "Tambo" which is a facility built by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS). It is a base that offers liaison and coordination services for State entities, in coordination with the health and environmental sectors in the community.

The representatives of the Ministries of Health and Culture documented the difficulties in the operation of these services and met with the population to hear their stories about the health situation. The discussions were led by Ricardo Yojaje, president of the Palma Real community.

In addition, a survey was conducted to gather information on the existing infrastructure and the difficulties encountered to analyze the possible support for a rapid response to some technological shortcomings, including the lack of electricity. Gustavo Andía, coordinator of the Health Strategy for Indigenous Peoples in the Madre de Dios Region, Carlos Arosquipa, PAHO representative, and Judith Díaz visited the health center to assess the potential of the health center, evaluating the also the staff in order to adapt the health services with cultural relevance as an intercultural establishment for health care and the implementation of the health ethnic coding registry.



In relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, the community was severely affected and had to basically resort to traditional medicine and, therefore, to the ancestral knowledge of the community members.

Gustavo Andía, coordinator of the Indigenous Health Strategy of DIRESA Madre de Dios, expressed his concern and commitment to the situation of the health center and its staff, and pledged to verify with the DIRESA administration of Madre de Dios which resources are available for a quick reaction to the situation and the lack of health personnel on a permanent basis.

At the end of the day, participants reviewed the visit and, the following day, they continued their trip to the Sonene community

located on the Sonene River, in the Madre de Dios Region, on the border with Bolivia.

This meeting was held in the community premises of the Sonene community. It was attended by approximately 55 community members and the delegation of the technical mission, made up of representatives of MINSA, DIRESA Madre de Dios, health staff of the Palma Real Health Establishment, the representative of MIDIS, MINCUL, PAHO and the technical team of ACTO.

Visit to the native community of Sonene, in Madre de Dios

On July 25, the delegation of the technical mission departed from the port of the Palma Real community, on the Lower Madre de Dios River, heading for the native community of Sonene, a river trip on the Lower Madre de Dios and Sonene rivers.

The delegation disembarked in the native community of Sonene and was received by Elvis Ronald Pinero, health technician of the health center of this community.

The visit to the Sonene community, with a population of 110 inhabitants, located in the region near the Bahuaja-Sonene Park, on the border with Bolivia, was intended to present the results of the diagnosis prepared by the consultants of the Contingency Plan project, within the scope of health in communities in border regions.

During their stay, the delegation visited the infrastructure of the health center, especially, the conditions for the installation of the radiophone by the ACTO, so as to strengthen early warnings and activate them in the event of outbreaks and epidemics.

Likewise, Gustavo Andía, coordinator of DIRESA - Madre de Dios, along with Carlos Arosquipa, PAHO representative, surveyed the situation of the existing infrastructure and the difficulties encountered, with the aim of analyzing the possibilities of support for a rapid response to some technological deficiencies, including the equipment for power supply.



On the other hand, Ms. Judith Diaz visited the health center in order to carry out a diagnosis of the health facility and analyze with the staff the adequacy of health services with cultural relevance, as an intercultural facility for health care and the implementation of ethnic coding in the first level of care for the indigenous population.

At a meeting with the Ese Eja community, participants learned about the experiences in the fight against Covid-19 and the current vaccination situation.

The technicians from the Ministry of Health and DIRESA recorded the difficulties in health care for the community, mainly documenting the situation of the construction of the new health center, which has not yet been completed.

The agenda was coordinated by DIRESA with health personnel and the Native Federation of Madre Dios (FENAMAD), with the community leaders of the region and Peruvian governmental institutions.

The meeting was held in the community center, with the presence of approximately 35 members and the technical mission delegation, made up of the consultant and project coordinator and representatives of the Ministries of Health and Culture, DIRESA and PAHO.

Technical mission meets with park rangers from San Antonio Biological Station of the Bahuaja-Sonene Bahuaja-Sonene National Park and of the Huisene Surveillance and Control Post of the Tambopata National Tambopata National Reserve



In the afternoon of July 25, the delegation left the Sonene community, on the Sonene River, heading to the San Antonio Biological Station of the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park. The river trip along the Sonene River lasted almost 2 hours until they arrived at the Biological Station, where they spent the night.

At the San Antonio Biological Station, the members of the mission held a meeting with the local park rangers. During the meeting, strategic aspects were considered to be included in the contingency plans, mainly based on the joint bi-national agreement with the Madidi Park in Bolivia.

The importance of coordination between park rangers and other actors involved in the health protection of Indigenous Peoples living in the region was also discussed: community health agents and agents for the protection of Isolated Indigenous Peoples.

The importance of intersectoral work between the Ministries of Health, Culture, Social Development, Education and Environment was also reiterated. It was also agreed to include in the agenda of the SERNANP the participation and inter-institutional work of these agents, consolidating permanent cooperation.

The need to increase training in environmental health, mainly due to the presence of residual plastic in the communities, and the urgency of promoting an inter-institutional registry for intercultural health care in the Ese Eja communities of the lower Madre de Dios and Sonene rivers, was one of the issues raised on several occasions.

On July 26, the mission also visited the Huisene surveillance and control post in the Tambopata National Reserve, adjacent to the Bahuaja-Sonene Park. The post should be included in the Contingency Plan and particularly it should be contemplated in the Early Warning System, to be part of the Tambopata-Bahuaja Sonene-Madidi Transboundary System.

On the same day, the delegation arrived in the city of Puerto Maldonado, and in the afternoon at the Mirichi port, on the banks of the Tambopata River.



MEETING IN ASSIS BRAZIL

Delegation visits Iñapari and Assis Brazil and prioritizes health care for Indigenous population

On July 28 and 29, the delegation visited the capital of the Iñapari province in Peru and the city of Assis in the State of Acre, Brazil.

The mission, composed of representatives of the Peruvian Ministries of Health and Culture and ACTO, arrived in Tahuamanu, Iñapari, on the triple border of Madre de Dios, Acre and Pando - MAP (Peru - Brazil - Bolivia), with the aim of prioritizing the health care of the indigenous population.

In the Peruvian territory, Judith Díaz and Nora Binari visited the Iñapari health center in order to carry out a diagnosis of the facility and analyze with the health personnel the adequacy of health services with cultural relevance, as an intercultural facility for health care and the implementation of registration and ethnic coding at the first level of care for the indigenous population. According to information provided by the head of the health center, about 1,500 Yine, Quechua, Ashaninka and Asheninka-speaking indigenous people live scattered throughout the province.

As part of the mission, on July 29, the technicians traveled to the other side of the border with Brazil and met in Assis Brasil, in the state of Acre, with the Indigenous leaders Lucas Manchineri, Mariana Manchineri, Raimundo Manchineri, Mônica Manchineri, who presented the logistics for a possible ACTO mission to the Manchineri territory. The purpose of this meeting was also to present the data and information from the Health Situational Study carried out within the framework of the Contingency Plan project.

Among the actions defined was the installation of equipment to strengthen the internet network and facilitate possible early warning activities in one of the communities of the Mamoadate



Indigenous Land, the community of Jatobá (Acre), which is located 6 hours by boat from Assis, Brazil.

The community of Jatobá has the only health post for primary health care in the Mamoadate Indigenous Land, where nurses, a doctor for prenatal care, dentist, among other specialties work.

In addition, they have monitors who carry out territorial and health surveillance in the locality, hired by the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI). Also, the National Health Foundation (FUNASA), the Indigenous Sanitation Agents (AISAN) and a local health council participate in the project.

Since 1991, the Manchineri people took possession of their ancestral lands again, after a long period where their inhabitants worked on rubber plantations in the vicinity of the Manchineri territory.

Currently, there are 13 Manchineri villages speaking the Arawak mother tongue and four Jaminawa villages speaking the Pano mother tongue, and Portuguese is the language of communication between the two peoples.

The meeting was held in the Assis square, with the participation of four representatives of the Manchineri people and the delegation of the technical mission.



BOLIVIA



Brazil



Colombia



Ecuador



GUYANA



PERU



Suriname



Venezuela

