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Indigenous Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment Initiative (I-WEE)

BACKGROUND

Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are currently facing an increasing migration and humanitarian crisis. Intensified weather events are exacerbating economic instability, violence, displacement, and poverty in marginalized communities. The impacts are disproportionately high on Indigenous women and girls.

In order to help Indigenous women and girls address and adapt to these challenges, the FSC Indigenous

Foundation (FSC-IF) implements the Indigenous Women and Girls' Economic Empowerment Initiative (I-WEE). I-WEE aims to bring together support from multi-sectoral partners to address the root causes of social and economic vulnerabilities and improve the resilience of Indigenous women and girls. I-WEE is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).





WHAT IS I-WEE?

I-WEE is an initiative that aims to promote the economic empowerment of Indigenous women and girls, by strengthening their skills and abilities, generating enabling environments for their active participation and advocacy, and strengthening productive initiatives led by Indigenous women. This initiative will take place in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

WHO ARE WE WORKING WITH?

I-WEE has established alliances with Indigenous Peoples' organizations, governments, and international cooperation agencies at the local, national and regional levels. These partners will support the technical execution of the objectives and activities. Organizations such as the **Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)**, the **Association of Forest Communities of the Petén (ACOFOP)**, **Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS) Latin America**, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, the **UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)**, the **Indigenous Women's Platform of Guatemala (PMI)**, the **United Nations Development**





Program (UNDP) in Guatemala and other local Indigenous organizations have joined as key allies for the implementation of the activities formulated in the I-WEE initiative.

I-WEE'S OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES



Objective 1: Capacity Building –

Jointly with Indigenous women and girls, create a capacity building program to strengthen their technical, leadership and entrepreneurial skills; and to design and implement trainings for governmental agencies or other stakeholders to support organizations led by Indigenous women or those who work with this population group. The capacity building program will promote an inclusion-based approach to incorporate their rights, needs, and contributions inside and outside of communities in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.



Objective 2: Participation – Foster an enabling environment for Indigenous women and girls to participate in decision-making on issues that affect them. Provide support to Indigenous

women so they can participate in dialogue platforms and to influence and participate in key decision making spaces on issues such as public investments and in the search for joint alternatives to remove social, cultural, legal, and policy barriers, thus promoting their social and economic empowerment.



Objective 3: Economic Growth –

Promote the sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples' economic initiatives, mainly those based on their own ancestral principles and systems. Focus support to community enterprises led by or composed of Indigenous women and their growth through capacity development, building partnerships with the private sector, digital inclusion, and sustainable resource management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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