



**FORDFOUNDATION** 

Working with Visionaries on the Frontlines of Social Change Worldwide

ANDEAN REGION AND SOUTHERN CONE

The Ford Foundation works with visionary leaders and organizations worldwide to change social structures and institutions so that all people have the opportunity to reach their full potential, contribute to society, have a voice in the decisions that affect them, and live and work in dignity.

This commitment to social justice is carried out through programs that strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human knowledge, creativity and achievement.





Over the past half-century, the Ford Foundation has supported social change makers in the Andean Region and Southern Cone who are promoting social justice, building more inclusive societies and creating opportunity for all. Today we continue this work, joining with visionary leaders and organizations to ensure that people throughout the region have a voice in shaping the policies and institutions that affect their lives.

We envision a future in which everyone in the region can participate as full citizens in a just, equitable, democratic and peaceful society.







#### **EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY**

In recent years, there has been reason for great optimism in the Andean Region and Southern Cone: In general, countries have experienced not only sustained economic growth, but also a consolidation of their electoral democracies and a decrease in poverty—encouraging trends that are in keeping with the rest of Latin America. As the economies of these countries have grown, governments have been able to dedicate greater resources to fostering innovation and supporting social services that benefit the common good.

Yet for all these hopeful developments, persistent inequities keep indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and the poor from accessing and sharing in the benefits. Millions of people in the region are denied their basic rights and excluded from decision-making, economic opportunities and institutions that should be open to all.

Our work is anchored in the belief that the citizens of the Andean Region and Southern Cone can realize their own vision of a just, inclusive and participatory region. We know that to create truly equitable societies, all people must be able to have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

### WHAT FORD IS DOING

As democratic reforms take root across the region, we see opportunities to promote cultural and institutional changes that will make it possible for all of the region's people to live free from discrimination and enjoy full participation in its economic and political life. The Ford Foundation supports civil society organizations, national, regional and local governments, multilateral organizations and initiatives within the private sector that strive for the inclusion of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and the poor throughout the region, particularly in Colombia, Peru and Chile. We work to lift the voices of these excluded and disadvantaged groups, so they can create and contribute to lasting change that transforms their lives.

We support a variety of organizations and leaders that are spearheading change. Some are working to create policies and institutions that expand the rights of all, especially the most vulnerable and historically disadvantaged, while others seek to ensure that everyone has access to education. Others are helping poor families earn sustainable livelihoods. Still others are pursuing strategies to advance government transparency and more effective use of public resources, and to facilitate dialogue to help protect vulnerable populations. Our goal is to strengthen local organizations and individuals so that they will, in turn, amplify the voices of people whose needs and aspirations are too often left unheard.

### A HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

For the past 50 years, the Ford Foundation has sought to support economic development and the establishment of democratic societies in the Andean Region and Southern Cone. In our early years, we focused on educational advancement and productive development. In the 1970s and '80s, as dictatorships prevailed and pursued violent agendas, we partnered with groups that documented human rights abuses and championed human rights defenders.

Throughout the 1990s, when the region transitioned from authoritarian dictatorships to democracy, the foundation promoted transitional justice, supporting truth commissions and other initiatives dedicated to preserving historical memory. We also remained committed to economic justice, helping to develop microfinance programs for the poor. And we worked to advance women's rights and reproductive health, as well as government transparency and accountability.

Today, as democratic reforms continue to spread across the region, the countries we serve stand at a critical crossroads. The foundation is committed to ensuring that all people in the region have access to the benefits of democracy and economic growth. We believe that fighting entrenched discrimination and exclusion is the key to achieving full democratic participation and broadly shared prosperity.

### SUPPORT FOR LASTING CHANGE

Our work seeks to give voice to those on the margins so that they can act as change agents on their own behalf. We envision a future for the Andean Region and Southern Cone in which our societies recognize and appreciate the diversity and cultural richness in their midst, and where legislation, institutions and policies ensure that vulnerable populations are able to exercise their rights. At the heart of our work is a commitment to look beyond short-lived solutions and toward long-term social transformations that can create enduring change.

# SELECT STRATEGIES AND INVESTMENTS IN THE REGION COLOMBIA ANDEAN REGION AND SOUTHERN CONE PERU CHILE BUILDING HUMAN **RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS** STRENGTHENING **DEVELOPMENT** During an era of dictatorship, we support human rights Foundation fellowships organizations that document provide university rights abuses and defend and training to promising provide assistance to victims. scholars, seeding the next generation of national leaders.

**ADVANCING HIGHER** 

Our support helps major

universities modernize

their curricula, institute

reforms and advance

the region's social and

research to address

economic needs.

**EDUCATION** 

The foundation's past and present work in the Andean Region and Southern Cone—a small sampling of which is offered on these pages reflects our long term commitment to social change.

Visit our website to learn more about our five decades on the frontlines of social change in Latin America: www.fordfoundation.org/2011-annual/five-decades-of-social-change-in-latin-america

#### **PSEEKING TRUTH AND** RECONCILIATION

We work with truth and reconciliation commissions in Argentina, Chile and Peru to gather facts about human rights violations and to preserve archival materials and testimony.



#### **PIMPROVING FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR**

Our grants increase the capacity of hundreds of microfinance institutions, equipping them to help the poor access financial services and improve their standard of living.



managed.

**PIMPROVING USE AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES** 

We support efforts that

encourage civil society,

government and the private

sector to work together to

ensure that marginalized

groups can participate in

resources are used and

decisions about how public

### **SUPPORTING EMERGING**

**LEADERSHIP** 

Our International Fellowships Program helps the next generation of leaders from Chile and Peru earn graduate degrees and return home to advance social justice in their communities.

### **PROMOTING PATHS OUT OF POVERTY**

To increase the economic security of millions of poor households throughout the region, we invest in efforts that offer incentives for families to save for the future.

## **COMMUNITIES**

The foundation invests in communities.

# **BUILDING STRONG**

grassroots development organizations in Colombia, providing critical support that helps build socially and economically sustainable

#### FORD FOUNDATION | ANDEAN REGION AND SOUTHERN CONE

# Promoting Transparent, Effective and Accountable Government

WE ARE WORKING to advance transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness in the government's use of public resources.

The foundation and our partners share the belief that the use of natural resource wealth can be an important engine for sustainable economic growth—one that in turn contributes to responsible development and reduces poverty. As Colombia, Peru and Chile's economies continue to grow, in large part because of the development of industries focused on the extraction of natural resources such as minerals, oil and metals, their governments enjoy increased tax revenues. But ensuring that the revenues derived from these natural resources are shared fairly remains a challenge.

For Afro-descendants, indigenous peoples and the poor to share in the economic and social benefits that result from industry's use of public resources, our grantees are working to strengthen legislation, institutions and policies pertaining to natural resource governance. We support civil society organizations, universities and think tanks that monitor natural resources, advocate for increased government transparency and public oversight in resource management, and implement policies that overcome discrimination and reduce exclusion. And we partner with groups that monitor and report on policy debates about the social, environmental and economic impact of industry.

We also work with governments—especially at the local level—to help improve their capacity to oversee and administer resources so they meet the needs of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and to ensure those resources are fairly and sustainably managed. We support organizations that enable dialogue and cooperation among local communities, government and industry, encouraging them to work together to foster growth that is equitable and sustainable. Our support helps generate and disseminate information, and create spaces that can inform more just public policies.

#### ON THE FRONTLINES

Our grantees support civil society organizations and other groups that are working to ensure that public policies are created and executed fairly and equitably. Projects include:

Advising authorities in the regional government of La Guajira on budgetary issues, ensuring the adequate management of public resources and promoting transparency.

GRANTEE: Fundación Cerrejón para el Fortalecimiento Institucional de La Guajira

Collecting information on the challenges and opportunities for constructive social dialogue between stakeholders in extractive industries.

GRANTEE: La Silla Vacía

Strengthening the management of public revenue in the Peruvian province of Espinar and promoting dialogue between its government and local communities on the economic and social impact of the mining industry.

GRANTEE: Oxfam America Inc.

Increasing the participation of civil society in decisions about natural resource use, specifically concerning local development and government planning and management in the Colombian province of Soto Norte.

GRANTEE: Corporación para la Paz y Derechos Humanos-REDEPAZ



# $Advancing \ Racial Justice\ and\ Minority \ Rights$

WE SUPPORT EFFORTS to secure equal rights and greater opportunity for indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

As it does across the globe, discrimination based on ethnicity, poverty and social status persists throughout the Andean Region and Southern Cone, leaving many groups—particularly indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants—excluded from the democratic advancements that benefit their fellow citizens.

Members of these groups have significantly less access to healthcare and education, and are more vulnerable to violence and displacement. Their political, economic, social and cultural rights are often at risk, as they are underrepresented in leadership and decision-making at all levels. This bias has persisted in part because national records and statistics have largely failed to account for these populations—and therefore have failed to capture their specific needs.

To improve the lives of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, the foundation partners with a range of organizations that represent and advocate for their rights. Our grantees are working to ensure that these populations are included in the census and all other national statistics. They are also promoting leadership and fostering alliances and networks that call attention to the challenges these communities face. Some are working to implement the International Labor Organization's Convention No. 169—which acknowledges the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples—and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

One grantee, the University of the Andes, promotes graduate-level education at elite institutions in the United States for Afro-Colombian lawyers who study law, human rights and racial justice advocacy. Building knowledge and credentials from high-level institutions ensures that participants are well-equipped to gain greater access to leadership positions in their home countries—and in turn, to advance racial justice and minority rights.

#### ON THE FRONTLINES

Our grantees are pursuing racial justice and equal rights for minorities in creative and varied ways. Some of their approaches are:

Educating leaders of indigenous groups in Colombia about the substance and reach of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, so they can make clearer demands for its implementation.

GRANTEE: Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)

Monitoring the social and economic impacts of the mining, forestry and energy industries on the rights of Chile's indigenous communities.

GRANTEE: Observatorio de Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas

Training Afro-Peruvian groups to advocate for their rights in civil society, and promoting the inclusion of Afrodescendants in the next census and other official statistics.

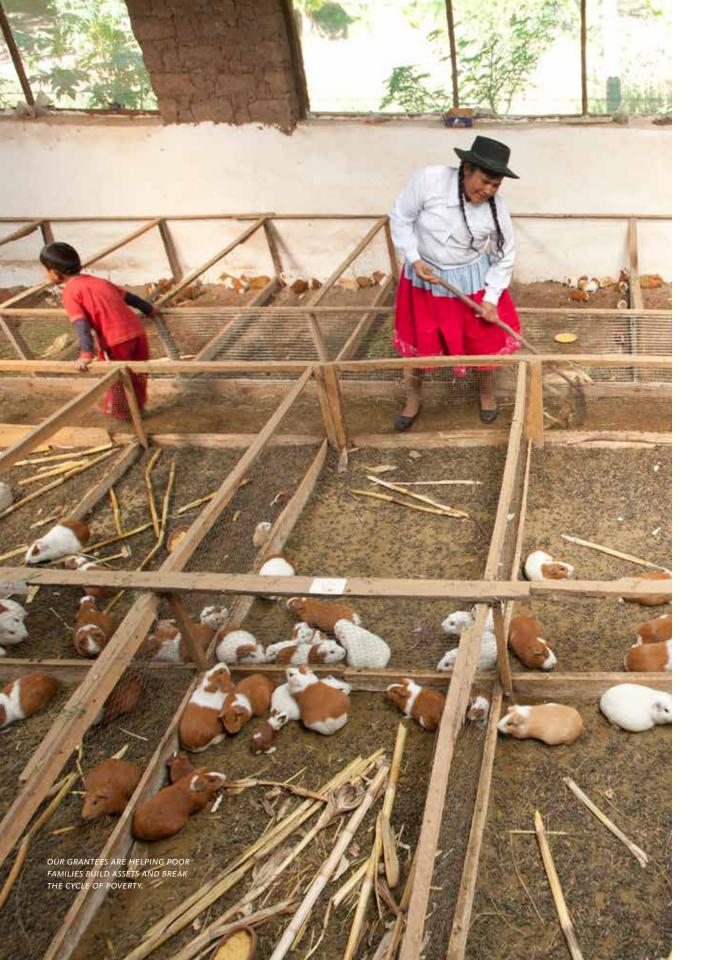
**GRANTEE: Global Rights** 

Conducting training and other activities to build the capacity of Afro-Colombian organizations to advocate for their rights.

GRANTEE: Corporación Agencia AfroColombiana Hileros







# Building Economic Security over a Lifetime

TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY, we work to help poor households build assets and plan for a better future.

Despite significant economic growth over the past 20 years, 180 million people continue to live in poverty in Latin America, with more than 70 million of them living in extreme poverty. According to the United Nations Development Programme, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants are dramatically overrepresented in the poorest segments of the population.

In Chile, the number of indigenous people living on less than one dollar a day is three times that of the non-indigenous population. In Peru, the number of Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples who live in extreme poverty is twice that of the general population. And most of the 12.3 percent of Colombians who live in extreme poverty are either Afro-descendants or members of indigenous communities, though these groups represent less than 25 percent of the total population. Such poverty severely restricts families' abilities to provide for their basic needs, pursue education and remain healthy—as well as to plan for the future and make progress toward long-term economic security.

The foundation supports a range of initiatives and policy innovations that help lift families out of poverty and decrease the inequality gap. We know that when families have opportunities and incentives to save and build assets, they can break free from poverty and move toward sustained economic security. A large part of our effort is focused on conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs, which currently benefit more than 25 million families in Latin America. CCTs provide families with monetary subsidies in exchange for a commitment to fulfill certain requirements, like sending their children to school and making sure they have regular medical care.

Together with our public and private partners, the foundation promotes linking CCTs with financial services—such as savings, microinsurance, credit or remittances—to help poor families build financial assets, start businesses, provide basic and higher education opportunities for their children, and work toward a better future for themselves and the next generations.

#### ON THE FRONTLINES

Our partners in this initiative have received significant foundation support in their work to provide the poorest segments of the population with access to a wide range of financial services. Their efforts include:

Encouraging key public and private stakeholders to connect with CCT programs as a way to advance their financial inclusion strategies.

Running pilot programs that design and test financial education and savings mobilization incentives.

Evaluating the impact that these efforts have on the economic security of poor and extremely poor families, and contributing to the global debate about social protection and financial inclusion.

#### GRANTEES

Fundación Capital Institute of Peruvian Studies (IEP)

# $Advancing {\it Higher Education Access and Success}$

OUR WORK AIMS to improve people's ability to successfully participate in high-quality higher education.

We believe that for a society to realize true social, economic and political equality, all people must have access to high-quality higher education. In Latin America, national policies have made higher education attainable for ever-growing numbers of people. But for would-be students from poor and marginalized groups, there are still significant barriers to entering the higher education system.

As a result, members of these communities participate in higher education at rates far lower than their more advantaged counterparts, and those who do participate seem to reap fewer benefits. Though policies and systems vary from country to country, these young people and their families face limited admissions, prohibitive tuition costs, insufficient academic support, and a range of opaque and incoherent rules and procedures that are difficult for students with little social capital to navigate.

To encourage increased college enrollment among members of Afro-descendant and indigenous communities, the foundation partners with groups that work to implement affirmative action programs and address related policy issues at all levels. Our partners also strive to broaden access to financial aid that helps lessen the economic obstacles to educational attainment. And they work to foster a new generation of leaders in the education and policy communities who will make access to higher education a priority.

One grantee in Colombia, for example, is examining the effectiveness of past affirmative action policies in an effort to improve programs aimed at helping Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples earn entry to colleges and universities, and later, to access good jobs. In Peru, as affirmative action policies are enacted, other grantees are working to make intercultural learning an integral part of higher education.

#### ON THE FRONTLINES

Our grantees strive to eliminate inequality in access to higher education, and to make this learning opportunity more available to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Their efforts include:

Surveying the social mobility of graduate students from marginalized communities in order to measure the impact education has on entry to the labor market.

GRANTEE: Institute of Peruvian Studies (IEP)

Identifying a model of higher education that promotes local development in indigenous territories, so that rural and indigenous young people have the opportunity to find work and remain in their ancestral communities rather than migrate to urban areas.

GRANTEE: Latin American Center for Rural Development (RIMISP)

Fostering leadership and a new generation of policy makers in Colombia's Pacific region who will champion programs that offer disadvantaged students opportunities to access higher education.

**GRANTEE: Manos Visibles** 





### ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

# $Expanding \ Livelihood\ Opportunities for Poor\ Households$

# WE SUPPORT INNOVATIVE and effective models for improving the livelihoods of poor rural residents.

According to the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Andean Region and Southern Cone is home to 35 percent of South America's rural poor. Typically, these rural farmers and entrepreneurs lack access to land, education and healthcare, as well as to the markets that would make it possible for them to earn a profit from their yields. Addressing these issues is critical to improving the livelihoods of these households and helping them move out of poverty.

To help better the financial position of the rural poor, the foundation works with governments, private institutions and civil society organizations to develop viable livelihood opportunities that offer people the means to increase their income and assets and provide for their families. We seek out and support models that have the potential to be adopted more widely, with the goal of helping a large number of low-income households improve their financial wellbeing and economic security over the long term.

Some of our grantees partner with governments to develop strategies that help very poor families start on a path toward sustainable livelihoods. Others collaborate with public institutions, trade associations and universities to help communities use their local culture as a point of entry to the tourism market. Still others design and test innovative new financial tools— such as insurance policies that rely exclusively on regional data to determine compensation for damage caused by natural disasters—and new market approaches that aim to fund rural enterprises.

#### ON THE FRONTLINES

Our grantees pursue a range of creative strategies to reduce poverty for rural and urban low-income households. Their efforts include:

Generating debate about public policies that promote inclusive value chains for the region's rural poor.

GRANTEE: International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Promoting learning between organizations that support livelihood strategies for the rural poor.

**GRANTEE: PROCASUR** 

Designing, testing and providing innovative financial and business development services based on cellular and Internet technology for poor and extremely poor families in Colombia.

GRANTEE: Livelihoods and Microfinance Corporation

# Strengthening Human Rights Worldwide

BY INVESTING IN FRESH VOICES, we are working to make the human rights movement more responsive to the needs of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

Despite the region's progress in advancing electoral democracy, large segments of the population face obstacles to exercising their rights. Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities have less access to basic services that are available to the rest of the population. Their levels of political participation are far below that of other citizens, and their vulnerability to violence is much higher.

The human rights movement in the region, which blossomed during times of extreme political repression and violent conflict, is now focused on the obstruction and violation of rights that take place in a democratic context. Together with our partners, the foundation supports a reinvigorated movement—one motivated to forge new alliances and advocate for policies that tackle entrenched discrimination against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, which is too often expressed through violence.

With our support, for instance, indigenous leaders, judges and public officials are taking part in a program at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru's law school that is focused on how to safeguard and strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples. Foundation funding has also helped to strengthen regional and universal human rights protection mechanisms, enhance human rights advocacy from the Global South and ensure that international human rights laws are implemented domestically. One grantee uses on-site and distance learning to train public defenders from 20 Latin American countries, thereby strengthening the legal representation of human rights abuse victims.

Lastly, in an effort to heal the deep wounds of past human rights violations, our grantees work to support legislation that advances transitional justice and victims' rights. By holding human rights violators accountable, they ensure that dark chapters of history are not repeated.

#### ON THE FRONTLINES

Our grantees use advocacy, network building, rights abuse monitoring and legal means to strengthen the enforcement of human rights for vulnerable populations. Their projects include:

Supporting anti-discrimination measures and the rights of Afro-descendant and indigenous populations, especially in relation to mining and natural resource policies.

GRANTEE: Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society

Promoting greater transparency in the justice system and ensuring that the Peruvian government promotes inclusive policies and adheres to laws safeguarding human rights.

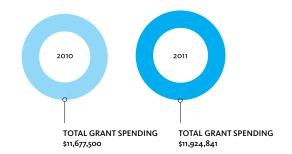
GRANTEE: Legal Defense Institute (IDL)

Researching and reporting on police violence against Mapuche communities in southern Chile that have mobilized to demand land restitution and other rights.

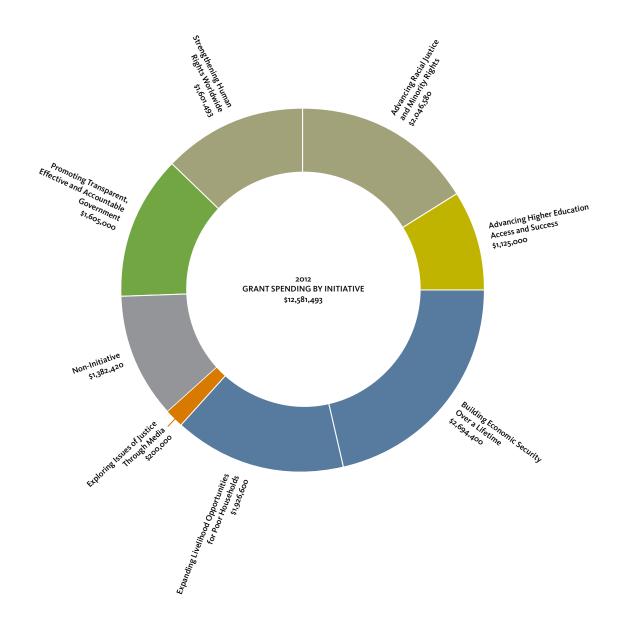
GRANTEE: Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos (INDH)



### ISSUES, INITIATIVES AND GRANT SPENDING IN THE ANDEAN REGION AND SOUTHERN CONE



ISSUE	INITIATIVE
Democratic and Accountable Government	• Promoting Transparent, Effective and Accountable Government
Human Rights	<ul> <li>Advancing Racial Justice and Minority Rights</li> <li>Strengthening Human Rights Worldwide</li> </ul>
Economic Fairness	<ul> <li>Building Economic Security over a Lifetime</li> <li>Expanding Livelihood Opportunities for Poor Households</li> </ul>
Educational Opportunity and Scholarship	• Advancing Higher Education Access and Success



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you will find a Grant
Application Guide that
describes our process
and an online form you
may use to submit a
grant inquiry.

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