



Recommendation

Community Protection Structures

Domestic violence

Existing structures

Gender-based violence

 Colombia

# Recommendations for strengthening local humanitarian leadership in La Guajira, Colombia

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## The recommendations for strengthening local humanitarian leadership in La Guajira are:

1. Provide support to community protection structures, i.e. to:
  - a. indigenous authorities;
  - b. female leaders;
  - c. spokesmen;<sup>1</sup>
  - d. sages;<sup>2</sup>
  - e. traditional and spiritual doctors;
  - f. teachers;
  - g. educational agents and intercultural teams of the Community Care Units (CCUs);
  - h. male and female leaders in care, administration and management of water systems;
  - i. other community-based natural associations and collectives.
2. Promote the strengthening of leadership among women and young people through training schools with an intercultural, generational and gender focus.
3. Over the generations, the Wayúu culture has developed protection and self-protection practices that have been dying out with the deaths of older people. These practices and knowledge must be recovered for the benefit of the communities and their self-protection.
4. Create or strengthen seedbeds for local indigenous leadership and the leaders' interaction with other collectives, with a view to facilitating knowledge-sharing and building networks for community protection.
5. Facilitate collaborative work and the principle of co-responsibility to promote community social support organisational processes based on the traditions and customs of the Wayúu people, including having an impact on equitable participation and distribution, with a focus on gender, roles, functions and responsibilities.

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1 In Wayúu culture, the pütchipü or pütche'ejachi – the "spokesman" – is the person who normally resolves internal conflicts in the community. The spokesman must always be a man.

2 In Wayúu culture, the "sage" is an elder of the community with specific knowledge about their culture. Like the spokesman, the sage must always be a man.

6. Promote leadership among both men and women for the protection of individuals in the family setting (e.g. protection against domestic violence), so that they can act as protection hubs within a broader community network for support, care, safety and the guarantee of rights, with a territorial and ethnic focus.
7. Promote participation among the communities in the various spaces for interaction with humanitarian organisations and state entities at the local, national, regional and global levels.
8. Support local initiatives for large-scale advocacy with a view to raising awareness about humanitarian needs, risks and alerts, as well as the resources, capacities and opportunities that indigenous Wayúu communities have to tackle in an emergency context.
9. Support communities and local authorities in coordinated information management, taking into account lack of data, out-of-date censuses/electoral rolls and “over-diagnosed” situations. This highlights the importance of collaborative work in tackling barriers to information and in applying the do no harm principle.