



ACTION REPORT

Arhuacos Community - Bunkwamake, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, OCT 2020



From October 10th to 14th, 2020, we visited the Bunkwamake community in the heart of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, the lung of the world as local communities call it. We achieved our goal of distributing 48 school supply kits to children of the Awiakun school, and constructed a community garden which was a beautiful moment of teamwork!

This marks the official start of a constructive long-term relationship between the community of Bunkwamake and Ináy!

Main goals of the visit

- **Distributing** 48 school supply kits to children of the Awiakun school
- **Establishing** a pilot community garden project and learning about the community's culture and rules (very traditional)
- **Meeting** with the mamo, Julio Garavito, and the teachers to understand their needs
- **Creating** trust with the children, their parents, teachers, community leadership through activities and dialogue
- **Identifying** potential projects for the year 2021

The team



Coralie



Ferney



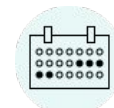
Tatiana

We were also accompanied by two volunteers: Luisa (volunteer) and Carlos (photographer) who decided to come help us (no costs covered by Ináy).

Key figures



Second
Ináy action



5
days



48
School supply kits



6
activities



48
children



513€
of budget



Schedule - October 10th to 14th, 2020



Saturday - Arrival by car, mules, and on foot. We pitched our tents and surprised a few younger people who had never seen one!



Sunday - Introduction of the team to the leaders and men of the community. This formality is made difficult because of the language barrier and the intimidating environment, but we were ultimately well received and accepted.



Sunday - **Community garden:** together we clear a plot of land and sow cucumbers and coriander under Julio's supervision. We protect our work from the sun with banana leaves.



Monday - **Morning activities:** we walked to the Awiakun school, taking the same path the children take to get there. We conducted a French/ arhuaco language class, a drawing competition, and games like "Simon says" and "I have a tic", that were prepared with students from EM Normadie.



Saturday- Learning: we helped the women prepare a sancocho (meal). We then had a chat with a teacher from a nearby school who also may need support, followed by a weaving workshop where we learn traditional weaving techniques.



Tuesday - **Distribution of the school supply kits to the children!** They were very happy and very protective of their new school supplies, which they stored very carefully in their backpacks. They don't want to use them and are saving them for the next school year. That really touched us and we measured the importance of our support.



Tuesday - **Activities:** the children, Julio and Fercho created a vegetable garden, a pilot project for a larger family garden that we want to develop. Tati and Coco ran a 'manillos' workshop where they taught different colorful woven bracelet patterns to the children!

*Dividing the boys and girls into separate groups was requested by the community and done out of respect for their culture.



Wednesday - **Departure:** With Julio we planted Caracolí trees, an important tree for the Arhuacos because it is characterized by its strength and durability. These trees represent the relationship of trust that we build with this incredible community and it is also our way of thanking Inay's biggest donors by planting a seed for each of them.

After numerous discussions, the themes that emerge and on which Ináy will be able to support the Arhuacos in 2021 are as follows:



Access to school & nutrition

Currently, some children drop out of school during the winter months because they would rather not go to school than not eat all day. The school does not have a cafeteria for lunch and many children live an hour or an hour and a half from school. In times of heavy rains, they find themselves stranded at school, without eating. This is why this kitchen & cafeteria project that we have developed together is so important.



Health & wellbeing

Currently, the children have to go into the bushes when they want to go to the toilet; By installing toilets with the community, we improve the children's school conditions conditions. Our goal is also to help the community with any biosecurity related needs related to COVID 19.

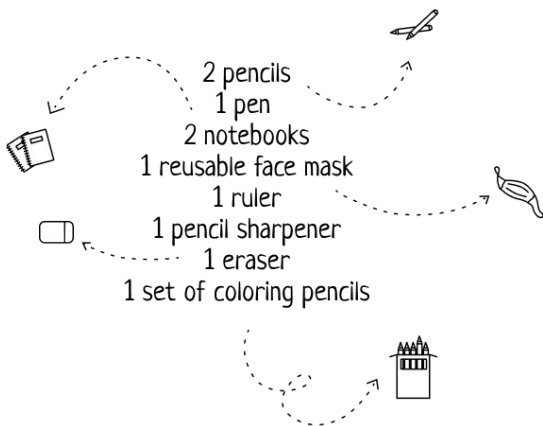


Culture

The authorities have great fear for the future of their ethnic group and are concerned about the new generations: they fear a loss of culture. This is why we will jointly set up a community garden project in order to preserve their ancestral cultivation techniques and perpetuate the protection of "madre tierra".

Contents of the school supply kits

Due to our commitment to sustainability , we have chosen to work with local suppliers and to distribute the kits in recyclable kraft envelopes.



| AWIAKUN Project - OCT 2020 * | COP | EUR |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Action | | |
| Activities and meals (14%) | 242,150 | 55 |
| 40 School supply kits (31%) | 941,800 | 214 |
| Logistics | | |
| Transportation (48%) | 889,749 | 202 |
| **Sanitary measures (7%) | 210,000 | 42 |
| TOTAL | 2,3 M | 513 |

*Figures rounded to the nearest colombian peso/euro (1EUR=4400COP)
 **COVID-19 testing, hand sanitizer, masks etc.

Our culture needs space and respect to continue our existencel

José Bolivar

Teacher at the Bunkwamake school, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta
 Arhuaca Indigenous Community

For more details and photos, go to
www.inay-asso.org and [@inayassociation](https://www.instagram.com/inayassociation)