



International
Labour
Organization

Improving Employability through appropriate technologies and skills training applied in the collection and storage of water

Indigenous and Afro-Caribbean people of Nicaragua

**Presented by Geraldine Gene of Waterlex in behalf of the ILO
World Water Week, Stockholm 29.08 2018**



- I am presenting a project on behalf of ILO, where they trained indigenous and Caribbean people in Nicaragua.
- The project was to help people find employment by increasing their skills in the collection and storage of water
- It was in the construction of water systems
- I would like to take this opportunity to point out some of the human rights based approaches that have been used in this programme.

The ILO and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, ITPs

- The ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 brings together **governments, employers and workers** of 187 member States.
 - Promote rights at work
 - Encourage decent employment opportunities
 - Enhance social protection
 - Strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.



- ITPs are indigenous and tribal peoples
- ILO is a UN agency, and it brings governments, employers and workers together.
- Its mission is to promote rights at work and improve working conditions

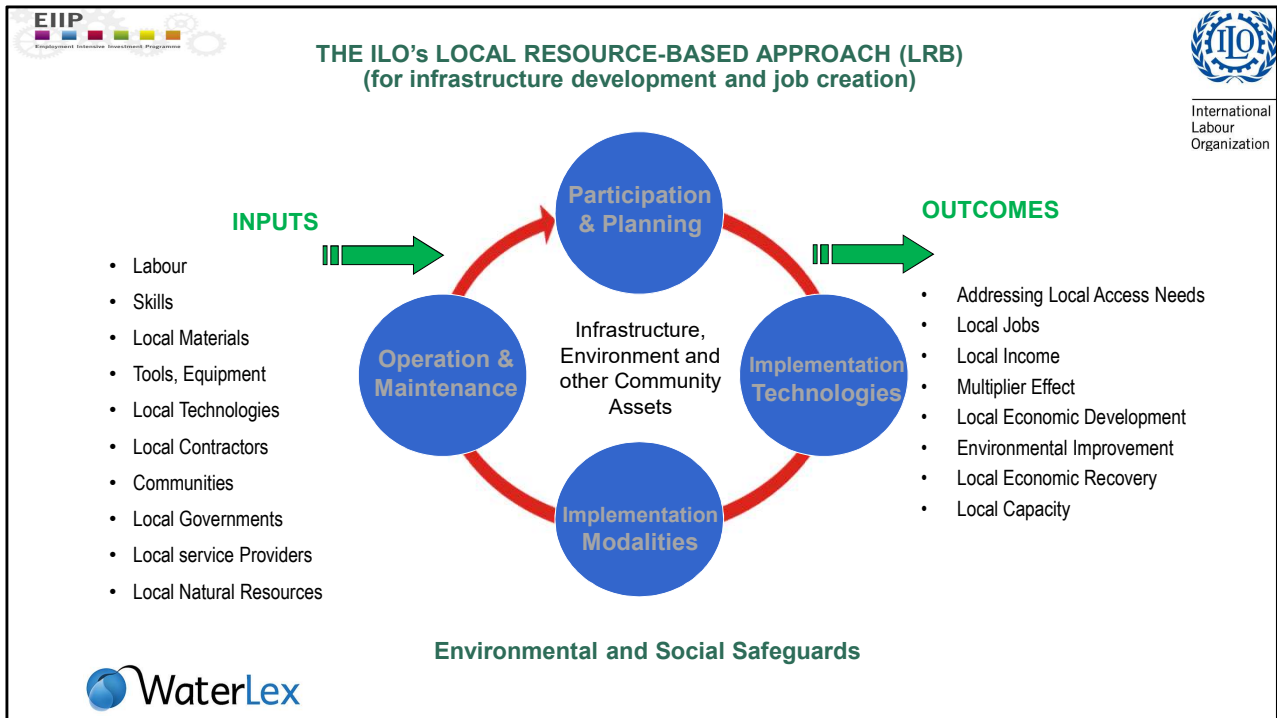
- The success of this programme is the inclusion of a human rights based approach, which I will explain as we go through

The ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169)

- Cornerstone of the international framework for promoting human rights of IPs, along with 2007 UN Declaration
- **Recognizing aspirations** of IPs to:
 - exercise control over their own institutions, ways of life and economic development
 - maintain and develop their identities, languages and religions
- **Valuing contributions** of IPs to cultural diversity and “social and ecological harmony”



- ILO Convention 169 of 2007 is the cornerstone of the international framework for promoting rights of Indigenous Peoples
- This declaration recognises the aspirations of indigenous peoples to have control over their lives and maintain their identities
- It helps to value the contribution that indigenous peoples make to cultural diversity and social and ecological harmony
- Sometimes it is the only regulatory framework that can protect them



- EIIIP's local resource-based approach recognizes and promotes indigenous knowledge, values and traditions,
- It explores local skills and technologies to increase vulnerable groups' participation in society,
- and develop local assets and skills.
- In particular, as part of the training for construction work ITPs can receive formal certification expanding on their empirical knowledge of construction methods and materials.
- This approach has proven effective for strengthening the self-esteem and institutions of marginalised ITPs as well as contradict any local prejudices against their work capacity.
- Furthermore, the training and experience received during the projects can boost ITPs employability after the project
- Participation is a key principles of a human rights based approach, but it has to be inclusive of all members of society, including women, elders and youth

The case of Nicaragua: LRB in the collection and storage of water

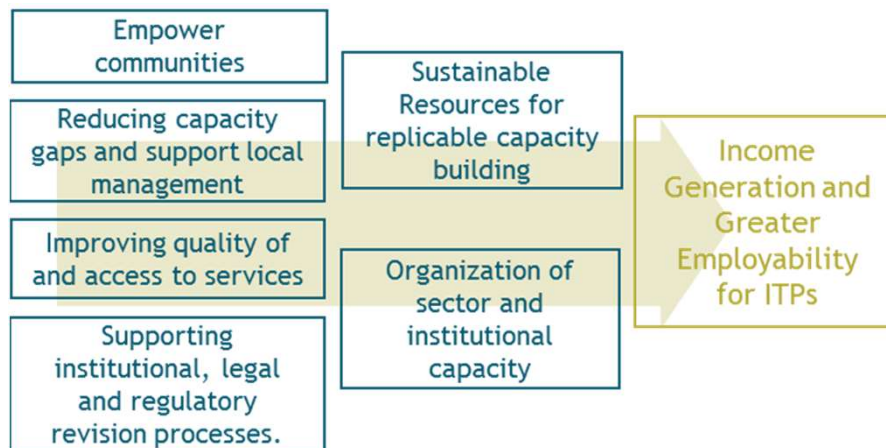
- **Context of the Project:** UN Joint Program to improve WASH Governance (2009- 2012)
- **Objective:** strengthen the economic and democratic governance of WAS sector to increase sustainable access to water and sanitation services
- **Target group:** Indigenous peoples and Afro-Caribbean descendent minorities (IP&AC)
- **Beneficiaries of the project:**
 - North Atlantic Autonomous Region(RAAN): 5 municipalities, 10 communities
 - South Atlantic Autonomous Region(RAAS): 5 municipalities, 10 communities

UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, PAHO , UNESCO, UNCDF, UNODC



- The objectives of the Program were to strengthen the economic and democratic governance of the water and sanitation sector of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast
- This was achieved through :
 - greater participation and coordination among institutional and social actors,
 - strengthening the institutional framework, and
 - investment in infrastructure seeking to increase sustainable access to water and sanitation services, prioritizing indigenous peoples and communities of African descent.
- The Program was conducted within the framework of the MDG-F Programs
- It was implemented in 20 communities in the north and south autonomous regions
- With the participation of 7 UN agencies

Enhancing capabilities and strengthening the institutional framework

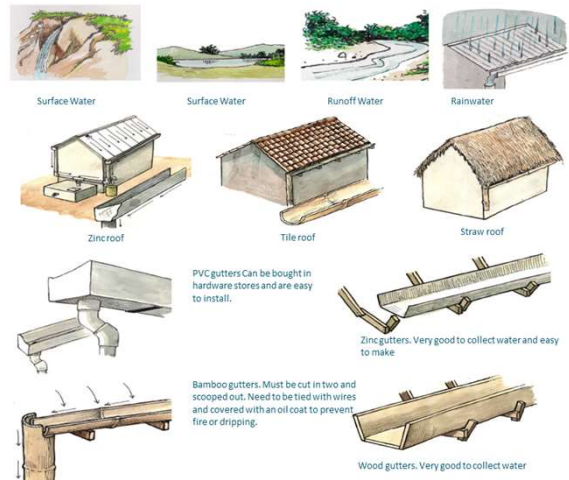


- The communities were empowered by:
 - Supporting local management
 - improving local access to services, and
 - Supporting institutional, legal and regulatory reform
- The outcome was in job creation and higher incomes

Learning by doing: Combining theoretical lessons ... with



Appropriate training materials



The learning by doing method combines theoretical lessons with practical training

On site practices ... Women participation



Project results:

- 24 water/sanitation projects operational in 20 communities
- 7.2% improved access to water
- 5.1% improved access to sanitation



The participation of women was very important, and formed the backbone of the inclusivity programme.

The importance of training women to do traditionally men's work is critical to the ability to lift them out of poverty and take an equal role

Outcomes of the approach to the project

- Two people per community were trained as masons for the maintenance of water systems.
- In total, 109 people were trained in the construction and maintenance of Water and Sanitation systems, of which 81 (40% women) have been qualified as Entrepreneurs.
- 35 constructive service providers were trained in appropriate technologies and business organization issues
- Creation of a guidebook on appropriate technologies and skills training for Indigenous and Afro Caribbean people.

In total:

- 2 people in each community were trained as masons
- 109 people were trained to construct water and sanitation systems, of which 40% were women
- 35 construction workers trained in technologies and business organisation
- Plus a guidebook was created

Recommendations for empowering ITPs in Development Projects (1)

- Empowering ITPs requires a specific approach ideally based on anthropological studies.
- Identify **internal power relations and political decision-making structure/levels** to allow inclusive participation, social dialogue and negotiation.
- Understand the social structure and the position and role of women, elders, youth and people with disabilities within the community and their relationship with **access, management and control over economic and natural resources**
- Locate and respect **sacred places and associated rituals** with the object of the project i.e. roads, sources of water

The learnings that were found were that it was necessary to understand:

- The anthropological background
- internal political relationships to enable inclusive participation
- The role of women, elders, youth and people with disabilities and their ability to access and control economic and natural resources
- The location of sacred places to be respected

Recommendations for empowering ITPs in Development Projects (2)

- Take into account **local perception of time**
- Project implementers and indigenous leaders **might have different perspective** of understanding of the projects.
- It is crucial to make sure that the **purpose of the project is clear and aligned with people's needs and interests**. Two or three meetings may be required to reach a common understanding.
- **Identify traditional practices, biological indicators** related to natural resources management and infrastructure development
- Promote **Local knowledge and appropriate traditional technologies and expertise**.

In addition, the following need to be considered;

- Local perception of time
 - Interpretation of project
 - The need for several meetings to design the project according to peoples needs
 - Traditional practices and
 - Promotion of local know-how and traditional expertise
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- In this case, participation needed to be adapted to their cultural needs to make it work



Gracias!

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Thank you for listening.

- If you would like to see other examples of a human rights based approach you can find copies of our good practices guide from Central America at our stand.