



SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS AND RIPARIAN COMMUNITIES OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

Thanks to the considerable growth recorded in recent years, Brazil has joined the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), of the five major emerging countries in the world. Despite economic growth, Brazil, however, is still the scene of an unfair redistribution of wealth.

Inequality affects in particular the minority communities.

The project "Sustainable development in the Brazilian Amazon border", implemented by ISCOS in the Municipality of Benjamin Constant (Alto Solimoes Region), aims to increase income and employment levels consistent with the principles of decent work and fair economy in local communities principally belonging to Ticuna ethnic group, and reduce diseases caused by the lack of safe drinking water.

The action, **co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, has been agreed and implemented with local communities, in collaboration with the local "Diocese Do Alto Solimoes", with the Capuchin Friars from Umbria (Fratelli Minori Cappuccini dell'Umbria), present in the area for a hundred years with their mission, and the Foundation SIPEC, Italian partner.

The project acts at multiple levels against a reality

that for many years has seen the alternating and the simultaneity of policies and practices conflicting with each other: on the one hand, abandonment and marginalization and on the other assistentialism and paternalism.

For improvement in the areas of health and hygiene, water purification systems powered by solar energy have been installed.

In the production sector, the focus is on community production units and on diversification processes oriented towards food sovereignty and income rises. Finally, to increase the involvement of local population, ISCOS promotes the expansion of citizenship rights so that communities and their organizations have an impact on public policy.

All the above actions have enabled the development of a production center that respects the environment as well as international laws for the protection of the Amazon rainforest and its natural resources and have enabled an improvement in socio-economic conditions of about 4500 people from 19 communities.

Watch the video about the project: <http://bit.ly/MOJvip>.