

Monthly magazine of REIBA
Amazonian Intercultural Bilingual Education Network



REIBAS LOCALES

In this NotiREIBA, we share some events that the Local REIBAs experienced between December 2025 and January 2026. We invite you to read this good news shared from the Amazon region.

REIBA WIJINT - PERU



Apostolic Vicariate: Puerto Maldonado
Amazonian indigenous people: Achuar

In early December, the local REIBA Wijint team was preparing to hold a large Christmas gathering with the community on the 10th of the month. During this gathering, the Word of God was celebrated, Christmas carols were sung in the Achuar language, and a delicious hot chocolate was shared. (images 1, 2, and 3)



Also, as part of the activity, Christmas baskets were prepared and raffled off among the parents, most of whom live two to three days away. (images 3, 4, and 5)



REIBA DICARO – ECUADOR

Vicariato apostólico: Aguarico
Pueblo indígena amazónico: Waorani



In the Waorani community, in December, continuing with the transmission of ancestral knowledge from university students to children, a new practical workshop was held. On this occasion, they were taught how to build a typical Waorani house.

To make this activity more meaningful, the space of the Women's Association was used, as they are currently building their headquarters using this technique with the collaboration of the Amawtay university students. The children were able to see, learn about, and understand the different materials needed, such as types of sticks and leaves.

As a form of feedback, each group of children made a miniature version of this type of dwelling, which was then used as a nativity scene.

Throughout this activity, it was noted that the children were accompanied by elder women (pikenanis) who taught them Christmas carols in the native Waotededo language.

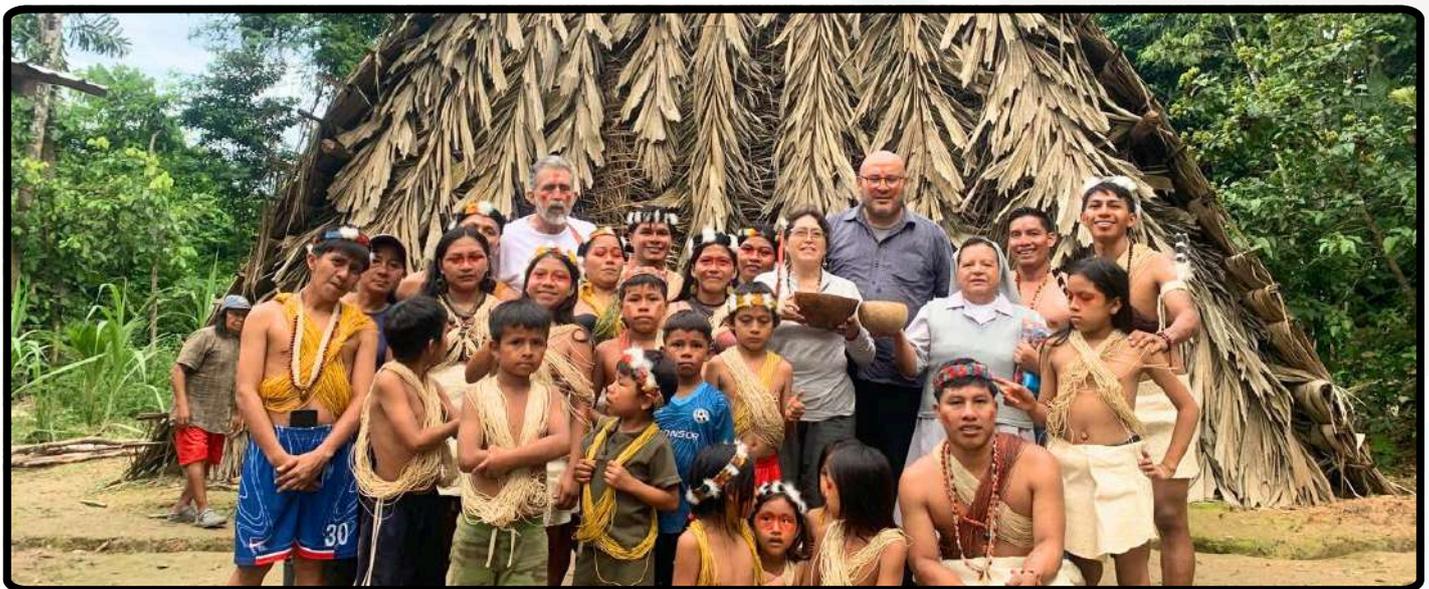


The activity was preparing the Christmas atmosphere in the community. For the celebration, everyone gathered in the town's indoor sports hall. It was led by university students and included the traditional "pase del niño" (passing of the child), Christmas carols in Waotededo written by the students themselves, traditional games, an exhibition of all the nativity scenes made by the children, and a sharing of sweets.

After the eighth day of Christmas, in January, the university students resumed the transmission of knowledge.

On this occasion, they invited the grandparents, who shared and taught the children traditional songs that should be performed throughout the year in the community depending on the significant activity being carried out, such as during the planting of cassava, weaving, etc.

In turn, they were taught how to make and prepare traditional costumes for the final presentation of the workshop.



Two of the most significant moments in January in the community of Dicaro were the visit of Monsignor Adalberto Jiménez, who was present from the 27th to the 30th, and the arrival of the new REIBA volunteer, Yolanda Huamancondor. The monsignor's visit was an opportunity to share and renew the desire to continue working as a community and in cooperation with the Apostolic Vicariate of Aguarico.

REIBA SAN ANTONIO DE LOMERÍO – BOLIVIA



Vicariato apostólico: Ñuflo de Chávez
Pueblo indígena amazónico: Monkox Chiquitano

The teachers who are members of the Bes+ro native language revitalization group in the Monkox Chiquitana San Antonio de Lomerío indigenous community—Prof. Carmen Pocoena, Juana Pocoena, Luisa Suarez, and Petrona Guasace—have been developing curricular and extracurricular activities to continue the recovery of their native language. They say they feel motivated and better guided on how to carry out this recovery process thanks to the support they have received from Mgtre. Karina Sullón. During 2025, they have developed everything from games to riddles to be used in teaching each of their students.

Among some of these activities, Prof. Carmen invites some students who need to reinforce what they have learned to her home, and she takes advantage of this space to speak to them in Bes+ro. She comments that the children are doing better and better and are not as shy as they were at the beginning of the process.

For her part, Prof. Juana shared with us one of the latest activities they developed at the 13 de Junio Educational Unit last year, which consisted of the children presenting the recipe for a typical Lomerian dish in Bes+ro. She said she was very happy with her students' progress and, above all, with how much they enjoy learning/doing.



REIBA AISHALTON - GUYANA



Diócesis: Georgetown

Pueblo indígena amazónico: Wapichan



In the Wapichana community of Aishalton, teachers remain active and increasingly creative in the process of E.I.B. (Intercultural Bilingual Education). Such is the case of Prof. Ann Williams, who carried out a beautiful and culturally sensitive activity where children from the educational unit first learned about a specific culture and then represented it.

Learning by doing will always be one of the best methodologies for working with children and young people.



This activity reminds us that a person who truly understands and applies EIB is willing to listen, learn from others, and understand different worldviews, overcoming prejudices. They also recognize that all cultures are equally dignified and valuable, rejecting the superiority of one over another. In turn, they encourage dialogue, active listening, and conflict resolution through mutual understanding, and they consider cultural differences to be a source of richness and a positive resource, not an obstacle.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

Coordinator: Hna. Lisette Escárte, H.D.M



In December, we bid an emotional and grateful farewell to two valuable international volunteers: Nery Chamorro, a Paraguayan volunteer who lived for nearly three years with the T'siman people in the community of Misión Fátima - Apostolic Vicariate of Reyes in Bolivia, and María Oliva, a Mexican volunteer who accompanied the Matsigenka community in the Kirigueti community of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Maldonado in Peru.

We are grateful for the witness of service they gave with such love, and we commit ourselves to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire them in the missions that divine will proposes to them.



Some return to their homes and others begin their mission, as in the case of national volunteer Luz Mercedes Barreneche, who, days before beginning her mission in the territory of Sarrapia in the Apostolic Vicariate of Inírida, met with the Lauritas Sisters in Bogotá (Colombia), where she was trained alongside Sister María Joaquina Marchan MML in a linguistics workshop. Lauritas in Bogotá (Colombia), where she was trained by Sister María Joaquina Marchan MML in a linguistics workshop.



After the training, Luz traveled with the sisters to Puerto Inírida (Colombia) on January 18, where they followed the river to the Sarrapia community of the Piaroa indigenous people.

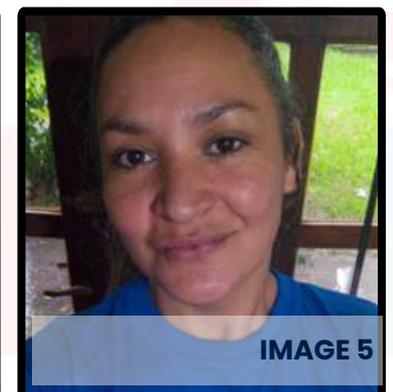
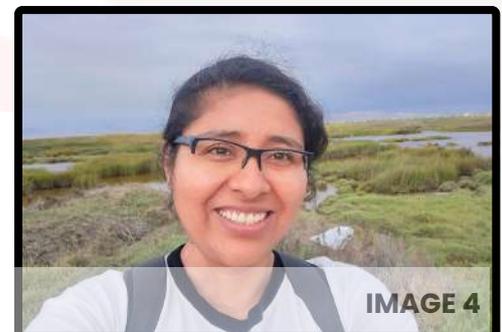


VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

Coordinator: Hna. Lisette Escárate, H.D.M

After enthusiastically and perseveringly completing the REIBA Volunteer Training, and continuing with the required processes, we are pleased to introduce six new REIBA volunteers.

- **Luz Barreneche**, a Colombian national volunteer who will be part of REIBA Sarrapia. (image 1)
- **Julio Mancipe**, a Colombian international volunteer who will join REIBA San Borja in Bolivia. (image 2)
- **Iván Santos**, a local volunteer belonging to the Asháninka people of Peru. (image 3)
- **Yolanda Huamancondor**, a Peruvian international volunteer who will carry out a mission in Dicaro, Ecuador. (image 4)
- **Mónica Romero**, an Argentine international volunteer who will join the new REIBA Santo Antonio do Iça, Brazil. (image 5)
- **Mariela Gutiérrez**, an international volunteer from Argentina who will carry out a mission in the REIBA Dicaro, Ecuador. (image 6)
- **Guillermo Licuy**, a local volunteer from the Kiwcha people, Ecuador. (image 7)
- **Mário Velázquez**, a Brazilian national volunteer who will be part of the REIBA Iauaretê. (image 8)



I.B.E COORDINATION – INTERCULTURAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Coordinator: Ana Gabriela Jimenez M.

During January 2026, the Bilingual Intercultural Education Commission held meetings of great importance for the continued support of Amazonian indigenous peoples in strengthening EIB (Bilingual Intercultural Education).

Among these, a meeting was held with Sandra Robilliard, who, together with the other advisors of the Thematic Training Meetings: Grimaldo Rengifo, Sister Inés Ochoa, and Dr. Karina Sullón, have once again given their YES! to the process of personalized advising.

On the other hand, when evaluating the progress of the internal objectives set in each educational unit or institution, it was deemed necessary to begin searching for new alternatives that could reinforce the training currently being carried out. Among the proposals, Marcelo Lemos, executive secretary of CEAMA, together with Gabriela Sacco, director of the Institute for Global Dialogue and the Culture of Encounter - IDGCE, and Juan Fernando Pacheco of UNIMINUTO, propose a kind of training for young indigenous leaders with the aim of making their voices heard, especially on the issue of WATER, a vital liquid that is currently being contaminated by the entry of mining companies in several regions where REIBA has missions.

As part of the fruits of the training provided by the Thematic Training Encounters, initial contact was made with Prof. Markis from Fe y Alegría Venezuela, who, through a conversation with Sister Marbelis, was able to gain some insight into the training modules and how useful they would be in her educational units.



COMMUNICATION COORDINATION

Coordinator: Ana Gabriela Jimenez M.

The REIBA communication committees, together with those of CEAMA, are gradually creating synergies. In January, it was decided that the current corporate emails of the central coordination would switch to the @ceama.org domain, which will lead to us being increasingly recognized as a concrete action of the Catholic Church in the Amazon region and identified as an ecclesial organization associated with CEAMA.



Below are the new corporate email addresses:

- coordinacion.reiba@ceama.org
- comunicacion.reiba@ceama.org
- voluntariado.reiba@ceama.org
- eib.reiba@ceama.org
- contabilidad.reiba@ceama.org



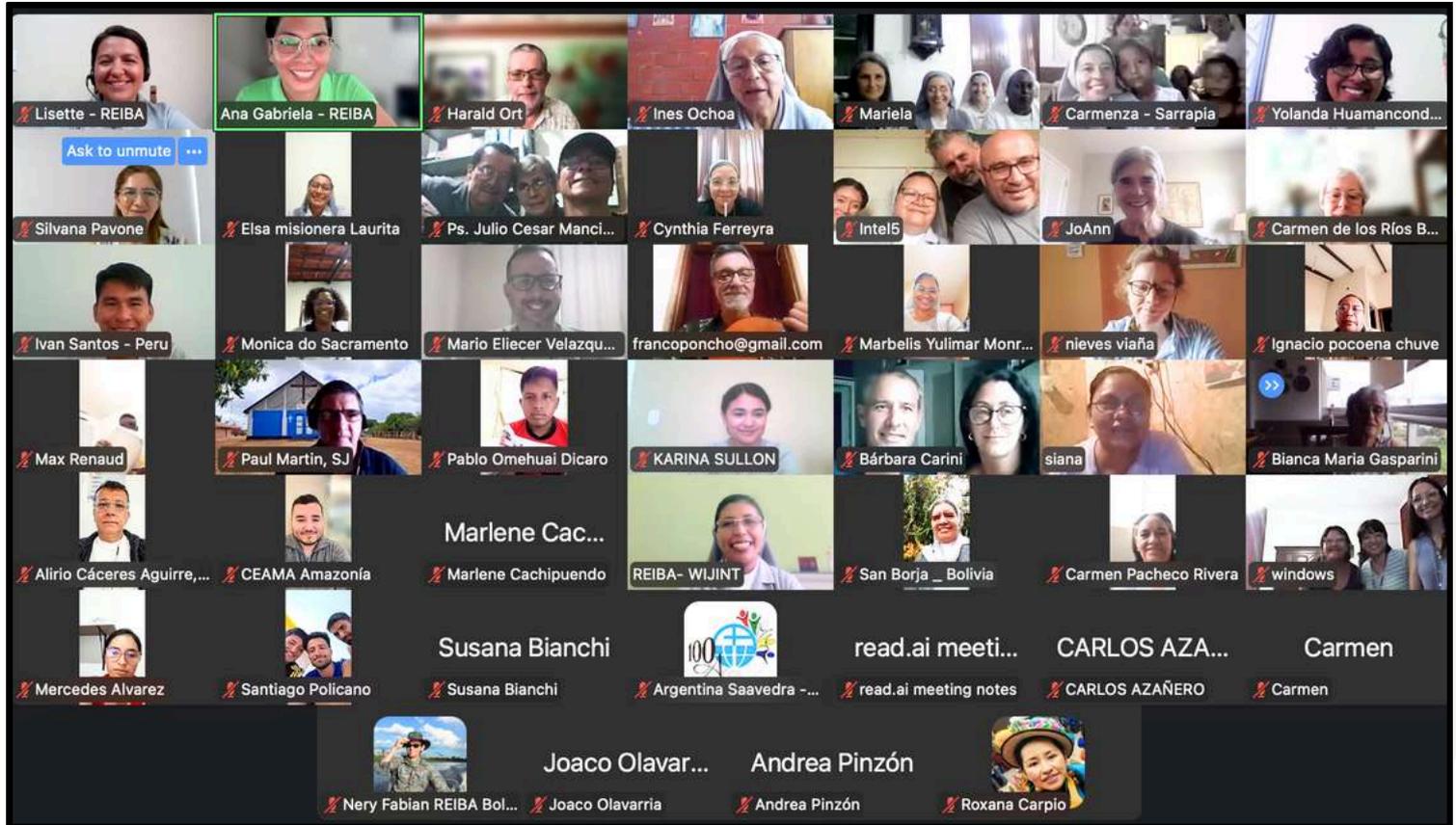
SOCIAL MEDIA

Our audience/followers on both Facebook and Instagram are diversifying and growing every day.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Apostolic Vicariates that have reposted information about IBE, its benefits, and its challenges. We hope that this will be useful in helping more people in your communities understand the global importance of IBE (Intercultural Bilingual Education), especially in the Amazon region.

We will continue to learn together about this wonderful world of EIB in a dynamic, concise, and participatory way!





REIBA MISSIONARY SENDING 2026

Last Wednesday, the 28th, the REIBA MISSIONARY SENDING 2026 took place. This was a spiritual gathering where all the members of the REIBA family—local, national, and international volunteers, advisors, coordinators, and special guests—came together to renew their missionary spirit and ask our Creator to enlighten their journey in this new year.

The new REIBA volunteers, who belong to GROUP 6, were accompanied by the person who was key to their calling to serve in the Amazon. During this event, the symbolic presentation of the missionary cross also took place.

This moment was filled with the respectful interculturality that we at REIBA are called to preserve and strengthen.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY 2026:

CEAMA EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT MEETING IN LIMA, PERU



With a view to the CEAMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026, the general coordination, as part of the CEAMA executive secretariat, will participate in this meeting from February 9 to 12, which will take place in the city of Lima (Peru). We entrust to our Lord all the decisions that the executive secretariat will make at this meeting.

LENT 2026



On February 18, we will begin the season of Lent, a time of conversion and deep reflection. From the central coordination, and as agents of change committed to the care of integral ecology, we invite you to live this time by strengthening our relationship with our environment: the community, culture, and nature. It is in this harmonious relationship with our territory that we find ways to reconnect with the Creator and with ourselves.

DONATIONS:

You too can be part of the network by becoming a REIBA volunteer or supporting us with your donation. Any amount you can contribute helps greatly in REIBA's mission!

Write to us at: reibaoficial@gmail.com to find out how you can make your donation!





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