

NEWSLETTER

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Ucayali already has the first Mega ALEGRA center with intercultural focus

Thanks to the intervention of the Eje No Penal Program of the World Bank, the Mega ALEGRA Center in Ucayali has been completely renovated, a milestone that marks a significant advance in the promotion of justice and access to legal services in one of the most diverse regions of Peru.



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With the presence of the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Eduardo Arana, the first ALEGRA Free Legal Advice Center with an intercultural approach was inaugurated in the region of Ucayali.

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“World Bank President highlights the Impact of Alegra Centers in the Lives of Peruvians”.

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Commitment to cultural diversity and Human Rights in Ucayali

With the presence of the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Eduardo Arana, the first ALEGRA Free Legal Advice Center with an intercultural approach was inaugurated in the region of Ucayali. This region is characterized for being the Amazonian area with the largest presence of native communities in the country, with around 20 communities that will benefit from the services provided by this renovated Mega Alegra center of the Public Defense Directorate and Access to Justice of MINJUSDH.

The main objective of this initiative is to eliminate the socioeconomic, cultural and geographic barriers that limit access to justice for the most vulnerable populations of Ucayali. In his inaugural speech, Minister Arana highlighted the importance of this achievement:

“This first Mega Alegra center with an intercultural approach marks an important milestone, because through the free legal advice and sponsorship of the MINSJUDH Public Defender’s Office, the protection of the rights of more than 32,000 inhabitants of our

indigenous communities will be guaranteed, the language gap will be narrowed and their cultural diversity will be respected.”

This achievement ensures that the vulnerable population seeking free legal advice feels integrated and has access to quality legal services, while promoting respect for the region’s cultural diversity.

The Center has 48 professionals, including public defenders specialized in intercultural approach, who are knowledgeable in the Shipibo Conibo language,

and can serve the native population in their mother tongue, facilitating effective communication.

These defenders will be available to assist the native population in legal matters such as the defense of victims, advice on family, civil and labor law matters, among others. In addition, extrajudicial conciliation services, social workers, anthropological expertise, medicine and forensic psychology are offered free of charge.



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Eduardo Arana Ysa
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS





A Modern and Functional Headquarters for the Ucayali Community

The Eje No Penal Program has invested more than one hundred and fifty thousand nuevos soles (S/ 150,000) in the physical refurbishments of the Mega ALEGRA center. Now the new headquar-

ters of the first Mega ALEGRA Center with intercultural approach, located in Jr. Luis Scavino N° 241 Pucallpa, has modern and functional spaces, with new furniture that allows a better service. In addition, a specially designed space has been created for children accompanying their mothers, gua-

ranteeing their care and facilitating the mother's attention while legal issues are being addressed. All environments are properly signposted in Spanish and Shipibo Conibo, thus facilitating information to users who come every day to the renovated intercultural Mega Alegra headquarters in the Ucayali region.

Recognition and Inauguration

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Congressman of the Republic, Elvis Vergara; the Vice Minister of Human Rights and Access to Justice, Luigino Pilotto; the General Director of the General Directorate of Public Defense and Access to Justice, Walter Martínez; and the Executive Director of the Eje No Penal Program of the

World Bank, Rodolfo Albán Guevara and other personalities, as well as representatives of the indigenous communities of the region.

The first Mega ALEGRA Center with an intercultural approach represents a significant step towards equal access to justice in Ucayali and demonstrates a strong commitment to cultural diversity and respect for human rights in the region.

“These improvements are being carried out within the framework of the project “Improvement of Free Legal Advice Services (ALEGRA)”, which is being implemented thanks to World Bank financing.



Free Legal Assistance Centers are changing lives and saving lives

“World Bank President highlights the Impact of Alegra Centers in the Lives of Peruvians”.

Ajay Banga delivered a landmark speech on the new direction of the World Bank during the 2023 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, held in Marrakech, Morocco.

Significant Visit to Peru

For some time now, the World Bank has been recognized for its focus on tackling the most complex challenges and seeking to have a transformative impact on people’s lives. This spirit of innovation and exploration extends to all spheres in order to provide support to those who are most vulnerable. In this context, World Bank President Ajay Banga shared his experience during the 2023 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund,



“ In Peru, free legal assistance centers are changing and saving lives. I saw a women’s legal assistance center that we had funded. They had 20 lawyers and they are there to help women, either for pension payments or in cases of sexual and domestic abuse. They do an incredible job

AJAY BANGA
World Bank
President

held in Marrakech, Morocco, where he described in detail his first official visit to Peru.”

During his stay in Peru, President Banga had the opportunity to know firsthand about the job of the public defenders who work in the Alegra Centers of the Public Defense Directorate, offering legal assistance to people in situations of poverty and vulnerability.

During his visit, he held a dialogue with women users of the service who have been able to obtain justice thanks to the public defenders working at the Mega Alegra headquarters of Lima Centro, who took on their cases, which would not have been possible if they could not afford a lawyer and therefore their right to access

the justice system would have been violated. At Alegra centers, they can access free legal advice services in matters such as domestic violence, filiation and alimony, among others. The meeting with these women allowed him to appreciate in situ the great impact that the Alegra Centers generate in improving the lives of these people.

Labor Recognition

President Ajay Banga highlighted the work carried out by the Alegra Centers in Peru, emphasizing the contribution to change and improve people’s lives. He highlighted the importance of free legal assistance and expressed: “In Peru, free legal assistance centers are changing and saving lives. I saw a women’s legal assistance center that





“We have to replicate and scale up things that work. If there is one such center, why not ten? They are developing it in Peru, the fact that women are facing these problems is not limited to Peru. Why not do it in other countries as well? Therefore, we have the idea of replicating this project at scale; it is a concept that we can encourage from the World Bank. We can work to replicate that work on a global scale,” he said.

Strategic Alliance

The President highlighted the alliance between the Peruvian State and the World Bank, through the Eje No Penal Program, which seeks to improve and expand the Alegra Centers nationwide. There are already ten (10) Alegra and Mega Alegra centers that have been improved and refurbished by the Eje No Penal Program, including the first ALEGRA Intercultural center recently inaugurated in Ucayali, which will serve more than 20 native communities in

the Ucayali region, one of the most diverse regions of Peru.

The Alegra and Mega Alegra Centers in Lima Centro, Villa El Salvador, Villa María del Triunfo, Santa Anita, San Juan de Miraflores Comas, Moyobamba, Cusco, Abancay and Andahuaylas (the latter three are about to be inaugurated), are some of the centers that have not only been physically improved, they have also been fully equipped with modern and functional furnishings to provide better quality service to the population using the services, and soon there will be fully equipped centers in Rioja, Comandante Espinar, Los Olivos and Chanchamayo.

Commitment to Progress

Since assuming the presidency of the World Bank on June 2, 2023, Ajay Banga has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting initiatives that foster progress and improve the quality of people’s lives. To date in his tenure, his support and recognition of the work of the public defenders at the Alegra and Mega Alegra Centers in Peru reflects the organization’s commitment to promoting justice and the well-being of those in disadvantaged situations.

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Model to Follow

The World Bank considers the Alegra Centers of the Public Defense Directorate to be a successful model that can be replicated in other countries. President Banga raised the idea of expanding this project on a global scale, encouraging its development and replication in various locations.



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