

Mosh Huasginch Kamëntsá Language and Living Culture Program

Revitalizing the ancestral language through education, weaving, community research, and intergenerational transmission.



A revitalization process already in motion

In the ancestral territory of the Kamëntsá Biyá Nation, language is inseparable from identity, territory, medicine, memory, and community life. Led by OIOC together with Kamëntsá teachers, weavers, knowledge holders, families, and community authorities, Mosh Huasginch is building a long-term, Indigenous-led pathway for bringing the ancestral language back into everyday life.

Community estimates suggest that only about 6% of the population remains actively fluent, with speakers concentrated among older generations. The sociolinguistic self-diagnosis now underway will establish a reliable, community-owned baseline for future action.

91	73	164	1,937
language school enrollments	ancestral weaving enrollments	learning enrollments across both schools	families within the diagnostic scope

Enrollment totals represent learning places across two connected schools and may include participants engaged in both.

The 2026 program brings together three connected paths: the Kamëntsá Language School, the Ancestral Weaving School, and a community-wide sociolinguistic self-diagnosis.

THE 2026 PROGRAM

Language learning rooted in community life

The program connects formal learning with cultural practice, household transmission, and community-owned evidence.

Kamëntsá Language School	Ancestral Weaving School
The Language School provides a sustained space where children, youth, adults, and elders strengthen oral and written Kamëntsá. Two learning levels allow new and returning learners to follow a progressive pathway rather than isolated workshops. 91 enrollments 56 participants in Level 1 35 participants in Level 2	In Kamëntsá culture, weaving carries memory, relationships, and teachings passed between generations. The Weaving School extends the revitalization process by teaching ancestral techniques through Kamëntsá. 73 enrollments 52 participants in Level 1 21 participants in Level 2

Kamëntsá Sociolinguistic Self-Diagnosis

The six-month process began on September 1, 2026. Fourteen trained Kamëntsá community fieldworkers are working across seven veredas to reach the 1,937 families within the diagnostic scope.

This is not an external study conducted about the community. The information, interpretation, priorities, and resulting decisions remain under Kamëntsá authority.

14	7	1,937	10 years
trained community fieldworkers	veredas included	families in scope	planning horizon

The process will produce

A community-owned sociolinguistic baseline	A map of language use and transmission
Identification of household barriers and opportunities	Community priorities for education and revitalization
Guidance for adapting teaching levels and materials	A ten-year Kamëntsá language revitalization plan

Why this matters

Kamëntsá carries ways of understanding plants, water, health, territory, family, spirituality, reciprocity, and collective responsibility. Revitalization strengthens cultural continuity, intergenerational relationships, Indigenous identity, territorial care, and the authority of Kamëntsá teachers and knowledge holders.

CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITY

Sustain the Mosh Huasginch Language School for one full year

The sociolinguistic self-diagnosis is fully funded. OIOC's current partnership priority is the continuity and strengthening of the Language School for its 91 enrolled learners.

PARTNERSHIP OPTION	SCOPE	AMOUNT IN COP
Sponsor 1 month	School operations and teaching continuity	COP \$16,400,000
Sponsor 6 months	Half-year continuity	COP \$98,400,000
Sponsor 12 months	Full-year continuity	COP \$196,800,000
Sociolinguistic self-diagnosis	Six-month process across seven veredas	FUNDED

International partners may contact OIOC for a current USD equivalent and partnership information.

What partnership makes possible

- Keep Kamëntsá teachers, learners, and community learning spaces active throughout the year.
- Provide fair and sustained compensation for Indigenous educators and knowledge holders.
- Maintain regular language classes and culturally grounded teaching materials.
- Adapt teaching levels, methods, and outreach as community-owned findings emerge.
- Connect immediate language transmission with a ten-year territorial strategy.



Invitation to partner

We are not seeking funding to begin revitalization. We are seeking partners to sustain and strengthen a process already led, tested, and growing within Kamëntsá territory.

Partners may support one or more months of the School, underwrite a full year, or explore a multi-year relationship aligned with the ten-year revitalization horizon.

Indigenous governance and leadership

The initiative is guided by Kamëntsá authorities, educators, researchers, weavers, elders, and cultural knowledge holders. Its information, priorities, and long-term decisions remain under Kamëntsá authority.

Taita Juan Bautista Ágreda Kamëntsá elder, Yagé knowledge holder, Director of OIOC, and four-time Governor of the Kamëntsá Nation.	Andrés Juagibioy Language teacher and lead community researcher with more than 30 years of experience.	Juana María Muchachasoy Language teacher and cultural educator dedicated to intergenerational transmission.
Gladis Alicia Chindoy Chicunque Language teacher and cultural guide with more than 25 years of experience.	Luis Antonio Buesaquillo Ágreda Language teacher, cultural organizer, and educational materials developer.	Antonia Narváez Kamëntsá communicator and researcher supporting oral history and community documentation.



About OIOC

OIOC is an Indigenous nonprofit organization based in Colombia. It advances Kamëntsá-led work in language revitalization, cultural continuity, biocultural restoration, and Indigenous-led research in the Sibundoy Valley and the Upper Amazon.

Program leadership

Cabildo Indígena Kamëntsá Biyá and OIOC, with the participation of community educators, families, elders, weavers, researchers, and knowledge holders.

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