

Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

WFP contribution to the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues' Questionnaire

I. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2022 session

i) Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum, on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII.

ii) The theme of the 2022 Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues (PFII) session is "Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent". Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

WFP Guidance Note on Free, Prior and Informed Consent Endorsed in January 2021, the guidance note provides information on the principle of free prior informed consent and provides operational consideration in its application for WFP programme employees.

II. System-Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Please provide analysis on actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum.

WFP will report against four elements of the SWAP.

Support the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

WFP is actively engaged in in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and is a member of the IASG Task Group 2: Engagement with UNCT-Implementation of the System Wide Action Plan on Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The task group responds to the Call to Action on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Tasks include collecting good practices across the UN system and a series of thematic round table dialogues with Resident Coordinators to address guidance and action to advance support on indigenous peoples at the country level. Two of the four planned roundtables will be co-coordinated by WFP and partner UN agencies.

WFP undertook five in-depth assessments of indigenous peoples' vulnerabilities to food insecurity. A key component to develop these assessments was strengthening capacity in the offices to undertake the work. Multiple meetings were held to share the results of the assessments within the country offices, regional bureaus, UN country teams and externally through events, i.e. side event at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2021. These assessments have led to a roll out of activities at the

country level including a Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) study in Republic of Congo. Additional assessments are planned by the office of the Central African Republic to engage programmatically in 2022.

WFP approved the Community Engagement strategy which builds on core concepts within the WFP Protection and Accountability policy (2020) and Disability Inclusion Road Map (2020–2021). The strategy aims to reinforce the operationalization of the Protection and Accountability Policy and Disability Inclusion Roadmap through the identification of progressive result areas and activities that can contribute to better community engagement practices, including with indigenous peoples' communities, within WFP programming.

WFP commissioned an operational study into how language can be an under-explored driver of vulnerability for the affected populations WFP serves. A key aim of the project is to understand how languages can enable community engagement. The objective of the work is to contribute to improving WFP programme accountability and effectiveness through reducing language-induced barriers that prevent WFP and its partners from communicating with some of the most marginalized individuals and groups. Outcomes will include a glossary of WFP programme terminology, language maps, training material, and guidance on data and language collection.

Within the framework of the SDG funded joint programme between WFP, UNICEF, WHO and the Republic of Congo, the WFP office in the Republic of Congo rolls out several activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the SDGs with special attention to indigenous peoples' communities. Examples range from:

- committees made up of government and local authorities, civil society and private sector actors focusing on ensuring indigenous peoples' access to social protection measures in the region of Lékoumou;
- reinforcement of national social protection services through support to health care centers that address malnutrition amongst indigenous people; implementation of school feeding programs that include indigenous women in the preparation of the meals as an income generating activity as well as a way to promote social cohesion among indigenous and non-indigenous communities (see <https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-backed-school-meals-promote-social-inclusion-among-indigenous-peoples>)
- and boosting access to income generating activities by supporting and training small farmers' associations made up of indigenous peoples. Support includes the provision of equipment and facilitating access to the market.

Support the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly at the country level

WFP developed a Guidance Note on Free Prior Informed Consent (see above under section I.)

WFP launched its Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework which includes Environmental and Social Standards. The standards are a collection of minimum requirements and do-no-harm commitments enshrined in existing WFP policies, directives, and guidelines. The rights of indigenous peoples are

included under the protection and human rights standard and follow the provisions stipulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Through advocacy initiatives vis-a-vis the government the Joint Programme between WFP, UNICEF and WHO in the Republic of Congo works with civil society organizations on the full Implementation of the UNDRIP.

Develop the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and United Nations personnel

A key component of WFP's environmental and social sustainability framework is a learning platform to develop capacity among WFP employees on the application of the standards and safeguards.

A new Indigenous Peoples Webpage on WFPGo was designed this year as a resource for employees - collecting evidence, guidance, and experience to support engagement with indigenous peoples.

An informal Indigenous Peoples' Affinity Group was formed made up of WFP employees interested in and/or working on indigenous peoples' issues from different units within headquarters, regional offices, and country offices. The overall purpose of the group is: 1) to share information; 2) to coordinate engagement within the organization when needed; 3) to encourage exchange/consultation among colleagues on given initiatives.

A Community of Practice (CoP) to promote indigenous peoples' food systems has been in the making as part of a process to engage country offices and regional bureaus in the lead up to the Food Systems Pre-Summit and Summit. The CoP is made up of country offices and regional bureau employees across the regions engaged in resilience work that engages indigenous peoples. The purpose is to encourage peer-to-peer learning, exchange practice and know-how among programme officers, and benefit from colleagues' experience.

The purpose of the Joint Programme between WFP, UNICEF and WHO is to develop the capacity of the Government of the Republic of Congo to implement laws and systems protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. This is done working closely with the national and local authorities on several activities aimed at promoting indigenous peoples' access to social protection. In practice this takes the form of:

- support to health centers through the provision of equipment to assess and treat malnutrition.
- sensitization efforts on topics including nutrition, rights of indigenous peoples, and Gender Based Violence.
- school feeding programs that employ indigenous mothers enabling them to access incomes whilst also combatting the stigmatization of indigenous peoples and decreasing drop-out rates amongst indigenous children; (see <https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-backed-school-meals-promote-social-inclusion-among-indigenous-peoples>)
- capacity development – through organizing and training agricultural groups.

Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes

WFP was the anchor agency for Action Track 5 and took an active role in all the Food Systems Summit (FSS) Action Tracks. In FSS Action Tracks 3 (boosting nature positive production) and 4 (livelihoods and equality) WFP -in collaboration with other UN agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society organizations - co-facilitated a cluster named "Empowering Communities and Indigenous Peoples: Recognising Rights and Traditional Knowledge" within the Action Area "Rebalancing Agency within Food Systems".

WFP's game changing solution: *S.5-Strengthening-Indigenous-Peoples'-Agency-to-Contribute-to-Food-Systems-Transformation* was housed within that cluster.

At the Food Systems Pre-Summit on 27 July, WFP led an affiliate session titled *Indigenous peoples' agency for an equitable and resilient food system* organized in partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations, academia, FAO and UN/civil society initiatives. The session benefitted from the participation of national and state government (RoC, Andhra Pradesh, India, New Zealand), international indigenous leaders and community-based organizations. The session highlighted through examples the key role indigenous peoples play as game changers in the restoration, management and protection of lands and resources and how both agency and traditional knowledge are critical for the transformation of food systems and climate change adaptation. As immediate follow up to the Summit, WFP is facilitating the engagement of indigenous peoples' organizations in the School Meals Coalition, in addition to supporting the indigenous peoples' food systems' coalition.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Please provide information on the main gaps and challenges your entity has identified for indigenous peoples in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

What activities have your entity undertaken since the last reporting that addresses these gaps and challenges?

WFP undertook a set of assessments to examine indigenous peoples' vulnerabilities to food insecurity in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Republic of Congo (RoC), Nepal and in Rajasthan, India. The assessments target indigenous peoples and gather evidence on their food security and nutritional status and needs, livelihoods, and levels of agency. The assessments had common objectives among them -to identify some of the key drivers leading to food insecurity and the main challenges indigenous peoples face in their access to food, a sustainable and dignified livelihood, and well-being. Moreover, the study in Nepal examined the situation of indigenous people with disabilities. Four complete assessments are available, in addition to a factsheet with a synopsis of the findings and an extensive summary of all four studies including an analysis of common findings and recommendations. A fifth assessment is underway in Colombia to be completed in November 2021. In addition, a regional assessment in five countries in Latin America is taking place in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru to provide a basic analysis

of the existing socioeconomic situation, and recommendations for indigenous sensitive programming and strategies based on an understanding of the main drivers of indigenous peoples' vulnerabilities to food insecurity and malnutrition. (End product 31 December)

iii. Please describe any activities that your entity organized in support of the 2021 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

WFP, along with Rome based Agencies (FAO and IFAD) co-led the multistakeholder in-depth review of SDG 2, as part of the thematic review of the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). During this review the specific roles and contributions of indigenous peoples was acknowledged. The need to preserve indigenous communities' livelihoods and build on their knowledge, as part of the food systems transformation was also stressed.

COVID-19 pandemic

Please provide information on action taken by your agency, fund and/or programme since your last update to the Forum, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on indigenous peoples.

In 2021 Covid 19 continued to have a serious economic and social impact in the department of Amazonas, Colombia where approximately 57 percent of the population is indigenous. The closure of borders and the restriction of flights in the area lasted until May, making it difficult to access food. The area is connected only by air and waterways to the rest of the country. A severe rainy season further exacerbated the situation causing floods and damaging crops. In response, WFP provided food assistance to the population most affected by these conditions and since August 2021, has supported early recovery to rebuild the livelihoods of communities by delivering tools and materials, to ensure affected people can resume their work.