

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

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

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2023 session

Regarding the Forum's recommendations to WFP: WFP undertook a regional assessment covering five countries in the Latin American region. One of the findings that emerged from the report is a high consumption of highly processed foods in the diet of the Indigenous peoples' communities that were surveyed. In addition, attention was also raised on the importance of culturally appropriate foods in school-based programming. The findings of the report are being shared within the Regional Bureau's programme divisions for awareness raising and responses.

Regarding data, WFP has undertaken multiple evidence-based assessments in the last two years and has collected data among some Indigenous peoples' communities on food security, livelihoods, and nutrition through both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. This information can complement efforts to collect, and analyse, statistical information. WFP is eager to work with the IASG's newly formed task group to address the development of indicators vis-à-vis the System- Wide Action Plan (SWAP).

ii. The theme of the 2023 PFII session is “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”¹. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

Two events during WFP's Executive Board in November 2022 were organized to draw attention to the role of Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge in sustainable environmental management and climate adaptation. These included i) a five-day multimedia interactive exhibition with videos featuring Indigenous peoples' voices through interviews and testimonies on the use of bioindicators to predict changes in weather and the environment, use of medicinal plants and the role of women as guardians of knowledge, and ii) a high-level panel discussion with representatives of Indigenous peoples' communities to raise awareness of Indigenous peoples' advocacy efforts, traditional knowledge systems and practices as solutions to food insecurity and climate variabilities.

The president of the Bolivian Indigenous-led organization Cholitas Escaladoras Maya and her mother a fellow member of the organization have been appointed as WFP high-level supporters in Bolivia. The organization is known for its women mountain climbers who climb in their traditional attire and use their feats to break gender barriers, raise awareness of delicate ecosystems and the use of ancestral foods that are adaptable to high altitudes.

A binational project funded by the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund integrating traditional and scientific knowledge for climate change adaptation, works with the Indigenous Awá and Afro-descendant communities in Ecuador and Colombia.

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

WFP will report against four elements of the SWAP.

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

- *WFP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FILAC the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean in August 2022 framed within the 2030 agenda and SDGs 2 and 17. The MOU sets out a package of activities focusing on capacity development, and interinstitutional cooperation on issues of interculturalism and rights, food and nutrition assistance, and attention to emergencies.*
- *An assessment on Indigenous peoples' livelihoods and vulnerabilities to food insecurity covering five countries in Latin America was completed this year. A summary of the report is also available. The findings of the report have led to a regional workplan for the upcoming year.*
- *Findings from WFP's assessments on Indigenous peoples' food security vulnerabilities have informed WFP's new country strategic plans where appropriate.*
- *The SDG funded joint programme with WFP, UNICEF, and WHO has focused on improving the living conditions and access to social protection of Indigenous peoples in the Republic of Congo's Lekoumou region, a peripheral zone with lagging social indicators, and home to a large percentage of the country's Indigenous communities. The programme will be concluding at the end of 2022.*
- *WFP work in Peru has aimed at reducing anemia and stunting among Indigenous children under the age of five.*
- *WFP is committed to engage in the implementation of the Call to Action as an active partner in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and in areas where it aligns with its mandate. In 2022 WFP worked with its sister organizations on three thematic roundtable discussions with Resident Coordinators on Indigenous human rights defenders, traditional knowledge and Indigenous participation in UNCT-led work at the country level.*
- *As an outcome of the WFP assessment in Central African Republic, WFP CAR is launching a pilot project among the pastoralist Peuhl focusing on the rehabilitation of a school to be included in the School Feeding Programme for the 2022/2023 school year. It will be collaborating with the families through the provision of local labour and materials.*
- *A nutrition study has taken place among pregnant and breastfeeding mothers among an Indigenous peoples' community in the Cotabato region of the Philippines to identify food consumption patterns, behavior and attitudes towards food.*
- *Mercados Ancestrales (Ancestral Markets) is a project in Colombia that seeks to connect Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities with urban communities across Colombia to facilitate the trade of ethically produced ancestral food products of high nutritional value and gain financial support.*
- *In Guatemala the rural women's empowerment programme focuses on Indigenous women's resilience in agricultural production and in strengthening leadership skills.*

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

- *WFP also issued an internal guidance note on engagement with Indigenous peoples titled: An approach paper: Key considerations for engagement with Indigenous peoples.*
- *WFP developed a new Programme Guidance Manual in 2022 and a chapter on programme guidance with Indigenous peoples has been included.*
- *WFP's existing guidance note on "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" (FPIC) was translated into Spanish, French and is also available in an Easy-to-Read format.*

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

- *WFP's Latin American and Caribbean regional bureau launched a pilot Indigenous peoples fellowship initiative implemented by FILAC. The objective of the fellowship is to provide an analysis of barriers Indigenous people face in accessing employment in WFP and recommendations to enable the hiring of Indigenous talent to ensure more inclusivity and diversity.*
- *A capacity strengthening initiative for WFP employees in the Latin America and Caribbean regional bureau is also under development to sensitize WFP employees on Indigenous peoples' rights, issues, and normative frameworks, among others.*
- *WFP's internal Indigenous peoples' Website was revamped to include the collection of assessments, guidance, and news stories. These are helpful resources to all WFP staff.*
- *Throughout the year, articles on WFP's work with Indigenous peoples have been shared externally through WFP's public pages.*
- *WFP's Indigenous Peoples' Affinity Group formed in 2021 is made up WFP employees interested in and/or working on Indigenous peoples' issues from different units within headquarters, regional offices, and country offices. It is a mechanism to enable the exchange of information and activities on Indigenous peoples. The Affinity group is growing, has an active following and is a platform for greater engagement across regions and countries. A social media yammer page on Indigenous peoples was set up to share information across the organization and is available to all WFP staff.*

4- Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes

WFP has followed the development of the Indigenous Peoples Food Systems Coalition closely and has joined other UN agencies in supporting it. WFP has ensured linkages with other ongoing coalitions such as the School Meals coalition. WFP has also encouraged Indigenous peoples' organizations to join the School Meals 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.

The main gaps are often related to evidence generation and data collection. Also, there is a need to support and recognize Indigenous peoples' food systems and ancestral knowledge. Finally, greater inclusion of Indigenous peoples in climate solutions and Indigenous women's empowerment should be prioritized to achieve the 2030 agenda.

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

As noted above through various concrete examples, WFP has been working, in a wide range of different countries and contexts, on assessments that gather data on Indigenous issues, and that identify the drivers of food insecurity. It uses that information to inform its strategies moving forward. Advocacy and awareness raising at the corporate level have also been key factors in addressing these gaps. Moreover, the Latin America and Caribbean Bureau has identified work with Indigenous peoples as a priority area for the region. This is enabling greater attention to Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems, their role in identifying and using neglected but nutrient rich foods, and their practices in climate change adaptation and early warning. Ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous women in rural empowerment programmes are also steps to greater engagement of women as agricultural producers and leaders. Partnerships such as the MoU with FILAC highlight the importance to work more closely with Indigenous-led organizations to address the issues jointly. We hope to develop these partnerships in other regions to ensure no one gets left behind in accomplishing the Zero-Hunger challenge.