

Questionnaire to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations

The report of the 13th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues provides a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations.

The secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations. All questionnaire responses will be placed on the Permanent Forum's website and also compiled into one report for the Forum's fourteenth session.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **1 January 2015** to:

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The full questionnaire can be downloaded from this site :

<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIIISessions/Fourteenth/Questionnaire.aspx>

Questionnaire

At its fourteenth session in 2015, the Permanent Forum will review the following: (a) Outcome of the high-level plenary also known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; (b) Post-2015 Development Agenda; (c) Youth, self-harm and suicide.

1. Please provide information on how your agency is working with these important issues in the seven socio-cultural regions of the Permanent Forum¹. Where possible, please include information on the situation of indigenous women in your responses.

(a) Outcome of the high-level plenary also known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The World Food Programme (WFP) welcomes the outcome of the World Conference and is an active member of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) tasked to develop a system-wide action plan (SWAP).

At the national level, WFP is ready to support national strategies and action plans to implement the outcome, in relation to indigenous peoples' livelihoods, food security and nutrition situation. This will be done in collaboration with other agencies, through the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and other similar programming instruments.

WFP has also launched in 2014 a Regional Nutrition Strategy for Latin America which aims to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and serve as a model on how to engage with governments in tackling malnutrition. The strategy will support governments in designing policies and programmes geared towards local solutions, while building evidence and setting up national monitoring and evaluation systems dealing with nutrition issues and strengthening accountability on these issues.

(b) Post-2015 Development Agenda

The 2014 State of Food Insecurity in the World (SAFI) report issued by the three United Nations Rome-based agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), indicates that while the hunger target of the Millennium Development Goal – of halving the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries by 2015 – is within reach, marked differences persist across regions and within countries. Food insecurity and poor nutrition, in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overnutrition / obesity, are one of the development and health issues that still most affect indigenous peoples around the world, even in countries showing good overall progress. Several countries achieved significant progress in food and nutrition security by developing an enabling political environment that was conducive to indigenous peoples and smallholder producers' organizations.

¹ UNPFII's seven socio-cultural regions are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

The future of food and nutrition security, rural livelihoods and farming depends on indigenous peoples. A transformative and inclusive post-2015 development agenda must reflect food and nutrition security, an unfinished MDG business, as a priority. The Secretary-General's [Zero Hunger Challenge](#) provides the required vision.

As the world leaders continue to shape the agenda for a post-2015 world people want, indigenous peoples must also be at the center of a zero hunger vision: the global food and nutrition security will depend on being more effective in reaching and engaging the indigenous peoples, who, with their unique knowledge about the animal and plant species and ecosystems, will be critical agents of change in ensuring that the post-2015 agenda is relevant and is being implemented at the local level.

In April 2013, WFP jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), co-led a High-level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Development Framework in Madrid to inform the deliberations of the General Assembly's Open Working Group (OWG) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The outcome of the high-level consultation called among others for a comprehensive approach to food security, identified indigenous peoples as one of the agents of transformation and underscored the importance of participation of all vulnerable groups, especially women, in decision-making at all levels. The high-level consultation also stressed the fact that the eradication of hunger and malnutrition must be definitive and irreversible based on the right of everyone to safe, sufficient, nutritious and affordable food.

The report of the OWG includes a proposed Sustainable Development Goal to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. The underpinning targets are relevant to all vulnerable groups including indigenous people and women. For example:

- Poor nutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity) is one of the development and health issues that disproportionately affect indigenous people. Target 2.2 sets out to end by 2030 “all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons”.
- Specific reference is made to the critical role of women and indigenous people in small-holder agriculture. Target 2.3 sets out to by 2030 “double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.”

WFP has also called for improved disaggregation of data on key food and nutrition security. This will be necessary to improve overall assessment, monitoring and review of vulnerability, including of indigenous peoples, and to develop targeted food and nutrition security strategies and programmes.

The emerging climate change architecture must embed the fact that the most food-insecure people are already feeling the effects of climate change and are the people most in need of support to build resilience. In this regard, indigenous knowledge has been instrumental in coping with climate change impacts on food security in many parts of the world. Indigenous peoples often act as first responders to natural disaster and their contributions to climate change solutions and disaster risk reduction and management should be acknowledged and recognized.

(c) Youth, self-harm and suicide

N/A

2. With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency:

- (i) What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?
- (ii) What are some of the factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?

In 2014 the Permanent Forum acknowledged that indigenous children are often victims of hunger, starvation and malnutrition. It also encouraged UN agencies to increase their efforts to respond to the needs and priorities of indigenous children and youth, especially in the areas of education and health, in a manner that is culturally sensitive and ensures their overall well-being.

An example of how WFP efforts is in line with this recommendation relates to school feeding programmes as well as to nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women which is key to breaking the inter-generational cycle of undernutrition and ensuring healthy and productive societies. In school feeding programmes, for example, WFP partners with national and local governments, other UN agencies and civil society organizations, to provide school-aged children and their families with nutrition support. For poor, food-insecure households and communities, school meals are often the only regular and nutritious meals a child receives. These meals are tailored to specific nutritional needs to support healthy development so children can become healthy and productive adults. WFP is respectful of local diets and preferences and engages with local communities in designing school meals. A daily school meal provides a strong incentive to send children to school and keep them there as they increase school enrolment and attendance, including for girls, decrease drop-out rates, and improve the cognitive abilities of children. Indigenous populations are part of WFP school feeding programmes as illustrated in some of the examples provided under item 3 (iv) provided below.

3. Given the Forum's recommendation for the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your agency has:

- (i) A policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples' issues;

N/A

- (ii) Recent programmes on indigenous peoples' issues;

See item 3 (iv) below.

- (iii) Budgetary allocations for indigenous peoples' issues;

WFP budgets are not broken down by indigenous groups.

- (iv) Projects/activities on indigenous peoples' issues,

Please find some examples of recent WFP's programmes which assist indigenous peoples:

Bolivia:

The Country Programme (2013-2017) addresses highly vulnerable indigenous populations, including those settled in the Department of Pando and Quechua populations in the Department of Chuquisaca. Additionally, a voucher-for-asset programme was implemented in partnership with the Guaraní Assembly in the Chaco eco-region. The programme also provides assistance to indigenous populations through school feeding activities and nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women. WFP's deep field presence has been key in addressing the needs of vulnerable indigenous populations in Bolivia.

Colombia:

Indigenous groups have been disproportionately affected by conflict. Refusing to leave their territory, indigenous groups resist threats and assassinations by staying on their land, effectively becoming confined. Restrictions to mobility affect their livelihoods, access to basic social services, food security and nutritional status. WFP works with indigenous groups in at least 6 out of the 12 departments covered under the operation through relief and recovery activities, whenever possible, ensuring that assistance is culturally sensitive and appropriate.

Since 2012, WFP has assisted 128,000 indigenous people (equivalent to about 21% of the operation beneficiaries) through this operation. Example of specific activities include:

In the northernmost Department of La Guajira, WFP works with the Wayyu people in enhancing their resilience to drought through specific food-for-work programmes related to water harvesting, agroforestry and similar activities, respecting local customs and indigenous agricultural techniques.

In the Southern Department of Nariño WFP, in partnership with UNICEF, supports mother and child health and nutrition activities. Women are provided training on nutrition and child rearing practices using materials developed in their own language and creating recipes with indigenous foods. A culturally-sensitive approach has been used in designing these activities.

WFP has partnered with Colombia's Department for Social Prosperity, the country's Ministry in charge of social programmes, to develop a vulnerability analysis tool tailored specifically to indigenous peoples. The tool was tested in La Guajira in late 2013, and will be used in other indigenous communities to support the targeting and design of social programs.

In 2015, WFP will be working with the National Victim's Unit (UARIV) to support 19 indigenous communities that have been particularly affected by the conflict, through a voucher operation.

Guatemala:

WFP contributed to achievement of the goals set out in the UNDAF, based on the Common Country Assessments (CCA) which follows the human rights based-approach. CCAs have shown that indigenous populations are among the most excluded populations in the country. Indigenous people account for more than 40 percent of the population and are subject to the highest levels of poverty and chronic malnutrition. As a result, all of WFP's areas of intervention take into account the needs of indigenous people.

In 2014, WFP assisted the most vulnerable populations in the three provinces which have the highest percentage of indigenous people; namely, Totonicapan (98.3 %), Solola (96.4%) and Alta Verapaz (92.5%). In 2015 WFP, together with UN Women and FAO, will start the implementation of a Joint Programme on "Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women."

Nicaragua:

WFP is contributing to the National School Feeding Programme, implemented by the Ministry of Education, by targeting 150,000 school children in municipalities predominantly composed of indigenous communities. An estimated 70 percent of targeted children are indigenous (Miskito and Maygna) and afro-descendent. These communities are extremely hard to reach, due to their remoteness, and their schooling levels are the lowest in the country.

Republic of Congo (RoC):

In RoC indigenous people represents 8% of the population. Through its school feeding programme, WFP is providing school meals to 3,728 indigenous pupils in 45 schools in the Likouala Department.

School's access rate for indigenous children in this area is the lowest in the country. Assistance is provided under a joint Government/WFP initiative called *Orienter Réfléchir Agir* (ORA). The objective of the ORA schools is to prepare indigenous children enter formal public primary schools. The programme targets two first-year primary schools. Additionally, the ORA initiative aims to increase the targeted population's enrolment rate and will be expanded gradually to other communities and regions.

The primary school feeding programme is already targeting 9,000 indigenous pupils (10 percent of the total children enrolled into the national school feeding program). This will increase to 12 percent under the current country programme starting in January 2015.

Discussions are ongoing within the UN Country Team to develop a joint programme to address food security, nutrition, health, sanitation, and education of RoC's indigenous

populations. WFP is also expanding its safety net programme to the indigenous population, whereby 500 indigenous households will receive food vouchers with further expansion planned.

In order to facilitate the quantification of data by the Forum, please indicate the number of programmes and projects/activities devoted to indigenous peoples issues in the past year.

4. Does your agency have regular or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for staff, or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?

In the RoC, the WFP Country Office has a capacity building programme in place for the Government and ensures that the national network of indigenous population in Congo (Reseau National des Populations Autochtones – RENAPAC) is consulted and associated to key policies or events regarding indigenous people. The Country Office will continue to ensure their representation at high-level discussions.

5. Does your agency have a focal point on indigenous peoples' issues? If so, please provide the name and contact information of this person.

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6. Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your agency on indigenous peoples' issues for 2014 and 2015.

In RoC, WFP attended the FIPAC (Central Africa Indigenous People Forum) in March 2014 in Impfondo (Likouala department). The WFP Representative attended the Kinshasa Symposium on "Indigenous Food" in November 2014.