



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PORTFOLIO

WHAT DO WE DO?

We ensure WFP's assistance reaches Indigenous Peoples, and addresses their diverse needs, priorities, and experiences. Indigenous Peoples are at particular risk of being left behind, due to a complexity of factors including structural inequality and discrimination, displacement from encroachment on lands, conflict, and violence. This means WFP employees must be aware and equipped with tools, information and know-how to design and implement programming that is culturally appropriate, responds to their situations, and builds on Indigenous Peoples' existing capacities and knowledge. Harnessing Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and practices can play a critical role in environmental management, early warning, and food production. This work is done in close connection and alignment across programmes.

NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

The portfolio is anchored in the UN [*Call to Action: Building an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Future with Indigenous Peoples*](#) (endorsed by the Chief Executives Board–CEB November 2020). It identifies specific areas of work the UN system must take forward from targeted actions at the country level to data collection and disaggregation to greater accountability and participation in decision making processes.

WFP'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PORTFOLIO

- generates the evidence to better understand Indigenous Peoples' food insecurity and collects good practices;
- develops guidance to better engage while ensuring Indigenous Peoples' rights are respected;
- strengthens capacity of its employees;
- fosters partnerships and strategically positions WFP in key platforms;
- raises awareness corporately of the importance to work with Indigenous Peoples through events and communication strategies.

PILLARS OF WORK

High level events during the WFP Executive Board, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Food Systems Summit and beyond.

Research: 10 evidence-based assessments on Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and food insecurity across regions to inform programming and the country strategic plans.

[A Special Report: Towards an intercultural approach to school feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). 10 case studies highlighting best practice with Indigenous Peoples. Report on barriers to inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the workforce.

Guidance on free prior and informed consent; and on engagement throughout the programme cycle.

Partnerships: MoU between Regional Bureau of Panama and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC).

Increased collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues on implementation of the *Call to Action*.

Secretariat of the Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Coalition an outcome of the Food Systems Summit, composed of Indigenous Peoples and civil society organizations, UN agencies, and member states.

EXAMPLES

1. Emergency response through general food assistance.
 - **Bolivia Country Office** delivered food baskets according to Uru Murato food preferences.
2. Targeted approaches to address barriers to inclusion.
 - Improved access to social protection for Indigenous Peoples in the **Lékoumou region of Congo** – enabled birth registration and daily meals to Indigenous children.
3. Promotion of cultural revitalization and ancestral knowledge as a component to food security and climate prediction to empower communities to use their practices and strengthen their capacities to improve livelihoods.
 - The Binational Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Project, contributed to the recovery of ancestral knowledge of Afro-descendant and Indigenous Awá populations on the **Colombia-Ecuador** border benefitting 65 communities.



WFP/Giulio d'Adamo: Kaqchikel Indigenous community in Patzún, Departamento de Chimaltenango Guatemala. August 2023.

4. Learning and Development Initiative to strengthen employees' capacity to better engage with Indigenous Peoples.
 - Trainings in **Myanmar**, **Nepal** and across nine countries in **Latin America**.
5. Local social cohesion initiatives to prevent and mitigate conflict between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
 - In **Tanganyika Province, Democratic Republic of Congo**, an integrated resilience programme targeted 18,000 households, revitalizing local economies and fostering social cohesion through intercultural village committees and dialogue.
6. Advancing the economic empowerment of Indigenous women and girls through digital financial inclusion and access to markets.
 - Savings and Credit for the economic empowerment of women (GACEM) in **Guatemala** for capacity building activities and local knowledge recovery.

