



## GENDER, PROTECTION AND INCLUSION SERVICE

# 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.

### PORTFOLIO

WFP’s Indigenous Peoples Portfolio includes:

- Campaign to raise awareness at the global level.
- Field-based research to better understand specific contexts and identify the food security needs of Indigenous Peoples across regions.

- Evidence-based guidance to ensure a principled engagement across programming.
- Capacity strengthening of employees and support to country offices.
- Partnership building with key actors, i.e, Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations, academia, UN agencies and others.
- Strategic engagement in relevant global and regional fora.

### PILLARS OF WORK

**High level events and engagement with partners** during the WFP Executive Board, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Food Systems Summit and Stocktaking, 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 on intercultural approaches to school feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)* in the [State of School Feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). 10 case studies highlighting work with Indigenous Peoples.

**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). Two initiatives concluded in 2023: 1) a diagnostic study identifying the barriers to Indigenous People’s employment in RBP country offices; 2) a sensitization programme for WFP staff across the country offices in the Latin American and Caribbean region. A MOU with University of Kalemie in Democratic Republic of Congo to support field-based research among the Twa.

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

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

## EXAMPLES

Emergency response through general food assistance.

- Bolivia Country Office delivered food baskets according to Uru Murato food preferences. Targeted approaches to address barriers to inclusion, i.e., through social protection programming and school meals.
- Improved access to social protection programmes for Indigenous Peoples in Lékoumou Department, Republic of Congo.

Promotion of cultural revitalization and ancestral knowledge as a component to food security and climate prediction to empower communities to harness and use their practices and build their adaptive capacities to improve livelihoods.

- Building adaptive capacity to climate change through food security and nutrition actions in Afro-descendant and Indigenous Awá communities in the Colombia-Ecuador border area.

Local social cohesion initiatives to prevent and mitigate conflict between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

- Tanganyika resilience programme in Democratic Republic of Congo, school canteen programme in the Republic of Congo implemented as part of the Joint SDG Fund initiative.

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.



WFP/Giulio d'Adamo: Mirna prepares a meal for her two school-aged children. Kaqchikel Indigenous community in Patzún, Departamento de Chimaltenango Guatemala. August 2023.