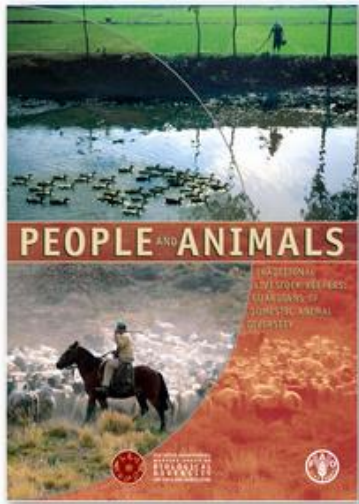


FAO Flagship Publications on Indigenous Peoples



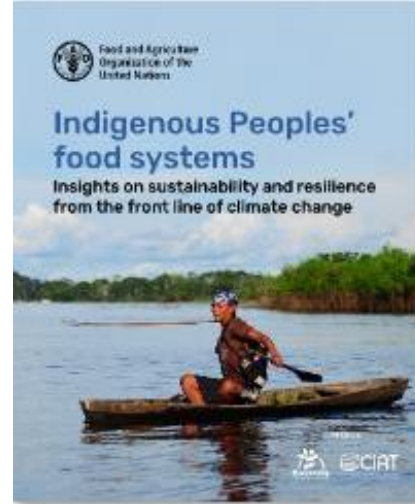
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



[Traditional Livestock Keepers: guardians of domestic animal diversity](#)



[Indigenous Peoples and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture](#)



[Indigenous Peoples' food systems](#)



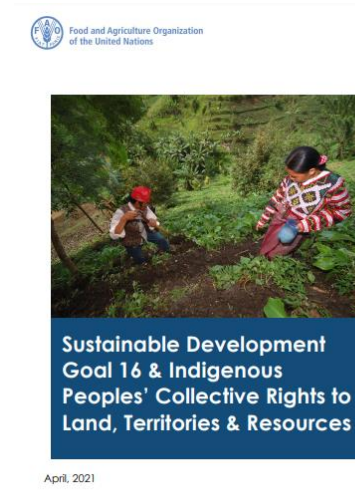
COVID-19 and indigenous peoples

There are 476 million indigenous people around the world, constituting 8.2 percent of the global population and, according to different sources, representing more than 15 percent of the extreme poor (2015, 2018). Indigenous peoples are not a homogeneous group. They live in over 90 countries, in rural and urban areas, in forests, mountains, mountains, and along the coasts, in low-, middle-income and high-income countries. However, they all share a history of discrimination and marginalization that in the context of COVID-19 now again challenges their very existence.

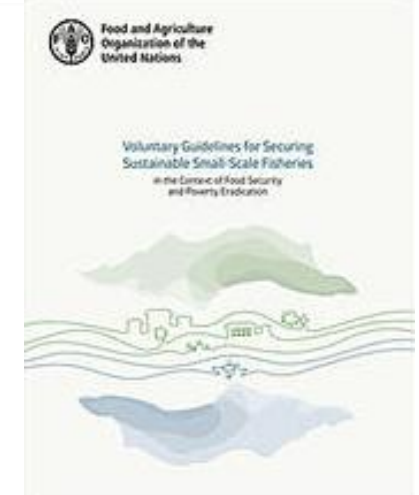
KEY MESSAGES

- Indigenous peoples are the living proof of humankind's resilience: they have survived pandemics, invasions and outbreaks for centuries.
- Their traditional knowledge, resulting from observation and adaptation, has allowed indigenous peoples to overcome seasonal and weather changes, shortages of resources and epidemics. Today, indigenous peoples continue to rely on community practices and traditional knowledge to face COVID-19.
- A crisis within a crisis: long-standing discrimination, inequality, mobility and lack of recognition put indigenous peoples at higher risk of the pandemic's health and socioeconomic effects.
- The number of positive cases of COVID-19 among indigenous peoples across the world is increasing. Given the lack of official disaggregated data, indigenous organizations are reporting the positive cases in their communities, implementing lockdown and containment measures (EMNC, 2020; OCHA, 2020) and communicating their needs to governments. The 1996 data available show that they are disproportionately affected, both in number of persons contracting the virus and in death outcomes.
- The COVID-19 socio-economic impacts have affected indigenous peoples across the world differently. Those who rely on their indigenous food systems and have adopted traditional lockdown practices are coping better than other communities who rely heavily on the market for their food needs. Indigenous peoples whose livelihoods are normally less seen their source of food and income struck with the lockdown. The collapse of the informal economy has particularly affected indigenous peoples.
- Several indigenous peoples from different regions have identified hunger as the main effect of the COVID-19 crisis. Food shortages are resulting from the combined effects of isolation, remoteness, the lockdown, the disruption of the food value trade chain, and the suspension of income generating activities.
- It is important that health institutions include an intersectoral approach in their response that considers traditional indigenous health care practices, training them in all the relevant protection measures and use of equipment to stop the spread of COVID-19.

[COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples](#)



[Sustainable Development Goal 16 & Indigenous Peoples' Collective Rights to Land, Territories & Resources](#)



[Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries](#)