



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



NOTIMIA

VOCES, MEDIOS Y REDES PARA  
LA PAZ



#INDIGENOUSWOMEN

*visible women*

Global Campaign for the  
**Empowerment of Indigenous  
Women for Zero Hunger**

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# In order to leave no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is essential to make indigenous women visible: visible in data and information, visible in political decisions, visible in public policies.

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## The facts<sup>1</sup>

- > Indigenous peoples constitute **5 per cent of the global population** (more than 370 million people) and they represent 15 per cent of the world's poor.
- > There are about **185 million indigenous women in the world.**
- > Indigenous women have a fundamental individual and collective role as **guardians of indigenous ancestral knowledge**, having traditionally been carers of natural resources and managers of seeds and medicinal plants, in their communities.
- > Despite the economic and social contribution of indigenous women, **their work is often undervalued and unpaid.**
- > They are leaders in the defence of indigenous land and territories and they **advocate for indigenous peoples' collective rights worldwide.**
- > The CEDAW Committee underscores the high levels of poverty, low levels of education and high levels of illiteracy, limitations in the access to health, basic sanitation, credit and employment, limited participation in political life, and the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence as some of the **main issues indigenous women confront.**
- > **Indigenous women are the backbone of indigenous communities** and play a crucial role in contributing to the food security of their families and communities
- > Indigenous women plant, harvest, thresh the crops and **provide most of the labour necessary for post-harvest activities.** They also are responsible for food preparation, household chores and taking care of their families.
- > **Their work and their needs are not represented in statistics.** Because of this invisibility, resources and public policies for rural development fail to address their specific needs.
- > Research shows that indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women, will be among the **most affected by climate change** although they currently have a low participation at negotiating tables on climate change. This insufficient representation can further exacerbate their historical disadvantages in access to economic and social resources.

## Call to action!

**The empowerment of indigenous women is not only a central issue but also a necessary condition to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the world.**

**José Graziano da Silva**  
FAO Director-General

<sup>1</sup>UNDESA. "State of the World's Indigenous Peoples"  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. 2014. "Indigenous women and climate change".  
Tahnee Prior. "The Rights and Role of Indigenous Women in The Climate Change Regime" 2017

## Key points

FAO, FIMI and NOTIMIA launched the Global Campaign for the Empowerment of Indigenous Women for Zero Hunger this year with Indigenous Women, Visible Women as its slogan. The Campaign is a call to action for countries, the international community, indigenous communities and authorities, academia, civil society, and media to:

- **Make visible indigenous women's contribution to food security and to the social and economic development of their communities and the different challenges they face in the path.**
- **Make indigenous women visible at public policies for rural development, social protection, agriculture, fisheries, and livestock among others.**
- **Make indigenous women visible and guarantee their full and effective participation at political decisions-making processes. (Nothing about indigenous women, without indigenous women)**
- **Make indigenous women visible in disaggregated data and information.**

## Main messages

**1.** Indigenous women are **key allies in the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition**. Recognizing and making their social and economic role visible is fundamental to achieve food security.

**2.** Indigenous women are food producers, guardians of native seeds, and **custodians and of traditional knowledge**. With their sustainable livelihoods, indigenous women contribute to the achievement of Zero Hunger.

**3.** **Empowering indigenous women is an answer to poverty reduction**. Through their empowerment, indigenous women are leading social and economic changes that foster sustainable development in accord with their own cultures and identities.

**4.** Even when facing triple discrimination because of being women, indigenous and poor, indigenous women have demonstrated their leadership and capacities to be **agents of change for a dignified life**.

**5.** Indigenous women are defenders of natural resources, land and territories. They hold an **intimate connection with the territories they inhabit and consider themselves the first guardians of mother earth**. As such, they are leading the protection of indigenous territories worldwide.

**6.** Integrating the gender and indigenous peoples' dimension into public policy is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to leave no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, policies must reflect **the needs and challenges of indigenous women for rural development and poverty reduction**, and count on their full and effective participation.



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# Support the Indigenous Women, Visible Women Campaign

Any person or organization can join the campaign and contribute to raise awareness to eliminate the barriers that prevent indigenous women from fully enjoying their rights and moving towards sustainable development.

These are a few ideas about appropriate outreach activities to support the campaign.



## JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Register your organization on the campaign website.

<http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/indigenous-women-campaign/en/>



## SUPPORT THE VIOLET CHAIR INITIATIVE!

*Nothing about indigenous women, without indigenous women*

The initiative of the violet chair is a call to authorities, organizations, international communities, academia and civil society to guarantee the full and effective participation of indigenous women in decision-making processes that affect them and their communities, and to make them visible.

Use a violet chair, which can be decorated with indigenous textiles, symbols or handicrafts in violet tones, in presidiums, round tables, panel discussions, and any other dialogue space, where there is an indigenous woman participating and raising her voice on behalf of indigenous women.



## SPREAD THE WORD!

Download the campaign materials and share them on your social-media channels.



## SHARE YOUR DATA!

Promote the research about indigenous women contribution to food security.

Share any data, publication, research or new knowledge to [indigenous-peoples@fao.org](mailto:indigenous-peoples@fao.org)



## RAISE YOUR VOICE!

Print the campaign banner or write down the hashtag **#IndigenousWomen**, visible women and take a picture of indigenous women, men, children, authorities and any other person supporting the campaign.



## DRAW AND MAKE #INDIGENOUSWOMEN VISIBLE!

Draw a picture of the work that indigenous women from your community do to produce food and to contribute to eradicating hunger and malnutrition.



## FOCUS ON THEM!

*Make indigenous women the protagonists of your journalistic stories.*

Produce any media content such as interviews, photos and video stories, chronicles, investigations or analysis showing how indigenous women contribute to food and nutrition security and to the social and economic development of their communities.

## Further information

@FAOindigenous  
[www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples](http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples)  
[indigenous-peoples@fao.org](mailto:indigenous-peoples@fao.org)