



Indigenous Women:

Make them visible, empower them.



Global Campaign for the Empowerment of Indigenous Women for Zero Hunger

There are approximately 185 million indigenous women in the world, belonging to more than 5 000 different indigenous groups. Despite the broad international consensus about the important role indigenous women play in eradicating hunger and malnutrition, there are still limitations in the recognition and exercise of their rights.

The empowerment of indigenous women is not only a central issue but also a necessary condition to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the world. To this end, it is fundamental to raise awareness about the contributions that indigenous women make to the achievement of Zero Hunger and to engage all stakeholders in eliminating the barriers that prevent them from enjoying their rights fully.

The 2030 Agenda and its stand-alone goal on gender equality, Goal 5, represent a unique opportunity to advance the rights of indigenous women and address many of the challenges they currently face.

Under the leadership of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and with the collaboration of the **International Indigenous Women Forum (FIMI/IIWF)** and the **News Agency of Indigenous and Afro-descendent Women (NOTIMIA)**, this global campaign aims at making indigenous women’s challenges and contributions visible as a necessary step to “leave no one behind” in the achievement of Zero Hunger and the overall Sustainable Development Agenda.

Objectives

1. Increase the **recognition** of indigenous women as allies in the achievement of Zero Hunger and the overall Sustainable Development Agenda.
2. Raise awareness on the importance of indigenous women’s **empowerment**, in particular through access to rights, political participation and education.
3. Engage individuals and communities to **challenge discrimination** towards indigenous women and girls.

Activities

This campaign will raise the voices of indigenous women worldwide by promoting spaces for reflection and advocacy at local, regional and global levels. Through these spaces, the experiences and challenges of indigenous women will be showcased, as well as their contributions to food security and sustainable development.

Taking into account the diversity of both indigenous women and the contexts in which they live, this campaign will provide a global approach through a **communication kit** with key messages and communication

materials. These materials will be adapted to local contexts in order to generate a better impact.

The communication kit also aims to facilitate the participation of both individuals and institutions committed to the empowerment of indigenous women.

The activities that will take place during 2018 include a **photo contest** about indigenous women and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as a collection of **first-person accounts of indigenous women** and their leadership in defending indigenous traditional lands and territories worldwide. In addition, during the year other activities that will be announced through the website will be implemented.

The campaign is hosted on the FAO Indigenous Peoples' website on **Make them visible, empower them.**

The relevant hashtags that will be used are **#WeAreIndigenous, #IndigenousWomen.**

Messages

1. Indigenous women are **key allies in the fight against hunger and malnutrition**. Recognizing and making visible their social and economic role is fundamental to achieve food security.
2. Indigenous women are **food producers, guardians of native seeds and custodians of traditional knowledge**. With their sustainable livelihoods, indigenous women contribute to the achievement of Zero Hunger.
3. **Empowering indigenous women** is the answer to poverty reduction. Through their empowerment, indigenous women are leading social and economic changes that foster sustainable development in accord to 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, lands 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 in public policy** is fundamental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to leave no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the needs and challenges of indigenous women must be reflected in policies for rural development and poverty reduction, and count with their full and effective participation.

Relevant dates

The campaign will run from **January to October 2018**. The relevant dates for action are:

- **January 12-13** Launch at the High Level Forum "Empowering Indigenous Women to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition in Latin America", Mexico City, Mexico.
- **April 16 – 27** United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York, USA.
- **October** Closing at the 45 Session of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome, Italy.

During these events, media coverage will be carried out by NOTIMIA communicators, who will focus on the role of indigenous women in achieving Zero Hunger. This coverage can be followed from the website of the campaign.