

AGENDA

15 December 2020 | ZOOM

Webinar | Indigenous Economic Development in times of COVID-19

Mitigating the effects and lessons for the future



Indigenous Economic Development in times of COVID-19: Mitigating the effects and lessons for the future

■ What's the issue?

In many places Indigenous communities are suffering from higher disease and mortality rates than the general population, lower life expectancy, limited access to health services and infrastructure (clean water, broadband) as well as overcrowded housing and higher poverty rates. All these factors have exacerbated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in remote communities.

As lockdown measures continue, Indigenous Peoples find it increasingly difficult to sustain themselves and their local economies. Many are facing food insecurity and difficulties in accessing financial support to survive the economic downturn. At the same time, Indigenous Peoples have proven resilience in times of hardship, drawing on generations of knowledge to self-organise and take effective care of vulnerable members.

National and sub-national governments must ensure that Indigenous Peoples are included and effectively targeted in recovery plans and strategies over the short and long term. Responses to the pandemic need to take into account the specific needs and cultures such as the provision of information in Indigenous languages to keep communities safe and Indigenous cultures alive. Policies must also ensure requisite supplies of food and medical care and compensate for loss of income.

■ About the webinar

This webinar will discuss with Indigenous leaders and policy makers effective strategies and programmes that can mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and accelerate the recovery. It will allow for knowledge sharing on examples and strategies to build resilience for Indigenous communities. Particular focus will be placed on promoting local data collection on the impact of COVID-19, ensuring good health standards, strengthening local economies through supply-chain management, ensuring access to markets, and supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs.

Key questions for discussion:

- What are the main challenges Indigenous communities face during the COVID-19 pandemic and what will be the short and long-term effects?
- What are the current and future policy priorities needed in Indigenous communities to mitigate the effects of COVID-19? Do current policies and programmes sufficiently account for the specific needs and requirements of Indigenous People?
- Which leading practices or lessons learned can inform the implementation of measures in other places to address current challenges and build resilience?
- How can organisations like FILAC/OECD best support Indigenous communities in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic and preparing for the future?

■ Venue

Virtual via Zoom, France/Paris time zone(CET)

Agenda 15th of December 2020

14:30-14:45

Opening Remarks

Moderator: Alain Dupeyras, Head of Division, Regional Development and Tourism, OECD

Myrna Cunningham, President of FILAC

Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director Centre for Entrepreneurship SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

14.45-15.25

Session 1: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous communities

DESCRIPTION What are the main challenges Indigenous communities face during the COVID-19 pandemic and what will be the short and long-term effects?

What are the policy priorities needed in Indigenous communities to mitigate the effects of COVID-19? Do current policies and programmes sufficiently account for the specific needs and requirements of Indigenous People?

FILAC **Short video on Indigenous resilience in facing COVID 19.**

FACILITATION **Gabriel Mariaca**, Communications Officer, FILAC

PANEL **Natalia Álvarez**, Vice minister of Employment, Costa Rica

DISCUSSION **Gregorio Mirabal**, Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) - *Regional Indigenous Platform against the impact of COVID-19*

Peter Yu, Vice-President First Nations at Australian National University and Chair for the Indigenous Reference Group to the Northern Ministerial Forum, Australia [Video Message]

Shannin Metatawabin, CEO, National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA), Canada – *Indigenous Business experience from Canada and policy responses*

15:25-16.20

Session 2 : Future policy priorities for Indigenous communities

DESCRIPTION Which leading practices or lessons learned can inform the implementation of measures in other places to address current challenges and build resilience?

How can organisations like FILAC or OECD best support Indigenous communities in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic and preparing for the future?

FACILITATION **Lisanne Raderschall**, Policy Analyst, OECD

PANEL **Dr. Ana Elena Chevez**, Regional Advisor of Immunisation – Pan American Health Organization – *COVID-19 Vaccinations for Indigenous Communities*

Stefan Mikaelsson, Chairman of the committee on business and traditional livelihoods, Sami Parliament of Sweden, – *Recovery of Sami Economy and Culture*

Hortensia Hidalgo, Network of Indigenous Women for Diversity – *The role of Indigenous Women in the recovery*

Martin Oelz, Senior Specialist on Equality and Non-discrimination, Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILOAIDS Branch, International Labour Organisation (ILO) – *Workers, decent work, social protection, support for Indigenous economic activities*

Pamela Villalobos, Senior Officer of Social Affairs of the Population Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – *Economic recovery of Indigenous People in Latin America*

16.20-16.30

Closing Remarks - Main Takeaways and Next Steps

Enrique Garcilazo, Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD

FILAC - TBD

About Us:

The Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) is an international public law body established in 1992 by the Second Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Madrid, Spain in order to support the processes of self-development and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, communities and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean , whose governing and functioning bodies are based on peer relations between States and Indigenous Peoples. FILAC set out to be a leading player on indigenous peoples at the United Nations, a fact it achieved by obtaining Permanent Observer status before the General Assembly and the UN Convention on Climate Change.

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. CONTACT

If you are interested to learn more about the project or to get involved, please contact rural@oecd.org

