



**FIMI**  
FORO INTERNACIONAL  
DE MUJERES  
INDÍGENAS

## **Africa Regional Report about Indigenous Women and the Sustainable Development Goals**

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**FORO INTERNACIONAL  
DE MUJERES  
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## **RECOGNITION**

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### **Editorial**

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Talbi Kahna and Fatma, Khaoula Sabri, Aroussia Tanfour, Aminatu Gambo and colleagues from FIMI, the *Association pour l'Autonomisation de la Femme Peule* (AAFP) (Association for the Empowerment of Fulani Women) (AAFP) and Bornface Museke.



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## Voices of Indigenous Women from Africa at the HLPF 2021

This report is presented by the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) as part of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). FIMI is the largest global network of local, regional, and national organizations from Asia, Africa, the Arctic, the Pacific, and the Americas that advocate Indigenous Women's priorities at the international level. FIMI's work focuses on four main areas, namely the Research Program, the Leadership School, the Ayni Fund, and Participation and Advocacy. While these programs complement each other, the report presented here will focus solely on the Africa region and is part of the Participation and Advocacy program.



*HLPF 2019. Africa region debate at the media space: Voices of Indigenous Peoples.*

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## SUMMARY

Indigenous Women in Namibia and Chad make a significant de facto contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 3. Their circumstances do not facilitate, and may even threaten, their ability to contribute to the implementation of these SDGs. The analysis of the situation of Indigenous Women in these two countries substantiate the lack of available data on the subject. Some programs exist but do not target these women and their unique situations. This is exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is thus an urgent need to ensure that post-pandemic recovery policies and measures be designed with Indigenous Women to ensure that they are not left behind in the implementation of the SDGs.

These women are affected by interrelated issues that exert extreme daily pressure, including conflict-related insecurity, food insecurity, gender-based violence, disease, marginalization, lack of access to land, water, and the effects of climate change as well as crises. These women are experts in their communities, in the issues that concern them, that affect them, that they face and that they must manage daily. To succeed in the SDG challenge of *leaving no one behind*, **let's listen to them.**

## **Table of contents**

<i>Introduction</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Part I. Namibia</i>	<b>8</b>
I. 8	
II. 9	
III. 13	
<i>Part II. Tchad</i>	<b>15</b>
I. 15	
II. 17	
III. 18	
<i>Conclusion</i>	<b>20</b>
<i>Bibliography</i>	<b>21</b>

## Introduction

This report focuses on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Indigenous Women (IW) in Namibia and Chad. It was the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council who selected these two States to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)<sup>1</sup>. These are also the peoples or States for which some data was available and accessible within the set timeframe for this report. We have therefore chosen to limit ourselves to SDG2 and SDG3, as they are in line with the theme of this year's HLPF entitled *Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development* which will be held from 6 to 15 July 2021. These two SDGs are objectives that mobilize the contribution par excellence of Indigenous Women, who are very often undervalued.

### *Some data on IW in Africa*

77.9 million indigenous people in Africa, of whom 38.7 million are women.

82% of these women live in rural areas, 18% in urban areas.

89% have no formal education, and only 0.6% achieve higher education.

97% are in informal, unrecognized employment.

FIMI, *Global Study about Indigenous Women and Girls*, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> Letter of the President of the ECOSOC to All Permanent Representatives and Observers to the United Nations New York on 22 October 2020, online: [https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/Letter\\_ECOSOC\\_President\\_VNRs\\_2021-confirming\\_final\\_countries.pdf](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2020doc/Letter_ECOSOC_President_VNRs_2021-confirming_final_countries.pdf)

## **Report Methodology and Preparation:**

In conducting this study, given the context of restricted Indigenous encounters and travel, we limited ourselves to reviewing and analyzing resources available online while giving priority to resources developed by Indigenous Women (IW) themselves, such as the *Global Study on the Situation of Indigenous Women and Girls* prepared for the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, *The Impact of Covid-19 on the Lives of Indigenous Women and their Strategies for Coping with the Pandemic*, both produced by the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF). We also reviewed the statements and reports submitted by some IW organizations, States, and UN organizations in the framework of the 20th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), as well as those published on their websites. Finally, we were able to conduct virtual interviews with Indigenous Women's organizations, as well as with government representatives in UN mechanisms for indigenous peoples' (IPs) rights.

### **Indigenous women as an important pillar in the fight against Covid-19 and in the recovery phase.**

As soon as the pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization, the IWs across the seven sociocultural regions mobilized to prevent outbreaks in their communities, to contain possible cases by providing isolation centers, by using distancing measures, sparing necessities, and by maintaining their indigenous women's networks, all inspired by their traditional ways of life. This illustrated their multi-tasking skills within their communities, capable of containing both the pandemic and its collateral effects, whether they be health, social or economic.

(FIMI, *The Impact of Covid-10 on the Lives of Indigenous Women*, September 2020).



# Part I. Namibia

## I. Background

Namibia is a southern African country with a population of 2,480,000<sup>2</sup>, a life expectancy at birth of about 63 years<sup>3</sup>, a literacy rate of 91.5% (2018)<sup>4</sup> and a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.645<sup>5</sup>.

The Republic of Namibia recognizes the San, Ovatie, Ovahimba, Ovazemba and Ovatjimba<sup>6</sup> as marginalized communities and ethnic groups. Among the peoples who self-identify as indigenous peoples in Namibia are the San and the Himba<sup>7</sup>. They make up about 8% of the population, with the San numbering between 27,000 and 34,000, or 1.06-1.3% of the population<sup>8</sup>. To our knowledge, there is no data on the numbers of Indigenous Women in Namibia.

The San used to be hunter-gatherers, but after being dispossessed of their ancestral land and resources by the apartheid regime, they diversified their way of life<sup>9</sup>. Today, oil and gas exploration activities are displacing San people in the east and west of the Kavango; they are facing severe poverty, food insecurity, lack of access to education and serious

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<sup>2</sup> Organisation mondiale de la Santé, *Namibie*, online: <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/namibia>

<sup>3</sup> UNESCO, *Namibie*, online: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/na>

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Group, *Namibia*, online: <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/namibia>

<sup>6</sup> Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations, *Statement by H.E. Mr Neville Gertze Ambassador & Permanent Representative before the Third Committee of the 73th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Agenda Item 71: Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, 11 October 2018, online : [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewi1\\_Mukx9bwAhWDF1kFHfICCLMQFjACegQICRAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.int%2Fnamibia%2Fsites%2Fwww.un.int%2Ffiles%2FNamibia%2FStatements%2Fnational\\_statement\\_on\\_indigenous\\_people\\_ga\\_73\\_oct\\_2018.pdf&usq=A0vVaw1xufYE3jVwLydSnKMoY5h0](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewi1_Mukx9bwAhWDF1kFHfICCLMQFjACegQICRAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.int%2Fnamibia%2Fsites%2Fwww.un.int%2Ffiles%2FNamibia%2FStatements%2Fnational_statement_on_indigenous_people_ga_73_oct_2018.pdf&usq=A0vVaw1xufYE3jVwLydSnKMoY5h0)

<sup>7</sup> Commission africaine sur les peuples autochtones d'Afrique, *Indigenous Peoples in Africa: The Forgotten Peoples? The African Commission's work on indigenous peoples in Africa*, IWGIA, 2006, online: <https://www.achpr.org/presspublic/publication?id=54>

<sup>8</sup> IWGIA, *Namibia*, online: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/namibia.html>

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*



health problems<sup>10</sup>. Not all San groups are recognized by the Traditional Authorities Act<sup>11</sup>, which diminishes their autonomy and self-identification and exposes them to continued exploitation, discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion<sup>12</sup>.

In 2005, the Namibian government established the *Division of Marginalized Communities* in charge of indigenous issues. Since 2020, it has been under the *Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare* (the Ministry) which reports to the Presidency of the Republic. Its main objective is to integrate marginalized communities into the mainstream economy and improve their livelihoods<sup>13</sup>. The term 'marginalized' communities is not universally accepted by the indigenous peoples of Namibia<sup>14</sup>.

On 24 March 2021, the Ministry submitted the White Paper on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Namibia to Cabinet, which gave it a first reading on 13 April 2021. It has been submitted to Parliament<sup>15</sup>.

## II. Framework for the Implementation of the SDGs

Namibia is party to the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and a member of the High-Level Committee representing the African sub-region. In 2018, Namibia offered to take part in the Voluntary National Review process.

Namibia integrated the SDGs into its national policy through its *5th National Development Plan* (NDP5) and more broadly through its *National Development Framework for Namibia, Vision 2030* adopted in 2014 in which Namibia focuses on promoting communication to raise citizen's awareness of the SDGs. The National Development Plan is also in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, *The Africa we want*, the Southern

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, reference to : Rasmeni, Mandisa. "Ndama's San Community Plagued by Unidentified Infectious Disease, Pleads For Government Assistance." *Namibia Economist*, 7 October 2020. Accessed 10 February 2021, online : <https://economist.com.na/56378/health/ndamas-san-community-plagued-by-unidentified-infectious-disease-community-plead-for-government-assistance/> et à New Era Live "San in Kavango West trapped in extreme poverty." 29 April 2020, online: <https://neweralive.na/posts/san-in-kavango-west-trapped-in-extreme-poverty>

<sup>11</sup> Online: [https://laws.parliament.na/cms\\_documents/traditional-authorities-38f13b9891.pdf](https://laws.parliament.na/cms_documents/traditional-authorities-38f13b9891.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Republic of Namibia, *Statement by Honourable Royal J.K. IUI/OIOO, MP Deputy Minister: Marginalised Communities 20th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues United Nations 19-30 April 2021*.

<sup>13</sup> IWGIA, *Namibia*, online: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/namibia.html>

<sup>14</sup> The Namibian, "'Don't call us marginalised'...San communities claim discrimination", 17 juin 2019, accédé le 20 mai 2021, online; <https://www.namibian.com.na/189643/archive-read/Dont-call-us-marginalised--San-communities-claim-discrimination>

<sup>15</sup> Republic of Namibia, *Statement by Honourable Royal J.K. IUI/OIOO, MP Deputy Minister: Marginalised Communities 20th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues United Nations 19-30 April 2021*.

African Development Community (SADC) Agenda, the Regional Integrated Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) to accelerate development<sup>16</sup>.

### **The 5th National Development Plan**

Through this plan, Namibia commits to securing, facilitating, enhancing, and sustaining continuous improvements in the socio-economic well-being of all Namibians, especially the marginalized and aims at 5 objectives: accelerated economic growth, rapid large-scale employment creation, reduction of extreme poverty and inequality, socio-economic transformation, and the transformation of the Namibian economy into a high-performing, inclusive and sustainable economy<sup>17</sup>.

In preparing its Communication Strategy, the *National Planning Commission* consulted several stakeholders, but indigenous peoples are not explicitly mentioned. Furthermore, when the report mentions *leave no one behind*, it targets persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups<sup>18</sup>. A process for monitoring the implementation of the plan consists of a periodic review of the implementation of the Communications Strategy and Action Plan, with the adoption of biannual reports<sup>19</sup>.

The 2019-2020 annual report states that the Social Protection Policy aims to contribute to the dignity of life of all Namibians by eliminating the risk factors and vulnerabilities of certain groups, including women at the time of childbirth, women in need of equal opportunities and better income, children and adults without sufficient food, and marginalized people in situations of extreme poverty, illiteracy, and lack of income<sup>20</sup>. Indigenous Women are not explicitly targeted but may fall into each of these categories.

Finally, the 6th country program developed with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) covers the period from 2019 to 2023 and contains a program aimed at improving

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<sup>16</sup> Office of the President National Planning Commission, *Namibia Communication Strategy on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2020-2022*, p.8, online: [https://www.npc.gov.na/press-release-unfpa-namibia-and-npc-hold-annual-programme-review-and-planning-meeting/?wpfb\\_dl=428](https://www.npc.gov.na/press-release-unfpa-namibia-and-npc-hold-annual-programme-review-and-planning-meeting/?wpfb_dl=428)

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> The report mentions “Community organisations”, “Elderly” and “Youth”. *Ibid*, p. 13.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, p. 32.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, p. 21.

sexual and reproductive health, especially for the "most marginalized youth",<sup>21</sup>, among which are indigenous girls and women.

### **State initiatives carried out to ensure that Indigenous Women are not left out of the implementation of SDGs 2 & 3**

#### **Government programs for the implementation of SDG2**

In 2021, the Republic of Namibia stated before the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues<sup>22</sup> that several programs were developed to ensure the economic and social development of the country, from which indigenous peoples can benefit or which are specifically addressed to them:

- *The Community Empowerment Program* under the Ministry, which provides materials and equipment to support income-generating activities and capacity building<sup>23</sup>;
- Under the leadership of the Division, livelihood support projects such as gardening, beekeeping, skidding, and coffee making to assist the economic sustainability of indigenous groups<sup>24</sup>;
- Government purchase of farms for the benefit of indigenous communities, such as the San, who were displaced from their ancestral lands due to apartheid. With the support of their traditional authorities and the local governments, the communities have been resettled and the land is being used to support horticulture and other income-generating projects<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> The report mentions the "most marginalized youth" and the regions of Ohangwena, Zambezi, Kunene, and Omaheke; Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, and United Nations Office for Project Services, "United Nations Population Fund, Country Programme Document for Namibia" 5 July 2018, at paragraph 13.

<sup>22</sup> Republic of Namibia, *Statement by Honorable Royal J.K. IUI/OIOO, MP Deputy Minister: Marginalized Communities 20th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues United Nations 19-30 April 2021*.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

The government notes the dependence of these communities on government aid for their survival, which used to take the form of a nutrition program but will be transformed into social aid for the next year<sup>26</sup>.

The Namibia Statistics Agency, under the auspices of the Office of the Prime Minister and in collaboration with the World Food Program, has developed a concept to measure progress towards *leaving no one behind*<sup>27</sup>.

While we note that these programs have the potential to address IW, it is important to emphasize that none of them explicitly do so.

### Government programs for the implementation of SDG3

The Republic of Namibia declared at the 2021 UNFPII the establishment of the Development Program for the San, Ovatie and Ovatjimba under the Office of the Prime Minister, the main objective of which is to integrate the San, Ovatie and Ovatjimba communities into the mainstream economy and society by providing them with access to services that they would not otherwise enjoy because they live in remote areas. In doing so, the Namibian government recognized the human rights and dignity rights of these communities that have been threatened for a long time, thus underscoring the need to end inequalities. The Republic of Namibia stated that the Division is working with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to ensure access to health services for communities in these remote areas.

To our knowledge, there is only one state initiative developed with the UNFPA that allows Indigenous Women and girls to be considered in the implementation of SDG3. This is the 2019-2023 UNFPA Program for Namibia, which aims to ‘contribute to national efforts to harness the demographic dividend through investments in sexual and reproductive health, the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices that hinder the potential of youth and adolescents, especially girls and reduction in poverty in Namibia’<sup>28</sup>.

The UNFPA report notes that 13,300 vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age received a dignity kit, 9,680 households received information about COVID-19, condoms,

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> UNFPA Country Programme Document for Namibia (2019-2023), online: <https://namibia.unfpa.org/en/publications/unfpa-country-programme-document-namibia-2019-2023>

and sexual and reproductive health, and 1,064 marginalized girls received information about COVID-19 and a guide for school<sup>29</sup>.

Finally, the UNFPA Executive Committee reiterated the principle of *leaving no one behind* and affirmed that more focus can be placed on improving national capacity for disaggregated data collection, research, and innovation through partnerships with government, civil society, and academia<sup>30</sup>.

Freedom House notes an increase in violence against Indigenous Women during Covid, due in part to the lack of resources caused by the crisis. The supply of contraception was disrupted during the crisis<sup>31</sup>, and the country has reportedly seen an increase in teenage pregnancies<sup>32</sup>. The organization highlights the lack of data on violence against Indigenous Women in Southern Africa, which results in a lack of effective government intervention and marginalization of Indigenous Women<sup>33</sup>.

### **III. Indigenous Women's Contribution to the Implementation of the SDGs**

Indigenous Women in southern Africa are often the primary providers of food for their households<sup>34</sup>. However, food insecurity has led them to depend on government aid, especially in times of crisis such as Covid<sup>35</sup>. The lockdown imposed by the latter has resulted in depriving Indigenous Women in Namibia of one of their sources of income from selling handicrafts to tourists, as Indigenous Women play a prominent role in the informal

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<sup>29</sup> UNFPA Namibia, « UNFPA Namibia and NPC Hold Annual Programme Review and Planning Meeting », 3 March 2021, accessed 20 May 2021, online: <https://namibia.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-namibia-and-npc-hold-annual-programme-review-and-planning-meeting>

<sup>30</sup> Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services, "United Nations Population Fund, Country Programme Document for Namibia" 5 July 2018, para. 13, online : <https://undocs.org/fr/DP/FPA/CPD/NAM/6>

<sup>31</sup> Freedom House, "Special report 2020 Covid-19 & the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Southern Africa, accessed on 20 May 2021, online: [https://freedomhouse.org/report/special-report/2020/covid-19-rights-indigenous-peoples-southern-africa#footnoteref32\\_x9amzqc](https://freedomhouse.org/report/special-report/2020/covid-19-rights-indigenous-peoples-southern-africa#footnoteref32_x9amzqc), citing: Reliefweb (2020), 'Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19: The complexities of responding to "The Shadow Pandemic"', May 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/gender-based-violence-and-covid-19-c...> ; RISA virtual discussion with women rights organization, Lesotho, April 2020. See also Medecins Sans Frontiers, 'South Africa: Sexual and Gender Based Violence, a concern during COVID-19 lockdown', April 7, 2020, <https://www.msf.org/za/news-and-resources/latest-news/south-africa-sexu...>; ARISA telephone interview with Diphetogo Anita Lekgowa, Botswana, October 29, 2020.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, citing: ARISA telephone interview with Women's Leadership Centre, Namibia, November 16, 2020.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid*, citing: United Nations (2020). 'COVID 19 and Indigenous Peoples' Resilience', <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>. (accessed August 21, 2020).

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, citing: Cultural Survival (2020). '9 Ways Indigenous Rights are at Risk During the COVID 19 Crisis', available at: <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/9-ways-indigenous-rights-are-risk...> 19-crisis (accessed August 21, 2020)

economy and as caregivers<sup>36</sup>. In Western Tsumkwe, Indigenous Women who used to sew clothes have had to adapt their activity for income<sup>37</sup>. Freedom House notes that Indigenous Women do not benefit as much from social protection and state interventions to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic as other parts of the population<sup>38</sup>.



*Display of traditional jewellery of Himba women from Namibia*

© Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/photos/people-africans-blacks-namibia-702482/>)

IWGIA, in its World Report 2021, reported on the important role of Indigenous Women and youth in the indigenous movement in Namibia. It highlighted the pressure exerted by several women's organizations, particularly in the San, Himba and Ovaherero territories, for the recognition of women's rights, including the right to own land and better protection of women against domestic exploitation and abuse<sup>39</sup>.

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<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, citing: ARISA telephone interview with Kileni Fernando, Namibia, October 29, 2020.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, citing United Nations (2020). 'COVID 19 and Indigenous Peoples' Resilience', <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>. (accessed August 21, 2020).

<sup>39</sup> IWGIA, *Namibia*, online: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/namibia/4235-iw-2021-namibia.html>



## **Timazighen Women and SDG2**

"The contribution of the Tunisian Amazigh woman to the eradication of hunger and poverty lies in her personal project of cultivating a plot of land, which is her main occupation and which is usually family property. Her attention to the detail of her agricultural project is key to its success and allows her to market it. As a member of her family, she contributes to food and financial security, and may work in the clothing industry. She masters the Amazigh textile and makes it valuable to tourism, which develops in her region and allows her to earn money for her financial independence. She thus contributes to break free from the cycle of poverty which usually strikes the countryside and the mountains of our regions" (Mrs. Khaoula Sabri, Mrs. Fatma Talbi, Mrs. Aroussia Tanfour).

## **Part II. Tchad**

### **I. Background**

Chad is a Sahelian country in Central Africa. It has a population of 15,162 million with an average life expectancy of 53 years and a literacy rate of 22.31% for the population over 15 years of age (UNDP). According to the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), self-identified indigenous peoples include the Mbororo or Fulani and the Toubous<sup>40</sup>. The Mbororo are pastoralists and practice subsistence agriculture. According to the 1993 national census of Chad, they make up about 10 percent of the population. They live in the dry central and southern tropical zones that are more suitable for their livestock. Due to various climatic events, both droughts and floods, as well as political circumstances, some of these people have migrated to Niger, the Central African Republic, and

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<sup>40</sup> IWGIA, *Indigenous Peoples in Tchad*, online: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/chad/3498-iw2019-chad.html>



Cameroon<sup>41</sup>. Because of their means of subsistence, the Mbororo are for the most part excluded from access to education, health services and national decision-making bodies.

The Mbororos are not recognized as an indigenous people in Chad, but rather as part of the nomadic, insular, and hard-to-reach group. However, due to the increasing advocacy by Fulani organizations in Chad and internationally (e.g. Tabital Pulaku, *Association pour l'Autonomisation des Femmes Peules du Tchad*, etc.), there is growing recognition of this people.

In terms of regulating pastoralism, unfortunately, the 2014 draft bill was not adopted. It offered the opportunity to adapt *Law No. 4 of October 31, 1959, regulating nomadism on the territory of the Republic of Chad*<sup>42</sup>, adopted during the colonial period, to the realities faced by nomadic peoples in Chad today, especially the decrease in grazing areas and corridors, security challenges, conflicts between herders and farmers, etc.<sup>43</sup>



*Fulani women and girls pounding grain in Chad*  
©En Terre Indigène

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<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Online : <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/cha150921.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Rangé, Charline. (2018). « Insécurité dans la région du lac Tchad : où en est le pastoralisme et comment penser son développement ? » Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, Document d'orientation Janvier 2018, online : <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKewjm6aTS0tjwAhWiTt8KHbZ8BrsQFjAAegQIBBAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fao.org%2F3%2Fi9268fr%2Fi9268FR.pdf&usq=AOvVaw3LV5EoXJlcw6Gtnup355Kc>

## II. Framework for the implementation of the SDGs

Chad organizes its development plan<sup>44</sup> by 2030 in three major phases: 2017-2021, 2022-2026, 2027-2030. It is entitled *Chad, a peaceful nation, unified in its cultural diversity, resilient through its transformed economy and offering a pleasant living environment for the well-being of all*. The first stage, from 2017 to 2021, is devoted to laying the structural and institutional groundwork for the development of this state by 2030, in the words: "Vision 2030, the Chad we want". It is also part of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

While this plan does not directly mention Chad's indigenous peoples, it does present the objective of better valuing the development of fields which concern these peoples, such as livestock breeding, through its modernization and the industrial transformation of semi-finished and finished livestock products<sup>45</sup>.

Regarding SDG3, this plan does not explicitly mention IPs either. It does, however, focus on women's health as highlighted in the following results: Target 4.2.8: Access to quality health services for populations, especially women, adolescent girls and children, is improved<sup>46</sup> et Target 4.2.9: The nutritional status of the population, particularly women and children, is improved<sup>47</sup>.

In addition, it is important to mention the joint efforts of Chad, UN agencies, funds, and programs such as WHO, UNICEF, and allied governments in the development of a National Program for the Health of nomadic, insular, and hard-to-reach populations which started in 2016. Several programs and activities are offered: epidemiological studies and surveys, human and animal vaccination campaigns, etc. The National Development Plan also provides for the deployment of mobile health teams<sup>48</sup>.

This program offers a unique potential for the implementation of SDG3 and other related SDGs. It is also a framework to be seized not only by Chad, its technical and financial partners (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, SDC), but also by IPs themselves for the

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<sup>44</sup> United Nations Chad, *Plan national de développement du Tchad 2017-2021*, online : <https://chad.un.org/index.php/fr/35283-plan-national-de-developpement-du-tchad-2017-2021>

<sup>45</sup> République du Tchad Présidence de la République, *Plan national de Développement 2017-2021 « Ensemble, œuvrons pour un Tchad toujours fort, solidaire et prospère »*, Août 2017, au para. 202, online : <https://chad.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/PND%20Chad.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid* au para. 223.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid* au para. 224.

<sup>48</sup> Chad Republic, *Plan National de Développement Sanitaire : PNDS2 2018-2021*, online : <https://www.prb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Tchad-Plan-National-de-Developpement-Sanitaire-2018-2021.pdf>

implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)<sup>49</sup> especially articles 22, 24 and 24.

For UN organizations, the National Development Plan is also relevant to the UN System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP), which is intended to provide a coherent approach to the implementation of the DNDPA across all the SDGs<sup>50</sup>. UN-Women's leadership in the implementation of SWAP in Africa is remarkable and is very important for Indigenous Women in this region in general.

### **III. Indigenous Women's Contribution to the Implementation of the SDGs**

Indigenous Women in Chad play an important role in the family sphere. Their daily activities include fetching water, gathering wood, cooking, feeding the family, caring for children as well as other family members. Women are agents of development and implementation of SDG3.

During the interview with members of the *Association pour l'Autonomisation de la Femme Peule* (Association for the Empowerment of Fulani Women), which is an organization working to promote sedentary livestock farming, the processing and marketing of dairy products, agriculture and Godon art. Its activities are focused on three sites (Chari Baguirmi, Logone Oriental and Mayo Binder), the women interviewed stated:

*“Our actions are more focused on the prevention of malaria through the distribution of impregnated mosquito nets. We organize awareness campaigns on maternal health and on the early diagnosis of breast cancer at least once a year”<sup>51</sup>.*

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<sup>49</sup> Online : [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_F\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_F_web.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> Conseil économique et social, Instance permanente sur les questions autochtones, *System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples*, 19 February 2016, E/C.19/2016/5, online : [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.19/2016/5](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.19/2016/5)

<sup>51</sup> Remarks collected from the women of the *Association pour l'Autonomisation de la Femme Peule* (AAFP), le 17 May 2021.



*Fulani woman from Chad milking a cow*  
©En Terre Indigène

They also mentioned this to us:

*“We do subsistence farming (80% of the crop is for consumption). The surplus is stored for contingencies. We also grow vegetables, which are sold at the local weekly market. We use natural fertilizer (manure)”* <sup>52</sup>.

The contribution of Fulani women to the food security of their families and communities, to various targets of SDG2 as well as to their own empowerment as women (SDG5) is therefore crucial.

### **Amazigh woman and SDG3**

*“For health, we try to educate the Amazigh woman, whose main job is to take care of her home. She works together with her husband and family in the handicraft work she masters. She protects the health of her children, especially in fighting against Coronavirus, through hygiene, cleanliness and by following health guidelines”* (Mrs. Talbi Kahna, Amazigh woman from Tunisia).

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<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*



## Conclusion

IPs in Africa face a recognition barrier that can be an obstacle to development programs targeting and reaching them. However, it must be recognized that of some States have made efforts to include IPs in some of their national programs and policies, as is the case with the National Development Plan in Chad and the *White Paper on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Namibia*. Thanks to the evolution of the debate on IPs' rights at the international level, there is also growing reflection on the implementation of the UNDRIP in this region.

While waiting for actions to be taken, IPs, and especially IW, are voicing their concerns, priorities, and initiatives to be heard at the local, national, and regional levels to continue taking care of their families, protecting their traditional knowledge, and contributing to the economic and social development and well-being of their people. They exchange best practices with their sisters at the family, local and regional levels through associations such as Tinhinane, OAFa, or through international networks and spaces such as the one offered by FIMI.

To achieve the SDGs without leaving anyone behind in, including IW in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and post-pandemic recovery, it is imperative that:

- Member States, UN agencies, funds and programs, and the philanthropic sector support Indigenous Women's initiatives, including those undertaken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- African states, in collaboration with their allies and financial and technical partners, including UN agencies, funds and programs, plan post-Covid-19 recovery budgets and programs that include a good proportion for IPs, and more specifically, a share allocated directly to IW.
- Member States, UN agencies, funds and programs ensure and support the participation of Indigenous Women at all levels of decision-making, including in politics.
- To achieve this participation, Member States, UN agencies, funds and programs, and the philanthropic sector focus on training indigenous girls and women in traditional and formal education, but also support W's leadership programs such as the one offered by the FIMI Leadership School.
- Member States, UN agencies, funds and programs, the private sector, financial institutions, philanthropists, and academic institutions are invited to include data on how they include IPs, particularly IW, in their work and VNR, and to lead the research steps to collect this data under the leadership of Indigenous Women.



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