

Key Takeaways from the HNPW event

Voices from Frontline Communities: Leading Climate Action in Agriculture and Food 18 March 2025

*Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and
Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations*

- In line with [commitment 3](#) of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, the voices of indigenous women leaders reminded us that those most vulnerable and affected by the climate crisis—Indigenous and local communities—are not just victims of climate impacts but **leaders in climate resilience, adaptation, and food security**.
- They must be at **the center of all processes** for understanding multiple risks and impacts and needs, and in the design, implementation and monitoring and learning on climate and food actions from local to global levels.
- What we have heard today reinforces a fundamental truth: **emergency response begins with local actors**. They are the first respondents to face the loss and damage from multiple climate shocks and stresses, the first to manage risks and impacts before, during and after disasters, and the leading actors to implement solutions—often with little external support.
- Their **deep-rooted knowledge, particularly in natural ecosystems and related local food systems, is essential for designing and implementing humanitarian responses** that are respectful and supportive of local realities for building inclusive, effective, resilient, sustainable development.
- For humanitarian actors, this means shifting our approach. **We must ensure that humanitarian action is not just about delivering aid to save lives but about strengthening and amplifying local leadership for local climate resilience and food security**.
- Indigenous and local leaders must be at the center of decision-making, shaping responses that are anchored in their livelihoods and food systems.
- Solutions must be driven by local needs and knowledge, rather than imposed externally. **What works in one context may not work in another—context matters, and the inclusion and empowerment of local actors, especially indigenous women leaders, is the foundation of success for people, nature and the climate**.

So, please let us include and invest in indigenous women leaders for boosting climate resilience and food security across the globe.