**This input to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food regarding Covid Pandemic, handed in by the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), in Kenya**

1. **Which government programs and measures were effective during the pandemic in ensuring that people had access to good food? Please identify those measures you think should be expanded and made permanent?**

In Kenya, the imposition of a nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew, and restricted movement of goods and people within the urban areas among other measures occasioned economic distress among the people. To alleviate the suffering and malnutrition and ensure access to food, the Kenyan government launched a sparingly weekly cash transfer restricting the program to the elderly, poor, and vulnerable families within the urban areas.

Water and Food rations were also provided to families in informal settlements. Provision of seed capital to small and medium enterprises through a credit guarantee scheme and Supply of farm inputs to small-scale farmers through an e-voucher scheme.

The government also enhanced the Rehabilitation of Wells, water pans and erection of high-tower still water tanks, and installation of water kiosks within the informal settlements. government should retain and expand these initiatives

The government should institute a better data collection on individuals in these communities who have challenges to ease reaching out to them. Corruption in some instances prevented needy cases from accessing cash transfer.

1. **What specific measures would you like your government to build upon or implement that would enable: 1. A just transition for workers; 2. Strong land/water rights and genuine agrarian reform; or 3. Holding corporations accountable?**
2. **What** **government** **measures** **or** **programs** **can** **better** **connect** **small**, **local** **food** **producers** **to** **consumers?**

The government should strengthen internet services and design online marketing support systems for people from indigenous communities. These communities can highly benefit from online marketing of their products hence improving their economic levels. This would go a long way in supporting resilience.

The government can also ensure that small local producers are protected from extreme taxation in markets.

Providing market information to the small scale producers to increase their market awareness and easily target and identity the consumers of their produce. Limited market information is s challenge that local producers often face.

Poor infrastructure is also a challenge, especially for perishable goods. Sometimes farmers do not make it to their target consumers due to impassable roads, especially during the rainy seasons. This can be solved by the government lobbying for proper infrastructure and road networks for the community. This can support both in person marketing and online marketing as the goods and services can be moved quickly to the consumers who have ordered online.

1. **What government measures or programs can better encourage local agroecological practice and movements?**

Kenya already has several policies and programmes that target promoting agricultural productivity with the goal of ending all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 making all people have access to sufficient and nutritious food. However, agroecology is still not given a strong focus. Only two counties, Kiambu and Muranga have passed an agroecological policy. Kenya needs to re purpose its efforts towards agroecology, and especially work towards ensuring that ownership and access rights for indigenous communities is achieved, for them to effectively engage in sustainable agriculture. This will definitely contribute to the country being able to meeting other rights like right to food, across a bigger section of the population, considering that indigenous peoples are more than 20% of the Kenya’s population. Below are some specific areas that would need attention:

1. Pasture/hay production

During drought men move livestock leaving behind women and children. Women should be supported grow pasture to stop this movement and improve their resilience to drought. Pasture availability leads to better milk production which increases household income and nutrition. County governments should thus move to ensure there is enough land, and resources to support pasture production. This will also contribute to better nourishment of soils enhance better biodiversity for a better mitigation of climate change (carbon sequestration)

1. Building capacity of communities in eco tourism.

Alternative sources of income for indigenous communities, like eco-tourism, should be strengthened. Indigenous communities occupy areas very rich in tourism attraction sites that have not been properly harnessed. This would reduce over dependence on the traditional livelihoods leading to sustainable agroecological practices.

1. Financing locally led climate activities and agroecological practices.

Supporting campaigns to improve food security at the household level by providing incentives. Kitchen gardens are easy to manage and use little water. Providing irrigation kits and water harvesting tanks at the household level will encourage agriculture. Indigenous communities would then be encouraged to revitalize indigenous knowledge and practices and incorporate them into holistic agriculture at household levels. This should be effectively practiced with community agroecological interventions.

d. Indigenous Land tenure and ownership systems need to be revitalised to ensure that families can access lands (including women, youth and PWDs) to ensure sustainable production. Increased pressure on land (access, ownership) due to population pressure, as well as large scale investments and developments by government and private sector are disrupting these systems.

1. What should an international coordination plan to respond to the food crisis and based on the right to food focus on and include?

There is urgent need of the international community to ensure and implement the fundamental rights such as right to food, as mentioned in the UNDROP which was already in 2018 by the international community, and Kenya supported it, seeing now the counter effects after Covid Pandemic, the urgency to implement all aspects of UNDROP and UNDRIP are highly relevant for indigenous peoples food sovereignty in the long-run.

An international coordination plan responding to the food crisis and based on the right to food should focus on the realisation of the rights of excluded and marginalized populations, and those whose rights are at risk of being violated, in this case indigenous peoples. Such a strategy would seek to both assist in the participatory formulation of the needed policy and legislative framework and to ensure that democratic and participatory processes are institutionalized locally and nationally. Such a mechanism would thus support a protection and promotion of civic space by ensuring laws are not restrictive, there are opportunities for capacity building, that will **promote**inclusive, safe and meaningful civil society participation in decision-making and open **civic space**, including participating in legal and policy frameworks that facilitate debate and allow civil society to organise freely.