

A Prevention Manual for Indigenous Community Radio Stations During
the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

Cultural Survival

KANKANA EY





Nan nainsigudan ay umili et sumangsango isnan peggad di pandemya ay COVID19. Gapu isna, nan Cultural Survival et mangamkam-ed ay mangabadang isnan naay da ay radyo isnan lokalidad tapnu makaiwaragawag isnan nainsigudan ay umili nan iyat ay mangsangu isnan nakwani ay krisis. Nan radyo et esang ay napigsa ay wagas ay makidamag isnan umili, isna gedan ay itandudo nan karbengan kas nainsigudan ay umili, sinay gedan nan esang ay wagas ay mangiwaragawagan si karirikna, wagas ay mangibugaw isnan importante ay impormasyon para isnan umili. Nan wadan sirib na et adu nan maiyat na et esang ay men-adalan nan kawada di radyo.



Galina Angarova
Executive Director





General objective

To facilitate a support tool for communications personnel from Indigenous communities to address and confront the impacts of COVID-19.

Audience

This manual is a resource for radio staff, Indigenous journalists, broadcasters and communicators worldwide for their safety in the times of COVID-19.

Prevention Manual for Indigenous Community Radio Stations Adapted to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency

Humanity is facing the COVID-19 virus that is still largely unknown to public health experts. The virus has caused a global pandemic that has claimed the lives of many people, and exacerbated the global economic crisis. During this time we take the opportunity to reflect on the vulnerability and strengths of Indigenous Peoples. In terms of vulnerability, we see the lack of access to health, medicine, water, and to accurate culturally sensitive information in Indigenous languages about the disease. In terms of strengths, Indigenous Peoples have their own community values, food systems, ancestral medicines, and are organized.

Indigenous media is playing a crucial role at this moment. In the face of this global emergency, communications should be consistent, accurate, and provide information in Indigenous languages in an accountable manner. Cultural Survival put this manual together in response to the emergency, recognizing the role of radio and the importance and safety of Indigenous communicators.

This manual consists of two sections. The first part is directed at radio members and personnel and focuses on prevention practices for the exercise of radio communication in times of COVID-19. The second part is a guide to generate content in a responsible manner for Indigenous communities and includes resources for reliable and accurate information.

Part I Radio staff and volunteers

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What should the radio team do? Safety first

- Create a safety plan for radio members. It is necessary that you do this as a team, taking into account the recommendations of the World Health Organization—WHO, of the central government, of the health authorities and the local authorities of each country.
- Be properly identified as members of communication media to avoid problems with restrictions and regulations adopted by each country. Appropriate permits should accompany personnel both in and out of the studio.
- Adjust the assigning of work around the most vulnerable. If the team is made up of some people of a more mature age or if a member suffers a chronic illness, they should be assigned other tasks that they can perform from home.
- Analyze risks. When you travel in the community, be sure to follow the measures taken by community leaders and local authorities. This is your first line of protection.
- Clean the work area constantly. In the office, editorial office, and recording booth, clean with liquid alcohol in concentrations of 70% chlorine or disinfectant
- Use a windbreaker or sponge for microphones, because these are methods of infection. At the end of the program it is necessary to change the sponge. Be responsible.
- Disinfect equipment after an interview. You should use a cloth soaked with ethyl alcohol. Avoid cleaning with chlorine, because it is corrosive to the equipment. You can buy ethyl alcohol in the pharmacy or drugstore.
- Avoid bringing more than two people on the radio. This should only be done if it is indispensable, with due physical distance and using masks.
- Create programming through streaming as an option to not go to the recording booth. Coordinate a connection to the booth with the person in charge, this modality offers better sound quality than transmission by telephone. If you do not have the resources to transmit in this way, do it by telephone as a second option. You can find some options for free streaming in the following link: www.giss.tv

Part II

Preparation of content

In this part, we summarize some guidelines provided by the World Health Organization and specialized portals with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, so that Indigenous community communications report in a responsible and not alarmist manner.

- Avoid the infodemic and fake news. The World Health Organization (WHO) coined the term “infodemic” to describe the misinformation and erroneous information that circulates in different media and platforms. Misinformation and false information creates confusion and bad decisions on the part of the population, which can affect the wellbeing of everyone. Avoid alarmist or sensationalist titles.
- Focus on official and scientific data about the illness and the recommendations by the World Health Organization. Remember that you are neither an expert nor a scientist on the subject, so only research by public health specialists, epidemiologists, nurses, creators of vaccines, and geneticists can explain the scientific aspects of the epidemic to inform the public.
- Promote ancestral Indigenous medicine and practices. We have knowledge about how to strengthen our immunity with traditional food and medicine. Interview traditional doctors and other similar people.
- Transmit information in the language of your community and in the main stream language of your country, information contextualized and in our Indigenous mother tongue is better and easily understood, be a reliable fountain of knowledge for the community. If

there is no personnel who speaks the Indigenous language, you should make efforts to find people who do. There are many local productions that you can share. At the end of this manual we will share with you links of portals with reliable information.



- Avoid stigmatization. Due to the origin of the virus, many media at first referred to it as the “Chinese virus”; this caused racism and xenophobia throughout the world, harming Asians. In our region, something

similar has happened, because the aggressions and discrimination has been a latent threat for our migrant and deported brothers returning to our countries. Because of this, we recommend to be careful with the language we use, avoiding the use of adjectives to address someone's nationality, food preferences, immigration status, or because of suffering a health condition.



of emergency communication (radio authorizes a space to denounce rights violations).

- Avoid publications without foundation, like the miracle cures of charlatans. If someone speaks of a miracle drug that guarantees to cure illness, journalists and communicators should question it, differentiating between this kind of information and natural ancestral medicine.
- Report under principles of human dignity. If you know of someone who has symptoms or has died due to COVID-19, we recommend approaching the problem by respecting the families and the person themselves. Be aware of how far you can go with your questions. Put yourself in their shoes.
- Offer coverage of information generated in our communities and from our authorities. Communicate the measures that are being taken at national, regional, and community levels, commenting on which activities have been cancelled or are not allowed at this moment.
- Remember, radio is a bridge to inform the population of the importance of testing vulnerable people and people with symptoms. The test is of paramount importance to avoid infection.

Promoting community values

- Create human rights awareness campaigns, to avoid aggressions toward migrants, the deported, the sick and their families, and healthy people in times of COVID-19. Authorize a form

- Promote coexistence during confinement, suggest family activities, divide up housework. Promote oral traditions around the table or other activities that minimize the psychological effects that this pandemic is generating.
- Try new radio formats to educate the youth and children to minimize the impact of the cancellation of classes and closure of schools.
- Through radio, invite educational authorities to motivate the use of the

radio as a brilliant and educational tool for children and youth.

- Inform the audience that lifting restrictions in some places does not signal the end of COVID-19, recommend respecting the recommendations by the health authorities.
- Cheer up the community from the radio, play happy music that accompanies the audience, entertain in times of emergency. It is also advisable to search for positive elements in the midst of the crisis and to help to forget about worries for a moment.
- Promote and save the bartering or exchange of products in communities by border closures, markets and public transport services, in order to alleviate the problem of shortage.
- Invite and reflect on life and mother earth, promoting the planting of our own food as a guarantee of food sovereignty during crises like these and in future ones. Make mini gardens, involve the family. Promote the planting of native seeds.
- Promote mutual support, recovering solidarity work in our communities as

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- Invite the community to take seriously the hygiene measures, something that is not typified as a means of infection is money, but its circulation can be a potential way of infection.
- Promote the consumption of food that strengthens our defenses and create specific programs that save ancestral culinary recipes that provide significant nutrients in our life, demonstrated by the longevity of our grandparents.

COVID-19 material available in different Indigenous languages Cultural Survival Indigenous Rights Radio website:

https://rights.culturalsurvival.org/radio-spots-search/field_radio_series/COVID-19-85/language/en/language/und

Sources of reliable information reliable a general level

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/es>

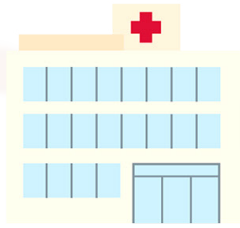
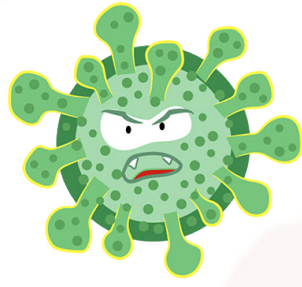
Specialized pages for journalists covering COVID-19

International Journalists' Network

<https://ijnet.org/en>

Global Investigative Journalism Network

<https://gijn.org/gijn-en-espanol/>



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