

**The Response of the COVID- 19 Pandemic on the Indigenous communities:
Case of Access to Emergency health care Among the Ogiek of Kenya**

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Empirical evidence shows that ethnic minority populations experience worse outcomes than majority groups during and after disasters or emergencies. They often face a disproportionate burden of health emergencies and a lack of emergency medical services. The COVID-19 pandemic is having serious impact on the health, wellbeing, and livelihoods of people across the world, with a disproportionate negative effect on some people. The purpose of this study is to investigate how the Ogiek in Kenya conceptualize COVID 19 emergencies, and offer an analysis of how local notions of emergencies might inform the development of local emergency care management systems. This study will employ an ethno-historical design. It is a systematic and objective location, evaluation and synthesis of evidence in order to establish facts and draw conclusions concerning past events. The subject of inquiry will be based on the assumption that individuals construct social reality in the form of meanings and interpretations and that the reconstructions tend to be transitory and situational. This will be the study of a peoples representations of their history and hence linked to the study of their oral tradition. This approach counterchecks the defects of the first approach taking into account that members of a culture are often too involved in what they are doing to interpret their culture impartially. Indigenous peoples are at high risk of infection, morbidity, and mortality from COVID-19 due to pre-existing disadvantages. These include high levels of poverty, vulnerability to disease, adverse health conditions, and limited access to basic health services. This epidemiological profile, along with the remoteness of many indigenous communities, poses a significant challenge for health systems that are already strained by the pandemic. To strengthen the speed and effectiveness of emergency response interventions in indigenous territories, it is critical to coordinate with indigenous peoples in a manner that considers their sociocultural and territorial characteristics and to strengthen coordination between governments and indigenous peoples on COVID-19 management.

Key words: Indigenous Peoples, Health