

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 16 June 2021 04:00 GMT -04:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Elevating Community Voices in Development and Humanitarian Aid
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Congressional Hunger Center
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17438/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17438/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

27

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

11 Male

16 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

0 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

18 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

1 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

2 Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

1 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

1 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The Dialogue was organized with the intention that there is an urgent need to address the flaws in our current global food system and that this needs to be addressed in the way development and humanitarian aid is conducted. We spread the message about this dialogue through different networks and outlets to reach a wide audience and left the participation open to anyone who was interested in the topic.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue recognized the complexity of food systems by allowing discussions to happen around each action track, and even within the action tracks, the participants were open to make links to other action track topics. The Dialogue was inclusive of participants from different contexts backgrounds who were encouraged to join and share their inputs. It brought together people working on similar issues but maybe very different context who would have otherwise never crossed paths. We aimed to build trust by being transparent about our purpose and intention for the discussion and by creating a safe space of mutual respect.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

No

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of our Dialogue was to help elevate the voices of those who are most directly impacted by development and humanitarian initiatives. It was open to development and humanitarian implementers, local leaders, and community members, as well as field and extension officers, national and local governments, and companies interested in providing contextual perspectives for how humanitarian and development strategies impact communities. Our purpose was to encourage a diverse and expansive pool of voices to help improve the representation and empowerment of local leadership in influencing the SDG goals. Therefore, the Dialogue was an exploration of food systems in the development and humanitarian context and was intentionally open to discussion topics related to all five Action Tracks to allow people to bring their own interests and individual roles within the food system to the table.

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

- Build agency of local leadership and strengthen local food systems through the promotion of indigenous crops and traditional forms of agriculture
- Complement traditional agriculture techniques with conservation and climate-smart agriculture techniques that are accessible to all local communities.
- Ensure smallholder farmers have access to quality inputs and resources to grow for their own consumption and sell at prices that allow them to live adequately
- Empower women and youth to be directly engaged with agriculture value chains and improve market access for both income generation and nutrition outcomes
- Ensure that foreign assistance truly supports communities in becoming resilient and self-sufficient rather than perpetually dependent on aid

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

- There are politics involved in ending hunger and inequities- leads to trade-offs, such as focusing on scaling up production, using non-organic fertilizers that harm soil health, and large scale producers instead of smallholder farmers
- Water scarcity a major issue of hunger
- Need to scale up innovative practices, such as the use of wastewater and fecal sludge in the growing system, which could assist in the affordability of fertilizer; could also learn from other regions with water scarcity
- We must include the community, as they are the ones impacted by hunger and directly impacted by climate change- community should be educated on climate change so they can advocate and provide accountability.
- We need to replenish indigenous crops and recognize the value of traditional methods of agriculture
- How will we incentivize or recognize farmers for using conservation agriculture?
- The humanitarian / development communities need to ask themselves if their work is creating cycles of dependency
- Women and youth need to be empowered more, especially when it comes to livestock ownership to improve nutrition outcomes and where youth can serve in the value chain
- Direct food relief should not be used as a long-term solution, we need to be looking at empowerment models that encourage local self-reliance

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### KEYWORDS

- |                          |                           |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy                  |
| ✓                        | Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence         |
| ✓                        | Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Governance              |
| ✓                        | Women & Youth Empowerment | ✓                        | Trade-offs              |
|                          |                           | ✓                        | Environment and Climate |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

- Concerned about the quality of food (in terms of vitamins and nutrients) being donated and distributed through local food pantries in the US - need more locally sourced food through a compression and decentralization of supply chains
- Growth of healthy corner farmers on 1/10 of an acre plots to create food oases in food deserts in the US; step beyond the idea of healthy corner stores selling more fruits and vegetables to grounding production in the community (healthy corner farmers rather than healthy corner stores); use of hydroponic farms for production
- In Nigeria, internally displaced persons (IDP) farmers have limited access to farmland, so home gardens and home animal raising is key to surviving off-season produce price spikes, when the community is dependent on transported foods.
- Use of Tom Brown, a nutritious porridge made of millet, corn, sorghum, soya, and groundnuts, to feed malnourished children with locally sourced food in Nigeria
- Mobile food markets in the US can reduce numbers of those living in food deserts, but the need must be mapped out first
- Concerned by the wasted food production in Nigeria fueled by transportation, store, and preservation problems- for tomatoes, for instance, the population faces seasonal price spikes because there is no way to preserve the tomatoes; logistics are the key in avoiding off-season produce price spikes.
- Childhood traumas/adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), often influence whether people eat healthily or desire fast foods and often correlates with diet-related disease, given the role of stress-related cortisol in cravings for high-fat foods

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

- Smaller, local farmers lack access to quality seeds/support and markets- need for regulations to ensure small holder farmers have access to the right resources both to consume as well as sell to their communities
- Farmers get discouraged because of low prices and exploitation- having access to quality inputs at fair costs would allow them to also sell at appropriate prices (affordable for consumers, profitable for sellers)
- High value crops are prioritized at the expense of other crops due to market forces
- Western countries dictate what lower income countries receive through food aid, disturbs the market system; bulk buying and reliance on WFP exploits local farmers.
- In Uganda, we need to organize farmers into unions so that individuals are not selling individually but as farmer unions who can collectively bargain for better prices
- In Uganda, young people avoid agriculture because they consider it not profitable and are selling land to move to city- try to connect youth with older generations to show that you can have a farm and an office job - and that profit is possible; use SBCC with having peer to peer conversations that can show success stories and impact
- Promoting Technology in agriculture would demonstrate that it is possible to make a profit by saving time and cost and makes it more attractive to the youth
- In the US, youth not really involved in farming unless they grew up doing it as part of a family business - certain neighborhoods should start household cultivation. Each member of the community would have 1 type of plant (herb, fruit, vegetable) and then the community members would trade to sustain themselves
- Role of government and how they can influence the system - COVID 19 as an opportunity to highlight the importance of local food systems and encouraging households to grow their own foods
- Encouraging food sovereignty and the food as a right and not just a commodity

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

- Need to be conscious of complexities in how individuals interact with food systems and deal with food insecurity- there is heterogeneity of vulnerability, and we need to look at it at different levels (community, household, and individual)
- Need to provide farmers with education on managing risk where it be weather, conflict, currency fluctuations, etc- to make systems more resilient there needs to be more understanding of what the risks are and their impacts in the short, medium, and long term.
- Real change needs happen at the local level especially in conflict areas- component of basic start up support as well as education
- Need to move from basic caloric intake needed to live to providing full/balanced nutrition and diverse diets with fruits and vegetable
- Protracted crisis and conflict change food systems fundamentally, but we treat them as temporary; development is possible in areas experiencing protracted conflict, but local leadership is critical
- Should adapt weather-related risk management systems to conflict and have financial services that can work where there is a lot of uncertainty.
- Need early warning systems for other types of uncertainty than famine and some weather challenges

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None

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