

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 27 May 2021 08:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Dialogue between refugee youths and the Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Agnes Kalibata
CONVENED BY	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19154/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

17

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18 11 19-30 5 31-50 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

7 Male 10 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops	3	Education	Health care
Fish and aquaculture		Communication	Nutrition
Livestock		Food processing	0 National or local government
Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets	Utilities
Environment and ecology		Food industry	Industrial
Trade and commerce		Financial Services	14 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union
Large national business	Member of Parliament
Multi-national corporation	Local authority
Small-scale farmer	Government and national institution
Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
Large-scale farmer	1 United Nations
Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution
International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Indigenous People	Consumer group
Science and academia	16 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was very structured and strongly moderated to share question and answer exchange equitably across participants. The tone of the chat box was extremely positive and supportive. Those who were able to use their cameras were encouraged to pose with a smile and wave for a group shot at the end of the dialogue.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Be respectful: the dialogue encouraged respectful consideration of the overall nutrition of refugees; vocational and developmental needs of youth within refugee groups; the wellbeing of the natural environment in food production and consumption; and the wellbeing of host communities through the positive participation of refugees in food systems. Recognize complexity: the interconnectedness of food systems with all SDGs, was recognized explicitly by the Special Envoy as well as youth speakers. Embrace Multi-Stakeholder Inclusivity: speakers embraced their multiple perspectives and contexts by stating where they are from, and where they are now living.

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

Some speakers had connectivity issues. The chat box was used to include their messages in the dialogue. This might be a challenge to anticipate and encourage speakers to have text ready to cut and paste if necessary, for a very prepared and pre-structured dialogue like this one.

3. METHOD

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

No, the standard dialogue format from the FSSD manual was not used. The alternative method used is described in the Concept Note and copied below: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bNz55irRHGZ80sRZisOKMIrRWhcMgOTP/view?usp=sharing> Run of show Open segment – 10 min Welcome remarks and introduction of UNHCR speaker – Hala Opening remarks, and two questions to the SE about her journey from displacement to becoming the SE for FSS - UNHCR Director, NYO, Ruven Menikdiwela (TBC) Response to two questions - Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit Agnes Kalibata Table tennis dialogue session – 20 questions total 15 minutes – 3 refugees per section Hala invites the Special Envoy to address two questions to the refugees – 30 seconds SE asks two questions – 2 minutes Hala passes the floor to refugee 1 – 10 seconds Refugee 1 responds to first question – 3 min Hala passes the floor to refugee 2 – 10 seconds Refugee 2 responds to second question – 3 min Hala invites refugee 3 to address a question to the SE – 30 seconds Refugee 3 asks the question – 1 min SE responds – 3 min 15 minutes – 3 refugees per section Hala invites the Special Envoy to address two questions to the refugees – 30 seconds SE asks two questions – 2 minutes Hala passes the floor to refugee 1 – 10 seconds Refugee 1 responds to first question – 3 min Hala passes the floor to refugee 2 – 10 seconds Refugee 2 responds to second question – 3 min Hala invites refugee 3 to address a question to the SE – 30 seconds Refugee 3 asks the question – 1 min SE responds – 3 min 15 minutes – 3 refugees per section Hala invites the Special Envoy to address two questions to the refugees – 30 seconds SE asks two questions – 2 minutes Hala passes the floor to refugee 1 – 10 seconds Refugee 1 responds to first question – 3 min Hala passes the floor to refugee 2 – 10 seconds Refugee 2 responds to second question – 3 min Hala invites refugee 3 to address a question to the SE – 30 seconds Refugee 3 asks the question – 1 min SE responds – 3 min Hala thanks participants and passes the floor to the SE for concluding remarks – 30 seconds Closing Statement SE closes the event – 2 minutes

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Refugee engagement in food systems, addressing challenges as well as opportunities to the problem of food security
Refugees' views, perspectives and ideas on how the Summit activities and country efforts to transform food systems can be leveraged for greater food security, better nutrition and more viable livelihoods for refugees.

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

Reliance on humanitarian assurance is short-term. To be resilient in the long-term, refugee youth need: training and access to information about nutrition, a means of food production, employment opportunities, and voice in decision-making about their future. Investment in new technologies to help overcome environmental and economic barriers to production and sustainability is also important. Refugees have self-determination and are a great force who can produce more than food for their communities.

Refugee youth experience many issues that are related to food systems in their context. Too often, people who are living in poverty or areas of conflict end up in refugee situations. Refugees should not be living in subhuman conditions. They should have access to food, water, as basic minimums. Beyond that, it is a basic human right to have a home and a means of food production or a livelihood. We also recognize we are working against ecological challenges in a natural environment that requires more intentional management. Responding to the climate crisis provides an opportunity for young people to share what they are learning about environmental conservation.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

TOPIC 1: Food and nutritional issues faced by refugees

All refugees access, consume and buy food. Many also produce food. All are motivated to improve livelihoods and contribute to the economies of the countries in which they live. Yet many barriers exist. In many instances, refugees lack formal education about nutrition, resulting in malnutrition and improper dietary intake. There are also significant limits to refugees having limited access to food distribution and suitable land to produce their own food. Some questions that were raised included: How will food be distributed among people? Who has power over food distribution? For example, some people get half a chicken a month if they are lucky. Why is this inequality happening in food distribution? Unsafe situations such as conflict and violence are also barriers to accessing proper food.

Some of the solutions proposed during the dialogue included:

Provide formal training to refugees on nutrition.

Ensure refugees have a voice in the food distribution process. (see more below)

Facilitate safe access to land that is suitable for food production.

Educate and incentivize the community to create gardens -(e.g. small gardens/home gardens to plant tomatoes, cabbages - increase food access)

Ensure access to resources to buy the necessary food AND access to professional information on nutrition to accompany people in using their resources for a diet that really nourishes them.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

TOPIC 2: Youth Inclusion & Voice

Youth face the challenge of exclusion from decision-making platforms that influence food systems. How can we ensure an inclusive approach so displaced refugees are part of the food-security system?

Solutions proposed during the dialogue included:

Provide opportunities for people to voice their needs and challenges

Include youth voice in platforms where decisions that affect engagement in food systems initiatives are made. Ensure those voices are translated into action (beyond tokenism).

Build capacity through trainings on how to work on digital platforms, share their stories digitally

Support young people to conduct exchange visits with different stakeholders for exposure and experiential learning and support peaceful coexistence with the host community.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

TOPIC 3: Economic opportunity & empowerment

Refugees have self-determination, but there is a significant imbalance of power. Refugees deserve the ability to send their kids to school, feed their kids, and be able to do things everyone should be able to do. But this often doesn't happen because of the restrictions that prevent access to employment, land and capital. Refugees are also unlikely to have access to supports that allow them to cope with market fluctuations.

Refugees should have access to productive resources. No refugee wants to stay where they are a refugee. Refugee camps are not meant to be permanent situations; they are there to help them survive. We should be able to provide for that environment so people can return to their countries. We need to engage young refugees productively in food systems as well as providing for the means of life in the time before they can return. Youth should have a role in primary food production, but youth can do more than that. They can do lots of jobs. They should have a living income. Food systems should be able to create many types of jobs.

Solutions proposed during the dialogue include:

Facilitate refugees' access and asylum to banking services (eg bank loans)

Open an insurance policy to refugee farmers

Provide employment and business opportunities for refugee youths

Engage governments to ensure refugees can access work permits so they can find job opportunities in their host countries.

Make information accessible to youth about how they can access employment in food systems.

Promote how farmers and markets can be open to take products to sell and distribute.

Invest in human capital (e.g. training of workers on economic risk management and administration)

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

TOPIC 4: Technology & Sustainability

Technology is an excellent tool to share information of any kind. If it is done in the right way, we can help many people with the information they need to access better nutrition. Social networks have become our main means of communication: Instagram, FB, Twitter, etc.

Climate change, changing weather conditions, poor soils are all risky to food systems and prevent people from cultivating. Investing in innovation to develop ways to cope with adverse weather conditions is important. Engaging and promoting sustainable and innovative food production and efficient ways of distributing food across countries will help developing countries.

Some of the solutions proposed in this area include:

Invest in science, technology and innovation, for example:

Machinery to enhance food production and preservation (e.g. microwave vacuum - dry up food and keep for longer in refugee setting)

New food cultivation techniques (e.g. aquaponic/hydroponic - doesn't need soil to cultivate)

Greenhouses

Drip irrigation to help food production in dry places. - keep food production in spite of arain scarcity.

Fertilizers

Share strategies that help refugees take advantage of what is available

Duckweed - plant that grows in pond water - can be food for humans and animals - high in protein - can also purify water - help with water scarcity

Creative ways of farming that uses minimal land: vertical farming, container farming (e.g. recycle plastic bottles, tires - create small gardens)

One refugee share that she has a YouTube channel to share strategies to cook, gain livelihood and share among youth (e.g. how to make avocado oil from rotten avocados)

Ensure that food is affordable because production is sufficient

Design opportunities for youth to innovate - think and learn about creative ways to farm - move from thinking that farming is not cool - just for old people - make involvement fun.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Summary:

At the end of the dialogue, there was an emphasis on the interconnectedness of issues. Many refugees were forced to leave their homes due to conflict and violence or environmental disasters. There was a call to the international community to address grassroots causes of conflict. When people are displaced due to violence, there is an increased population in the host country, which causes an economic crisis, leads to more unemployment and lack of education, starting the cycle of violence yet again.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No areas of divergence raised.

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