

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 22 June 2021 17:30 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutrient Security Solutions: Real people create change with dignity in 2030
CONVENED BY	Clancy Cash Harrison, The Food Dignity® Movement
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22368/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders, United States of America

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

28

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18 6 19-30 17 31-50 4 51-65 0 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

5 Male 23 Female 0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3	Agriculture/crops	5	Education	3	Health care
0	Fish and aquaculture	1	Communication	7	Nutrition
2	Livestock	0	Food processing	1	National or local government
0	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	3	Food industry	0	Industrial
0	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	8	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
0	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation	0	Local authority
0	Small-scale farmer	1	Government and national institution
0	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
2	Large-scale farmer	0	United Nations
5	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
0	International Non-Governmental Organization	2	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
5	Science and academia	10	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The session opened with a reminder of the purpose of the UNFSS Independent Dialogue sessions. Attendees were reminded of the seven principles, how to engage with one another, and to draw upon ideas that are applicable, replicable, and scalable.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The group of stakeholders for this Dialogue represented a wide range of sectors and stakeholder groups. In order to encourage the Principles, facilitators reminded participants to allow for pause in between contributions, so that everyone felt comfortable sharing. Participants were also reminded that lived experiences are a form of expertise and that it was appropriate to tell specific stories that related to the questions and topic.

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

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of this dialogue was on solving hunger and improving levels of nutrition, enabling all people to maintain nourishing and healthy lives. This group of stakeholders represented a range of community members from Northeast, Pennsylvania. All of these stakeholders were involved in emergency food systems, either directly or indirectly. The opportunity to participate in this dialogue served as a chance to reflect on food systems, solving food and nutrient security, addressing issues surrounding poverty, and reflecting on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this way, the convener and facilitator tried to keep this conversation “close to the ground,” highlighting real experiences of food insecurity and grassroots efforts to address them.

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

Reducing the stigma associated with food insecurity is a primary goal and necessary step in delivering on zero hunger and building healthy food systems. When people associate shame with food insecurity, they are more likely to hesitate to come forward and receive what they need in order to raise healthy children, maintain quality of life, and address the other challenges they face.

Individuals working in emergency food systems need to be able to be creative and address the systemic issues that contribute to food insecurity. When serving food insecure people, the structure and programs in place should prioritize dignity. When individuals visit food pantries or receive food donations, they need to have agency, choice, and be respected first and foremost. This requires communities to understand and dismantle the assumptions we hold about poverty and food insecurity. For instance, childhood food insecurity is an adverse experience that can contribute to trauma, having lifelong effects. Food emergency systems must recognize the importance of how we address and ensure that young people receiving food know that they can look to their future with pride.

With this, all community members should be equipped to solve poverty-related hunger within their realm. In order to build a network together, the lived experiences of individuals, particularly those that have faced adversity or experienced food insecurity themselves, needs to be acknowledged, valued, and respected.

Finally, all community supports and institutions need to be equipped to screen for and address food insecurity in innovative ways. This includes academic institutions, healthcare settings, local businesses, and employers of all types. Screening for hunger and having a community structure in place to refer people is necessary. Too often organizations work in silos, and collaboration is necessary to deliver on zero hunger.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

This conversation was a very productive time for stakeholders in Northeast Pennsylvania, United States, to get to know each other. In this way, the outcomes represent actions steps that are immediate and applicable to that context.

(1) This region is rich in academic institutions that will improve opportunities for educational scholarships for students facing food insecurity and grow emergency food distribution programs in the next six months. This is a critical step of equipping future generations to envision their future with pride and to know that their participation in delivering on zero hunger is critical.

(2) Continue to build partnerships and efficient supply chains between small businesses, regional farmers, and food emergency systems over the next two years. Advocate and efficiently use funding provided for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS), a state-specific initiative that provides money to purchase produce from area farmers for the food insecure. These funds should prioritize fruits and vegetable purchase from regional growers and fair prices, and even more so, aim to support small growers and those from marginalized backgrounds. This produce is then redistributed to Food Bank and food pantries so that clients have fresh, quality, local produce. Restaurants also process this produce to create foods that are more accessible for the unhoused and those with limited cooking equipment.

(3) Ensure that the education of healthcare workers and nutrition professions is one where they understand, deeply, the connection between food insecurity and community health. These future workers should know how to screen for food insecurity, reduce the stigma associated with it, and prioritize dignity in how they interact with and care for clients.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was some potential divergence in the PASS purchasing program when considering where funds should be allocated, to support small versus large growers and what is the most beneficial to the regional and state economy, in a sustainable manner, in the long run.

Some of the language and terms used in the dialogue, such as “dignity” and “stigma” may mean different things to different people. While there could be areas of disagreement in practice and it may be challenging to measure the effectiveness of promoting “dignity” within a food emergency program, this UNFSS Dialogue session believes that it is still incredibly important to value this conversation and continue to commit to learning together. In the end, building resilient food systems and delivering on zero hunger is work that happens, first and foremost, in relationships. Therefore, having these conversations together so that we can understand each other, is an important step towards that direction. Researchers and policymakers should remember the importance of these conversations, in prioritizing the lived experiences of those impacted by inequities in our food system, and value input from people on the ground. As a coalition, and specifically as a coalition of workers in Northeast, Pennsylvania, in the United States, we will inevitably come across disagreements, but we must prioritize our work as a coalition and always seek to understand and learn from one another first.

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