

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 8 June 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Women Nutrition: Resilience and Recovery on the Road to 2030
CONVENED BY	Marti van Liere, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Consortium
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23761/
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

206

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

3 Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

Financial Services

19 Health care

70 Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

4 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

10 Large national business

10 Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

17 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

31 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

6 Local authority

4 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

8 United Nations

10 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Principles were implicitly incorporated in the organisation of the Dialogue, by highlighting the urgent need for commitments and investments in women nutrition and enhancing women abilities to play their roles in the food system, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated health and nutrition status of women and their children. Through the choice of speakers we demonstrated commitment to the Summit and the need for sustainable and inclusive food systems that provide access to affordable and healthy diets for all. The dialogue recognized complexity of food systems and the need to include perspectives of multiple stakeholders, through the comments of the speakers, especially for women in agriculture and women entrepreneurs. They spoke of empowering women as food producers and providers through a systems approach via financial incentives, gender-sensitive policies, nutrition-sensitive interventions and targeted education and training. 'Multistakeholder diversity' was ensured by including speakers and participants from diverse sectors (Govt. to agriculture) and backgrounds (nutrition to trade and commerce), thereby capturing the multiplicity of voices in the discussions. This dialogue 'complemented the work of others' by focusing on an often-neglected area-women nutrition- beyond their reproductive potential. Moreover, it expanded existing conversations around women empowerment, gender equity and food systems transformation through the lens of women nutrition. The dialogue strove to 'build trust' by being curated and facilitated in a way that created a safe space for everyone to voice their opinions. The session was livestreamed on YouTube, recorded and simultaneously translated in French and Spanish, thus increasing its accessibility and inclusivity. Social media engagement allowed transparency and accountability.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue was inspiring, engaging and thought provoking. Global experts from diverse backgrounds brought different viewpoints together on a single issue- women nutrition- urging governments, donors, policy makers to invest in women nutrition, beyond their roles as mothers, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the key points that this session brought to the forefront was that "women matter at all stages of their life cycle". Highlighting the devastating impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on women's health because of their greater nutritional needs and critical roles in families and communities, brought a sense of monumental urgency to this topic. Speakers spoke about how food and health systems have failed women, causing detrimental effects on their health and resilience, stating, "Women are not the problem, the system is the problem". Two global entrepreneurs shared how they have empowered women through a systems approach via education, gender-sensitive policies, nutrition-based interventions thus enabling them to take charge of their health and improve their well-being and productivity. This highlighted the complexity and interlinkage of food and health systems and their impact on nutrition and health. This session complemented other dialogues that focused on women empowerment, gender equity, maternal and child nutrition by tying these threads to women nutrition. Statements such as "Women's voices need to be heard on platforms such as the UN Food Systems Summit" and "Women need a seat at the table" were echoed during this session. The session was attended by participants from around the world, through diverse sectors and backgrounds, as indicated through the poll questions, who engaged in Q&A session with global experts allowing a stimulating and transparent dialogue to take place respectfully, in a safe space. The Nutrition for Growth Commitment Guide was talked about and shared to inculcate a sense of accountability. There was no sense of blame, rather, a sense of shared responsibility to improve women nutrition worldwide.

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

1. Include speakers from diverse backgrounds with different viewpoints focusing on a single issue.
2. Plan the session to allow for exclusive talk-time for speakers and then allot a specific slot to let participants speak, because stimulating a conversation by asking questions through the chat function does not engage participants sufficiently.
3. Choose a skilled discussion moderator, who is both knowledgeable and passionate about the topic.
4. Promote the talk extensively through various channels to increase the numbers and diversity of participants.
5. End the session with specific goals and commitments emerging out of the discussion to be held accountable later on.

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

This session was part of the Food System Health Talks, organized by WHO and partners in the week of 4-10 June 2021. It did not follow exactly the recommended set up of a Dialogue as per the manual. This was a one-hour webinar in which 7 speakers set out in 5 minutes each their perspectives on the role of women in food systems, the challenges – specifically of women nutritional status - , the solutions they worked on or recommended. Speakers also indicated how women were considered in the game-changing solutions or clusters which were being prepared in the run toward the Food Systems Summit. Participants were encouraged to ask questions in the Q&A, to be discussed during the moderated dialogue in the second half of the hour. Also, questions were prepared and posed to the participants, encouraging them to write their thoughts in the chatbox and react to one another. The questions posed in the Q&A were all brought forward to presenters by the moderator. However, engagement with participants through the chat box did not work out as we did not receive and response to the question posed. Participants did make general comments however, mostly responding in support of the points made by the presenters (convergence). Also, participants reached out to each other, for instance to propose collaboration. Convening was done by the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Consortium (Marti van Liere, event convener, Anna Kotenko and Rijuta Pandav) hosted by the Micronutrient Forum and by Anna Lartey (discussion moderator).

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

A comprehensive discussion on the role of women's empowerment and nutrition in resilience building post pandemic with a focus on solutions that can empower women across food, health and social protection sectors.

Strong focus on Lever of Change: Gender

Mention of solutions relating to all Action Tracks. Strong focus on Action Track 1 (Women's Leadership and Empowerment Cluster) and Action Track 5 (Resilience Building)

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

Overall framing: The well-being and resilience of women is essential to the strength and resilience of their families, communities and the broader social and economic development of nations. Investing in women has multiplying effect on communities. "If you educate a woman you educate a whole nation" - improving women's nutrition needs to be game-changing within the FSS. "Women need to be at the table and be heard."

Convergence in opinion between all participants that women play an essential role in all aspects of the food chain, yet in 2021 we are still fighting for women's rights. Overall, women's work - at home and at work - is unquantifiable. At the same time, while a huge number of women are involved in production and trading, few women have positions higher up the value chain.

Other important discussions include the fact that women have higher nutritional needs than men (e.g., x2.5 iron intake) Yet, women eat last and least around the world. Overall, women have significantly higher levels of malnutrition than men.

Poor women's nutrition is an equity issue - A study by the World Bank on poverty and nutrition in 30 sub-Saharan African countries found that nearly 75 percent of underweight women live in households with a male head who is not underweight and nearly 75 percent of underweight women and undernourished children do not live in the poorest 20 percent of households.

Solutions Clusters proposed/discussed:

Cluster: Women's leadership

Cluster: Social norms and influencing women's access (and allocations) to nutritious foods

Cluster: Addressing the gender finance gap

Cluster: Changing policies to make food systems gender transformative

Fundamentally, there was consensus on the need to engage men and have male champions for women, especially in agribusiness.

Example actions put forward by AGREA

- Redesign Farm Schools to promote and support women
- Invest in ethical micro-finance and training to support women
- Change policies for banks and rural banks to include women
- Ensure simple agriculture tools are adapted to use by women

Example solutions put forward by Nourishing Africa (Nigeria).

Important context: In Nigeria male entrepreneurs earn 60% more.

- Enable policies that push for inclusion.
- Actively invest in female extension workers throughout the agriculture landscape
- Invest in business development for women
- Allocate catalytic and patient capital (in particular, to support the introduction of new products).

Summary question: How can women be a part of the move to resilient and sustainable food systems?

- Ensure that men champion women leaders in the food system
- Intentional support women by adapting farming and technology and ensure women are involved in the design.
- Disincentivize banks that do not provide banking services for women
- Women need to bring their seat at the table and be championed by men
- Challenge norms and systems that prevent women and youth from participating
- Involve women in designing (farm and other) technology
- Disaggregate data to get a good understanding of issues women face.
- Give women entrepreneurial role models and connect women

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Cherrie Atilano, CEO AGREA, Ambassador for SUN, UN Food System Champion and Philippine Ambassador

- Working with 30,000 smallholder farmers.
- Sad reality that people and women working in the food and agriculture sector is poorest. Crime against humanity that those at top of food chain are the ones who profit.
- AGREA is hosting a leading farm school.
- Trains women on money, mentor and market - capacity building. Finding opportunities for women in rural and agricultural rural development.
- Education opportunities for women farmers include working on food supply chains (processing) and teaching agribusiness, managing savings etc. Youth friendly women's farmers' federation increases economies of scale to be able to access to markets and improve consistency of supply.
- Initiative to inform, inspire and include women.
- Advocacy targeting congress and domestic policy changes.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

2. Jessica Fanzo, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics at Johns Hopkins University, High Level Panel of Experts on Food and Nutrition Security, EAT-Lancet Commission
Saskia Osendarp, Executive Director Micronutrient Forum, Associate Professor at Wageningen University, co-lead of the Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium,

Women eat last and less, and have higher nutritional requirements. More than one third of women are suffering from anemia. 75% of all undernourished women do not live in 20% poorest households. Matter of equity than poverty.

Women play an important role along aspects of food chain - realisation of women's rights. less access to productive resources, markets, training, social protection, and earn considerably less. On top of this, women have difficult home lives. Enforced by cultural norms and traditions. Face heavy physical workloads that undermine their wellbeing. While unfair to women, it is a tragedy to households, to communities, to communities, to enabling girls and women is essential not only to build productive and resilient food systems but for development of countries overall.

Food systems need to ensure access to diverse foods, complemented with interventions such as fortification, and women need adequate antenatal care to ensure maternal micronutrient interventions, such as MMS - anemia (which is an indicator of poor women nutrition). Need other interventions that address
Poor women's nutrition needs to be addressed as an equity issue - Anemia Action Alliance game-changer proposal is part of Women Solutions Cluster.

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Ndidi Nwuneli, Managing Partner Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Ltd. Nigeria, Managing Director AACE Foods and Founder of Lead Africa - Power of SMEs that are co-founded by women. Mama programme - supports women to distribute their product through building an inclusive supply chain and access to market and training and finances.

- Dairy Value Chain - advancing local dairy in Nigeria - empowering SMEs to source locally - while men own cows, women own the milk. Ensuring financial and nutritional education through cooperatives to move women on a path to agency and empowerment.
- Nourishing Africa - helping entrepreneurs, providing knowledge and access to training and financing.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Michael Oja, GAIN Country Director, Nigeria

Solutions that are having an impact in Nigeria include:

- Multi-sectoral policies and partnerships that bring key sectors together.
- Quality implementation of interventions, such as fortification of staples
- Co-ordination of multi-sectoral approach.
- Disaggregated information on what women are selling and eating.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Jemimah Njuki, Head Africa IFPRI, Custodian for UN FSS gender equality

- Propositions are developed with a gender lens - guiding principles:
- Elevating women's voices and positions in food systems, access to resources.
- Proposition: Women's Leadership and Empowerment Cluster
- Proposition: Gender financing gap
- Proposition: Resilience and building women's assets
- Social norms - influence food allocation and access to assets.
- Policies - make food systems policies gender transformative

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Investment in maternal and women's nutrition is often linked to women's reproductive roles as mothers. There was common agreement that investment needs to happen because of women's innate rights -- as people. However, there was some divergence about the extent to which messaging should focus on women's innate human rights vs their economic roles and ability to contribute to GDP and output.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Proposal Women Nutrition session in WHO Food Systems Health Talks**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Proposal-women-nutrition-session-WHO-Food-Systems-Health-week-20May2021-1.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **English recording of this session**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JagNCf_McrQ
- **French translation of this session**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rS8sNv87go>
- **Spanish translation of this session**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pC-i6bauvmY>