

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 7 July 2021 10:15 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Food and Nutritional Rights for Food Systems in Central Malawi
CONVENED BY	Alfred Kambwiri - Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (Malawi)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/32071/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Malawi

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

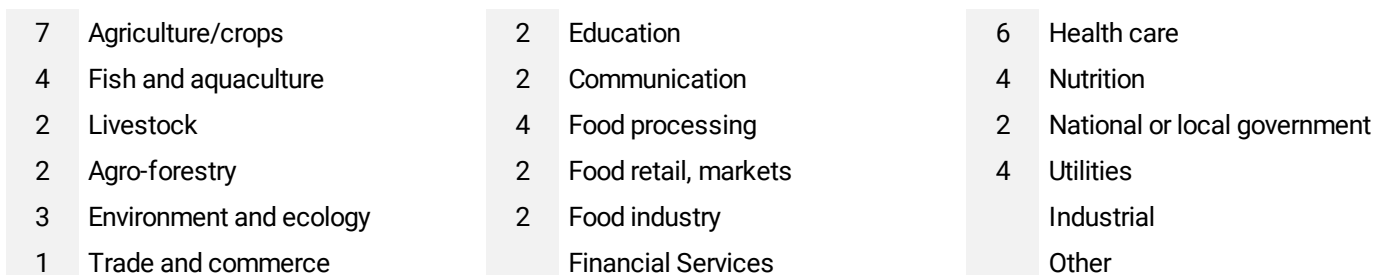
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organization of the dialogue incorporated and reinforced the UN principles of engagement in the following ways: a) The invitation to the dialogue was clear on the need for urgency for Central Malawi in particular and Malawi in general to achieve the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, as such the meeting was meant to reflect on innovative ways towards the agenda. b) The invitation to the had the UN logo on food systems summit, reflecting our support for the summit. The dialogue was dialogues was registered on the UN Food Systems Portal. c) The dialogue invited stakeholders from various fields including the smallholder farmers as they are part of the food systems chain. e) The dialogue made space for presentations from Government Ministries and Departments on their existing efforts towards the 2030 global agenda on nutrition outcomes. This was meant to recognize the existing efforts and policy processes for the same.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The organization of the dialogue incorporated and reinforced the UN principles of engagement in the following ways: a) The dialogue recognized the urgency for Malawi in general, and central Malawi in particular to move towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as such the dialogue came up a pathway mutually agreed by all multi stakeholders, through which the agreed outcomes can be achieved by the year 2030. Specifically, the dialogue envision a 50% reduction in malnutrition rates for central Malawi by the year 2030. b) The dialogues were made clear to the multi stakeholder group that they are supporting the UN Food Systems summit, as such were registered on the UN Food Systems Portal and feedback would be provide via the UN Food Systems portal. The dialogues ultimately contributed to the global 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Malawi as a whole, and central Malawi in particular must move towards the global 2030 Agenda for her sustainable development of her local food systems. c) The views of all participants regardless of their background including the smallholder farmers that attended the dialogue were respected and made part of the recommendations of the dialogue. d) The dialogue invited multiple stakeholder from diverse fields such as agriculture, trade, nutrition, community development, health among others. It was made clear that food systems is a complex field and require multi-faceted stakeholders to ably analyze issues along the food system chain. e) The cultural issues affecting especially nutrition outcomes in central Malawi were analyzed to come with lasting solutions to such challenges. e) The dialogue was in recognition of the existing initiatives and policy processes towards the 2030 global agenda on sustainable development. As such the dialogue was meant to learn from those initiatives and come up with better innovative ways for greater impact. The stakeholders were able to note what has been working and associated challenges thereby devising on what needs to be done for more impact before the year 2030.

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

For other convinors, it is imperative that the dialogues should involve multi faced stakeholders along the food systems chain to capture a holistic outcomes for sustainable food systems. The rest of the principles are vital for the smooth and impactful outcome generation for the dialogue, as such need to be adhere to.

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

Food and Nutrition Rights for Food Systems in Central Malawi. The purpose of an Independent dialogue in Central Malawi was to initiate a district stakeholder dialogue of critical nexus issues that are key for sustainable food systems in central Malawi, through interconnection and engagement with the Food Systems Summit process. Specifically, the dialogue sought to:

- 1) Create a platform for discussion on the design of what it would take for a future sustainable food system for Central Malawi that delivers nutrition outcomes, and sustainable consumption patterns by 2030.
- 2) How district stakeholders can work together for such a future sustainable food system for Central Malawi towards 2030.

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

Multi stakeholder recommitment to the global call for increased nutritional outcomes in local food systems, stakeholders in Central Malawi collectively agreed for a common vision of reducing malnutrition levels by 50% from the present 44% to 22% by year 2030.

In repositioning for impact towards the Vision of reduced malnutrition by the year 2030, stakeholders agreed the following actions to be undertaken:

- i. Increased level coordination of nutrition programmes and nutrition reporting by all actors, with a central planning and reporting. The Nutrition Officer (Department of Health) to act as a focal point for this coordination, and facilitate development of nutrition action plan to be supported by all stakeholders.
- ii. Stakeholders both public and private involved in nutrition to support revamping and strengthening of local nutrition institution/committees for effective delivery of nutrition programmes.
- iii. Promotion of diversified local food production of both plant and animal for nutrition outcomes, and localized cooking demonstrations at community level.
- iv. Reposition local community leaders as nutrition champions in their communities and build their capacity for such roles.

The Central Government and other national institutions were called upon to support the district initiatives through the following interventions:

- i. The Malawi Bureau of Standards to decentralize and localize their operations to ensure food safety standards are adhered to by all actors in the food systems especially the private sector at all levels.
- ii. The Government has to increase public investment in the livestock sector. Government has prioritized subsidies in the crop sector at the expense of the livestock sector. The livestock sector remains underfunded and without adequate support services.
- iii. There is need for supporting policy environment for the marketing of farmers' farm produce. Government has to develop a pricing policy for farmers' produce that should be enforced year in and year out to protect farmers from heartless private sector players who make lots of profits at the expense of poor farmers.
- iv. Introduction of nutrition education in primary schools, and re-introduce the home craft model of community nutrition education as it proved successful at community level.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Multi stakeholder coordination for nutrition outcome. The Department of Health to be the focal point. CEPA to support multi stakeholder meetings for monitoring progress and ensure reporting of nutrition outcomes.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Creating a vision for nutrition outcomes in Central Malawi. The stakeholders had different proposed targets ranging from 10% to 50%. A participatory discussion was facilitated with open views to every stakeholder to consolidate the multi stakeholder vision and finally agreed for 50%. The target had to be ambitious enough to call for each other participation and the need to invite others into the dialogue and the vision for sustainable food systems.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Food-Systems-Independent-Report-for-Food-and-Nutrition-Rights-for-Central-Malawi.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy**
<http://www.cepa.org.mw>