

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 18 October 2021 16:00 GMT -04:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Zero Hunger Pathways Project Dialogue 4: Taking Innovations to Scale
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Bassel Daher (Texas A&M), Alicia Powers (Auburn University), Asma Lateef (SDG 2 Advocacy Hub & Bread for the World), Sonja Neve (SDSN USA), Jeremy Everett & Grace Norman (Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/49161/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/49161/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

56

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

4

19-30

7

31-50

10

51-65

1

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

10 Male

12 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops  
Fish and aquaculture  
Livestock  
Agro-forestry  
Environment and ecology  
Trade and commerce

7 Education  
1 Communication  
7 Food processing  
Food retail, markets  
Food industry  
Financial Services

4 Health care  
Nutrition  
National or local government  
Utilities  
Industrial  
Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan  
Large national business  
Multi-national corporation  
Small-scale farmer  
1 Medium-scale farmer  
Large-scale farmer  
7 Local Non-Governmental Organization  
2 International Non-Governmental Organization  
Indigenous People  
8 Science and academia

Workers and trade union  
Member of Parliament  
Local authority  
Government and national institution  
Regional economic community  
United Nations  
International financial institution  
1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance  
Consumer group  
3 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Since the start of the Zero Hunger Pathways Project Dialogue series, which began in March 2021, steps have been taken to incorporate, reinforce, and enhance the Summit's Principles of Engagement. This included discussions to increase awareness of the Principles among Co-chairs and Working Group Members, integration of the Principles into the audience curation and outreach process, and using the Principles to inform the Dialogue format, including sharing the principles of engagement with session moderators of breakout sessions in preparation for their session, and verbal reinforcement of the Principles throughout. Dialogue 4 was planned using feedback provided previously through anonymous surveying of past dialogue participants, and Working Group members were asked to reach out to colleagues and stakeholders with relevant expertise, in order to complement the work of others and ensure a productive, respectful, inclusive discussion that was committed to the summit.

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

Zero Hunger Pathways Project Dialogue 4 acts on the urgency of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by using a systems approach to address hunger in the United States. Recognizing how innovations can be scaled to help eliminate hunger for larger populations helps create short and long term solutions to hunger and food insecurity. In order to achieve SDG # 2 by 2030, the Zero Hunger Pathways Project acknowledges that actionable, scalable, and innovative solutions are needed. Business as usual will return us to pre-pandemic rates of food insecurity that were unconscionably high to begin with. Dialogue 4 Commits to the Summit by working towards a report that will outline social, policy and technical recommendations to reach Zero Hunger and identifying education, engagement, and research activities the SDSN USA coalition and partners can undertake to reach Zero Hunger in the United States by 2030. This dialogue connects stakeholders, seeks input from a variety of perspectives, and identifies ways to move forward collectively and creatively. By opening up breakout rooms for open discussion, moderated by trained facilitators, the dialogue created an environment of respect, multi-stakeholder inclusivity, and trust. Dialogue 4 brings in stakeholders and experts with many different backgrounds, recognizing the complexity of these systems. Presentations at the start of the program provided case studies, and discussions in breakout rooms built off and complemented work that has already succeeded in taking interventions and innovations to scale.

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

Advice for other Dialogue Convenors about appreciating and fulfilling the Principles of Engagement include: accepting that not all discussions will come to consensus in the given time; embracing the differences in opinions; asking for feedback from participants, including on logistical points such as dialogue time, location, and length; and encouraging moderators and facilitators to bring their expertise and experience while also trying their best not to take sides in order to respect and elevate the perspectives of all participants. Additionally, it may take additional time and effort to ensure stakeholders are identified to participate, but ensuring individuals whose expertise is relevant to the conversation are included yields a more productive discussion and more robust recommendations.

# 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 Zero Hunger Pathways Project (ZHPP) is a collaboration that applies a systems approach to end hunger in the United States. The collaborative aims to chart equitable, resilient, and sustainable pathways to profoundly improve availability, accessibility, utilization and stability of healthy food for all. Dialogue 4: Taking Innovations to Scale sought to focus on the hunger crisis in the United States by engaging participants in identifying innovative anti-hunger initiatives from across the U.S and discussing what is necessary to scale these innovations. Examples of innovations taken to scale that were explored in the dialogue include the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty Meals-to-You program, and the World Hunger Relief, Inc. Produce Prescription Project. All action tracks are included in this exploration.

### 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

Identifying best practices and successful, scalable community-based interventions is a useful approach to combating hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity. Experts at the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty have many examples of doing just that, and provide a blueprint for building scalable models. For an issue as complex as hunger and poverty, it would be difficult to solve alone. No one organization or even one single sector is going to be able to address the effects of hunger and poverty by themselves. While scalable models are built and interventions are identified, there may be missing steps that prevent it from moving to scale. Crucial to scaling interventions is that these projects are multi-sectoral and collaborative, often including government, NGO, non-profit industry, or faith based stakeholders.

Additionally, there are three keys to scalability: research, practice, and policy.

1. Research must be informing and evaluating the intervention, and retrieving up-to-date information on a daily basis to determine the worthiness in scaling to different communities.
2. The area of practice needs to be committed to embed work and test in close proximity to communities on a daily basis in order to accurately identify the problems and the contributing aspects of hunger and food insecurity. Solving hunger and food insecurity from a distance does not work. The component of practice when scaling innovations highlights the importance of being embedded in communities and having the work to be in conversation with researchers in real time.
3. As most large-scale interventions to end hunger are influenced by various policies, it is critical to make policy a core component. The area of policy needs to look at specific federal or global policy, or develop new policy focused initiatives.

Experts from the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty highlighted a project of theirs called Meals-to-You, which began as a Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty pilot program in 2019 to provide nourishing, shelf-stable meals through the mail to families in rural areas across Texas to address rural hunger or hunger in very remote areas in the country during the pandemic. The Meals-to-You model led the U.S. Department of Agriculture to call on Baylor's assistance during the COVID-19 public health crisis. In partnership with the USDA, McLane Global and PepsiCo, the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty scaled the program nationally providing 5 million meals to rural schoolchildren in 38 states and Puerto Rico.

The organization World Hunger Relief Produce Prescription Program also presented their model, which provides community members with healthy produce. Starting off as a pilot, the program now collaborates with four Waco Family Medicine clinics. Doctors at these clinics can connect those who could benefit from the program with boxes full of fresh boxes of produce twice a week. These boxes are filled with seasonal veggies and a recipe in English and Spanish.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The overarching discussion topic was answering the following questions:

What innovative anti-hunger initiatives address equity, healthy diets, resilience, and sustainability? What needs to happen to scale these initiatives? What are challenges to addressing intersecting issues in one initiative? What is needed to encourage innovation and interdisciplinary approaches?

Answers included the following, framed by the 3 three keys to scalability: research, practice, and policy.

Anti-hunger initiatives need to ground their work within practice. Participants advocated for those partaking in anti-hunger initiatives to do this by building relationships with external and internal partners and the populations hunger and food insecurity initiatives seek to support.

The areas of research, practice, and policy are key components when looking to scale solutions to end hunger. Research must be informing the initiative, evaluating different initiatives, and retrieving up-to-date information to determine the worthiness in scaling to different communities. The area of practice needs to be committed to embed work in close proximity to communities on a daily basis in order to accurately identify the problems and the contributing aspects of hunger and food insecurity. The area of policy needs to look at specific federal or global policy, or develop new policy focused initiatives.

Co-creative efforts are needed. It is vital to empower those who have experienced hunger and food insecurity by seeking out their expertise and stories. Identify who the story tellers are to create effective science policy communication. The best storytellers are not the academics and experts of the field, but the people who live within and experience the systems. Initiatives need to empower communities and give those impacted the opportunity to take ownership of their intervention.

Increasing local efforts and incentivizing local agriculture to support their surrounding communities can empower those experiencing hunger and food insecurity. Growing locally will help local health and the local economy. Community efforts can include implementing biodiversity, engaging the youth with agriculture, creating community gardens, and installing peer groups so that those impacted have easy access to learn about food systems and listen or share lived experiences.

Gaps in hunger and health, as well as hunger and policy, need to be identified. Connections between biodiversity, sustainability, and long-term health and wellbeing should also be made more clear. Individuals and families impacted would benefit from being able to implement diet-related changes by understanding that health-related issues are possibly contributed to what they are eating. Participants highlighted the disparities in income spent on food and income spent on healthcare and if healthcare is addressed, income and health can be allocated to healthy food diet habits and change in patterns in food desserts.

Equity with hunger and food insecurity should be addressed by getting to the root causes such as systemic racism with farmers of color. Participants highlighted and advocated support for the SB. 300 Justice for Black Farmers Act that aims to address historic discrimination in federal farm assistance and lending within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that has caused Black farmers and their families to lose millions of acres of farmland and billions of dollars of intergenerational wealth.

Creating projects with the four pathways (equity, health, resilience, sustainability) in mind is important for achievement of SDG 2. However, there will likely be tradeoffs between these pathways. While some innovations maximize one core value, innovative opportunities may not maximize all values simultaneously, but as efforts and evaluations are made the balance of core values will be more identifiable.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Though these innovations are essential for community members and can provide short term solutions to the long term problems of food insecurity and malnutrition, dialogue participants still pointed out that root causes of hunger still need to be addressed in order to create interdisciplinary pathways to long term resilience, sustainability, health, and equitability. The Zero Hunger Pathways Project continues to develop a systems approach that also takes into account poverty, health outcomes, and other factors. However, many dialogue participants see value in local innovations and interventions, and promise in scaling these innovations to reach more people and increase effectiveness.

The dialogue also included discussions of planning projects with the core values in mind and how to tackle such tradeoffs during project development and management. Some dialogue participants shared the thought that “you can’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good”, as ensuring all core values are met can create roadblocks and slow down progress.

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| Finance                   | ✓ Policy                |
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|                           | Environment and Climate |



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty**  
<https://www.baylor.edu/hungerandpoverty/>
- **Meals-to-You**  
<https://www.baylor.edu/research/index.php?id=969154>
- **Produce Prescription Project**  
<http://www.worldhungerrelief.org/produce-prescription-program>
- **Zero Hunger Pathways Project Dialogue 4 Summary**  
<https://www.sdsnusa.org/news/zhpp-d4>
- **Zero Hunger Pathways Project Dialogue 4 Recording**  
[https://youtu.be/erkIUXF\\_GOQ](https://youtu.be/erkIUXF_GOQ)