

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 1 April 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	A Roadmap for Action for the Prevention of Child Wasting in Cambodia
CONVENED BY	National Convenor: His Excellency Sok Silo, Secretary General for CARD/ Co-Convenor: Mr Jalaa Abdelwahab, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Cambodia
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8374/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Cambodia

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

74

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

8

19-30

43

31-50

22

51-65

1

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

51 Male

23 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

2 Education

1 Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

19 Health care

Nutrition

18 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

23 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

10 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

35 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

9 United Nations

1 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

10 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

This event was organised in recognition of the need to act urgently and across all stakeholders to address child wasting in Cambodia. The topic was chosen to complement existing work by the UN team to draft a roadmap for the Global Action Plan (GAP) and to present this to stakeholders to secure broader stakeholder engagement with the plan. The dialogue event was intended to build trust amongst stakeholders by sharing the information openly to government and other partners.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue timing was in keeping with the timetable for rapid progress towards an endorsed national roadmap for the GAP. There were a wide variety of stakeholders engaged in the dialogue and some agencies submitted written comments if unable to attend the event. Participants were invited to prepare comments for inclusion in the discussion making sure that each of the relevant ministries were included in the invitations, as well as representatives of the donors, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), civil society the UN and the private sector. Government participants came from the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, the Cabinet of Deputy Prime Minister HE Yim Chhay Ly, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation.

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

Keep a balance in the time assigned to present information and the time required for full discussion of the topic. It is difficult for online events to run beyond two hours. At least half of the available time should be assigned to discussion. If feasible, combine questions, polls or quizzes with presentations to have a more interactive discussion with participants.

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 dialogue event was curated on the basis of the presentation of a draft National Roadmap for the Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Wasting, followed by opportunities for the government participants to comment on the draft roadmap and then for other participants from the development partners, donors, civil society and the private sector to do the same. This more formal approach was used to ensure that each of the ministries present would have an opportunity to voice their response and for all present to hear these responses. The draft roadmap was also circulated to all participants in advance of the meeting and there is ongoing opportunity for the submission of written comments to incorporate all stakeholder views. The event could have given more time for each of the stakeholders to express their views if they were consulted one by one (for the ministries) and then a general meeting was conducted after allowing time for incorporation of ministry feedback. The incorporation of this event into the dialogues was deliberate, as one step towards incorporating the substantive commitments to the GAP for Wasting into the Roadmap for Sustainable Food Systems. In order to go beyond opinions on food systems and to capture specific commitments that will contribute to the roadmap, this is a challenging step as it involves multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder commitments and such processes are not readily accepted, without a formal and somewhat protracted process of consultation and discussion. Some ministries were receptive to the proposed roadmap, some preferred to provide feedback in writing or through a bilateral meeting and others contested the plan. Follow up actions to amend the roadmap and further meetings are required.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

UN agencies at regional and country level have supported the development of a draft Country Roadmaps for Action for Cambodia. The roadmap identifies a set of priority actions needed to accelerate progress on the prevention and treatment of wasting which can be integrated into broader national policies, strategies and plans and which is wholly relevant to Action Track 1 of the Food Systems Dialogue and Roadmap. The focus of this dialogue has been to engage actors in a discussion of the draft Roadmap across multiple systems (health, food, social protection and water, sanitation and hygiene) and multiple stakeholders (development and humanitarian partners, bilateral and multilateral organisations, civil society and the private sector).

The UN in Cambodia recognises that it is crucial to integrate actions to prevent and treat wasting into existing and forthcoming national multi-sector nutrition strategies and plans including the National Food Systems Dialogues. The UN Agencies involved reconfirmed their commitment to support the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in addressing maternal and child malnutrition in all its forms. The dialogue event provides an opportunity to present the Draft Country Roadmap for Action to the RGC and other interested parties, to discuss the plans and to continue with progress towards the elimination of wasting. The dialogue event served to inform stakeholders of the plan, facilitate broad discussion and to elicit focused responses from representatives of key ministries and institutions.

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

The main findings were that there was more work required to follow-up with ministries by the various UN agencies (depending on which one is best positioned with each ministry or institution), and to follow-up on input received to reflect it in an updated version, outlining more clearly which Ministry is leading on the various activities, and who is supporting them in the implementation.

Because the plan was presented in English there was a challenge for many participants to grasp the detail. Simultaneous translation helped to provide clarity for the discussion.

In general, the substance of the plan was seen to be sound, with a requirement that errors in nomenclature and agency roles be corrected. Useful additions to the plan came from the World Bank and Pooling Partners for the Cambodia Nutrition Project and from other agencies implementing relevant activities in the target areas. The participants also added the prevention and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) into the plan, making a substantial commitment to tackle the problem and boost the support to the Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries for this critical task. The priority remains for the prevention and treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and the Ministry of Health needs substantially increased resources to lift the level of treatment for the most severe cases.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) support for the plan will mainly be delivered through the Research for Development, Extension and Education and the MAFF are working closely to improve the quality, diversity and safety of produce, including in cooperation with neighboring countries for developing standards and guidelines for ASEAN.

The work of the National Nutrition Programme to be more clearly acknowledged and correctly referenced in the plan.

The General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council will provide additional feedback to clarify existing social assistance measures relevant to the plan.

The Ministry of Rural Development asked that WASH should be reflected in more areas of the plan as it is essential for all four outcomes. The authors of the draft plan explained that they were asked specifically to limit the number of activities under each outcome and that if one activity contributed to more outcomes, that activity should only be mentioned once to avoid repetition.

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport confirmed that element of the plan relating to school were suitable for them. The Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation asked that due consideration be given to encouraging research into the benefits of fortification of children's food.

Clarification of the term first years of children's life was sought to ensure consistency with a focus on the 1000 day window and on children under five years of age in the policies of the Royal Government. A plan for social and behavioural change communication was strongly recommended as an element of the plan and it was suggested that the prevention of unwanted pregnancies should also be part of the education aspects.

The means of implementation were discussed and it was recommended by civil society representatives that the multistakeholder platforms at national and sub-national level were critical to success. These platforms should be explicitly mentioned in the implementation plan.

The contributions of the Cambodia Nutrition Project were summarised and additional information was submitted for the existing and planned contributions of the project to the prevention and treatment of wasting in children. These activities were incorporated into the plan.

Participants asked for greater clarity on who does what and suggested that a detailed mapping exercise would be very valuable for determining which activities will be supported and then activating the plan.

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KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No major areas of divergence emerged in the dialogue, although some participants were critical of nomenclature, hierarchy and lack of clarity in the specification of roles. This clarity is required for all ministries and government institutions and also applies for other agencies. Opportunity to correct these errors was provided in follow-up to the event.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Opening remarks by HE Sam Sarat, Vice Chairman of CARD**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/H.E.-Sam-Sarat-Speech-for-National-Food-Systems-Dialogues-on-1st-April-2021-2.pdf>
- **Remarks by Mr. Jala Abdelwahab, Deputy Representative, UNICEF on behalf of the UN country Team**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final-talking-points-for-the-UNICEF-Dep.-Rep-March-31-002.pdf>
- **Powerpoint presentation on the Country Roadmap for the GAP**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Development-of-country-GAP-operational-plans_EN_Final.pdf