

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 8 April 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	LAFIA FOOD SYSTEM EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	I Olusola Idowu Mrs. Permanent Secretary, Budget and National Planning 2. Dr. Adeyinka Onabolu
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8666/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8666/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Nigeria

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

124

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

12

19-30

47

31-50

65

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

83 Male

41 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

18 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

5 Trade and commerce

4 Education

9 Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

8 Financial Services

3 Health care

5 Nutrition

47 National or local government

Utilities

3 Industrial

15 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

7 Local Non-Governmental Organization

1 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

10 Science and academia

4 Workers and trade union

2 Member of Parliament

10 Local authority

77 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

3 United Nations

International financial institution

6 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 four state in the cluster for this dialogue jointly planned the event, the number of participants from each stakeholder group, and from each state; multistakeholder inclusivity was embraced in the organization and implementation of the dialogue.

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

Complement the work of others: Prior to the exploratory dialogues held across the 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria, FAO supported the process by commissioning a review of evidence and actions currently on-going in the country along the Food System domains in the geo-political zones. The paper was provided to facilitators ahead of the dialogues for them to come up with questions to guide the discussions and probe for more information and suggestions for improving our food systems to ensure that they deliver high quality diet and affordable nutrition; are inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable; and work for everyone Recognize complexity: The executive governor of Nasarawa state and all policy makers in attendance paid special attention to the complexity of food systems in their speeches and this eventually played a great role in getting participants at the dialogue to look at the challenges facing the food systems through this lens. The dialogue was greatly enriched because no stakeholder felt that its role was more important than another.

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

The discussions within stakeholder groups are very critical to harvesting actionable areas that can improve our food systems. If possible and feasible, these should be supported through facilitation and with funding.

# 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 major focus of the exploratory dialogues at the geopolitical level was to facilitate engagement and discussions among a broader set of stakeholders than was obtainable during the Inception dialogue. The dialogue explored the food systems from a wide variety of perspectives, identified promising options for their improvement and considered ways in which the different groups of stakeholders can advance these options as contributions to the national pathway towards sustainable food systems.

The dialogue explored the five action tracks in five groups and examined the links between the action tracks at plenary when the groups made their presentations. The discussions centred around the many challenges across the food systems – challenges chief of which is post-harvest losses and food wastage; declining productivity; gender inequality; lack of resilience in the food systems; and a poor mix of policies. The dialogue identified the roles of various stakeholders in ensuring that the broken food systems are fixed, and how the various stakeholders will be mobilised to deliver what is required from each of them in achieving sustainable food systems that work for everyone.

### 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

Stakeholders believed that the exploratory dialogue was necessary in an effort to improve food and nutrition security, reduce hunger and malnutrition, and identify challenges with the food systems from multiple perspectives including voices seldom heard; and that it provided an opportunity to debate, collaborate, and take actions to address challenges identified.

The main findings and conclusions are presented by action track.

**Action Track 1:** Stakeholders recommended an increase in public investments in the agricultural sector to improve rural infrastructure such as roads, storage, and processing facilities, as well as total overhaul of the agricultural extension system by encouraging private sector investments and recruiting and training more public sector extension staff. Other recommendations improving access of smallholder farmers to inputs, finance, and insurance; encouraging diet diversification through mixed home gardens and urban agriculture; promoting 'good agriculture practices' and discouraging unsafe practices to speed up ripening of fruits; and facilitating linkages of smallholder farmers to markets to prevent post-harvest losses. The government was called upon for consistent, coordinated, and appropriate policies, alongside appropriate philosophy for development of the agricultural sector; and mainstreaming of gender considerations in different aspects of the food system, including access to land.

**Action track 2:** Stakeholders recommended awareness creation for policy makers on importance of food systems for food and nutrition security, job creation and economic development; and the challenges facing our food systems together with actions needed to fix them. Other recommendations include strengthening of nutrition divisions in various Ministries, Departments and agencies of government, and ensuring budgetary provision and release for nutrition program implementation; implementing an enlightenment campaign on diet diversity, healthy eating and home food fortification using micronutrient powders; identifying and promoting efficient storage and transportation facilities for agricultural produce and reactivating commodity boards for price regulation; rehabilitating and putting exiting silos into use; promoting and facilitating access of small holder farmers to appropriate scale of irrigation facilities for year-round farming; investing in identification and promotion of neglected and forgotten food crops; developing and disseminating food based dietary guidelines; and increasing investments in Primary Health Care sector to provide nutrition education/counselling, and monitor child growth. Government, and CSOs were called upon to work with traditional, religious, and community leaders to continuously engage with their subjects on the importance of consuming safe and nutritious foods to good health.

**Action track 3:** Recommendations include protection of the ecosystem against new conversions of land for food and feed production by promoting crop intensification; use of cover crops to reduce soil degradation and erosion; investing in breeding of crops for high yields and improved attributes including biofortification; facilitating sustainable management of food production systems to benefit the environment and people through good agriculture practices (GAP); restoring degraded ecosystems and rehabilitating the soil for sustainable food production through renewed afforestation efforts, and scaling up the use of organic soil amendments, crop rotation and intercropping.

**Action track 4:** The recommendations include encouraging and supporting the setting up and functioning of cooperative societies for women and other vulnerable groups; and promoting 'Village Savings Association Model' to facilitate access to credit, inputs, and trainings; providing access to land for cultivation by vulnerable groups, e.g., women, youth, persons living with disabilities, new settlers, and other marginalized groups at community level; addressing social norms and practices that systematically provide privileges to some groups over others; eliminating market access barriers, and social exclusion for vulnerable groups; ensuring that social protection schemes reach the intended beneficiaries; promoting the use of clean energy; and identifying alternate sources of funding for interventions apart from the government.

**Action track 5:** Recommendation include facilitation of timely access to improved breeds of livestock and seeds/seedlings for small holder farmers; reduction of deforestation, increasing access to land for women and other vulnerable groups; developing a food security dashboard that tracks the implementation of programs such as safety nets, CCTs, etc.; encouraging participation of of vulnerable groups.

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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Discussion Topic Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

1. Support Small Holder Farmers to increase productivity with modern techniques.
2. Establish commodities and cooperative societies for marketing and financing.
3. Revive Public Agriculture Extension Services and encourage development and operationalization of Private Extension Service.
4. Rehabilitate/construct rural roads to improve food distribution.
5. Facilitate easy access to appropriate irrigation facilities.
6. Invest in land clearing to improve access to farmlands.
7. Create awareness on the various aspects/elements of the Food System and critical actions that are required to improve them.
8. Provide/improve access to credit and insurance for Food System stakeholders.
9. Invest in post-harvest storage systems including appropriate transportation.
10. Equip and deploy trained agro rangers to protect farms from vandalization.
11. Fund research on various components of the Food System to inform programmes and actions.
12. Engage young people to determine/enlist their interests in various aspects of the Food System and facilitate their entry.
13. Develop mentoring programmes across different domains of the Food System to support new entrants.
14. Review school curricula to include nutrition education and making the food systems work for everyone.
15. Revise agriculture education at the tertiary level to include a focus on the Food System.
16. Revive Commodity Marketing Boards to regulate/stabilize prices of farm products and facilitate off taker arrangements for small holder farmers.

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods

1. Create awareness on diet diversity and consumption of nutritious foods.
2. Encourage diversification in crop production.
3. Promote urban and peri-urban farming for diet diversity.
4. Discourage pre-mature harvesting of crops through awareness creation and enforcement of standards.
5. Promote use of organic soil amendments.
6. Facilitate access to credit and insurance for all Food Systems actors.

Strand 3: Ensuring safe food

1. Create awareness and build capacity of stakeholders on food safety.
2. Prevent abuse of agro-chemicals.

Cross-Cutting

1. Develop capacities for all food system domains.
2. Mainstream gender in different aspects of the food system.
3. Use ICT in Food System process management

What contributions will our organisations make?

MINISTRY OF FINANCE BUDGET & PLANING

1. Revise annual Budgets to include actions to improve the Food System.
2. Revise States' Agricultural Policy and its implementation plan to respond to Food systems' challenges identified.
3. Engage development partners for partnerships to develop the Food System.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

1. Purchase farming equipment and distribute to cooperative societies as well as farmers' associations.
2. Enhance the capacity of Extension Service Providers.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS

1. Engage development partners for women empowerment.
2. Focus on women groups for capacity building

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

1. Periodic and annual review of Food System improvement actions across MDAs.
2. Monitoring the food system to ensure that suggested actions are implemented.
3. Deploying ICT tools to monitor performances of actors along the Food System.

## ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Shift to health and sustainable consumption patterns (Action Track 2)

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- Awareness creation and communication with policy makers about food system
- Strengthening of nutrition units/divisions of MDAs to perform their functions
- Awareness creation on health dietary habits, home food fortification and supplementation
- Promote efficient storage facilities, expand use of existing silos.
- Encourage year-round farming
- Promote backyard farming
- Revisit neglected food crops for potential to improve diet diversity and nutrition
- Develop nutrition guidelines for consumers, and food industries
- Promote dietary diversity through backyard farming, and address problem of poverty
- Policy redirection to promote consumption of safe and nutritious foods.
- Translate data to formats for effective engagement with communities, media, and policy makers
- Improve storage system
- Promote appropriate timing of harvest
- Create platforms for linking farmers to processors, marketers, and other up takers.
- Improve rural infrastructure
- Reactivate commodity Boards
- Develop policies and implementation plans to address post-harvest losses
- Implement the multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Plan of Action.
- Increase investments in Health sector
- Scaling up behavior change interventions that will increase consumption of healthy and sustainable diets

What contributions will our organisations make?

Health Sector:

- Create awareness on healthy dietary habits
- Enforce food safety standards
- Promote age-appropriate breastfeeding practices
- Promote consumption of fresh and nutrient dense foods
- Carry out food demonstration
- Promote Home food fortification through use of Micronutrients Powders

Agricultural Sector

- Ensure that farmers have timely access to improved high yielding, pest resistant, climate smart seeds and seedlings.
- Facilitate establishment and maintenance of strategic food reserves
- Encourage year-round farming
- Promote School agriculture programs and home stead gardens
- Promote income generating activities women.
- Advocate for engagement of more extension agents

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Reduction in the prevalence of undernutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies
- Increase in number of people reached with nutrition education
- Increased consumption of micronutrient rich foods,
- Decreased consumption of sugar sweetened beverages, fried snacks, and carbonated drinks
- Reduction in prevalence of NCDs
- Availability of Agricultural and nutrition data
- Increased number of households with backyard farms.
- Availability of dietary guidelines
- Reduction in food waste and post-harvest losses, especially for fruits and vegetables
- Increased number of schools establishing school gardens
- Increased investments in rural infrastructural

## ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
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## KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### Boost Nature-Positive Food Production at Scale

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

#### 1. PROTECT natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production

- Breeding high yielding crop varieties/ Bio- fortification
- Crop Intensification
- Use of cover crops to reduce soil degradation
- Evidence based Soil amendment
- Farmers to plan and organize farm operation ahead of planting season
- Control use of Agro chemicals
- Complementary use of organic fertilizers

#### 2. SUSTAINABLY MANAGE existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people

- Good Agriculture Practice (GAP)
- Crop rotation and intercropping
- Promote use of Bio pesticides

#### 3. RESTORE degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil function for sustainable food production

- Afforestation
- Practice Agro-forestry
- Use of organic soil amendments and gradually scale down use of inorganic fertilizers
- Use of cover crops.

What contributions will our organisations make?

#### Ministry of Finance

- Budget provision for farmer education on the need for reclamation of ecosystem.

#### AFAN

- Educate members on the need to practice Good Agricultural Practices to protect the ecosystem

#### States' Ministry of Agriculture

- Intensify extension service delivery and increase number of extension agents.
- Create awareness around bad practices that destroy the ecosystem.
- Re-stock natural water bodies with fishes
- Approve and implement State Agricultural policy.
- Advance development of regional/zonal Agricultural policy.

#### Tertiary Institutions

- Modify curriculum to promote Agripreneurial Skills Acquisition
- Research towards increasing agricultural productivity that are nature positive

#### ASSAPIN:

- Promote private sector extension services provision
- Advocate for inclusive budget formulation.

#### SMALL SCALE WOMEN:

- Encourage women to plant economic trees
- Advocate for establishment of community woodlot to reduce deforestation.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Improved budget provision for Agricultural sector
- Improved water and environment quality
- Increased productivity
- Increased awareness on ways to restore degraded ecosystems
- Reduction in food prices

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### Advancing Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- Strengthening existing cooperative societies.
- Growing grasses for livestock through cooperative societies
- Confronting social norms and practices that systematically give privilege to some groups over others
- Eliminating market and institutional failures and social exclusion.
- Promoting Village Savings associations to enable disadvantaged group access loans, inputs, and trainings.
- Promoting cattle ranching
- Implementing Social safety net programs to protect vulnerable groups and mitigate livelihood shocks.
- Fabricating agro-processing equipment locally
- Empowering rural people in renewable energy
- Building trust between Government, NGOs, and the vulnerable groups.
- Sourcing of funding for interventions apart from other than government.

What contributions will our organisations make?

1. Office of the Humanitarian Service/Focal Person FGN

• Nasarawa State Cash Transfer Programme (NSCTP)

- Distribution of funds

- Encouraging beneficiaries to form cooperatives and savings

2. "Nasarawa Arise" Group:

• improving education, science, technology, environment, and climate change

• Skill acquisition programmes for youths, women and disabled

• Establishment of food pyramids

3. Benue State Government

• Adopting and implementing the template and food systems structure provided by BMGF and World Bank

4. Plateau State Government:

• Implement State development plans for addressing inequalities in distribution of livelihoods.

5. Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources:

• Prioritising the vulnerable in selection of beneficiaries for interventions

• Inclusiveness in distribution of inputs

6. YMCA (Nasarawa State), NAWEA (Benue State) CCDP (Plateau State):

• Establishment of Savings and Loans Associations

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

• Equal access to basic infrastructure, public goods, and ecosystem services.

• Increased in decision-making power of vulnerable groups.

• Significant reduction in inequality

• Significant reduction in social norms and practices that privilege groups over others.

### ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

### BUILDING RESILIENCE TO VULNERABILITIES, SHOCKS AND STRESSES

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

Actions to strengthen resilience and livelihoods.

- Support farmers with soft loans like trader loans
- Provide improved breeds of livestock and seeds/seedlings to farmers
- Timely release of farm inputs to farmers that meet the right agricultural cycle
- Create awareness through the media about resilience

Action for climate change adaptation

- Provide farmers with mechanized tools
- Encourage ranching so that organic fertilizer is generated to reduce use of inorganic fertilizers.

Actions to guarantee regeneration of ecosystems and nature

- Reduce deforestation
- Encourage tree planting

Action to maintain functioning food system in the wake of shocks

- Increase the access to land ownership by women and other vulnerable groups
- Develop a food security dashboard that tracks the implementation of programs such as safety nets, CCTs, etc.
- Enact a food safety bill that supports inclusion of vulnerable groups
- Govt should distribute facilities and Agric inputs through Agric

Measures to put in place to absorb effects shocks to the food system

- Encourage cooperative contribution (thrift collection) to save for rainy days
- Prioritize spending, encourage personal savings (Social resilience)
- Practice Mixed crop farming
- Improved storage facilities
- Urban farming

Ensuring that credit facilities and Agric input reach the target respondent

- Disbursement of facilities through cooperative groups
- Monitoring and supervision of Cooperative groups by relevant Ministries
- Evidence-based reportage by the media to ensure accountability for disbursements

How to use monitoring and evaluation for decision making

- Collection of data on all farmers
- Conduct NEEDS assessment for farmers
- Data collection on yields per geography for proper planning and decision making

What contributions will our organisations make?

- Research Institutes and Higher Institutions: Promote research findings that encourage farmers to adopt new technologies
- Ministries of Agriculture: Subsidize farm inputs to farmers; encourage year-round farming; Encourage backyard farming; Subsidize price of tractors to farmers especially women; Set up storage facilities for farmers to store in-season and sell at good prices off-season to reduce Post Harvest losses; Train farmers in the area of seed preservation for optimum production; and release farm inputs to meet with the farming cycle.

- State governments: Establish and equip Women Development Centres at all levels; promulgate policies that will address the issue of insecurity, and for resettlement of displaced persons; rent out govt-owned lands to farmers at subsidized rates; and Re-align activities within the proposed budget provision in case of budget cuts

- Civil Society Organisations: Advocacy to relevant stakeholders for upward review of budgetary allocations and Increase in political will

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- A robust community-engagement
- Institutionalization of M&E
- Holding of field days and Agric shows where successes are showcased to encourage other farmers.
- Organizing food demonstration sessions
- Setting targets that will enable results measurement

## ACTION TRACKS

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### GROUP 1

Reactivation of Commodity Marketing Boards: Opinion that Marketing Boards should be discarded because of corruption and inefficiency versus being critical for managing costs of food and ensuring good nutrition.

2. Youths' involvement in the Food System: Opinion that youths are not interested in agriculture because it is dirty, versus opinion that youths do not know the benefits of involvement

### GROUP 2

What are the divergences that are revealed and how to manage them?

1. Development of guidelines on healthy diets should be the main focus now; versus sensitization on the emergence of NCDs as a major public health challenge.

2. 'Available data not generated locally or disaggregated to the LGA levels generating controversies among stakeholders': versus 'Data available but scattered - harvesting and translation of agricultural and nutrition data into formats that can be used by policy makers for decision making.

### GROUP 3

1. Extensification (Opening up of new Agricultural lands) vs intensification of agricultural production

2. zero tillage /mechanization/ slash & Burn

3. Land clearing campaign for commercial farming by Government / small scale production

4. Use of crop residues for mulch vs energy production (gas) vs animal feeds vs other domestic uses e.g., fencing and for building etc.

5. Shifting cultivation (fallowing) vs continuous cropping.

6. Use of inorganic fertilizer vs slow-release organic fertilizer.

7. Control fishing vs Fish farmers' livelihood.

### GROUP 4

1. Discriminatory social norms: Are women and widows actually disadvantaged when it comes to access to land and resources? It was clear from different submissions that what is seen as discriminatory social norm against the vulnerable group in one community might be a normal way of life in other communities, depending on the values and level of social indoctrination on the people. But how this affects the working of the food system in the region is the main issue of concern.

2. The need for events like this: While some participants considered it a waste of resources and time to organise the events like this as nothing new will come out of discussion, majority feel it was important and necessary to have a round table discussions to know why and where we are failing to get it right.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Lafia-Exploratory-Dialogue-Report.docx>