

# A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO SUPPORT A FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURE FUTURE

*"In a world of plenty, no one – not a single person – should go hungry,"*  
-- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



NEWSLETTER 4

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014

## COMMENTARY: DR. NAMUKOLO COVIC, ADVISOR, COMMUNITY FOR ZERO HUNGER



As a nutritionist working and living on the African continent, I believe that it is possible to achieve a world free from hunger and malnutrition. However, achieving this will require deliberate and coordinated efforts to address context-specific factors that limit the ability of communities and countries to address food security and nutrition issues more effectively.

The global nutrition community agrees that much needs to be done, but often not enough attention is given to context-specific issues that need to be addressed at the country and community level. The commitment that the Community for Zero Hunger is making to engage in catalytic activities that can harness the wide spectrum of expertise from different sectors to identify such context-specific issues and how they can best be addressed is therefore much needed.

On the aspect of global efforts, I take this opportunity to commend the partnership between HarvestPlus and the Rwandan government on the hosting of the 2nd Global Conference on Biofortification. I am encouraged by the comprehensive nature of the declaration statement out of that conference in support of conventional biofortification contributing to a more holistic approach to addressing malnutrition. It was further pleasing to see the active involvement of many of the Community for Zero Hunger Advisors in the conference, demonstrating the quality commitment of the Advisors in support of other initiatives towards addressing the high burden of malnutrition in developing countries.

The Community for Zero Hunger is embarking on an extensive consultative process to identify context-specific challenges that can impact the ability to address hunger and malnutrition

in all its forms. In this regard, I look forward to learning from the vast experiences of so many organizations and individuals towards supporting countries and communities in my African homeland and other regions disproportionately burdened by hunger and malnutrition.

In this newsletter you will find a progress update on what the Community for Zero Hunger implementation team and many Advisors have been up to over the past few months. Ending hunger and malnutrition will take the concerted effort of everyone. As a CZH Advisor, I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish – as a Community.

I thank all involved in this important work.

*Namukolo Covic*

*Senior Lecturer, Nutrition and Dietetics Department, North-West University, South Africa  
Leader, Food and Nutrition Security Research Programme, Centre of Excellence for Nutrition, NWU, South Africa*



2nd Global Conference on Biofortification in Kigali, Rwanda

## DEVELOPING IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

In March, we conducted a working session with Advisors on how to target efforts and increase opportunities for regional participation within the CZH workstreams.

Key proposed activities include:

- Region-specific virtual briefings to inform and engage practitioners and sectors-specific representatives
- Region-specific working sessions for both gap analysis and solutions
- Targeted outreach to in-country/in-region NGOs/NGO networks, domestic private sector, academic institutions, UN agency representatives and others

We will continue to work with CZH Advisors and our African, Asian, and Latin American/Caribbean friends and colleagues to ensure that CZH is engaging country-level and regional practitioners.

If you would like to learn more on how we can work together to fight hunger and malnutrition, email us at: [info@zerohungercommunity.org](mailto:info@zerohungercommunity.org).

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

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## DO YOU HAVE A SOLUTION TO FOOD INSECURITY?

As we move forward with identifying context-specific gaps and challenges, we also want to be looking ahead to Phase II of our work: identifying and curating solutions. Phase II involves conducting an experience mapping of companies, civil society groups and public sector organizations to uncover experiences, technologies, research, services and other knowledge that are most relevant and impactful applied to filling context-specific gaps that affect our collective ability to deliver a hunger-free world.

If you would like to share a solution that you worked on – or benefited from – email us at [info@zerohungercommunity.org](mailto:info@zerohungercommunity.org) to find out how to share this with the global community.

## PRACTITIONER QUESTIONNAIRES: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Since our last update, we have been busy with the launch of the pilot phase of the practitioner questionnaires. With guidance and input from our esteemed Advisors and friends, we have created questionnaires to gain insights from those on the frontlines to identify gaps and challenges in tackling hunger and malnutrition as they relate to the elements of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge.

The questionnaires are in pilot phase through the end of April, but we will be scaling up in May and are seeking your input and feedback. If you are a practitioner with extensive experience on addressing gaps and challenges to tackling agriculture, nutrition and food security issues in Africa, Asia and/or Latin America/Caribbean, and are interested in participating in the pilot phase, please email us at [info@zerohungercommunity.org](mailto:info@zerohungercommunity.org).

**There are five questionnaires in total, each of which aligns with one of the five elements of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge:**

**NUTRITION (maternal and child):** topics related to **maternal and child nutrition**, nutritious food access, and related issues that affect child development and health.

**FOOD ACCESS:** topics related to **access to adequate food at all times**, food systems, markets, social safety nets, etc.

**FOOD SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY:** topics related to **food system sustainability**, including environmental challenges and threats, climate-resilient agriculture, and water and irrigation challenges.

**SMALLHOLDER FARMERS:** topics related to **smallholder farmer productivity and income-related issues** such as farming inputs, resources, training, land tenure, agricultural research and innovation, access to markets, etc.

**LOSS AND WASTE OF FOOD:** topics related to **food loss or waste** such as post-harvest losses, storage and transport, waste by retailers and consumers, locally-relevant technologies, behavior change methods to curb loss/waste, etc.

## WELCOMING OUR NEWEST ADVISORS

Over the past several months, we have added several Advisors to the Community for Zero Hunger. With their experience and expertise, they are exciting additions to our incredible Advisory team. We would like to extend our gratitude to them and our other Advisors for supporting and guiding this multi-sectoral response.



**Tom Arnold**  
Chair  
**Convention of the Irish Constitution**

Tom Arnold is an Irish economist who was Chief Executive Officer of Concern Worldwide, until 2013, when he became Chair of the Convention of the Irish Constitution.



**Jacqueline Mkindi**  
Executive Director/CEO  
**Tanzania Horticultural Association**

Jacqueline Mkindi is the Executive Director/CEO in the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), an apex body promoting and developing Tanzania horticulture.



**Jessica Fanzo**  
Director of Nutrition Policy  
**Center on Globalization & Sustainable Development, Columbia University**

Jessica Fanzo is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition in the Institute of Human Nutrition and Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. She also serves as the Director of Nutrition Policy at the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development and is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of International Public Affairs.



**Alexandra Spieldoch**  
Executive Director  
**Compatible Technology International**

Alexandra Spieldoch is Executive Director of Compatible Technology International, a nonprofit that designs and distributes innovative tools that help families in the developing world rise above hunger and poverty.



**Karim Maredia**  
Professor  
**Michigan State University**

Karim Maredia is a Professor with the Institute of International Agriculture at Michigan State University and Program Director of the Institute's World Technology Access Program (WorldTAP).



**Ashish Wele**  
President  
**Nirmal Seeds Pvt. Ltd.**

Ashish Wele is President of Nirmal Seeds Pvt. Ltd. An agronomist in training, Ashish as President of Nirmal Seeds is responsible for spearheading a robust international relationship program with key stakeholders to explore opportunities in efficient agriculture farming development and sustainable seeds production models.

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## KEEPING COMMUNITY FOR ZERO HUNGER ENGAGED



**IFPRI panel on UN Zero Hunger Challenge:**  
On January 30, more than 200 people joined us in person and 100 joined us online to learn about the UN Zero Hunger Challenge and participate in an engaging conversation about the multi-sectoral opportunities to support this important global call to action.

The panel was introduced by IFPRI Director General Shenggen Fan and moderated by Rajul Pandya-Lorch. The panel participants included:

- **Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Assistant Director-General, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **Nabeeha M. Kazi**, Chair of the Community for Zero Hunger and President & CEO of Humanitas Global
- **Richard Greene**, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Food Security, USAID
- **Sam Worthington**, Community for Zero Hunger Advisor and President & CEO of InterAction

You can watch the panel discussion and Q&A session [here](#).



### UN SCN 40: Changing Food Systems for Better Nutrition:

The Community for Zero Hunger's submission for the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of SCN News is on [page 111](#). Check it out!



### UN Zero Hunger Challenge:

CZH has joined the UN Zero Hunger Challenge as a [non-UN participant](#). We are excited to work with the Zero Hunger Challenge and the many other non-UN organizations fighting hunger, including some represented by our Advisors: The Hunger Project, 1,000 Days, and FoodTank.



### Save Food Partnership:

We have also joined the FAO's [SAVE FOOD](#): Global Initiative on Food Losses and Waste Reduction to signal our solidarity in addressing this global food chain issue.

## HEARING FROM YOU

What are you seeing as the most pressing gaps that are impeding progress toward a zero hunger world? Do you have experience tackling hunger and malnutrition at the local level? What works and what doesn't work?

We'd love to hear from you about what you've experienced, witnessed, and lessons learned in addressing food security issues.

Please email us at [info@zerohungercommunity.org](mailto:info@zerohungercommunity.org).



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