

# WHY INCLUSION MATTERS: FEATURING VOICES FROM THE FIELD

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## PRESENTATION AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

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### PRESENTERS

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### MODERATOR

*Zachary Baquet, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security*

Zachary Baquet:

Greetings everyone. Good day, afternoon or evening, depending on where you're joining us from. On behalf of Feed the Future and the USA Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, I welcome you to our webinar, Why Inclusion Matters, Voices from the Field. I am your host and friendly neighborhood senior knowledge management advisor, Zachary Baquet, with the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security. I will facilitate today's webinar, so you will hear my voice periodically, especially during our question and answer sessions.

Zachary Baquet:

Before we dive into the content, let us take a moment to go over a few items to orient you to the webinar. First, please do use the chat box to introduce yourself, ask questions and share resources with us and other participants. We will collect your questions from the chat box throughout the webinar. We will have our Q and A after the presenters and panelists have spoken. The speakers will also answer some questions in the chat box along the way perhaps.

Zachary Baquet:

To enlarge your screen, as you might note, we have closed caption down below, and that shrinks the size of the overall presenter screen. If you want to enlarge the screen, you can click on the arrows in the upper right of your screen, the four arrows that are pointing outwards. This will make the presentation larger. You can then click on the arrows again to shrink it back to normal and see the full screen.

Zachary Baquet:

Lastly, we are recording this webinar and we will email you the recording transcript and additional resources once we have them ready. We will also post these resources on the event page on [agrilinks.org](http://agrilinks.org).

Zachary Baquet:

Thank you for your attention. Now, onwards to our presentations and discussions for today's webinar, Why Inclusion Matters, Voices from the Field. Let me introduce Meredith Soule, who serves as division chief for the Inclusive Development division within the program office of the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security. Meredith Soule will introduce the session and the speakers. Over to you, Meredith.

Meredith Soule:

Thank you, Zachary, and good morning, noon or night to our global community. Welcome to this webinar for wrapping up our Agrilinks month on Inclusive Development. We're thrilled today to have

presentations on two important recent reports on, first, Building Inclusive Food Systems from IFPRI presented by Agnes Quisumbing. And second, Inclusion Matters in Africa, a groundbreaking report by [inaudible 00:02:51] from the World Bank. I'm sure that these brief presentations will whet your appetite to read and make use of these reports. And you'll find links to them in the Agrilinks invitation for this webinar. And I've seen they've also put those links in the chat box.

Meredith Soule:

We know that inclusion always matters, but also recognize it is even more important in our COVID and post-COVID world to come to ensure that no one is marginalized or left behind. After those two presentations, we're very excited to have a group of panelists from literally around the world to reflect on how inclusion matters in their countries and contexts and the actions they're taking to improve inclusion and therefore wellbeing for all.

Meredith Soule:

Briefly, our panelists, our first Betty Mugo. She's with USAID Kenya and East Africa, where she's a gender and inclusivity specialist. She'll be followed by Manju Tuladhar with USA Nepal, a gender equality and social inclusion advisor. Then from USA Guatemala, we'll have [inaudible 00:03:59], a project management specialist, and finally, Emmanuel Ndayizigiye, co-founder and chief executive officer of HoReCo, Horticulture in Reality Corporation in Rwanda with a focus on youth, and after that, Q and A. With that, I'll turn the screen over to Agnes to begin the webinar with her presentation. Thank you, Agnes.

Agnes:

Thank you, Meredith, and good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. Thank you for this opportunity to present IFPRI's Global Food Policy Report 2020, which is on building inclusive food systems for all. As you may know, the Global Food Policy Report is IFPRI's flagship publication, which draws on the work of IFPRI researchers all over the world.

Agnes:

Why are inclusive food systems important? They're important because they promote inclusive economic growth by better integrating marginalized people into national food systems. They can help to reduce poverty by increasing household incomes and improving access to services. They also help to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. They reduce global and national inequalities, and in a world where existing inequalities and disparities are magnified by COVID, inclusion is a moral imperative.

Agnes:

Many of you know that most of my work recently has been on gender. And it's a very important factor that mediates a person's inclusion in food systems. We often talk about involving women in food systems, but women are actually already involved in food systems. The question is the extent to which they benefit and the extent to which food systems allow them to make strategic life choices. Building inclusive food system means not making sure that they reach women, but also that they benefit and are empowered.

Agnes:

What are the instruments, mechanisms and policies for inclusion? I'm going to go through these four instruments and mechanisms for inclusion, paying attention to the role of gender in each of these. This is especially crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, but that attention should really be there every day.

Agnes:

Okay, so let's start with inclusive food value chains, especially for small holders. And this is the hidden middle. Running a small all farm agrifood business is already highly profitable. Per worker income in this part of the food value chain is much higher than farm income and can even pay off more than non-food activity. And many such businesses exist in food supply chains in Africa and Asia. Therefore, policy makers should see the potential for their growth and future development.

Agnes:

How can they be more inclusive? We recommend three priority types of support that governments can provide. First, improved infrastructure and access to finance. Such support would be more inclusive if this benefits SME processors, distributors, and transporters that connect to supply chains between rural areas and small urban areas. Second, publicly certified food standards and price incentives are needed so that SMEs can meet higher quality and food safety standards of consumers and be better able to compete in domestic markets and also to connect to global value chains. Third are education policies. Basic education is important, but also professional training to improve entrepreneurship, knowledge of ICT and food safety and quality standards.

Agnes:

I think after COVID, nobody needs to remind us about food safety. But throughout all this, we need to pay attention to particular barriers that marginalized people face of the intersectionality of those barriers. For example, a woman may be disadvantaged not only because she's a woman, but because she faces barriers [inaudible 00:08:12] race, ethnicity, and social class.

Agnes:

Social protection's an important mechanism for safeguarding the food and nutrition security for marginalized people. They can help fulfill basic calorie and nutrient needs and prevent malnutrition.

Attention to gender dynamics can also make them more effective, for example, by targeting women as recipients and providing nutrition behavior change communication in social protection programs.

Agnes:

Education is probably the greatest driver inclusion, but barriers to education still exist. Vocational training isn't a cure all either, because barriers to participation, irrelevant content and inadequate reach all limit effectiveness. Technology innovations can reduce information asymmetries and improve accountability, but we need to look at access to technology as well. There are many inequalities that deter the potential of education to be a driver of inclusion.

Agnes:

What is key behind all this? We need governance, good governance and good leadership. They are key for inclusive food systems, especially for marginalized people. Excluded people need to be represented in positions of leadership. For example, in one of our studies in five states of India with a high proportion of tribal population, we found that women SHG members are more likely to be aware of and to participate in government and tribal schemes, so the self-help group movements have helped give women a voice and to make their local governments more accountable.

Agnes:

We also need to leverage evidence and data in politics and governance. We can take advantage of big data, but we should be aware that there are also gaps in terms of access to ICTs. For example, worldwide more than 393 million women do not have access to mobile phones. And this gap is bigger in some areas.

Agnes:

Poor people's food and nutrition security is disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and let's not forget the gendered impacts. Poor people are more affected because of first, effects on income, the large share of income spent on food, the reliance of physical labor to generate income. It may also cause more disruptions in poor people's value chains. Public food and nutrition programs may be disrupted and the fiscal capacity of governments to fund support programs is lower in poor countries.

Agnes:

The disruption of social protection programs is especially crucial for poor women. Transfer programs are a very important outside option that's linked to increases in bargaining power for women, whether it's through conditional cash transfer programs or unconditional cash transfer programs. But a rapid assessment of the initial COVID-19 social protection response by Melissa Hidrobo and others at IFPRI show that only 11% show some limited gender sensitivity, so more needs to be done. We need to do better here.

Agnes:

That said, we need inclusive food systems now more than ever. They can help to address inclusion at the global policy level. They can help us take action at the national level. And [inaudible 00:12:04] take into account the fact that these systems are very, very different. It's very different across countries and contexts.

Agnes:

Similarly, gendered impacts required gender-sensitive policy responses. Gender norms or context-specific social policy responses [inaudible 00:12:26]. Some options can be considered given what we know about women's vulnerabilities. These include cash transfer started to women to smooth consumption. Insurance programs can help women preserve their asset base and build up assets again during recovery because evidence from past crisis has shown us that women's assets are often the first to be disposed of when a crisis hits.

Agnes:

Responses need to pay attention to women's role as caregivers, which is often undervalued and unrecognized. I think the whole debate, even in the United States, about going back to school recognizes that without good childcare, women cannot go back to work. We must also pay attention to vulnerabilities, not just physical or health-wise, but social. Increased stress is highly correlated with domestic violence. A recent working paper that just came out on India shows that the location of gender-based violence has shifted from outside of the home to within the home after the lockdown. Policies should also help girls stay in school and to avoid early marriage.

Agnes:

IFPRI has a blog series on COVID-19 and food security and goes through a range of different topics, and if you want to read more on this, go to the blog on the IFPRI website, but we will also be launching our ebook on COVID-19 and global food security on Tuesday, August 4th at 9:30 AM. Announcement should be coming out soon.

Agnes:

Finally, check out the IFPRI website for the full text of the 2020 global food policy report. Thank you very much, and I will pass this on now to [inaudible 00:00:14:20].

Maitreyi:

Hello. Can everybody hear me? Okay, fantastic. Good morning and good evening, everybody. It is a real pleasure to be here, and I am really looking forward to this really important discussion on inclusion after that wonderful presentation that Agnes just made.

Maitreyi:

Let me give you a little bit of a background to what I'm speaking to. Many years ago, in 2013, we came up with that flagship report on inclusion, on social inclusion. The picture that you see on the right is actually a painting ... Actually, both the paintings from the same Ugandan artist, Mukassa, and that's the cover of our first report And you can download that if you type Inclusion Matters plus World Bank, and the sequel almost that came out last year with Inclusion Matters in Africa, and that's the larger picture. And if you type Inclusion Matters in Africa plus World Bank, you should be able to get to that as well.

Maitreyi:

I'm going to speak a bit to this. And the reason why this is so important today is because COVID-19 is in a sense amplifying existing structures, inequalities, and forms of exclusion. And if we have a better understanding of what was happening in terms of the social structures prior to COVID-19, it will help us to have a better response and to be able to have a more informed response to the pandemic and to the recovery efforts.

Maitreyi:

Why did we do this report now? We did this report because as a continent, which of course as we know is a highly heterogeneous continent, but there are certain demographic, economic, spatial political climate and other trends that are completely reimaging the African reality. And I'll tell you a little bit as to how that's happening.

Maitreyi:

What did we do? How did we come upon this report? We didn't collect any new data. We actually used a tool that we had created after Inclusion Matters. It's called the Social Inclusion Assessment Tool. You can also download that. It's a four question methodology, and we used those to frame questions. We build on existent analysis on inclusion and synthesized existing evidence, use data from a number of different surveys that you're all probably familiar with, but we realize that given the heterogeneity and the vast number of issues that exist in Africa, it is very difficult to come up with a synthetic report that does justice to all parts of the great continent.

Maitreyi:

Let me walk you through some of the important messages in the report. First message is that Africa has seen some of fastest progress towards social inclusion in the past few decades. And in some cases, Africa has moved faster, at a pace faster than we have seen ever globally.

Maitreyi:

The second point that we make in the report is that despite this incredible progress and this incredible move towards social inclusion, some groups and areas has been left out of the progress and they continue to remain at risk. Social inclusion as a conceptual category, as a concept, helps us to understand who's left out and from what, in what ways and why, and that's what our social inclusion assessment tool asks us to do.

Maitreyi:

Messages three, four, and five. First, message three is that social inclusion draws attention not just to poverty, but to the drivers of poverty. And it explains that poverty reduction alone is not enough to end exclusion of some individuals and groups. The fourth message we have is that there are certain structures and processes that aid and abet exclusion, that magnify exclusion, and that help in maintaining the status quo, which exacerbates exclusion. Often, these have got historical and cultural hoops.

Maitreyi:

Our fifth message is that areas that are affected by conflict and fragility stand out as having the worse outcomes in many aspects related to social inclusion. And conversely, peace and security do matter for social inclusion.

Maitreyi:

The final two messages that we have is that the societies incur significant costs from social exclusion. But achieving inclusion also has its cost. You hear people often say it's a win-win. In the long run, it's a win-win, but there are investments that countries and societies need to make towards inclusion. It is not a free good, and that's why it has to be a conscious choice for states and societies, especially as they walk through some of the costs and benefits, the losers and winners of inclusion. Finally, with a strong social contract, social inclusion is within reach in Africa, and hundreds of experiences and initiatives across the continent demonstrate this.

Maitreyi:

Just going to a quick primer on what we consider to be social inclusion ... this is our definition ... we call it the process of improving the terms for individuals and groups to take part in society. And when we talk about it within a little bit more detail, we say it's the process of improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of people who are disadvantaged because of their identity to take part in society. It's a bit of a mouthful, but you could take each of these words, it has a specific meaning, and much of it is contextual.

Maitreyi:

Then, we ask inclusion and what and how. This is the conceptual framework. We say inclusion in markets, which could be land markets, labor markets, credit markets, services, not just services like water and sanitation and transport, but services like information technology, like childcare.

Maitreyi:

And then spaces, and the idea of spaces is a somewhat physical ... We could talk about physical space. We also talk about something which is more normative, more conceptual, more almost metaphysical, so cultural spaces, how much space does the culture have. And at the bottom of it is enhanced ability, opportunity and dignity.

Maitreyi:

What are the phases of exclusion in Africa? And we heard Agnes talk about the disadvantaged woman who is disadvantaged not just because she's a woman, but because she has many other identities. Think about a woman that comes from a minority ethnic group that lives in a far away location that also has a disability. That intersectionality, that overlay of identities confirm the kind of exclusion that we would not expect, for instance, a rich woman living in a city who is educated to have. The intersectionality and the context is extremely important.

Maitreyi:

What are the longterm trends that are affecting inclusion in Africa? First of all, Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent. It is the least urbanized right now, but in terms of the pace of urbanization, Africa is going to be the fastest urbanization. Besides, half the population of Africa is under 25 years old, so there's both an urbanization demographic trend, as well as the age structure of the population is quite distinct in Africa.

Maitreyi:

Then there are access to services in Africa. On the one hand, you have electricity and on the other hand, you have water. And this is just to give you a sense of the great heterogeneity that exists in Africa. And despite the fact that there has been very dramatic improvement in both energy access or electricity access and water access, in fact, there are countries that have seen both very good progress, as well as very little coverage in both water and electricity.

Maitreyi:

Let's take the idea of ... Let's take technology. Africa is one of the areas which has seen some of the most dramatic innovation as far as technology is concerned. And yet if you take a look at smartphone usage, and this becomes so important in the days of COVID where everything is happening through smartphones, take a look. If you take a look at gender, at age, at educational status, they really determine ...

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:23:04]

Maitreyi:

At gender, at age, at educational status. They really determine who is using smartphone. And now I'm going to go a bit faster because I've realized I've very little time. Also, in terms of education, if you take a look at education, you find there's a dramatic improvement, but then persons with disabilities tend to get left out. I'm going to go very quickly through this. In terms of persons who are displaced by conflict Africa is the country that has seen the greatest amount of displacement in the last few years. Then we go into perceptions and attitudes, which matter a great deal because social exclusion is rooted in these processes. Let's take a look at this from the world value survey. Okay. Whom would you not like to have as a neighbor? The word value survey actually has very few African countries represented in it. But these graphs are important not for what they're showing in terms of exclusion. But what it's telling you is that Africa is not such an exceptional place.

Maitreyi:

It looks very much like other places in terms of the level of say of xenophobia or in terms of the level of whom would you not like to have as a neighbor. It looks very similar. So this whole idea about there's a certain exceptionalism about Africa is actually not true because we find that African countries tend to be very, very similar to other countries. Similarly, you find people saying about Africa that, "Oh, well there's a lot of ethnic identity that people tend to focus on." Actually, we find that the people that are surveyed by the Afro barometer tend to be equally invested in their ethnic as well as their national identity. And you can take a look at these graphs later as well. The other thing we found very interestingly through many surveys is that despite a lot of challenges that African countries or respondents from in countries tend to show the greatest hope and optimism. Did I lose something? Are you still hearing me? Okay. Africa also shows... Could you just type in the chat pod, Adam, if you're hearing me so...

Adam:

Maitreyi, we can hear you well. Can you speak up just a little bit louder because some of our audience was having issues hearing you clearly. So just enunciate as much as you can. And project.

Maitreyi:

Is this better? Is this much... Is this better?

Adam:

It is, yeah.

Maitreyi:

Okay, excellent. So I apologize for that but I hope it's better now.

Maitreyi:

Africa shows us many, many pathways towards inclusion. And I'm going to run you through a few of them. So for instance, some of the most dramatic reform of laws towards gender equality have taken place recently in Africa. Certain norms and behaviors that were considered to be immutable, such as female genital cutting has seen some of the most dramatic improvements in African countries. Again, I mentioned innovation. So for instance, of course we know about M-pesa in Kenya. But there's a whole generation of social safety net programs, where innovations are taking place in African countries. And finally social movements, which are so important in pushing change towards social inclusion. We are seeing some of the most dramatic social movements, such as [inaudible 00:26:26] disability, against gender based violence, for climate, youth based movements that are taking place in African countries.

Maitreyi:

This is a very interesting graph that shows Burkina Faso and the quite interesting decline in female genital cutting across cohorts. Finally, so I'm hoping that I will stay within my allotted 12 to 15 minutes. So what does this report try to do? So what the report actually does is that it places the notion of social inclusion front and center in an analysis of what Africa has achieved, and where the challenges are. To our knowledge, this is the first report that puts it within the overall category of inclusion that goes beyond poverty. So it's not just about poverty. Second, it takes an interdisciplinary approach and it brings empirical weight to issues that are already being debated in the realm of advocacy and in the realm of contestation. It addresses with greater granularity who is left out, from what are they left out and how are they left out.

Maitreyi:

It further uses the experience of African countries to show that Africa's challenges and social inclusion are not unique, and they're not exceptional. It also shows that other countries outside of Africa can learn from many of the innovations that are taking place in Africa, where some African countries are actually first movers in many different innovations across the board. It shows us the channels through which the cost of social exclusion obtain. So we have a table that shows the cost of exclusion and which are the pathways through which these costs get amplified. It talks about innovations, and then it sheds light on areas where deeply entrenched norms and practices have actually changed. Because we hear a lot of people saying, "Oh, this is about norms. This is about culture, very difficult to change." We are actually seeing that change happen. So people who say, "Oh, norms are hard to change." That's not necessarily the case. Yes, they may be hard to change, but they do change.

Maitreyi:

And then it asserts that social inclusion needs to be a conscious choice. It doesn't just happen. Sometimes it does just happen accidentally, but for the most part, it needs to be a social contract on the basis of which government and non state actors can move forward. Let me stop there and thank you very much. If you're live tweeting, please use the hashtag 'intuition matters'. Thank you. And I need to hand it to Manchu. I'm sorry I think I messed that one up.

Adam:

I think we're actually going to stop for questions. Zachary, over to you.

Zachary:

Thank you both very much. We have time for a couple of questions. And so I will start with the first question from Indra Klein on for Agnes. With regard to social protection programs, to what degree, if any, does cultural mores impact such?

Agnes:

Thank you for this really interesting question. I think social protection programs need to be designed to take into account the specific cultural mores where they're being implemented. This is so that, one that they're feasible to implement. And secondly, that you don't risk any backlash. So in many social protection programs, there has been the trend to target them to women because especially SP programs, which are designed to improve child health and nutrition. And these have, by and large, been quite successful. Of course with variations. What we've found that's quite interesting, is that if you combine nutrition, behavior, change communication with cash transfer programs, you might have an additional effect. So my colleagues in Bangladesh tested combining nutrition, BCC with a food or a cash transfer in an RCT. And what they found was that, not only was the arm within nutrition, BCC more effective, you also had reductions in intimate partner violence in those treatment arms.

Agnes:

The other interesting thing is that sometimes you really need to be aware of what's culturally feasible. So the same set of colleagues, Melissa, Hidra, Boshal, Shalini, Roy. They were evaluating a transfer program in Mali where the government saw that it was not politically feasible to target the woman specifically. So they targeted to the head of the household. And in many cases, this was a male. But what they found was that it also reduced intimate partner violence in polygamous households. So I think when you, when you design a social protection program, you really have to be aware of the potential impact on inter household relations. But you can also be transformative and try to use the program to tweak, to move gender norms to become more transformative in a sense.

Zachary:

Okay. Thank you very much, Agnes. The next question, just one more, comes from Ashok Sarkar and it's for Maitreyi. Do we need to pay special attention for the climate vulnerable for better inclusion?

Maitreyi:

I'm sorry, could you repeat that please? I didn't hear that last part.

Zachary:

Do we need to pay special attention for the climate vulnerable for better inclusion?

Maitreyi:

Absolutely. I think that the fact of climate change is something that is a reality. We're seeing it globally. And in Africa, in particular, we're seeing an upsurge of extreme weather events, for instance, that are leading to certain groups being disproportionately affected. For instance, there were floods in Mozambique, there were hurricanes, there was Kenneth, there was [inaudible 00:10:26]. And we found that there are certain groups that tend to be much more disproportionately affected because maybe they're residing on the peripheries of the city. Maybe they're new migrants, maybe they're living in housing that is easily blown away. Maybe they have lost livelihoods, but then it doesn't have to be just poor people. It's often a lot of people that are, say take the person with a disability that lives in a rich household. If there's a flood that person with a disability, regardless of living in a rich household is going to find it very difficult to move around. So there is a certain way in which identity affects you through the climate route as well, particularly through extreme weather events, but not only through extreme weather events. Thank you, Zachary.

Zachary:

Thank you both and appreciate you answering those questions. And now we'll move on to the panel section. And so I will hand it over to Betty Mugo for her comments.

Betty Mugo:

Thank you very much. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening everyone from all the places that you're all joining us from. For those who are outside Kenya, please allow me to welcome you virtually to Kenya. We are truly authentic and inclusion does matter. I start off by asking, what does inclusion mean to you? Does it matter and why? To me inclusion is not just about being seen, but it's also about being heard. It matters because it empowers individuals, groups, and communities to make a difference. So how did we here in USAID Kenya in East Africa make this happen. A little over a year ago, USAID Kenya in East Africa started to develop the next five year country development cooperative strategy. We reviewed the multiple analytics that guided our conversations. The data started to shape up into key themes and messages around Kenya's development challenges. We knew what the data was saying, and now we needed to hear what Kenyans thought about this data and what it meant to them?

Betty Mugo:

So we went out with these [inaudible 00:36:05] messages and began to ask Kenyans across the country, Kenyans that were drawn from public sector, from private sector, from civil society and Kenyans living with disabilities; what they thought about the data. What did the data mean to each of them? We then conducted agenda analysis. And again, talked to government officials. We spoke to elders, to adolescent girls, to teen mothers, to [inaudible 00:13:38]. And this is a term that we use here for young men. And to representatives from key population. Throughout all these consultations, we gathered data that helped us to understand the complex yet interconnected, and sometimes hidden challenges in Kenya. The data helped us to see a much fuller picture, which is what you see depicted here in this tree. At the root of Kenya's development challenges is chronic conflict that is entrenched by ethnic divisions and harmful gender norms. This then trunks into what you see as a branch into persistent poverty that is exacerbated by pervasive corruption, and in turn leads to inadequate systems.

Betty Mugo:

However, what is visible and obvious to many of us, and particularly here in Kenya, is the youth unemployment. They are abuse and vulnerability of adolescent girls, the flow in growth and the declining natural resources. So we would not have had this clarity here in Kenya if we had not listened and included Kenyans in our strategy development. And for us, we learned that data does matter because it has led you USAID Kenya in, East Africa to be practical, and to make crucial evidence based decisions. The data has mattered because by including Kenyans, they are now able to lead and own their own development journey.

Betty Mugo:

In fact, one of the most significant decisions that USAID Kenya in East Africa has made is investing in evidence based solutions, as we can see through our partnership for resilience and economic growth; which have been rehabilitating and constructing over 40 physical markets in Northern Kenya. Now Kenya has a terrain. That's not only harsh, but it's vast and communities are dispersed across remote areas. These markets are beginning to increase access and leading to more people in communities to engage in economic activities.

Betty Mugo:

These places of trade have become vibrant and able to connect people together, enhancing not just trade, but also increasing incomes and the economic prosperity in these communities. Today women, men, young people are meeting to trade in these places of trade. And they trade in livestock, in food, in clothes, in supplies, and even in artifacts. But they are also now able to access services such as transport, motor vehicle and motorcycle repair shops, as well as mobile money agents. Households are now able to access diverse foods and therefore improve their nutrition. Today these places of trade are not only just inclusive, but they also are safe, and they have become reliable. Local market committees

are also now managing these markets, and together with the County government and other partners, these also provide other amenities like water. Because the markets are now also able to generate their own income.

Betty Mugo:

Now, even while Covid 19 has disrupted and interrupted activities in the markets and depressed the sales, these markets, for sure, remain important hubs for linking our communities and our people together, and enabling them to remain included in the economic activities of their communities. I will end here and allow me to now welcome my colleague, Dr. Manju from USAID Nepal. Thank you very much.

Dr. Manju:

Thank you, Betty. Hello and namaste everyone. I'm speaking from Nepal. So I'll start by talking about what inclusion means in the context of Nepal. So as you know inter reciprocal relationship between people and institutions. People through their interactions, [inaudible 00:40:58] the institutions also called the formal and informal rules of the game. In reality, it is people with more power and influence who [inaudible 00:41:06] the rules of the game in their favor and perpetrate their dominance. Let me cite an example, representation of women and marginalized groups in all the political and state institutions is assured by law. However, there's a high level of patronage, and women normally get the weakest positions. So you it is the informal institutions like gender, caste, kinship or political networks, which are more powerful than the formal institutions. The informal institutions are harder for outsiders to see and understand because they are often invisible.

Dr. Manju:

Also informal institutions require attitudinal change to recognize power imbalances, and sift the existing rules of the game that currently determine who is included or excluded. Importantly, we must understand the intersections of the various markers of difference. As multiple identities intersect to form overlapping layers of discrimination. Intersecting differences by gender, caste, ethnicity or minority status has led to many groups and individuals in Nepal, being placed at the bottom for generations. And they are deprived from exercising their fundamental rights and freedom. So how does USAID Nepal implement inclusion? We start with [inaudible 00:42:26] analysis for every [inaudible 00:42:27] design to identify barriers. By design, we mandate our partners to conduct activities, [inaudible 00:42:34] analysis and action plans. [inaudible 00:42:35] reporting is done. [inaudible 00:42:39] future activities are guided by this process of integrating inclusion in the project management. And it is useful for setting the priorities and measuring the inclusion results.

Dr. Manju:

In spite of it, we face challenges in integration since not all partners have uniform understanding, ownership and commitment to address inclusion issues. The role of USAID [inaudible 00:43:04] very important. And without the buy in and support to the partners, it is a challenge to manage inclusive results. USAID also focuses on open culture. Open culture has to be understood by all staff because inclusion is both a collective and institutional effort.

Dr. Manju:

Now I want to talk about how our projects enhance inclusion. Most of our partners start by doing the [inaudible 00:43:32] analysis to understand the underlying drivers of exclusion. For example, researching the implications of technologies and the effects on women, and identifying their particular needs. Inclusion specific interventions have [inaudible 00:43:46] that is bringing the project inputs and solutions, at a time and place suitable for women farmers. Enhancing women's knowledge and access to improved technologies and markets, targeting businesses led by women to build their social and economic capital. Examples of targeting include allocating resources, at least one third. Like grants to businesses led by marginalized women. Targeting women led cooperatives and ensuring women have sufficient knowledge and market linkages. However, women are not always given respect and support by family and community, and it can be a challenge to install a safe or respectful work environment. [inaudible 00:44:29] women benefit from inclusive policies intended to benefit them, and advocate for female targeted farm mechanization policies.

Dr. Manju:

In spite of all these scaling positive gains all transformation is challenging. So what are the results? USAID's accountability to address discrimination and reduce social disparities is a key result, I would say. Also it obliges partners to do the same. Our partners are working in the system or institutions, and this is increasing the chain reaction of capacity building, partnerships, access to resources by women and marginalized groups. We are seeing results in increased business literacy skills, influencing local governments to remove social barriers, influencing government subsidy programs to, for example, make farm machinery more affordable for female headed households.

Dr. Manju:

I want to share a small story about women empowerment. The context is that female farmers lack access to every cultural knowledge and technology. So 101 [inaudible 00:45:34] female farmers who are trained in quality seed production and [inaudible 00:45:38] with seed companies for marketing. And the result is the removal of knowledge and market barriers. [inaudible 00:45:45] the other picture, the gender gap is [inaudible 00:22:52]. Agriculture extension services are highly male dominated, even though the farmers are overly female. Over a hundred local young women were trained. And the result is that women farmers participation increased, and the access to knowledge services and decision making also

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:46:04]

Manju:

... Patient increased, and the access to knowledge services and decision making also increased. The seed companies, on the other hand, can focus on branding and marketing, while production is taken care of by the women-led corporate. One company even named four varieties of tomato after the women to recognize the special skill. I'll end my presentation here. Thank you. So now I'll pass on the [inaudible 00:46:25] to [inaudible 00:00:27].

Gerson:

Good morning, everyone. I hope you can hear me well. It is a pleasure for me to be here today and talk about the work the Guatemalan mission is doing, and also the Feed the Future activities regarding inclusion.

Gerson:

Just to give you a quick context about some of the challenges in Guatemala, perhaps some of you are already familiar with this data. However, it is worth mentioning just to give us an idea of how to tackle all the root causes of issues when it comes to inclusion. Guatemala's chronic malnutrition rates are concentrated primarily among the poor and indigenous people. 59% of the population lives in poverty, 79% of which are indigenous people. And also extreme inequality and social exclusion, which stratifies society along indigenous, non-indigenous, rural, urban and gender lines. This is what compounds the problem. And last one of the issues, that's been dramatically, has increased in the last few years is illegal immigration, mainly to United States. And especially among the youth group, I would say this is the more vulnerable population for illegal immigration.

Gerson:

So based on this challenge as I just mentioned here, there is a clear path, but also we see that there are a lot of obstacles to defeat in order to achieve our results. That is why, for the Guatemalan mission, inclusion is one of the key priorities to achieve social and economic development results. However, in many cases, we have experienced that when we talk about and work with cross-cutting activities, such as youth, women, indigenous group, et cetera, somehow the results are not very clear, or sometimes they get lost among our activities. And at the end of the day, we don't really get the results as we anticipated, or as we planned. For example, I'm going to give you a pure example, under the Feed the Future activities, the percentage of females participating under economic problems, productive economic problems, it's around 30%, and this is similar percentage for youth. And when it comes to working with indigenous communities, around 45%.

Gerson:

So if we really want positive results, I think putting a lot of effort, time and investment and focus on this activity, I believe we could achieve or make great progress. In Guatemala, on one of the Feed the Future activities, which is called the Coffee Value Chains Project, we have created an interesting tool called the learning path, or [foreign language 00:03:53] in Spanish. Actually, if you want to learn more about the [foreign language 00:49:57] or learning path, it was recently posted on Agrilinks.

Gerson:

So, the [foreign language 00:04:06] or learning path, it's a community space where farmers can strengthen in their knowledge and exchange experiences. And each learning path has at least three types of learning stations. For example, it could be coffee production, it could be nutrition activities. And this is where we work a lot on nutrition-intensive agricultural activities as well. And also we have some adaptation to climate change activities. And in all of these stations in the learning path, gender equity and social inclusion, we consider them well taken. Especially indigenous people and youth are essential part of this approach.

Gerson:

Moving to the next slide. As you can see in the photos, a group of women are working with coffee processing. Also, you can see youth working with animal units for chicken, chicken meat, and at production. And women learning how to use digital tools for agriculture.

Gerson:

The next slide shows us how projects are empowering women and youth through nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities, which is an essential part of the learning path I mentioned before. Where women and their families have access to more nutritious food, and they are also trained also to prepare more balanced meals.

Gerson:

And moving to the next slide. And finally, we think that a way or strategy to engage and empower youth into agriculture production or nutrition-sensitive agricultural activity is through the use of digital tools. For example, one of the Feed the Future activities called [Proymoa 00:51:49] implemented by a local agribusiness company called [Purple Yum 00:00:51:49] Has developed a digital tool called agriconnector. And this is an open tool that can be used and can be basically integrated into your cell phone for anyone. And we have seen a special attraction for youth, youth entrepreneurs or farmers for the use of this app. This application has been a very interesting tool as a natural port to receive technical assistance, or if you want to market your products.

Gerson:

And finally, as one of my implementer partners mentioned, inclusion in Guatemala is about achieving balance and providing equal opportunities for indigenous group, women, men, and youth, to achieve sustainable development. Also, inclusion requires strong social and economic changes, but must be presumed through the improvement of knowledge training and facilitation activities amongst more farmers and their families, communities, local government. Including even the private sector, sometimes we think that's the hardest sector to achieve, or make them to work in the inclusion side. So thank you very much. I hope this presentation was useful. And I hand it over to my colleague Emmanuel.

Emmanuel:

Hello? My name is Zachary Emmanuel. I am from Rwanda. So then I'm going to share with you a contribution of our record in transforming Rwandan economy through agriculture. I don't know if you are hearing from me?

Zachary:

We can hear you, if you could-

Speaker 1:

Oh, yes, we can hear you. Go ahead Zachary.

Emmanuel:

Okay, thank you. I was thinking that I'm going to share with you the contribution of our record in transforming the Rwandan economy through agriculture. So, what culture, in reality, corporation is a big youth organization, organized by three professionals in agriculture, assisted by some of our study internship program, [inaudible 00:00:54:21], who underwent in to the live in a [inaudible 00:54:23] in Israel. So as you may know, the government of Rwanda and Israel collaborate to train the qualified engineers in the matter of horticulture, [inaudible 00:08:35], mechanization and the other agricultural related fields. Then, upon coming to the training from Israel, we met here and say to you, "Hey guys, why can't we meet and start a small business, which can generate the income from ourselves, and also how we can improvise the skills from academy from Israel and they help the farmers to boost the agricultural production. Then the idea came and we started from small land way, a well being, starting to produce the different vegetables like watermelon, like [inaudible 00:55:11] for export, for local markets and the other vegetables.

Emmanuel:

I remember [inaudible 00:55:18] we started number of 10. We are, the women was one where we had one girl and also nine boys. But later on this time they were equal, we are allowing the night at three young engineers, we ask the percent are men and 40% are men. Then upon that project successful, they don't mentally does [inaudible 00:55:44] and have been asking us, "Hey guys, you are succeeding in your

own project where you are producing between the tables. Why can't you come and you approach this farmers, you approach to our parents, so that also themselves, they can start producing as you are producing good quality of vegetables.

Emmanuel:

Then we got another chance to have the second project called Operation Maintenance Under Management of Irrigation [inaudible 00:56:16]. In this project, we are helping the farmers like three clusters, or if I can call them, one is for corporate action and [inaudible 00:56:25] training management. The second is about capacity building and the community mobilization. Lastly, is about the irrigation security way that we're helping the farmers to boost the irrigation with any devices or any other season where we don't have enough rain. So in this second project, we are coaching around 50,000 farmers who are growing different crops, one [inaudible 00:10:54]. And also among these farmers, we are helping different youths, companies, different youth [inaudible 00:11:03], different women organizations, so that they are trying also to boost the agricultural potential. And as we have been doing in our starting days, then upon these successful stories, we got another chance of having this past project through the agreement with Agra, I know some of you know Agra for us really revulsion in Africa. We are helping different farmers, [inaudible 00:57:33] Irish potatoes to produce pretty basic potato seeds so that we have for them to post the food quality counseling.

Emmanuel:

So this time [inaudible 00:57:48] is doing a different project to other affirmations. The young we are having, we are the women. We are the men. We are working together to increase our [inaudible 00:58:03] income and also to work for the farmers who boosted their agricultural production. So I can invite everyone here to come in Rwanda to visit the country, no [inaudible 00:58:15] agriculture things. I cannot say them when you are in power point, it will be good to meet you on the field to see what you are doing and how we are gathering those incomes. So no agriculture, no food. No food, no life. May god bless you. May God bless my lovely country, Rwanda, and one of the people. Thank you.

Zachary:

Thank you very much everyone, all the presenters and the panelists for your excellent presentations, its generated quite a lot of questions in the chat box. We thank you for joining us, and now we'll move on to the Q and A session. And with that, I will ask a question from Avid Do Bashir to Gerson of our panel. You mentioned a chronic malnutrition. Is malnutrition leading to exclusion or exclusion leads to malnutrition? So is malnutrition leading to exclusion or exclusion leading to malnutrition?

Gerson:

Thank you. I thank my respondent to [inaudible 00:59:27] a question. On my own perception, I think it's more exclusion that leads to malnutrition. I've explained before over the ... It's a highly extreme mainly

in what communities and that includes, I know in what Guatemala historically, there's been a lot of conflict and for me, it's one of them [inaudible 00:59:47] to education.

Gerson:

It's one of them as well. So that's a worse [inaudible 00:59:53] when it comes to economic opportunities. And that leads to sometimes, in most cases, to have access to more nutritious food. I would say the poverty, that leads to nutrition. That's my main perception in Guatemala. Over.

Zachary:

Okay, thank you. Next. I would pose a question to Gerson Emma and [inaudible 01:00:24] from [inaudible 00:14:26], social norm, and gendered nature of child care, giving role points towards women as the biggest barrier for women to become agricultural extension workers. If any panelists can share ground examples on addressing these issues from the inclusion perspective. Anyone from the panel, thoughts.

Manju:

[crosstalk 01:01:08] I would just like to say that ... Sorry.

Zachary:

Go ahead.

Manju:

Okay. So I'm working on the women, particularly on the marginalized women or low income women have particular needs, especially these can recall strategic or practical needs. So unless women's practical needs are addressed, it will be hard to move the women towards upward lines of empowerment. So yeah, you are right that they both come as a barrier in the beginning and many of our activities have started looking into the difficulties of leaving their home in certain times or leaving household tour for other things like meeting and training. So projects have adopted where they do the activities, whom they invite, where they invite. So minimum adjustments need to be done. So, that is only one thing. The other ways that projects have done is also to ask the women how they would like to participate and the world, what is the first thing they would like to be supported with in order for them to participate?

Manju:

I would say listening and engaging with the women, but also with broader, other community members in order to make it more helpful for the women to participate in spite of the barriers. So some have talked about engaging with the power holders. So power holders are at home. This could be your

mother-in-law could be the elderly in the household, or it could be the men. So engaging with them and getting their support have been some of the strategies used by our activities. I'll stop there for others to chime in.

Zachary:

Anyone else want to add?

Speaker 2:

Maybe also to give some examples from Kenya. One of the things that we have seen is that a lot of communities have got very ... Somebody held cultural norms and beliefs about what [inaudible 01:03:45] and should do, and both things that they can't do. And one of the things we've been trying to do is also to work with adolescent girls and young women, power them to pick up for themselves, but also to speak for others. And we do this through mentorship, connecting them with good role models, particularly a female role model. Teachers in their communities. Also working with elders and others who hold the power in communities at the household level. Fathers have a huge say about whether a young girl would go to school because it is believed that she should either be living with her father, or with her husband, and so shifting these norms and shifting this mindset have been one of the things that we've been trained to do.

Speaker 2:

We have an interest [inaudible 01:04:35] in Kenya become a model that we are working with our partners, [inaudible 01:04:41] in Northern Kenya, just to increase the capabilities of young girls and young [inaudible 01:04:47] to build the resilience within their household, and particularly because many of them have already been married quite young, and they already have children even before they hit 20, and for working in communities to just shift and [inaudible 01:05:02] particularly because they're younger, they are also very much interested in going back to school. So facilitating for them to go to school, begins to shift at the such norms within communities when the girls are able then to go back to school and acquire the qualifications.

Zachary:

Thank you very much.

Gerson:

Just one or two. Yeah. Wanted to add something else. Yeah. This is responding to this question and also responding to Krista J calls in questioning about the gender issues in their cultural sector in Guatemala, in historically it's well known that agriculture can only be done for men and that's the general perception. And one of the things that we have been doing through the PD future activity is the implementation of this strategy of this tool, which is a learning [pat 01:05:58] . And I think management

for each learning, learning [pat 01:06:04] Has several stations. And what we're trying to do is that we involve both men and women into each activity. So they basically learn what the activities that usually men will do. It's also, now women will do it as well.

Gerson:

And so it's been very, I wouldn't say anything, a very good example for how to involve gender. And also, I think one of the things I've heard from, or implementer partners in the last few months, it's that given the COVID-19, so now men, they are saying more at home and that involves them into more home activities. And that's something that we are, I would say, taking advantage of this momentum and through the nutrition center, cultural activities, trying to involve men as well into all the, let's say, just for making more balanced foods. And that's one of the trainers and trying to implement it. So man, they are learning this kind of activities. Now.

Zachary:

Thank you very much for our panelists for that answer for that question. The next question comes from [inaudible 01:07:11] in its to Agnes. It's the private sector is gender exclusive in terms of understanding value chain and inclusive food systems. Are there examples from where we can learn from private sector actors being inclusive, both in their organizational system policies and interventions?

Agnes:

Great. Thank you for this question. Can you hear me?

Zachary:

Yes, we can.

Agnes:

Okay. So I'd like to start by maybe dispelling a little myth that the private sector only refers to big business. The private sector in most countries is composed of small and medium scale enterprises. And that is where progress on inclusion can begin, or where you can make the most progress to start with the grassroots. So for example, I think there is enough evidence that women entrepreneurs face a lot of barriers in terms of access to capital in terms of access to labor. They often start out with lower levels of human capital schooling experience than men. At the same time. I also want to point out that we shouldn't see entrepreneurship as a [panacea 01:08:38] For everything, because for example, under US aid support, we did a study of women's empowerment in value chains in Bangladesh. And what we found was that in fact, it is the women producers, those who are farmers, who are actually more empowered than the women entrepreneurs, because the entrepreneurs tended to be located in-

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:09:04]

Agnes:

They tended to be located in enterprises that were very small, very trade focused, and with very limited value added. So, they were low value enterprises. So, what's the implication here? If you want the private sector, private small scale entrepreneurs to succeed, and for the food systems to be more inclusive, you really have to start at the bottom. And, to try to make sure that men, and women, disadvantaged groups, marginalized groups have access to them. And, control of the means of production that they can use for these enterprises. Thank you.

Zachary:

Thank you very much. For our next question, It's to Maitreyi, it's Abdu Bashir. The question is, is economic marginalization exclusion linked to violence, or civil unrest? Can exclusion be a tool for political gains, or equals?

Maitreyi:

That's an excellent question. It's actually a very complex one. There isn't any linear part between exclusion, and political violence, because political violence comes from a number of different processes and historical, and other circumstances. For instance, political violence could also be between two fairly equal groups. But, I do want to take onboard a misperception that exclusion is only of minority groups.

Maitreyi:

Quite often, and we call this a lead capture in other contexts, is that often there are minority groups that take control of the political system, and it is the vast majority that is excluded. Quite sometimes it could be even a minority ethnic group that is ruling, and is centralizing power. So, I think that there are many nuances to the ways in which exclusion, and political violence are related.

Maitreyi:

The other point that I wanted to make was generally about violence as a tool of exclusion. Now, violence as I pointed out, there are many structures, and processes through which exclusion is solidified. And, violence is one of the most gruesome tools through which exclusion is solidified, and certain groups are, so called, kept in their place through violence. So, it's not just violence, but it's also the threat of violence.

Maitreyi:

And, it doesn't happen just in the political sphere, it happens in the household sphere, it happens in the community sphere. It happens in many other ways, so in answer to that question, so I have a twofold answer. One, is that, yes, it could be related to exclusion, but there isn't a one-to-one correlation. And,

second, that power can be centralized by small groups, and they could use violence as a tool. And, finally, that violence is often a tool, and a very extreme tool to solidify exclusion. Thank you.

Zachary:

Thank you very much. Now, a question for Emmanuel, this comes from Mary Crave. She asks, "How has the involvement of youth been received in Rwanda? Are they treated as equals with adults, dismissed as being inexperienced, and naive, encouraged? What platform do they have to be heard in program design, and implementation?"

Emmanuel:

Thank you very much. No, Mary, some over in Rwanda no inequality between women, between men. Because, in Rwanda, the wives are well treated. Not summary in seed production, because someone who asking this question was mentioning how are the wives are treated by their husband. But, really the progress about this is everlasting. The wives are well treated by their husband, because the agriculture is bring them the income. Because, upon these jobs they are doing, they are making their money first of all.

Emmanuel:

Someone who are abusing the seats, and generating the money, and also who gathering their job as manpowers, also they are making their money from these jobs. So, there is no inequality within, or among husbands, and wives. There, things are well.

Zachary:

Okay, moving on to the next question. This question is for Betty, from Elizabeth Waithanji, what adjustments were made in the Kenyan markets to include people with different disabilities?

Betty:

Thank you very much Elizabeth for this important questions. The market infrastructure has been quite friendly to persons living with disabilities, because it does include ramps as well as rails. But, also the market infrastructure generally does not have multiples that would hinder, particularly persons with physical disabilities from being able to access, and utilize the market. Thank you very much.

Zachary:

Thank you, here's another question from Indra Klein. Throughout course of programs, and their implementation, was there any pushback? How were they addressed, and women for their motivated? This is for anyone, or maybe Manju first. Manju.

Manju:

Yeah, of course. Yeah, the pushbacks usually can come from internal to the organization, and this can be a very vivid reality. When people who are manager projects aren't sufficiently convinced about being proactive for inclusion, or empowerment. Or, when the parts are not able to understand fully the [inaudible 01:16:08] core, or the benefits for inclusion, then there will be resistances.

Manju:

The best way would be engage with your partners, to engage with your team to internal advocacy, and communicate. I would say these are important. But, yes there will be resistances, not because people really want to say, "I don't like inclusion," but because people have not understood. People come from different backgrounds, so they are so much sector oriented, or background oriented, or discipline oriented.

Manju:

So, you need to also be open to understand the push backs, where is it coming from, and what are the apprehensions. Sometimes, people are very much afraid of failures, of working with marginalized people. You need to provide a lot of support, and facilitation, and you have to do a lot of engagement, and collaboration around it, and it doesn't guarantee success. So, you have to have the ability to take the risk, and people are apprehensive. And, people keep on pushing it, they want to go to the lower hanging fruits. Thank you.

Zachary:

Thank you, would anyone else from the panel like to add? No?

Gerson:

Yes, I would like to mention the... Sorry.

Zachary:

Go ahead.

Gerson:

Yeah, I just wanted to mention that one the activities that we are promoting under the [inaudible 01:17:56] future activities it's the new masculinity strategy. It's just a way to involve both men, and women into the same activities, so that both sides can get the knowledge of what we are doing. But, at the time they are getting more conscious that both sides can actually do those activities the same way. And, they can earn the same knowledge, and can have access to the same financial, or economic opportunities.

Zachary:

Thank you very much. We have a question from Christopher Aji, are there problems with child labor in your country? If yes, how are you addressing it? This could be to maybe Maitreyi first, and then others could answer.

Maitreyi:

On child labor, I mean, in terms of, I won't be able to answer specific to countries. But, in general, I think that this is something, it's certainly part of the ILO Convention that most countries have signed up to, which requires kids to be in school until a certain age. And, then after that they can go to work.

Maitreyi:

It's a form of exclusion that keeps children out of school, but it is also a mechanism by which, especially for families, maximize family labor. In contexts, where schooling is not available, other kinds of livelihoods are not available. So, addressing child labor is a much more complex endeavor that requires both the existence of schools, but also the existence of livelihoods for families that then deploy the labor of their children. Over to you.

Zachary:

Does anyone else on the panel have anything to add to that, on how they're approaching this challenge?

Betty:

Let me just add also from Kenya that the issue child labor is very much a reality here, particularly because of the persistent poverty that we see among our people. And, because systems have failed in many, so that you have a high rate of dropout, and transition children who are not able to transition from the payment level onto the same level. Then, we lose a lot of children through that.

Betty:

And, also because of the way of life, you find that many families like my fellow panelist mentioned relying on family labor, and so you find children being pulled out of school, or sometimes even a family

has to make decisions. You'll find that a decision may be made for one, or the other child to be dropped out of school, and therefore they find themselves engaging in child labor.

Betty:

In Kenya, we have been seeing a trend where we have a lot of young boys dropping out of school, and engaging in multiple activities, whether the agricultural activity, or pastoral activities, or also economic activities like engaging in the transport sector. And, so this continues to be a real challenge in our country. Of course, there are legal provisions that outlaw child labor, but then also you have the dynamics of poverty playing into all these.

Betty:

We found in our gender analysis that even for young women are particularly vulnerable also, because if they're married off early then now, are you looking at them as a child, or are you looking at them as somebody's wife, and therefore they engaging in labor. So, all these dynamics begin to just complicate, and compound the issue of child labor. Thank you very much.

Zachary:

Thank you. The question from the [inaudible 01:22:19] Lopez two Agnes, what recommendations are coming from the field to reduce the practice of giving young girls in marriage? Any data on the reduction of this practice?

Agnes:

Sure, there are a number of very interesting interventions to help to reduce the age at marriage for young girls. The first one actually is something that doesn't need to be a specifically for small scale intervention. The most important one is to keep girls in school, because if you are able to keep girls in school that tends to reduce marriage age.

Agnes:

And, some programs have been looking at things like conditional cash transfer programs to keep girls in school, that's quite common. Others would have a conditional asset transfer program. So, for example, giving goes to parents so that they keep the girls in school, at least until age 18. I think India just had one where there were cash transfers made to the girl's bank account as long as she stayed in school until she was 18. So, there are a number of programs which try to do this.

Agnes:

Some of them are actually quite targeted to specific contexts where girls may face specific vulnerability. So, for example, giving adolescents safe spaces to gather so that they don't engage in risky sexual activity, and therefore run the risk of getting pregnant, and dropping out.

Zachary:

Okay, thank you. We're nearing the end of our webinar, so I would like to give the panelists, and our presenters an opportunity to give a few short remarks if they feel the desire to, based on the presentations, and Q&As of that they've experienced over the course of this webinar.

Agnes:

Can I start? This is Agnes.

Zachary:

Sure, go ahead. Yes.

Agnes:

I just wanted to say that I was really inspired, and enriched by all the presentations from the field. Because, I'm a researcher, and researchers try to find out what works, but we are not the ones who are actually implementing, and facing all the challenges on the ground. So, congratulations to our colleagues in the field, and I think that working together with evidence, data, and experience, we can help to have a more inclusive food system, and world in general. Thank you.

Zachary:

Thank you.

Maitreyi:

Can I just add to that, please?

Zachary:

Yes, please.

Maitreyi:

I also, in fact, Agnes said this ahead of me, but I really enjoyed the other analysts presentations. And, also the question, because what the questions did was to bring out the many ways in which exclusion plays out. And, each of the questions was so central to what the participants were personally grappling

within their work. So, having the exclusion is just so context specific that to be able to apply this frameworks that they did to actual real life issues, is extremely heartening. So, thank you very much for the opportunity.

Zachary:

Thank you. Any member of our panelists? Betty, would you have any closing comments?

Betty:

Yes, thank you very much to all who able to attend, and join us for this very enriching discussion. And, to my fellow panelists, thank you for all the knowledge that we brought forward. We thank you all for your great participation. I think we are much more inclusive with this presentation, very much.

Zachary:

Thank you. Manju?

Manju:

Yeah, thank you so much. Thank you everyone for your valuable time. I just wanted to say that inclusion is very much possible. The change of [inaudible 01:26:48] is very much possible. And, remember that gender norms can be changed first by the family, and for inclusion institution is the most important thing. So, setting the institutions right, and checking our own beliefs, and values, it has to start from there. I believe there will be always be positive pathways ahead for all of us. Thank you so much.

Zachary:

Thank you very much. Gerson, do you have any parting words for us? We might get back to him, I think he might have computer need issues. Emmanuel, are you still with us?

Emmanuel:

Yeah, I'm here.

Zachary:

Do you have any closing words for us?

Emmanuel:

[crosstalk 01:27:52] thank you. No, I would like thank you for this opportunity to share with you our experience. So, we are really welcome here in our country to see what we are doing, and I thank Mr. Raphael, who really helped me to get real linked with webinar. And, I hope next time we meeting.

Emmanuel:

And, I wish that we can open up a partnership with Oracle, which is an organization of young engineers in agriculture and the who are struggling for putting more efforts in agriculture to develop themselves, and also to develop their own country, as well as the world. Thank you very much.

Zachary:

Okay, thank you everyone. I think you're still having challenges with Gerson [inaudible 01:28:49]. I appreciate everyone's participation today. We had nearly 300 participants joining us from across the globe. Thank you all very much for your time, and joining this webinar on Why Inclusion Matters: Featuring Voices From The Field.

Zachary:

If you wouldn't take a moment before you leave us today, and head off on the rest of your day, morning or evening. If you would take time to [inaudible 01:29:17] the polls we have on your screen, we will be sharing out.

Zachary:

You'll also find the files for download from today's presentation tech that's on the left, and then additional links that are useful down on the lower left as well. We do take our feedback seriously, so we'll appreciate you taking a few moments to fill them out, and suggest how we can improve the webinars, and how we share knowledge in the future in our suggestion box down below.

Zachary:

And, with that, again I thank our presenters, and speakers today for sharing their experiences, and their knowledge. We greatly appreciate it, and thank you all for joining us today, and providing such a rich discussion of via the Chatbox, asking such excellent questions. Thank you again, have a wonderful day.

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [01:30:17]