



BUSINESS FIGHTS POVERTY: REBUILD BETTER

# THREE INSIGHTS BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SYSTEMS

DATE: FRIDAY 25/06

THEME: PARTNERSHIP

FORMAT: WEBINAR

## SPEAKERS

- **Taryn Barclay**, Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement, Cargill
- **Etienne Labande**, Deputy Country Director and Officer in Charge, Honduras, United Nations World Food Programme
- **Chris Noble**, Head of Corporate Partnerships, CARE

## Moderator:

Katie Hyson, Director, Thought Leadership,  
*Business Fights Poverty*

IN THIS WEBINAR, OUR PANELLISTS DISCUSSED WHAT MAKES PARTNERSHIPS SUCCESSFUL, HOW TO STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS AGAINST CRISES, AND WHY CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATIONS CAN HELP TO BRING ABOUT SYSTEMIC CHANGE. OUR SPEAKERS TOUCHED ON TOPICS RELATED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES, THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SUPPLY CHAINS, AND THE ADVOCACY REACH OF PARTNERSHIPS.

**FOR CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATIONS TO SUCCEED, IT IS VITAL THAT THEY INCLUDE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, AND MONITORING OF PROJECTS.**

## KEY INSIGHTS

### **1 SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS ARE INCLUSIVE AND HAVE LONG-TERM GOALS**

Our panellists kicked off the session by highlighting the key roles that partnerships can play in tackling global challenges, such as health and poverty crises. For instance, collaborative initiatives in the agricultural sector help protect water resources and offer training opportunities for smallholder farmers so they can adopt sustainable practices and increase productivity. Speakers argued that for cross-sector collaborations to succeed, it is vital that they include local communities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of projects. They also emphasized that knowledge and good practices must be shared with partners and that the

partnership should establish long-term goals. Experimentation, failure, and learning are common features of partnerships that embrace a global development perspective and aim to address the big issues.

difference to the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable when those collaborations are built on a strong purpose, when the partners trust each other, and when there is sufficient capacity for quick adaptation.

**THE PANDEMIC HAS SHOWN THAT COLLABORATIONS CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE WHEN THOSE COLLABORATIONS ARE BUILT ON A STRONG PURPOSE, WHEN THE PARTNERS TRUST EACH OTHER, AND WHEN THERE IS SUFFICIENT CAPACITY FOR QUICK ADAPTATION.**

## **2 STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAINS MEANS PLACING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE**

Etienne Labande reminded us of the impact of COVID-19 on global supply chains and that the negative effects of the pandemic have been unequally distributed. In his view, the agricultural sector has an opportunity to rebuild better by focusing on the human component of food systems and investing in social capital where it is most needed. For Taryn Barclay, partnerships can be powerful instruments to improve food and nutrition security by bringing together organisations with different areas of expertise, involving all stakeholders, and encouraging innovation. The pandemic has shown that collaborations can make a real

## **3 SYSTEMIC CHANGE REQUIRES SYSTEM-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS**

Across several industries, and also within the state and civil society sectors, there is a widespread feeling that the time has come for systemic change in how our economies and societies work. With respect to this, Chris Noble explained that nobody can do it alone and that system-level partnerships with funding, ambition, time, and clear objectives are crucial to delivering the systemic change we need if we truly want to rebuild better. As well, partnerships between companies, NGOs, and international institutions can leverage their relationships with local and national governments to become influential advocates for public policies—for example, promoting sustainable practices, ensuring smallholder farmers are supported financially, and including those farmers in the decision-making processes that affect their communities.

## **RESOURCES**

- [Cargill-CARE Partnership](#)
- [United Nations World Food Programme](#)
- [CARE 2020 Program Strategy: Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience to Climate Change](#)