The SDG2 Advocacy gathered key voices across the SDG2 space to co-create a day of joint learning, and networking September 21st, on the sidelines of UNGA 78 High-level week, with an amazing list of speakers and many participants, hosted at NYU Pless Hall.

The nature of the global crisis is changing. Needs are growing while response is staggering. ¼ of world nations are paying more in debt servicing than on health and education. There is a seismic poverty slide that is underway with 1.5 billion people affected. People who are getting poorer need social protection, nutrition enhancing and hunger reducing relief, in parallel to planning and programming for resilience.

David Nabarro
While we need food security for all, we also need to ensure access to healthy diets, uphold sustainable and equitable agriculture and production practices, support producers, suppliers and retailers, and prevent land loss and food waste.

There is no one size fits all solution; working with local actors on the ground to understand local contexts and implement programming will ensure more sustainable outcomes.

There are many global challenges in today’s context that need to be addressed in an interlinked way. We cannot focus only on food security or nutrition, climate or development, financing or reform; we must deliver on these challenges in a cohesive interconnected way.

To improve livelihoods, raise agricultural productivity, ensure access to good food, finance and markets, timely data is essential. Proven effective solutions through evidence generation must inform policy changes and institutional reforms.

From public sector to private sector, UN agencies to civil society, usual suspects to new actors, collaboration, coordination and alignment around national plans and programming, and shared messaging can accelerate action and progress.

Progress needs to happen on a continuum with multiple parallel processes
While we need food security for all, we also need to ensure access to healthy diets, uphold sustainable and equitable agriculture and production practices, support producers, suppliers and retailers, and prevent land loss and food waste.

Prioritising localisation and country contexts will ensure better outcomes
There is no one size fits all solution; working with local actors on the ground to understand local contexts and implement programming will ensure more sustainable outcomes.

Bridging areas of work and breaking down silos will mean greater gains for everyone
There are many global challenges in today’s context that need to be addressed in an interlinked way. We cannot focus only on food security or nutrition, climate or development, financing or reform; we must deliver on these challenges in a cohesive interconnected way.

Evidence, built on reliable and timely data will lead to informed policy decisions and implementation
To improve livelihoods, raise agricultural productivity, ensure access to good food, finance and markets, timely data is essential. Proven effective solutions through evidence generation must inform policy changes and institutional reforms.

Working across sectors with diverse partners will lead to greater impact
From public sector to private sector, UN agencies to civil society, usual suspects to new actors, collaboration, coordination and alignment around national plans and programming, and shared messaging can accelerate action and progress.

I believe in the power of movements. To address malnutrition we have to bring together business, civil society, UN agencies, governments, academia, around coalitions for a common cause. If you want to influence the agenda long term you need to connect with local actors, touching on every component and cycle of a person’s life, with nationally driven and locally supported work.

Afshan Khan
Scaling Up Nutrition Coordinator
Session 1: Saving Lives Now
Raising the urgency and need for actions to prevent further backsliding, the discussion highlighted the latest data on global and US food insecurity and priority areas for action. From global to local, to the most left behind, to better data and research to support interventions.

Child nutrition needs to be prioritized. At least $2 billion is needed to treat child wasting, with cost effective nutrition interventions.

We can save more lives and see more impact and effective programming by partnering and investing in local communities.

Accountability is key for commitments made, reaching vulnerable communities, measuring impact, and for sustainable outcomes.

Session 2: Building Resilience
Looking at key interventions and actions needed to ensure nutrition resilience, livelihoods for smallholder farmers, costing of food systems transformation, smarter agriculture, and empowering people for long-term impact, especially women and children.

Supporting and assisting smallholder farmers to produce nutritious food is crucial for building resilience and healthy futures, and ensuring their livelihoods and health.

Our focus must remain steadfast on women and children who are most affected by hunger and malnutrition.

Nutrition programming, including school meals, are crucial to nutrition resilience, while addressing malnutrition treatment and prevention.

Session 3: Securing the Future
Unpacking the complexity of immediate and long-term efforts needed in order to make progress, from strong infrastructures, to financial systems that support those most in need, while addressing urgent global climate challenges and mobilizing around key moments including COP28.

Restructuring the global financial architecture is key to unlocking financing for systems transformation and progress.

Data and evidence generation for impact is key, leading to solutions that are context adapted and can be scaled up.

We must work across value chains, both with SMEs and large companies to support and influence positive change.

Raising consumer awareness on the value of healthy foods and having a consumer centered approach is crucial.

*Thank you to everyone who participated and nourished a meaningful exchange, helping to foster a community of allies and build energy for SDG2.