

4SD FOUNDATION

SKILLS, SYSTEMS & SYNERGIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Enabling leaders to navigate complex challenges, create collective actions and accelerate systems change.

CAN TODAY'S MEGA PROBLEMS BE SOLVED?

Polycrisis has become the norm. There is no single solution to climate change, poverty, or inequity. No nation can prevent future pandemics, conflicts, or food crises. Collective working is a must.

Leaders, at global and local levels, are under huge pressure to mount effective responses quickly. They are responding amid increasingly limited resources, deepening inequalities, intense geopolitical tensions and social fragility. They are finding it easier to focus on specific aspects of an issue, rather than the situation as a whole.

However, the ability to consider the bigger picture and expose the underlying causes is critical. This systems approach will have the greatest likelihood of long-term success.

In the next decade, societies and their leaders will have to develop their systems thinking skills to confront the complexity of challenges they face. The alternative is to be overwhelmed and fail.



STATE OF THE WORLD

88% of the SDG targets won't be achieved by 2030

Climate, conflict and economic shocks were the main causes of acute food insecurity for almost 258 million people in 2022.

Every one of the fourteen countries most at risk from climate change are suffering conflict. Thirteen of them face humanitarian crisis as of February 2024.

82% of the world's energy supply comes from fossil fuels, while 2023 was the hottest year on record.

SYSTEMS APPROACHES: KEY TO COMPLEX CHALLENGES



Complex challenges are intricately linked within dynamic systems. Unpacking just one symptom can reveal a cascade of underlying causes. Making change happen calls for people-centered “living” systems approaches, as the essential processes of life are interconnected.

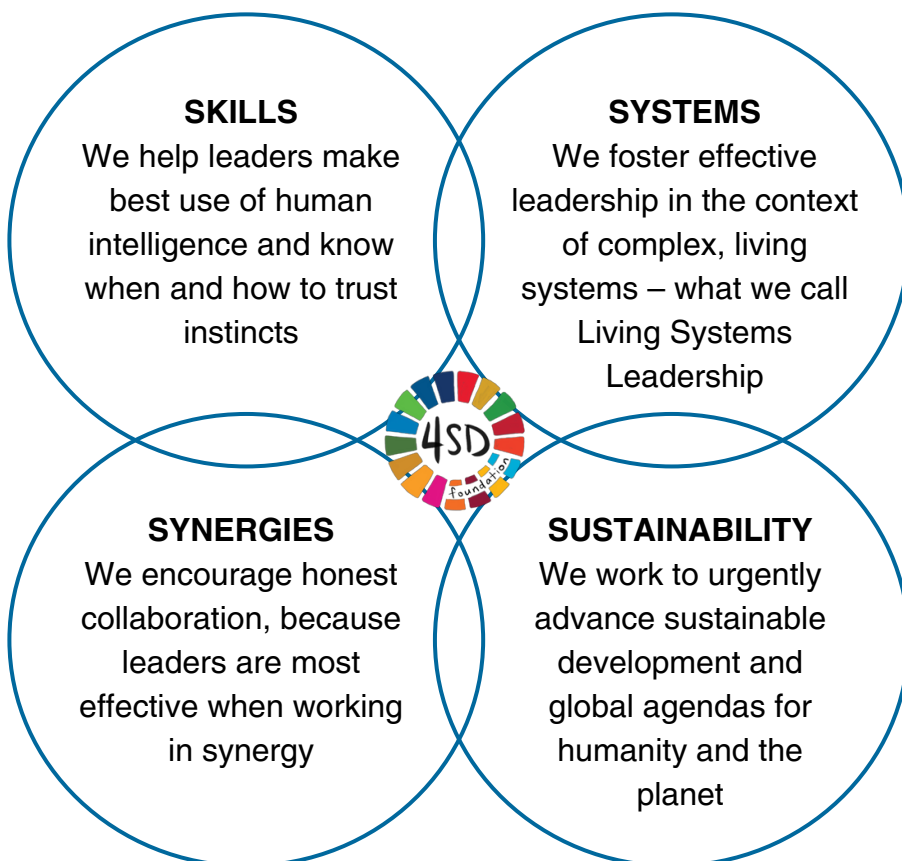


But many practitioners find it hard to think and work with systems because initially it can be overwhelming and time-consuming. It can also feel risky to approach issues differently than “the way it has always been done”.



Taking a systems approach requires space, time and opportunity. This allows leaders to agree on their purpose, to build working relationships and to trust that they can share information freely with each other. When they can focus on the whole of the challenge – in addition to the small details - they have the potential to accelerate sustainable systems change.

4SD FOUNDATION - ENABLING LEADERS TO FACE COMPLEXITY



4SD Foundation is committed to improving the skills of emerging and established leaders who function at the food-climate-health nexus in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.



We equip leaders with the skills to **bridge boundaries between, across and within their living systems** so they can be effective for sustainable development.

We support leaders to find **comfort in complexity**, to **turn confusion into curiosity**, and **shift a fear of the unknown into an inspiring challenge**.

Whether it is the **head of an international NGO**, a **local municipality mayor** or a **young farmer leader**, systems leadership is valuable to **anyone**, and **everywhere**.

With our support, leaders learn to **navigate amidst complex systems** using language and perspectives **relevant to their context**, while **adapting strategies** to align with the **political, social and economic realities** of the communities they serve. By partnering and **fostering open dialogue**, they unite **diverse stakeholders** and interests, creating an environment where **mutual understanding** thrives. Importantly, they **manage conflicts constructively**, embracing differing opinions as catalysts for change, nurturing a culture where **every contribution is valued** and fostering an **environment of shared success**.

BEHIND 4SD FOUNDATION



David Nabarro

Strategic Director

Since gaining his medical qualification in 1974, David has worked tirelessly for five decades – in communities and hospitals, within governments, civil society organisations and universities, and in United Nations programmes – to galvanise action to address complex challenges facing humanity. He remains a leading global voice on pandemic preparedness, crisis response and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Florence Lasbennes

Managing Director

Since earning her agronomy degree, Florence has dedicated her career to rural economics, land issues, food security, and post-conflict reconstruction. Her work spans influential positions within the French government and at the United Nations. She remains steadfast in her commitment to addressing some of the most pressing challenges in global food security.



WE HELP SYSTEMS TO CHANGE...

Tailored advice, intimate learning experiences, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and tailored resources are the most effective way to support leaders and make progress towards the equitable, just and resilient world we want to see, for people and the planet.

SINCE 2018...

+2,500 Speaking Engagements

David Nabarro is one of the most sought-after contributors globally on a range of topics. This includes +1,000 media engagements on COVID-19.

+270 Senior Leaders

from government, business, civil society, and multilateral agencies have received direct mentoring from 4SD on organisational development, sense-making, multi-stakeholder integration and risk management.

+100 Open Online Briefings

have provided a unique space to support people make sense of the pandemic. The recordings have received over 17,000 views on YouTube.

Global Processes and Crises

4SD has supported global pandemic response, the cost-of-living crisis, food systems transformation, and efforts to respond to climate change.

+100,000 Participants

have contributed to more than 1,500 inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues using 4SD's dialogue methodology under the auspices of the UN Food Systems Summit.

2 online platforms

have been designed by 4SD to support convenors of multi-stakeholder dialogues. The Summit Dialogues Gateway has received over 1.5 million individual visits.

WHAT NEXT?

4SD Foundation will continue to encourage convergence of policies and actions on food, water and nutrition security, climate, biodiversity and nature, taking account of the interests of small-scale food producers, women and children.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS CHANGE WITH US



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contact@4sd.org



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