

Social Determinants of Health

x Climate Change

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Team



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Agenda

I. Project Overview

I. How Social Determinants Intersect

I. How to Address Social Determinants

I. Closing Remarks

I

Project Overview



Open Data Roundtable

Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for
Social Determinants of Health

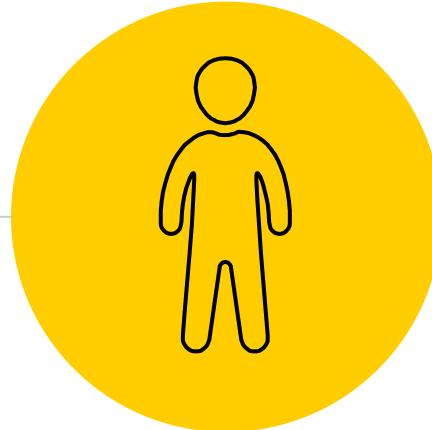
Through a series of workshops, speakers, and discussions, participants will design multiple targets that **reduce and ultimately eliminate** five Social Determinants of Health (SDoH):

- Economic inequality
- Transportation disparities
- Housing instability
- Education barriers
- Food insecurity



Project Goals

- Understand how social determinants affect individuals who live in climate-affected areas.
- Find connections in the ways that social determinants interact with each other before and during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Identify key recommendations for addressing social determinants of health in climate-affected communities.



Human-Centered Design

An approach to user research that focuses on the human perspective of the people who we are designing for.



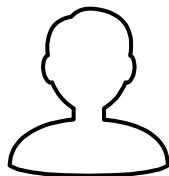
Methodology: Human-Centered Design

- We interviewed people who work in different sectors of SDoH, asking a unique set of questions based on each person's expertise and experiences.
- Community leaders who work in SDoH spaces are in touch with their community's needs.
- While everyone has a unique story to tell, themes and insights emerge across interviews over time.
- Any artifacts created are fictional amalgamations based on these themes & insights.



Participants

Sectors: Housing, Transportation, Food Security/Agriculture, Economic Vitality, Education



We interviewed
22 people

Who do they serve?

- 8 from islands
- 5 from coastal regions
- 5 from landlocked regions
- 4 from riparian* regions

Where do they work?

- 12 for Community Orgs
- 4 for State/Local Government
- 3 for Federal Government
- 3 for Research/Academia

*Riparian = Land which borders a river



II

How do social determinants intersect?

KEY INSIGHT #1

**Many health problems are rooted
in social factors.**



There are many issues you cannot solve as a medical practitioner. You can offer Bandaid solutions, but people need money, housing, proper nutrition...

Participant 12, RI/MA

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Healthcare

John's partner is undocumented and therefore doesn't have access to health insurance. English isn't his first language and he finds it tough to communicate with providers.



Social Identity

As a family of color, the Serratos are more likely to face disparities in income, opportunity access, and healthcare outcomes.



Economic Security

John has been experiencing severe back pain. His doctor attributes this to his job working at a local steel plant, which involves a lot of physical labor. While John wants to take a leave, his family needs the income.



Education

John's daughter is able to receive nutritious meals and health check ups at school. However, shutdowns from the pandemic hinder access to these resources.



John Serrato and his family live in Maintown, a historically underserved, low-income area. A variety of social determinants can affect their well-being.



Food & Water Security

Although Maintown has several grocery stores, they don't stock nutritious foods that fall within the family's budget.



Transportation

The Serratos cannot afford a car. Limited public transportation makes getting to work, school, and appointments difficult.

KEY INSIGHT #2

**People of color & asset-limited
communities are disproportionately affected by the
intersection of SDoH.**



We declared **racism a public health crisis**. Access to healthcare, preventative services, and overall basic needs are not being met for people of color.

Participant 15, Connecticut

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In this country, your zip code is a greater determinant of health outcomes than your genetic code.

Participant 10, DC/National

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Economic disparity leads to health disparity.

Participant 14, USVI

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KEY INSIGHT #3

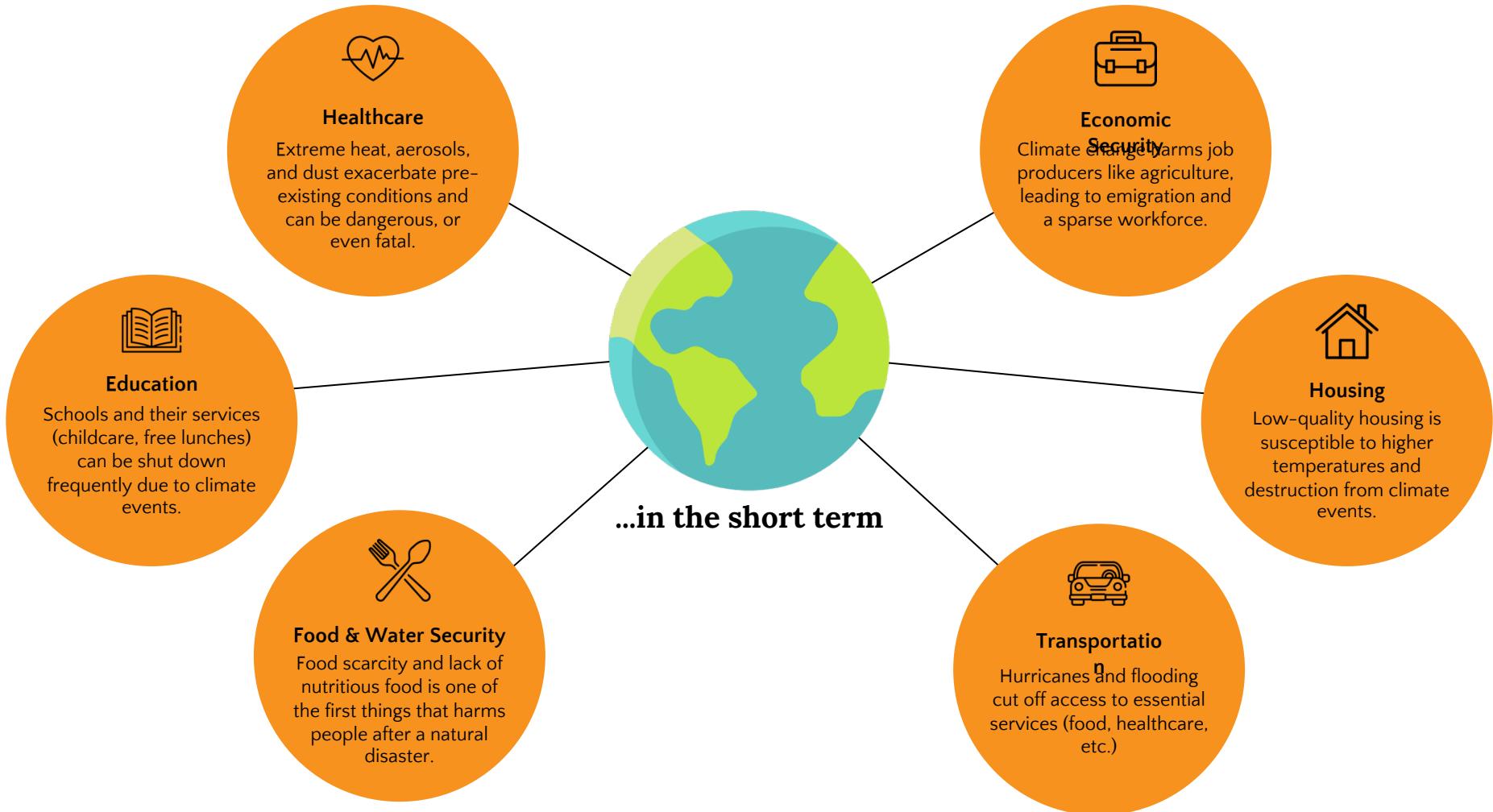
**Climate change is a threat multiplier
for SDoH.**

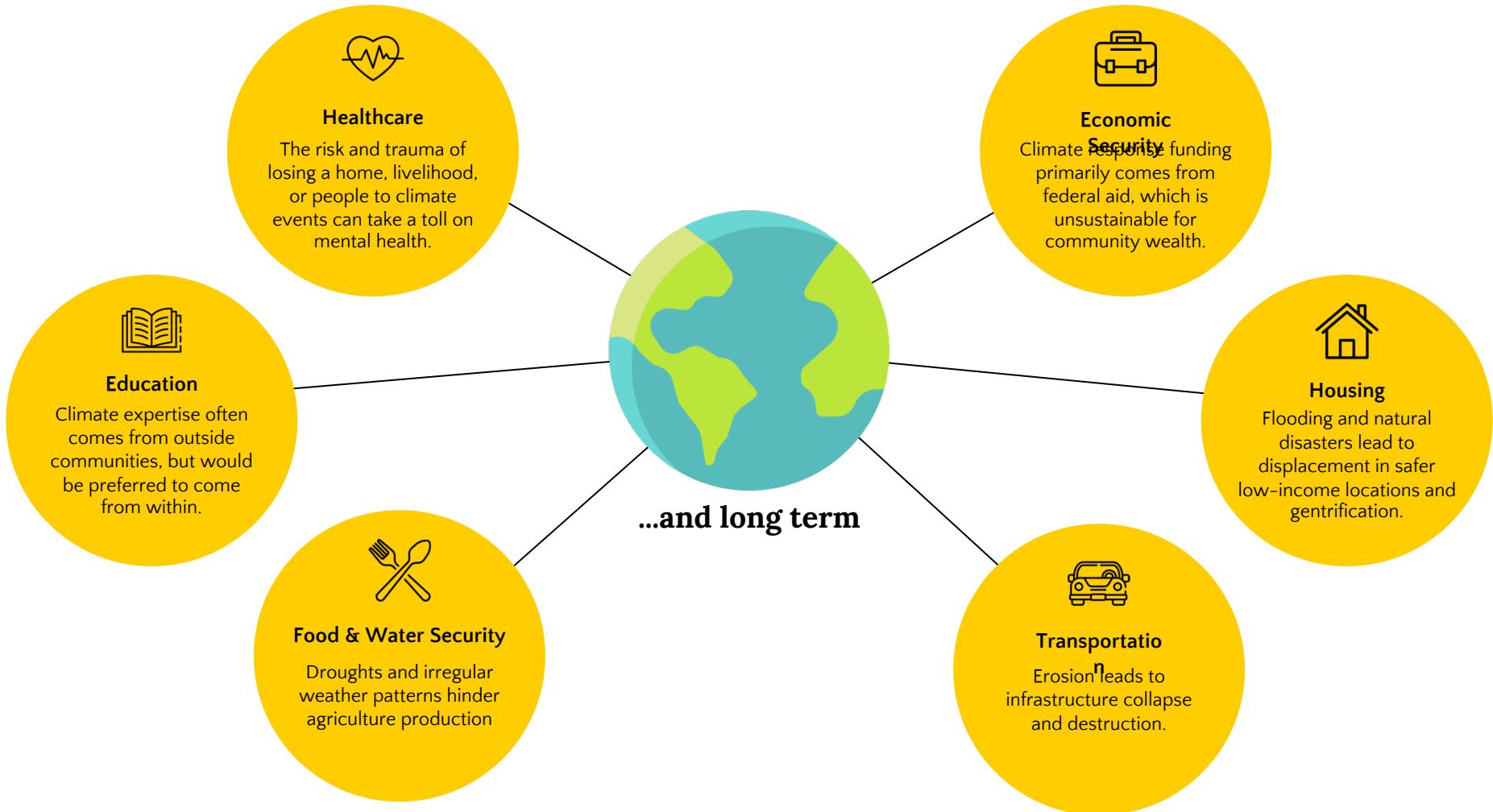


Disparities are magnified. Climate change touches most of the residents' daily lives.

Participant 11, USVI

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III

How might we Address Social Determinants?

Key Pillars

01.

Empowering
Communities

02.

Fostering
Collaboration

03.

Influencing
Political Action

01.

Empowering Communities

Provide funding & allocate resources directly to the right organizations in the community.

- Allocate resources to empower long-term community vitality, not just crisis response.
- Fund community organizations because government may not have the capacity & speed to respond.

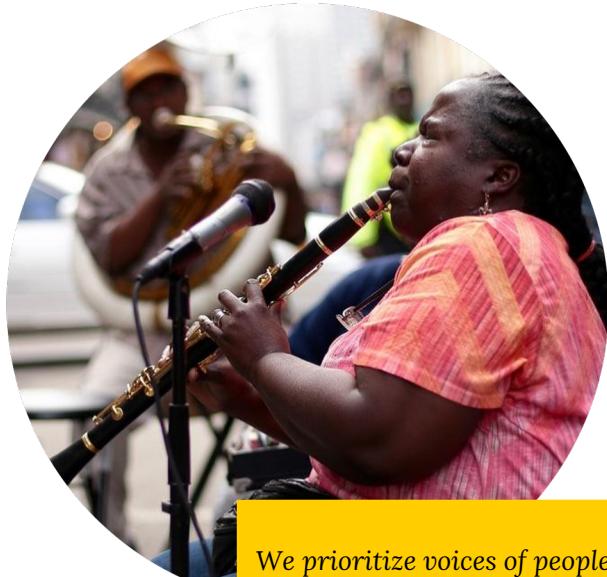


While governments are trying to build capacity, nonprofits are already moving. We did 33 home rebuilds in two years. Government-funded contractors did 9.

Participant II, USVI

Make communities part of solution-building in a way that promotes ownership, wealth & resilience.

- Build & maintain non-transactional relationships with community members.
- Be conscious of historical injustices & show progress towards solutions rather than just focusing on problems.

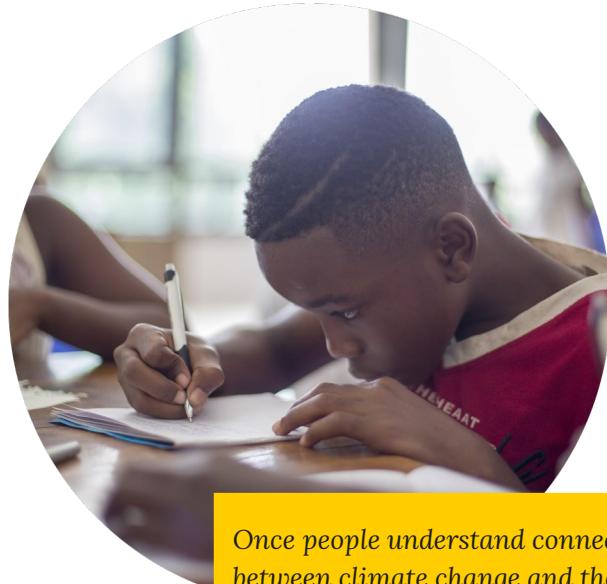


We prioritize voices of people who have lived through and experienced issues in New Orleans.

Participant 8, New Orleans

Educate communities about how they are affected by social determinants to increase investment in solutions.

- Convince people that climate change is personal to promote advocacy.
- Consider accessibility in communications to promote awareness of information & resources.
- Reduce stigma associated with SDoH.



Once people understand connections between climate change and their personal health, they will be more likely to take more action.

Participant 10, DC/National

02.

Fostering Collaboration

Change requires prioritization & buy-in from the grasstops and advocacy from the grassroots.

- Find community members to bridge the grasstops & grassroots, and vulnerable populations.
- Build shared definitions across grasstops and grassroots.
- Leverage what exists and meet people where they are.



In the last 3 years, [our school] realized we had a responsibility for families outside of the building.

Participant 6, Camden

Break silos across sectors

Diversity of skills and roles enriches work and impact.



“Everyone in the task force knows what their gifts are, and shares them with each other to move forward.”

Participant 14, U.S. Virgin Islands

Operationalize equity by embedding it into metrics and systemic processes.

Enable collection of more granular SDoH data because granular data = actionable data.



We use an Equity Impact Assessment, a tool that helps us do a scan of what unintended consequences might be. Who would be disproportionately impacted?

Participant 15, Connecticut



03.

Influencing Political Action

Encourage and enfranchise civic engagement in order to elect local/grassroots officials who prioritize community needs.



We want to see more traction on action from cities, counties, and state. The Biden administration is trying really hard to put parameters in place that allow us to do these things, but Florida isn't there.

Participant 13, Miami

Ensure that decision-makers create policies to address SDoH based on community needs.

- ◉ Foster more dialogue between decision-makers & people they affect.
- ◉ Raise awareness of misleading data & harmful policy.



Decision makers are disconnected from vulnerabilities within their communities. State governments need frequent meetings with community leaders to understand what they need.

Participant 7, Puerto Rico

Hold elected officials accountable.

Combat misinformation, performative solutions, and gaslighting.

Misinformation

There is rampant disinformation and misinformation. Radio stations are spreading info that make people vote against their own interest.

Participant 13, Miami

Performative solutions

Government specializes in cosmetic solutions. Every time there's a change in administration, they have bills to end poverty, but it's just for publicity's sake.

Participant 9, Puerto Rico

Gaslighting

During Hurricane Maria, the government said only 64 people died. We visited 79 municipalities and public health brigades, and found many more deaths.

Participant 7, Puerto Rico

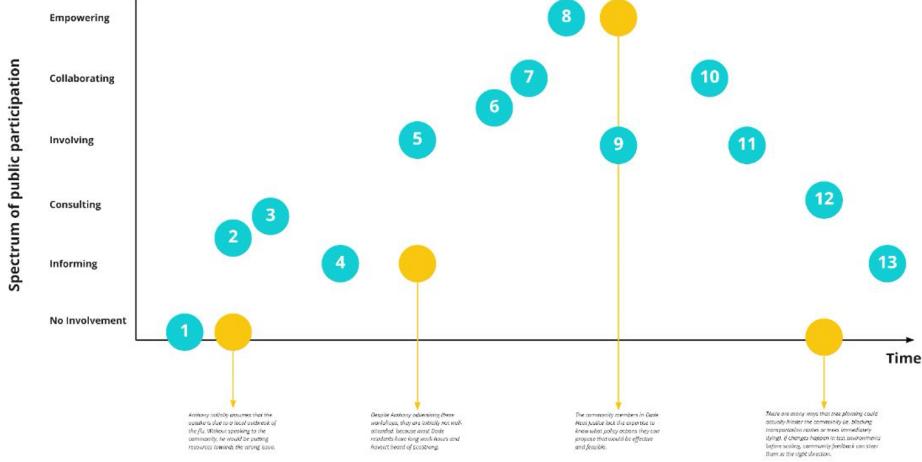
Journey Map A: How Change Happens from Grassroots to Grasstops

Miami EcoStrong is a community organization in a neighborhood called Overtown. This community identifies as 75% Black, 20% Hispanic or Latino, and used to be a thriving hub of Black culture and businesses.

Anthony Wilson is a Project Manager at Miami EcoStrong who grew up near Overtown, and is passionate about building the community's health and sustainability.

Emilia Perera is an Urban Designer at the Miami planning department seeking ways to integrate racial justice into her work.

Casey Heron is the Miami Chief of Urban Design, and wants to make lasting impact with funding.



Journey Map Example



IV

Closing Remarks



Design with, not for.

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Recommendations for Innovation Programming

Empowering Communities

- Have a community-driven challenge/priority be the focus for solutioning
- Utilize co-design and compensate communities for contributions
- Solicit community feedback on outcomes after programs

Fostering Collaboration

- Set diversity standards for attendee lists and make events accessible to all (e.g., by location, sector, etc.)
- Ensure grassroots & grassroots align on challenges and definitions of success
- Embed equity-related considerations into judging processes for any solutions

Influencing Political Action

- Design goals/solutions to be time-bound and measurable to promote accountability
- Facilitate more frequent interactions & listening sessions between decision-makers and community members
- Actively monitor and combat misinformation



Thanks!

Any *questions* ?

You can email joshua.prasad@hhs.gov