

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Faith leaders' opinion on Myanmar nutrition status
<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 3 September 2024 10:43 GMT +06:30
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Naw Phoebe
<b>EVENT LANGUAGE</b>	Myanmar
<b>HOST LOCATION</b>	Yangon, Myanmar (Burma)
<b>GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE</b>	national level
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	World Vision Myanmar ENOUGH campaign
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/54631/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/54631/</a>



The outcomes from Nutrition Dialogues will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on women and children and young people. Each Dialogue contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal
- Available as public data on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal "Explore Feedback" page
- Available publicly within a .xls file alongside all Feedback Form data for advanced analysis
- Synthesised into reports that cover which nutrition challenges are faced, what actions are urgently needed and how should these be taken forward – particular, in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris, March 2025.

# SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

9

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	1	19-29
5	30-49	3	50-74	0	75+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

4	Female	5	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	1	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	9	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
0	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
0	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	0	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
0	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	0	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
0	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

## OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The 9 participants are all faith leaders at the national level and they are full-time staff from the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC). They are heads of the main departments under MBC. They are from different ethnic groups and backgrounds. Some are from rural areas but few are from urban.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## FRAMING

The dialogue started with a presentation of the objectives of conducting a nutrition dialogue with faith leaders. Global and national statistics on food insecurity and malnutrition and their impact on children which need urgent attention were presented. The need to give attention to this issue is also important for faith leaders as one of the duty bearers is highlighted. The introductory included the mobilization of the church leaders to call to arms the churches and congregation to take action for children's nutrition so that children will grow up holistically.

## NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

[https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Enough-Campaign-overview-Nutrition-Dialogue\\_Faith-leadersMBC.pdf](https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Enough-Campaign-overview-Nutrition-Dialogue_Faith-leadersMBC.pdf)

## DISCUSSION

On September 3, 2024, World Vision organized a nutrition dialogue with Faith Leaders of Myanmar Baptist Convention Township. 9 Faith Leaders participated in the session to discuss child malnutrition and the responsibilities of the individuals and churches to tackle the nutrition issues. A World Vision staff member facilitated the session with four key questions. 1. What are the feelings or concerns about nutrition the church communities? 2. How to ensure good nutrition for all in the church communities? 3. What actions might be needed to ensure good nutrition for children? 4. Who needs to be involved to enable us to achieve good nutrition for all in the church communities?

# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

Faith leaders from the Myanmar Baptist Convention have identified several key challenges contributing to children's nutrition issues, categorized into modern challenges and social and religious aspects. Nutrition knowledge is important for parents to prepare nutritious food for their children. It is not meant for expensive food but affordable and accessible food which provides nutrition. Given the country's situation, where half of the population needs humanitarian aid, many children have high nutritional needs. The gap in access to quality food is increasing. It is necessary to study whether the food children are eating is healthy. The first 1,000 days of a child's life is critical and support needs from various sectors. Pregnancy care is important for a mother to give birth to a healthy child. Mental health is also not to forget about when considering general health for mothers and children. Modern challenges include children are easy to access fast food, the conflict between screen time and nutrition time, and the impact of modern cultural practices on the holistic development of children. On the social and religious front, there is a noticeable decline in individuals and organizations providing social assistance, coupled with increasing restrictions for humanitarian assistance. Additionally, faith leaders emphasize the importance of nutrition being a valued topic within churches, aligning with the belief that God desires everyone to have access to proper nutrition. These insights highlight the multifaceted nature of the problem and the need for a comprehensive approach to address children's nutrition in Myanmar. These discussions highlight the multifaceted approach needed to address child nutrition, encompassing education, food quality, mental and physical health, modern challenges, and the role of social and religious institutions.

## URGENT ACTIONS

Faith leaders have identified three urgent actions to address issues like food insecurity, malnutrition, and the difficulty of accessing quality and nutritious foods. They emphasize the importance of:

1. Parents also need to be educated.
2. Education and awareness at the grassroots level are essential.
3. Listening to the voices of children and youth in policy changes.
4. Strengthening collaboration between humanitarian organizations and the faith community.
5. Advocating for increased contributions from donors to tackle children's nutrition issues.

These actions are seen as crucial steps in improving children's nutrition and ensuring their well-being. In the second round of discussions, faith leaders focused on identifying who should participate in tackling issues such as food insecurity, malnutrition, and the difficulty of accessing quality and nutritious foods. According to the faith leaders, it is essential to consider three aspects: the voices of children and youth in policy change, collaboration among humanitarian organizations and the faith community, and increased contributions from donors.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the nutrition dialogue with faith leaders, they discussed their concerns and responsibilities of the people regarding children's nutrition. While they agreed on many points, two distinct perspectives emerged. The first perspective attributes the root cause of child nutrition issues to the modern social lifestyle and the lack of emphasis on children's nutrition in society. The second perspective, however, links these issues to the spiritual weakness within church communities. According to this view, the prevalence of food insecurity and insufficient daily nutrition for children is a result of inadequate spiritual growth among church members. This spiritual weakness leads to increased selfishness and a reluctance to support those in need. Both perspectives highlight different but interconnected aspects of the challenges faced in addressing children's nutrition.

## OVERALL SUMMARY

On September 3, 2024, World Vision organized a nutrition dialogue with Faith Leaders of Myanmar Baptist Convention Township. 9 Faith Leaders participated in the session to discuss about child malnutrition and the responsibilities of the individuals and churches to tackle the nutrition issues. A World Vision staff member facilitated the session with four key questions.

1. What are the feelings or concerns about nutrition the church communities?

2. How to ensure good nutrition for all in the church communities?

3. What actions might be needed to ensure good nutrition for children?

4. Who needs to be involved to enable us to achieve good nutrition for all in the church communities?

The two-hour dialogue produced valuable insights. In the first round of discussion; faith leaders highlight the multifaceted approach needed to address child nutrition, encompassing education, food quality, mental and physical health, modern challenges, and the role of social and religious institutions.

In the second round of discussions, faith leaders focused on identifying who should participate in tackling issues such as food insecurity, malnutrition, and the difficulty of accessing quality and nutritious foods. According to the faith leaders, it is essential to consider the three aspects: the voices of children and youth in policy change, collaboration among humanitarian organizations and the faith community, and increased contributions from donors.

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

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## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Myanmar Baptist Convention is a faith partner of World Vision Myanmar in the implementation of development activities in the church communities. WVM has an active MoU with MBC for 5 years. WVM partners with MBC to work in the church communities outside of the target areas agreed by the central government. The engagement pattern in this dialogue is like a focus group discussion where the facilitator started with the introduction and call for inputs from the participants. As many as participants were encouraged to share their different views on the children's nutrition.

## METHOD AND SETTING

A small group dialogue session was held with 9 faith leaders. The discussion was structured around two aspect which concern and responsibility. The session was led by one facilitator and supported by two note-takers. It is the info dialogue inside the partner's building and the discussion is open and frank.

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

To respect the opinions of those who participate in the dialogue.

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgment to the team members from the advocacy and Faith and Development department, helping to conduct the dialogue sessions. Thanks to the Myanmar Baptist Convention for participating in the discussion and sharing their opinions and resources for this dialogue.