

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>WORKSHOP TITLE</b>	World Vision UK Youth Advocacy Network Workshop
<b>WORKSHOP DATE</b>	Monday, 1 January 2024 17:00 GMT +00:00
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Abby Jones, Policy and Campaigns Advisor, World Vision UK
<b>EVENT LANGUAGE</b>	Led in English with French translation services
<b>HOST CITY</b>	London, United Kingdom
<b>GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE</b>	Countries featured: Sierra Leone, Niger, Bangladesh, UK (previously Ukraine), UK, Romania.
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	World Vision UK
<b>WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/54819/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/54819/</a>



The outcomes from Children's workshops will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on children and young people. Each Workshop 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

2 12-15

7 16-18

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

6 Female

3 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

The group featured a diverse group of young people from 5 countries - Sierra Leone, Niger, Bangladesh, UK and Ukraine. They come from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds, religions and ethnicities and there was a mix between the young people of those from rural and urban communities.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING

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In response to the huge global food security and nutrition crisis the UK Government hosted a Global Food Security Summit in London on 20th November 2023, coordinated in partnership with Somalia and the United Arab Emirates as part of its COP28 Presidency. The aim of the summit was to focus international attention on the worsening global food security crisis and help boost efforts to achieve SDG 2. The Summit focused on four action pillars for food security and nutrition: 1. Creating new approaches to ending preventable deaths of children. 2. Harnessing science and technology for food security. 3. Anticipating and preventing famine and food security crises. 4. Building a climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture sector and food system. World Vision UK successfully advocated with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) for the inclusion of a global youth advocate Call to Action that would be included as part of the summit activities. Youth Advocates came together to put forward their recommendations for world leaders under the summit's 4 theme action pillars, with space to expand beyond these four themes if the young people chose. These findings are based on the discussions with the World Vision UK Youth Advocacy Network held by zoom ahead of the summit.

# SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

### 1) Ending preventable deaths of children/the impact of food insecurity on children

The young people shared how hunger and malnutrition significantly impact children's education, health, and future prospects. They explained how food insecurity hampers school attendance and concentration, linking it to cycles of poverty, and how it stunts physical and cognitive development, hindering learning and future opportunities. They shared how this is particularly challenging for girls, such as in Bangladesh, where food scarcity exacerbates the toll of menstruation on their bodies. They also highlight how hunger also causes emotional stress, anxiety, and social isolation, while physically weakening immune systems and leading to chronic illnesses like anaemia. Using the example of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, they emphasise that basic nutrition is essential for children's education and personal growth.

### 2) Conflict

The young people explained how conflict further worsens food insecurity by disrupting access to necessities. They cite crises like Gaza, where violence blocks food distribution, raises prices, and displaces communities, leading to poor sanitation and heightened vulnerability to disease and hunger. They describe communities trapped by conflict, unable to access dwindling supplies, with trade routes deliberately targeted, agricultural activities disrupted, leaving communities with few survival options, and NGOs facing significant challenges delivering aid due to violence and obstructed routes, compounding the crisis.

### 3) Climate Change

They explored how climate exacerbates food insecurity, with extreme weather events like floods destroying agricultural land and reducing crop yields. In Bangladesh, floods make farming and food access increasingly difficult, leaving children and communities vulnerable to malnutrition and famine. Decreasing land fertility and environmental degradation worsen these challenges, disrupting children's growth, education, and well-being.

## URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

This was discussed in the context of addressing the global decision-makers who attended the Global Food Security Summit, so the below recommendations are addressed to the world leaders present:

- 1) Provide humanitarian aid and funding to support communities impacted by food insecurity.
- 2) Invest in local food production, including agricultural development, small-scale farming, and sustainable food systems.
- 3) Expand school meal programmes to ensure children have food while learning, and support school gardening initiatives to grow nutritious food locally.
- 4) Develop and implement nutrition education programmes in schools, communities, and healthcare settings to promote balanced diets, meal planning, cooking, and food budgeting.
- 5) Combat food waste and promote consumer protection with policies targeting manufacturers and food companies, while increasing public awareness for behavioural change.
- 6) Address economic causes of food insecurity by tackling rising food prices, providing income support to low-income families, and strengthening social welfare systems.
- 7) Invest in grassroots innovation and research, tailoring technology to each community's context. Ensure access to affordable data and digital literacy programmes for rural and urban populations to empower communities in finding their own solutions.
- 8) Address root causes of conflict, such as poverty, cost of living crises, and gender inequality, while boosting humanitarian support in conflict zones and for displaced populations.
- 9) Promote conflict-sensitive development approaches that factor in the relationship between conflict and food insecurity, prioritising peacekeeping and international collaboration.
- 10) Mitigate climate change's impact on food insecurity by investing in sustainable infrastructure, enacting policies focused on climate and food security, launching educational campaigns, and setting international standards.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Overall, I was surprised by the similarities across the different contexts. The primary differences we encountered essentially came from contextual differences where youth advocates would give examples from their own countries and communities.

## OVERALL SUMMARY

This dialogue with young people provided a valuable opportunity for open discussion, allowing us to hear diverse perspectives from a range of contexts. What stood out to me was that, despite differing circumstances, the impacts of malnutrition and hunger often manifest in strikingly similar ways across geographies. Equality for all was a recurring theme, with the young people asking for an equal commitment to all children regardless of their country and for support for those most at risk e.g. people with disabilities, homeless people, women, and other minorities.

Key impacts of malnutrition included the effect of inadequate nutrition on education, local economies, and children's mental health. These were consistently identified as high-priority concerns. Many young people framed their contributions within the context of current global emergencies—for instance, several mentioned how the conflict in Gaza is affecting children's nutrition. There was also a strong awareness of the interconnected causes of malnutrition, such as conflict and climate change, and how these factors intersect.

In terms of addressing hunger and malnutrition, it was fascinating to hear how the young people see the role of technology in this process. For example, using technology for social awareness raising programmes, teaching families and communities what it means to build a nutritional diet using user-friendly websites, mobile apps or other online platforms. They also suggested technology could be used to help monitor progress and collect data regarding hunger in their communities.

In terms of conflict, they identified that displacement, instability, and disruption of agricultural systems can all make it harder to achieve a nutritious diet. Rising food costs was highlighted by many which further exacerbates food insecurity. They also discussed the impact of conflict on humanitarian assistance, where often it can be difficult for relief organisations to reach affected populations with food assistance and other essential supplies. This young people specifically want decision-makers to address the underlying causes of conflict, supporting peacebuilding initiatives, diplomatic efforts, and supporting civil society organisations. There was also a call for decision-makers to promote conflict-sensitive approaches to development that take into account the impact of conflict on food security. This includes investing in agricultural development, supporting small-scale farmers, and promoting sustainable food systems.

On climate change, they emphasises the urgency in which world leaders need to address the impacts, including by meeting the 2050 net zero target, reducing food waste and encouraging waste recycling. They also petitioned every country to make a back-up and productive plan for natural disasters to ensure that food insecurity is taken to account. One youth advocate petitioned governments to promote sustainable agriculture practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve soil and water resources, and increase the resilience of agricultural systems to climate change. This includes supporting research and innovation in sustainable agriculture, promoting agroforestry, and investing in renewable energy for agriculture.

The topic that appeared to have the most consensus was the role of schools, with the importance of governments investing in schools. School meals emerged as the most widely supported solution. All youth advocates advocated for the universal implementation of school meals, emphasising their role as a vital safety net to prevent child hunger and malnutrition, advocating for that there should be no restrictions/requirements attached to school meal programmes so that children from low-income families can receive this. Children also highlighted the role that schools can play in monitoring how many children are getting enough to eat, and their role in nutrition education e.g. teaching children and their families how to achieve a nutritious diet, and using school land to teach children how to grow food.

As the session's facilitator, I found it incredibly inspiring to witness the passion young people have and their concrete recommendations for decision-makers. While the challenges they face were clearly articulated, the emphasis was overwhelmingly on actionable solutions. The young people were eager to share what they believe decision-makers must do to address the causes and consequences of malnutrition and hunger, stressing the urgency of taking action.

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

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## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Before the dialogue, I ensured I was as informed as possible about hunger and malnutrition. I recognised that everyone's nutritional status is influenced by multiple determinants, a theme that emerged strongly in our discussion, particularly as we explored the intersection of hunger, climate, and conflict. Throughout the process, I acted with integrity and adhered to ethical standards, ensuring all safeguarding requirements were met. I also took the necessary steps prior to the dialogue to create a safe and inclusive space. Although there was broad consensus across the group, I worked to foster an environment where diverse perspectives were welcomed. I emphasised from the outset that there are no right or wrong answers. Given the diversity of the youth network, I prioritised inclusivity by using translators to capture input from non-English speakers and encouraging participants to communicate in whichever way they felt most comfortable—whether verbally or through the Zoom chat.

## METHOD AND SETTING

I largely followed the recommended methodology, dividing each section into two parts: exploring how children perceive nutrition to be affected by each theme and generating ideas and solutions to improve these. The setting was informal. I introduced discussions with a few guiding questions but allowed space for open dialogue around the main themes. For safeguarding I collaborated with our Safeguarding Manager to ensure all necessary measures, including signed consent forms, were in place.

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With huge thanks to the members of the World Vision UK Youth Advocacy Network.