

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Stakeholders Dialogue-Wattala Area Programme, Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 28 November 2024 13:30 GMT +05:30
CONVENED BY	Lavanya Suriyakumar- National Campaign Manager, World Vision Lanka & Johanne Rebeira- Campaign Coordinator, World Vision Lanka
EVENT LANGUAGE	Sinhala
HOST LOCATION	Colombo, Sri Lanka
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Wattala Area Programme
AFFILIATIONS	Event will be conducted as part of the Baseline interactions , we are conducting for ENOUGH campaign.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/54996/



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

0 19-29

7 30-49

2 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

8 Female

1 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, Youth Groups and Students

1 Educators and Teachers

0 Financial Institutions and Technical Partners

0 Healthcare Professionals

0 Information and Technology Providers

0 Marketing and Advertising Experts

0 News and Media (e.g. Journalists)

0 Science and Academia

1 Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives

0 Women's Groups

0 Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)

0 Faith Leaders/Faith Communities

2 Food Producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous Peoples

0 Large Business and Food Retailers

0 National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives

5 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

1 Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

NA

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

All the participants were from urban area, where mostly their livelihood is based on daily wages. The Wattala area is situated in Gampaha District, Western Province, Sri Lanka. The participants included different community based groups including local level government officers.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The consultation began with participants introducing themselves, followed by an outline of the Nutritional Dialogues' purpose and goals. We discussed the current state of nutrition in Sri Lanka, focusing on food insecurity and malnutrition, and shared statistics from the National Nutrition Month Summary Report 2024. Key insights included ensuring adequate child nutrition, tackling malnutrition and hunger, and raising awareness of nutritional issues among adults and the government.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Stakeholder-dialogues-Eng-1.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The discussion used a simple tool to help participants share their ideas. They created a tree with flowers, fruits, birds, branches, and roots. The tree represented their village: flowers showed the current nutrition issues, fruits represented the desired future, birds indicated threats, branches represented key stakeholders and their roles, and roots symbolized the actions needed for good nutrition. Participants were actively engaged and eagerly shared their thoughts and ideas.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

1. Children are not provided with nutritious foods like green beans, peas, and chickpeas.
2. Lack of meals provided to children in environments such as schools or care facilities.
3. Financial difficulties, including debt, prevent families from feeding children properly and offering nutritious food.
4. Economically disadvantaged families struggle to provide nutritious foods.
5. Parental reluctance to prepare nutritious meals for their children.
6. Nutritional issues arising from certain religious and ethnic traditions.
7. Challenges in providing nutritious food due to natural disasters.
8. Difficulty accessing nutritious food because of the high prices of such products in the country.

URGENT ACTIONS

1. Government-Led Initiatives such as:
 - o Develop a program to provide proper nutrition to underweight children and those lacking a nutritious diet.
 - o Allocate dedicated funds for addressing undernourishment and ensure accountability among authorities.
 - o Increase government funding and focus on improving national nutrition.
2. Collaborative Efforts by Private Organizations, Civil Society, and NGOs:
 - o Encourage private organizations to supply the necessary nutrition resources.
 - o Civil society organizations and NGOs should collaborate with the government and communities to take targeted actions for improving nutrition.
3. Community and Administrative Engagement so from the local Grama Niladhari to the National offices, prioritize nutrition for the future generation as a critical matter.
4. Reducing Food Costs by implementing measures to reduce the prices of foods with high nutritional value to make them accessible to all.
5. Conducting awareness campaigns to educate the entire community about the importance of nutrition through widespread awareness programs.
6. Advocacy for Nutrition to highlight the importance of nutrition across all societal levels.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Children living in rural areas who engage in farming tend to consume rice frequently, providing them with a moderate nutritional surplus.
- Rural children who have moved to urban areas are less physically active due to a shift in dietary habits, including consuming fast foods with various flavors.
- Urban children are generally less active compared to their rural counterparts, as rural children consume less fast food and maintain a more traditional diet.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Measures should involve religious leaders, government officials, and elders in understanding diseases caused by overnutrition and malnutrition.

Diseases caused by overnutrition and land-based issues were identified as long-term challenges requiring attention in urban sector.

The importance of identifying risk areas and increasing the nutrition of undernourished children in those locations was emphasized.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Everyone had the chance to speak and share their ideas. The diverse perspectives contributed to identifying practical solutions and creating a collaborative environment.

METHOD AND SETTING

It was arranged at a convenient place and time. Also the seating arrangement helped the participants to share their views confidently.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

NA

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to World Vision Lanka's Area Programmes and the community volunteers for organizing the dialogue despite the adverse weather conditions caused by a cyclone in Sri Lanka. Additionally, the feedback forms were prepared in the local language to ensure accurate and unfiltered responses. At the National office, we translated these documents into English.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Contextualized simple used for the discussion**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/The-tree-Tool-Stakeholder-dialogue.pdf>
- **National Nutrition Month report 2024**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/National-Nutrition-Month-Summary-Report-2024-2.pdf>