

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Stakeholder Dialogue-Bibile Area Programme, Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 26 November 2024 14:00 GMT +05:30
CONVENED BY	Lavanya Suriyakumar
EVENT LANGUAGE	Sinhala
HOST LOCATION	Bibile, Sri Lanka
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Bibile 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/55078/



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

6

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-11

0 12-18

0 19-29

1 30-49

6 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

2 Female

4 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, Youth Groups and Students

0 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

6 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

0 Food Producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous Peoples

0 Large Business and Food Retailers

0 National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives

0 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

1 Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

NA

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

All participants represented local government pertaining to health, agriculture and child protection. The low turnout was due to the very bad weather that week.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The facilitator started by presenting basic nutrition data and outlining the discussion's objectives. The purpose and the process of Nutritional dialogues were discussed during the starting of the discussion. The conversation covered the rise in nutritional issues and malnutrition within the community, highlighting measures to address these problems. The discussion emphasized how current economic patterns affect the community's nutritional levels, particularly focusing on children's low consumption of quality food and their increasing preference for fast food. All the participants are from a area called Bibile. Bibile is located in Badulla District (Uva Province, Sri Lanka) and World Vision works with a community who engages in agriculture related activities and unskilled labour.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Stakeholder-dialogues-Eng-2.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The facilitator started by sharing basic nutrition data and explaining the discussion's goals. They talked about the rise in malnutrition and nutritional issues in the community and outlined ways to address these problems. A major issue identified was the lack of knowledge about nutrition. The discussion highlighted several challenges, including the lack of essential food items, media promoting fast food, insufficient sharing of nutritional knowledge, traditional myths, and economic difficulties. Additionally, the importance of community education and support systems was emphasized to improve overall nutrition.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

1. Problems with high prices of nutritious food.
2. Lack of decision-making based on correct policies.
3. Difficulty in creating attitudinal change within the community.
4. Insufficient availability of data on food products.
5. Myths and religious beliefs affecting food choices.
6. Cultural influences hindering proper nutrition.
7. Reduced government contribution to agriculture.
8. Lack of knowledge about agriculture among the population.
9. Shortage of human resources to address nutrition and agriculture issues.
10. Popularity of fast food and its overrepresentation in the media.
11. Challenges in providing adequate financial resources for nutrition and agriculture.
12. Reduced agricultural cultivation affecting food availability.
13. Lack of effective implementation of good policies related to nutrition and agriculture.
14. Insufficient government intervention in the implementation of new technologies in terms of agriculture and cultivation.

URGENT ACTIONS

1. Continuously educate the community, including pregnant mothers, preschool children, and school children, on proper nutrition.
2. Focus on reducing food wastage and increasing productivity in agriculture.
3. Advocate for policy changes to address nutrition issues, including banning unhealthy foods.
4. Develop and expand early childhood education programs, supported by both government and non-government organizations.
5. Provide modern agricultural technology to the younger generation to improve food production.
6. Encourage farmers to increase production and focus on enhancing agricultural practices.
7. Promote the export of locally produced nutritious products to boost the country's agricultural economy.
8. Encourage home cultivation (home gardening) practices to ensure access to nutritious food at the household level.
9. Identify weaknesses in existing food laws and work towards strengthening them.
10. Pay more attention to local issues and address community-specific nutritional challenges.
11. Use media platforms to promote nutritious foods and raise awareness in the wider community.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

NA

OVERALL SUMMARY

- The nutritional status of the community was discussed, revealing that the current nutritional level is low and that it is challenging to obtain a complete diet due to the current economic situation.
- It was noted that only fifty percent of nutritional requirements are being met across most parts of the country.
- Essential food items are not available in every area, and there is also low agricultural production.
- The discussion covered the perspectives of government officials and citizens on nutrition and the need to raise awareness about food preservation methods, including modern techniques.
- The importance of reasonable food prices and establishing a strong information system for food products was emphasized.
- There was a focus on addressing the randomness of nutritional levels and introducing the significance of a healthy diet.
- Steps for working towards a nutritionally complete future were discussed, including strategies for increasing productivity through nutrition programs.
- The challenges and obstacles that may arise in the future journey toward better nutrition were also highlighted.
- The discussion concluded with the recognition that various stakeholders, including state media institutions, state-run organizations, political authorities, religious leaders, community leaders, government officials, and children, must collaborate to overcome these obstacles and ensure improved nutritional levels.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The government officials participated, bringing their expertise and experiences, which enriched the discussion. Everyone had the opportunity to speak and share their ideas. Additionally, the diverse perspectives helped identify practical solutions and fostered a collaborative environment. The discussion also highlighted the importance of community involvement and collective action in addressing nutritional issues of children and women.

METHOD AND SETTING

Due to the heavy rain the environment was little difficult for the participants to participate.

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 tool used for the discussion**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/The-tree-Tool-Stakeholder-dialogue-1.pdf>
- **National Nutritional month report 2024**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/National-Nutrition-Month-Summary-Report-2024-3.pdf>