

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Stakeholder Dialogue- Chavakachcheri Area Programme, Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 28 November 2024 14:30 GMT +05:30
CONVENED BY	Lavanya Suriyakumar
EVENT LANGUAGE	Tamil
HOST LOCATION	Chavakachcheri, Sri Lanka
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Chavakachcheri 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/55084/



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

10

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-11

0 12-18

0 19-29

10 30-49

0 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

9 Female

1 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, Youth Groups and Students

2 Educators and Teachers

0 Financial Institutions and Technical Partners

1 Healthcare Professionals

0 Information and Technology Providers

0 Marketing and Advertising Experts

0 News and Media (e.g. Journalists)

0 Science and Academia

0 Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives

4 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

3 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

1 Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

NA

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

This is a mixed group of community level stakeholders and the local government level stakeholders. These participants have hands on experience in working on nutrition and food security especially for children and women. All of them are actively engaged in nutritional, development and food security related activities in their villages.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The participants, including the facilitator, introduced themselves and shared their names and backgrounds to build rapport. The purpose and process of the nutritional dialogues were explained, along with the importance of their contributions. They discussed the current nutrition status in their villages and shared their daily routines, including work and meal times. National Nutritional Month statistics for Jaffna District were also shared and discussed. These participants are from Chavakachcheri in Jaffna District, Northern Province, Sri Lanka. World Vision works with this community, which mainly engages in agriculture and unskilled labor, with some also involved in Palmyrah products, animal husbandry, and fishing for extra income.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Stakeholder-dialogues-Eng-4.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The discussion was conducted as a focused group discussion, centering on questions such as: What are the feelings or concerns about nutrition in our community? How can we ensure good nutrition for everyone in our community? What actions are needed to achieve this? Who needs to be involved to make this happen? Additionally, participants shared their vision for their villages to become nutritionally well communities in the next 10 years. All questions were open-ended, and each participant also shared their daily routines, including their responsibilities and meal times.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

1. Children often miss out on having three meals a day.
2. Parents, caregivers, and children have limited practical knowledge about nutrition. They understand basic concepts like which foods contain certain nutrients and what a balanced diet is, but they don't fully grasp the importance of eating nutritious meals.
3. Parents and caregivers don't spend enough time preparing nutritious meals, often opting for shortcuts to make cooking easier.
4. Many children prefer eating food from shops rather than home-cooked meals.
5. Village schools lack canteens, and those that do have canteens only offer unhealthy options like oily and sugary foods.
6. School children frequently skip breakfast.
7. Women prioritize others' nutrition over their own, eating whenever they find time without consistent meal times.
8. Drinking tea and eating biscuits in the morning leads to skipping breakfast.
9. School children do not drink enough water.

URGENT ACTIONS

1. Practical knowledge about nutrition should be creatively taught to children, parents (both mothers and fathers), and caregivers.
2. School textbooks currently focus on types of nutrition and their benefits. Instead of just scientific knowledge, children should be taught practical aspects of nutrition and food security in schools, such as cooking skills, recipes, feeding practices, and food preservation. Nutrition education, which is currently limited to a few grades, should be included in the curriculum for all school-going children, tailored to their age.
3. School canteens should offer only healthy food options.
4. High-sugar and oily foods should be banned for children.
5. The government should enact laws requiring food shops near schools to sell healthy food and restrict fast food for children.
6. Agriculture should be promoted.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Few of the participants were saying that there are no knowledge gap with mothers when it comes to nutrition specially mothers of under five children as they are frequently educated by the Ministry of health. Rather the issue lies with their ignorance and laziness, they do not want to spend their time on cooking rather they go for shortcuts in making meals. If the mother or father spend considerable time in nutrition of children and themselves there wont be a nutritional issues on the family. Whereas the rest of the participants said there is a knowledge gap which affects the nutrition of the family.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Many children in the community often miss out on having three meals a day. Parents, caregivers, and children have limited practical knowledge about nutrition. While they understand basic concepts like which foods contain certain nutrients and what constitutes a balanced diet, they don't fully grasp the importance of eating nutritious meals. Additionally, parents and caregivers often opt for shortcuts in meal preparation, which compromises the nutritional value of the food. To address these issues, practical knowledge about nutrition should be creatively taught to children, parents. Children should be taught practical aspects of nutrition and food security in schools, such as cooking skills, recipes, feeding practices, and food preservation. Nutrition education, which is currently limited to a few grades, should be included in the curriculum for all school-going children, tailored to their age.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

All participants were given the opportunity to speak. Sharing their daily routines, including meals and meal timings, encouraged everyone to discuss issues affecting different age groups and genders. The discussion was beneficial for learning from each other, as it included various local government officers from nutrition, child protection, education, agriculture, and administrative sectors. This platform effectively pooled all opinions and ideas.

METHOD AND SETTING

The dialogue was arranged in a government clinic center and the seating arrangement also made all the participants to see and hear each other well. The calm environment made the participants to share their views peacefully. One of the participants brought her toddler, and small play items were provided to keep the child occupied in a meaningful way. This allowed the mother to participate actively and peacefully in the discussion.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Asking their experiences would give more insights for the discussion specially they are local government workers.

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

- **Group having informal discussion**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Image-5-scaled.jpg>
- **National Nutrition month report 2024**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/National-Nutrition-Month-Summary-Report-2024-5.pdf>