

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	Children's Workshop at Tongi, Dhaka Urban Context, Dhaka, Bangladesh
WORKSHOP DATE	Thursday, 21 November 2024 10:00 GMT +06:00
CONVENED BY	Jamal Uddin
EVENT LANGUAGE	Bengali
HOST CITY	Dhaka, Bangladesh
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Tongi , Dhaka
AFFILIATIONS	Children workshop, Tongi , Dhaka on November 27 , 2024. Participants (Children age 12-17), 13 Girls & 13 Boys (2 Children with disability 4 Ethnic minority children at least 50% slum & 50% non-slum in Urban) total 26 children will join 10.00 am -04.00 pm.
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55095/



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

26

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

07 12-15

19 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

14 Female

12 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

Tongi is a densely populated urban city in Gazipur. Children participated from various backgrounds, including urban and rural areas, rich and poorest families, girls, boys, children with disabilities/ special needs, school-going students, and college students.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING

At the beginning of the workshop, the children were a bit apprehensive, but the facilitator conducted an innovative ice-breaking session. The facilitator asked each child to choose a peer they didn't know and spend 15 minutes getting to know each other, building friendships, and discovering a special talent or expertise of their new friend. For example, some children were talented singers, others could draw, cook, or dance. After forming these new friendships, they introduced each other to the larger group. The facilitator encouraged all the children to share their general views on nutrition and hunger. It was highlighted that a significant number of children in the community suffer from poor health and nutrition, with many growing up with various forms of malnutrition. The children demonstrated an understanding of how malnutrition affects their peers, leading to conditions like being underweight, low weight for age, and stunted growth (low height for age). The children commonly agreed that malnutrition and hunger cause physical weakness, making children less inclined to play, attend school, or engage with others.

SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Children mentioned that they are not sufficiently aware of food security, malnutrition, and its consequences. They believe that malnutrition leads to infections and diseases. They also pointed out that children from low-income families, who cannot afford nutritious food, are the most affected. Poverty in society prevents many families from purchasing nutritious food, and even those who can afford it sometimes struggle to access safe food.

Children shared that many of their friends cannot bring tiffin or mid-day meals to school. They highlighted challenges with the government's approach to nutrition, noting that the school meal program does not adequately address nutritional needs. Recently, the government discontinued the mid-day meal program, despite it being a running initiative in Bangladesh.

Some of the most common challenges in Bangladesh include:

1. Malnutrition in low-income households.
2. Children with disabilities/special needs from poor families.
3. Unemployed or underemployed individuals struggling to meet their food needs.
4. Vulnerability in single-parent households, especially those led by mothers.

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

It is important to increase incomes by raising wages, providing job training, and offering employment opportunities to low-income households.

Invest in Local Farming: Encouraging small-scale, sustainable agricultural practices and supporting local food systems can increase food availability and reduce dependency on imports.

Pregnant women require adequate amounts of nutritious food, as they are often physically vulnerable during this period. Avoiding nutritious food can lead to malnutrition in their unborn child. If pregnant mothers consume nutritious food, their babies are more likely to be born healthy, and the mothers will have more energy to endure the pain of delivery. However, malnutrition during pregnancy can negatively impact the health and development of the unborn child. Therefore, it is crucial for pregnant women to have access to nutritious food to avoid potential health risks.

The government of Bangladesh needs to increase the budget for pregnant women through the Social Safety Net program to ensure better nutrition and care during this critical time.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Community perceptions vary based on the children's discussions. Some participants identified unawareness as the main cause of malnutrition, while others emphasized that the primary reason is the unavailability of nutritious food.

During the workshop, it was found that most participants shared common perceptions about malnutrition, though some groups demonstrated slightly diverse knowledge. The actual definition of malnutrition was not well-known among the respondents. Instead, they exhibited a limited understanding of its causes and vulnerabilities.

It was noted that a large number of children in the community suffer from poor health and nutrition, with many growing up experiencing different forms of malnutrition. Common types include low weight for age (underweight) and low height for age (stunting). However, the group of children from Tongi appeared more aware of issues related to nutrition and hunger compared to other parts of Bangladesh.

Typically, community perceptions of malnutrition are based on observing physical and mental appearances, body structure, and loss of appetite. Some respondents mentioned using anthropometric measurements, such as age, weight, and height, to identify malnutrition.

Before today's discussion, participants were unaware of overnutrition as a health issue. They were surprised to learn that overnutrition is another form of malnutrition. Given the diverse population and geographical variations across Bangladesh, it is essential to design programs that are context-specific and tailored to local needs.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Children actively participated in the workshop, sharing their thoughts through group work. They expressed their views, highlighted challenges, and outlined their future expectations from government and non-government organizations (GOs and NGOs) in Bangladesh.

The children emphasized the importance of initiatives to raise community awareness about malnutrition. They noted that different groups play crucial roles in sensitizing people to the effects of malnutrition. Government bodies, such as the Ministry of Health Services, and NGOs like World Vision, BRAC, Save the Children, and UNICEF, each have distinct roles in addressing nutrition and reducing hunger.

Globally, food insecurity and malnutrition are at unprecedented levels. Many countries are currently facing acute hunger and malnutrition crises caused by the "4 Cs": rising Costs, Conflict, Climate change, and COVID-19. Bangladesh is not exempt from these global trends. Furthermore, recent political unrest in the country could become a significant driver of hunger and malnutrition. In many contexts, food insecurity and malnutrition remain sensitive issues, often complicating meaningful measurement efforts. Children and women are particularly affected, as reflected in alarming statistics that include hidden hunger—micronutrient deficiencies that are a major public health issue.

Interestingly, the children acknowledged that certain individuals and organizations are working to ensure food security in Bangladesh, such as:

1. FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization)
2. WHO (World Health Organization)
3. Healthcare workers
4. Government of Bangladesh (Gov. bd)
5. Directorate General of Food

However, considering the scale of vulnerability, these efforts are insufficient to fully address the challenges

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

World Vision Bangladesh conducted the children's workshop following the guidelines outlined in the reference manual. A total of 26 children participated in the workshop on 21 November 2024 in Tongi. The facilitator engaged the children in a joyful and interactive manner, making them feel comfortable sharing their views on nutrition and hunger issues.

METHOD AND SETTING

• Discussion and Sharing: Conducted in individual, small group, and larger group settings. • Group Work: Utilized flip charts, pens, and VIP cards for interactive activities. • Photo and Video Documentation: Captured moments from the workshop for records and reflection. • Participant Perceptions: Shared and discussed personal views on relevant topics. • Experience Sharing: Participants exchanged personal and community experiences. • Community Practices and Procedures: Explored and shared existin

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

It would be better if the Area Program (AP) had sufficient budget to organize the event at a neutral venue, allowing children to have time for play and cultural programs. Efforts should also be made to intentionally engage vocal children who are aware of national and international agendas. Children should be mentally prepared to remain patient, as workshops can be time-consuming. Additionally, a single day feels too tight for the children, especially as they need to travel to and from the venue

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Record keepers and other supporters provided timely and relevant assistance to ensure the success of the workshop. They ensured that all necessary logistics were arranged on time and provided delicious and nutritious food for the children. Additionally, the supporters documented the children's opinions by capturing action shots and videos during the workshop.

ATTACHMENTS

- **APM speech**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/1-1-scaled.jpg>
- **Facilitator**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2-1-scaled.jpg>
- **Curator Government Officer**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/3-scaled.jpg>
- **Children's group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/4-2-scaled.jpg>
- **Children's group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/5-1-scaled.jpg>
- **Children's group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/6-1-scaled.jpg>
- **Children's group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/7-scaled.jpg>
- **Children's group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/8-1-scaled.jpg>
- **Children are presenting their group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/9-scaled.jpg>
- **Children's group work**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/10-scaled.jpg>