

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Better Nutrition for children
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 5 November 2024 13:00 GMT +06:30
CONVENED BY	Aung Zin Kyaw, Advocacy Coordinator, World Vision Myanmar Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Naw Phoebe. Guiding the convenor and facilitators to conduct dialogue
EVENT LANGUAGE	Myanmar
HOST LOCATION	Einme, Myanmar (Burma)
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Myanmar and Einme Area Program
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55180/



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

18

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	0	19-29
13	30-49	5	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

9	Female	9	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	1	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	18	Food Producers (including farmers)
0	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
0	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	0	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
0	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	0	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
0	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

All the participants are vegetable farmers. Some women open a small shop at home to sell the vegetables that they grow, but the majority sell them to wholesale dealers. The group has a mix of ethnicities, such as Bhamar and Kayin, and religions, such as Buddhists and Christians. All of them are from rural areas.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

Before the dialogue started, the convenor introduced the objectives and flow of the meeting. ENOUGH campaign concept was presented followed by how to conduct and dialogue and what are the expected outcomes from the dialogue. As they are also the producer group representing the township, they are made aware of the importance of their work in providing healthy food for the children. The participants were encouraged to share their opinion openly, on the real ground situation that hinders children's nutrition in the communities.

DISCUSSION

On November 5, 2024, World Vision organized a nutrition dialogue with farmers from Einme Township, Ayeyawaddy Region, Myanmar. 18 farmers (9 male and 9 female)/members of producer groups participated in the session to discuss concerns about child malnutrition and the urgent need for nutritional support. A World Vision staff member facilitated the session with six key questions: 1. How do you understand nutrition? 2. How do you understand malnutrition? 3. How are nutrition and malnutrition related to the daily lives of children, parents, and farmers? 4. What are the limitations or challenges for children's nutrition? 5. How can these limitations be overcome? 6. What is the role of farmers in tackling nutrition issues?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The challenges are categorized into two main groups: Family setting and Farming setting

Family: A major challenge for children's nutrition is that many parents don't know about the three main nutrition groups. Rising food prices make it hard for them to provide enough nutritious food, causing children to eat irregularly. Mothers often struggle to find time to breastfeed. Additionally, business owners and daily wage earners are facing income declines, and the high cost of goods further impacts their ability to nourish their children properly.

Farming (Agriculture and livestock): In livestock farming, pigs are not raised naturally (using traditional practice) so such pork cannot provide full nutrition for the children. The family bought the meat in the market which are, most of the time, not fresh. Fish farming uses chemicals, poultry farming is done under chicken coops, and pigs are injected with drugs. In agriculture farming, traditional methods like intercropping (larger scale community farming) were beneficial but are no longer used and should be reinstated. Only monsoon rice is considered a staple, while summer rice uses too many chemicals. The main problem is the use of chemical fertilizers which make the crops grow quick but cannot give full nutrition to children. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides on vegetables are especially dangerous.

URGENT ACTIONS

To promote larger-scale community farming and a self-sufficient agricultural system (home vegetable gardening) within the village. It is necessary for farmers and village development committees to collaborate and essential to work together to systematically manage the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in farming areas. Parents need to manage their income and expenses efficiently to ensure their children receive adequate nutrition. To promote child nutrition development, village development committees need to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to conduct educational sessions for parents.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

As the participants are all farmers, there was no major divergence in the discussion. However, there were one discovery on the discrepancy like the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The farmers did aware that overuse of the pesticides and chemical fertilizers are not good for producing nutritious crops but they could not avoid to use them in their farming in order to meet market demand as well as for their income. Moreover, it was practiced widely across the country and it becomes common.

OVERALL SUMMARY

On November 5, 2024, World Vision organized a nutrition dialogue with farmers from Einme Township. A total of 18 farmers (9 male and 9 female) participated in the session to discuss concerns about child malnutrition and the urgent need for nutritional support. The dialogue was lead based in the six key questions on how they understand nutrition, how malnutrition relates to children's daily activities, what are the limitation and challenges for children nutrition and how do they overcome the limitation. Then their role in addressing the issues is discussed.

The two-hour dialogue produced valuable insights. The main points of discussion were the production of seasonal foods and the overuse of chemicals in agriculture, which negatively impact children's health.

The challenges are categorized into two main groups - Family and Farming. A major challenge for children's nutrition is that many parents do not aware of the three main nutrition groups. The rising food prices worsen their situation to provide enough nutritious food for children. Mothers need to work and has limited time to breastfeed. Additionally, as business declines, family incomes decrease. The high cost of commodities further impacts the parents' ability to nourish their children properly.

In livestock farming, Pork area available only in the market and most of the time, not fresh which could not provide full nutrition for the children. Fish farming uses chemicals, poultry farming is done under chicken coops, and pigs are injected with drugs.

In agriculture farming, traditional methods like intercropping (larger scale community farming) were beneficial but are no longer used. Only monsoon rice is considered a good enough to eat, while summer rice uses too many chemicals. The main problem is the use of chemical fertilizers which make the crops grow quickly but cannot give full nutrition to children. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides on vegetables are especially dangerous.

In this dialogue, we observe three different types of discussions. The first is from the perspective of vegetable farmers, who discuss the challenges associated with the use of chemical fertilizers. The second perspective is from parents, who express concerns about the impact of the current economic crisis on their ability to provide adequate nutrition for their children. The third perspective focuses on ways to overcome the challenges faced by the community, with pregnant mothers, women, and community leaders primarily addressing this aspect.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The farmers are WVM target areas. They are producer groups who received technical support from WVM as well as some inputs for agriculture. Farmers group was selected as one group of stakeholders for the dialogue session as their opinions will contribute to the plan to improve children's nutrition. The facilitator is from the livelihood sector who mainly provides technical advice for the livelihood sector who makes a great help in facilitating the session.

METHOD AND SETTING

A small group dialogue session was held with 18 farmers participating in the discussion. The discussion was structured around six developed questions. The session was led by one facilitator and supported by two note-takers.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation goes to the Advocacy Coordinator who leads the entire event and Technical Advisors of the Livelihoods sector for facilitating the group discussion. The Einme Area Program team arranged the dialogue session by inviting the farmer, arranging the transport and meals and setting up the venue. Thanks also go also to the church that hosted the event.