

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE TITLE | Working together towards better nutrition for Children |
| DIALOGUE DATE | Tuesday, 12 November 2024 09:00 GMT +06:30 |
| CONVENED BY | Naw Phoebe, ENOUGH Campaign lead |
| EVENT LANGUAGE | Myanmar |
| HOST LOCATION | Pathein, Myanmar (Burma) |
| GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE | Village level |
| AFFILIATIONS | Part of ENOUGH (Nutrition) Campaign activities initiated by World Vision International |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55183/ |



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

14

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|
| 0 | 0-11 | 0 | 12-18 | 4 | 19-29 |
| 6 | 30-49 | 4 | 50-74 | 0 | 75+ |

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|---|------|---|-------------------------|
| 10 | Female | 4 | Male | 0 | Other/Prefer not to say |
|----|--------|---|------|---|-------------------------|

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 | 0 | 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) | 14 | 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

Parents are from 14 different villages in rural areas but from the same ethnic group. Their wealth status varied and educational levels were a bit different. Some have higher education like graduates but some don't even matriculate but have basic education. There are more mothers like 10 but only 4 are fathers in this group.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

WVM organized a nutrition dialogue with the parents from the Spiritual Nurture of Children (SNC) project area in Pathein. WVM campaign team members began the dialogue by presenting an overview and introduction to ENOUGH campaign and raising awareness about Hunger and Nutrition. With the support of SNC project staff, 14 parents, 10 mothers, and 4 fathers from 14 villages, actively participated in the dialogue.

DISCUSSION

The discussion was based on the following questions and facts; 1) How do you understand child nutrition? 2) How do you understand malnutrition? 3) What are the challenges that hinder children's Nutrition status? 5) What are the urgent actions that need to be tackled and how they should participate to address the issue? 6) How do you think parents can participate? The session was facilitated by WVM staff from the national office with note taker from the zonal office.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The challenges include the difficulty to reach to enough food because the parents do not have money to buy enough food. While the vegetable is affordable the meat is expensive to buy. There is imbalance between the income and household expenses. Children are used to with preserved foods. Children are consuming a lot of fast foods and junk foods and they prefer it over staple foods (rice and curry).

Parents are weak in awareness to care on food selection for their children. Some parents have knowledge on nutritious food and safe food but as they have low income, they can't afford to buy it. There are many poor families in the communities.

Most of the participants have concerns about the food safety of children in the community. They highlights availability of unhealthy junk foods at the school. Additionally, the common threads are food security, poverty, and nutrition knowledge of parents and children.

Another challenge is the overusing of chemical fertilizers and insecticides in agriculture farming that produce unhealthy food.

URGENT ACTIONS

The current practice is that, some family prepare food for their children's school meal box. Some have knowledge on different food groups and they try to feed their children as well as possible. In some of the early childcare centers, the teacher organizes and prepares proper and nutritious snacks or traditional snack for children. During the discussion, one church community established a fund mechanism and provided some amount of cash to pregnant women.

The parents provided long-term recommendations as follows:

- There should be parents and school management committees to monitor the food and snack markets from the schools.
- Parents should organize to prepare the local foods and feed their children
- Strengthen the Church community and network and promote nutrition (food safety and security) through this (nutrition dialogue) platform
- More home gardening and planting nutritious fruits for children and sharing with others.
- Limit outside food consuming
- Awareness raising for parents and children.
- Limit utilization of food dyes.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There is no area of divergence as the participants are from similar settings.

During the discussion, one participant shared about the good practice of a church that established a fund mechanism to support pregnant women. This is a good practice to support pregnant women which can cover the nutrition status of pregnant women as well as their babies.

OVERALL SUMMARY

On November 12, 2024, a nutrition dialogue with parents on one of WVM project areas in Pathein. 14 parents, 10 mothers and 4 fathers actively participated in the dialogue and shared the challenges, their opinion and recommendations.

The challenges they have discussed include the difficulty to reach to enough food because the parents do not have money to buy enough foods. While the vegetable is affordable the meat is expensive to buy. There is imbalance between the income and household expenses. Children are used to with the preserved foods. Children are consuming a lot of fast foods and junk foods and they prefer it over staple foods (rice and curry).

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There is a good practice shared from one church. That particular church established a fund to support pregnant mothers. This fund mechanism enables the church to support pregnant mothers which can cover the nutrition status of women and their babies.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

This dialogue was organized with the help of WVM spiritual Nurture for Children project. The participants are from the 14 target villages and are the partners of WVM in nurturing children in terms of spirituality. The facilitator was from the health technical sector and briefed about the objectives of the dialogue and how the result will be used. The facilitator is a member of the ENOUGH campaign of WVM.

METHOD AND SETTING

It is a Focus Group Discussion method to get their views on children's nutrition. The setting is more on semi-formal but starts with a formal introduction and presentation of the objectives. The setting is similar to formal but the discussion was open and frank. It is an indoor activity within a compound of the partner's office.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

NA.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgment goes to the Health Technical program Advisor for facilitating the dialogue and the External Engagement Coordinator from Delta zone office who helped with taking notes. Thanks to the Spiritual Nurture for Children (SNC) project manager, the officer at Pathein, and other team members for organizing the event. Special thanks to the parents who devoted their time to come and join the dialogue session.