

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	School Feeding is an Important Contributor to Addressing Child Hunger and Malnutrition
WORKSHOP DATE	Tuesday, 19 November 2024 09:00 GMT +03:00
CONVENED BY	Kassu Kebede, Advocacy and External Engagement Associate Director, World Vision Ethiopia Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Kassu Kebede. Advocacy and External Engagement Associate Director
EVENT LANGUAGE	English and Amharic
HOST CITY	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	National level Child-led Dialogue on School Feeding, Selam Ber Elementary School, Kolfe District, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Ethiopia is organizing the event in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs in terms of making it part of the national movement for Universal Children's Day event..
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55294/



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

86

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

53 12-15

33 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

42 Female

44 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

The child-led dialogue was conducted in Selam Ber Elementary and primary school compound. Participants were diverse as children of boys and girls, Christians and Muslims, low and middle income families, and from a diverse ethnic backgrounds attended the event.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING

The event was opened by a Children Parliament leader, Ekram Siraj, 16, with a brief note of how hunger and malnutrition is affecting children; and school feeding as an important contributor in tackling child hunger and malnutrition. Following her introductory message, she invited Karmen Till, WVE National Director, where she talked about the multi-faceted impacts of hunger and malnutrition on children. She also reiterated on the need to stepping up policy and service level interventions to ensure the wellbeing of children. Karmen affirmed World Vision's commitment to do everything possible to address child hunger and malnutrition. Finally, she called on government, partners and donor community to join hands in the fight against child hunger and malnutrition in Ethiopia. H.E Hikma Keyredin, State Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, spoke on "how stakeholders need to ensure effective implementation of policies in addressing issues of food insecurity". The UN Assistant Secretary General, Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, stressed "the importance of nutritious meals in children's future". World Vision Ethiopia HEA Director, Kelbessa Daba, also made a brief presentation on how WVE is contributing in supporting school feeding programs across the country. During the panel, panelists being four child parliamentarians and three adults, basic questions about school feeding were forwarded. Questions including impacts of child hunger and malnutrition, statistics on schools covered by school feeding programs, number of children reached by school meal programs, policy and service delivery related. Eldana Samuel, 16, another Children Parliament leader made a closing speech that best school feeding program experiences need to be up scaled across the country. Towards that end, she presented a strong call for action for all concerned parties to join hands in this noble hands.

SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants of the children's workshop raised three major areas of nutrition challenge.

1. Pre-school age children are experiencing hunger: participants of the dialogue were excited about the school feeding program they are enjoying. Children from poor household are having the privilege of getting food in schools. In other words, schools have become not only they get knowledge, but also they escape hunger. In the contrary, pre-school age children are not getting this opportunity. It was painful to hear older siblings being worried about their younger brothers and sisters' situation at home.
2. Some students are tempted to take portions of food to their parents: child panelists were mentioning incidents that some students were tempted to take a portion of their food to their parents knowing that there is no food left at home. Such stories were challenging to the audience.
3. Children were demanding to immediately up scale school feeding programs: child participants were very appreciative of the school feeding in their schools. They were vocal about its multi-faceted benefits to children. It remains a challenges because it is not possible to expand school feeding programs across the country because of resource scarcity.

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

By the end of the dialogue, participants identified the following recommendations for action.

1. Listen and Act: The voices of children matter. The proposals they share today must be taken seriously—let's turn their ideas into action!
2. Strengthen Policy Implementation: Advocate for robust mechanisms to ensure policies addressing child hunger and malnutrition are effectively implemented.
3. Scale Up Proven Practices: Promote and replicate successful models and interventions that have demonstrated measurable impact on reducing child hunger.
4. Generate and Centralize Data: Drive efforts to collect, analyze, and consolidate comprehensive data on child hunger and malnutrition to inform evidence-based policymaking.
5. Enhance Collaboration and Synergy: Foster partnerships across sectors to integrate and align efforts, maximizing collective impact against child hunger and malnutrition.
6. Allocate More Funding: Push for increased financial investment to expand school feeding programs and other initiatives that directly address child hunger and malnutrition.
7. Fortify Food Supplies: Support the fortification of staple food items to improve nutritional quality and combat malnutrition at scale.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

One area of divergence was between a call that the government needs to allocate more funding for school feeding, while others argued that the country being a developing country it is not realistic to expect the government to satisfy the needs with the current economic situation.

OVERALL SUMMARY

According to reports, Ethiopian children are impacted by 39% of stunting, 11% wasting, 13% of micronutrient deficiencies and 55 deaths of every 1000 live births. These impacts result from a number of interactive factors including Conflict, COVID 19 aftershocks, rise of cost of living and climate change. World Vision Ethiopia launched the ENOUGH Campaign with the aim of bringing impacts on the lives of over 3,856,440 children across the country.

To be able to address these challenges, child-led dialogues are one of the strategic activities for the ENOUGH campaign this time around focused on school feeding as a significant contributor to address child hunger and malnutrition. Traditionally speaking, children are not given the opportunity to discuss issues that matter most to them. Child hunger and malnutrition being the main challenge to them, they are not listened and their voices are not incorporated in the pursuit of solutions. Cognizant of this reality, World Vision Ethiopia organized the child-led dialogue where children, government decision makers, INGOs, donors, media and faith communities were invited to the dialogue so that all would have the same understanding of the issue and all would deliver their obligations to end child hunger and malnutrition in the country.

Up on the event, State Minister of Women and Social Affairs, H.E. Hikma Keyredin made a speech and emphasized that "stakeholders need to ensure effective implementation of policies in addressing issues of food insecurity". She also made it clear that her ministry will continue its commitment to address child hunger and malnutrition in collaboration with all stakeholders and partners including children.

The UN Assistant Secretary General, Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, also stressed in his key notes remark on "the importance of nutritious meals in children's future". He also affirmed the UN's sustained commitment to ensure the wellbeing of children.

Another very important activity of the event was the child-led panel, panelists included children, and decision makers from the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and ministry of Health. World Vision Ethiopia was also represented with a view of sharing its best practices and affirming its partnership with the children. The panel was instrumental for children to raise their questions, challenge decision makers and service providers and recommend possible solutions so that school feeding programs will expand to other schools across the country.

The event came to a close by a closing remarks and asks by one of the Children Parliament leaders, Eldana Samuel. The following were asks she forwarded to different stakeholders and partners:

1. School feeding programs being run in a limited number of schools should expand to both urban and rural schools across the country.
2. To ensure school feeding programs be including and sustainable, additional funding needs to be allocated.
3. INGOs, in addition to their developmental and humanitarian support, they should support school feeding programs.
4. Media houses should allocate more air time to issues around child hunger and malnutrition so that they would be the agenda of the nation.
5. Donor community should step up their support to school feeding programs. ::
6. The private sector should show its commitment to the delivery of social responsibility by supporting school feeding programs.
7. Faith and community leaders should mobilize their communities so that they would support school feeding programs.

The event was well covered by seven major media houses both in mainstream and social media platforms. Such a media coverage is believed that the messages of the event have reached people near and far across the country.

The event was successful in many ways. Above all, it was instrumental in terms of bringing children as victims of hunger and malnutrition and stakeholders with a responsibility to address the challenges. Children have got the opportunity to raise their voices, challenge decision makers and service providers, donors and others so that all could do something in the fight against child hunger and malnutrition. The event witnessed that children are not passive recipients of aid, rather they are capable of being a part of the solution. As a result, promises were made by stakeholders and partners that they will do everything possible in the effort of expanding school feeding programs.

World Vision Ethiopia is proud to organize such an event on school feeding where children have proved being capable of to be a part of the solution.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Principles of engagement for the child-led dialogue include all of the following: 1. Be committed to improve nutrition for all, especially for women and children 2. Recognise that everyone's nutritional status has multiple determinants 3. Welcome multistakeholder diversity and inclusivity, including young people 4. Respect different perspectives while nurturing trust among stakeholders 5. Be open to share and learn from others 6. Act with integrity and in an ethical manner 7. Act with a commitment to uphold the equity and rights of all women, men and children 8. Act with urgency 9. Protect Nutrition Dialogue events from the marketing and promotion of any products

METHOD AND SETTING

The child-led dialogue took place in a school compound for the following reasons: 1. School setting is familiar and safe to children 2. Adult participant would be able to share school meal with the students. 3. More children can participate in the event prior to the event, parents have signed consent forms. Children were also oriented about their rights and safeguarding issues so that they would report any incident. World Vision arranged vehicles to ensure children's safety.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Organizing a children's workshop takes a lot of time, energy and resource. To make such a workshop a success, I advise the following: 1. Plan early enough 2. Set up teams with different responsibilities 3. Engage and prepare children as early as possible 4. Engage and work with stakeholders and partners as early as possible.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the following for their incredible support to make the event happen. 1. Karmen Till, WVE ND 2. Danica Gebru, SQI OiC 3. WVE sector leads and project leaders 4. WVE Government Relations colleagues 5. Fikru Dessalegn, District Education Office 6. Amanuel Abera, Selam Ber Elementary School Director 7. Ahmed Demissie, Selam Ber Deputy Director 8. WVE Communications and Marketing Colleagues 9. Sisay Bayisa, Child Participation Specialist 10. World Vision Ethiopia fleet

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Concept Note - School Feeding in Ethiopia**
https://wvi365-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/personal/kassu_kebede_wvi_org/Documents/Desktop/Kassu%27s%20docs/Alil%20in%20one/WVE/FYs/FY25/Child-led%20Dialogue/Concept%20Note%20-%20Child-led%20Dialogue%20on%20School%20Feeding%20in%20Ethiopia.docx?d=wc09802934ad14fd589dd8f8b2d14da27&csf=1&web=1&e=BpGXzS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Concept Note on School Feeding in Ethiopia**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Concept-Note-Child-led-Dialogue-on-School-Feeding-in-Ethiopia.docx>