

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Translating Nutrition for Growth Commitments in Action: An immediate call to Action in Zimbabwe.
DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 15 November 2024 09:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	World Vision Zimbabwe, Food and Nutrition Council Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance (ZCSOSUNA). Technical Support
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST LOCATION	Harare, Zimbabwe
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	National Level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision, ZCSOSUNA, Food and Nutrition Council
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55351/

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

34

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	17	12-18	8	19-29
9	30-49	0	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

16	Female	18	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
----	--------	----	------	---	-------------------------

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

17	Children, Youth Groups and Students	8	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
5	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	3	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
1	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

Participants to this dialogue included government officials from the Food and Nutrition Council, Ministry of Health and Child Care Nutrition Department and Ministry of Health and Child Care. They were all residents of Harare and learners came from both high and low density suburbs.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

Government officials shared statistics on government progress in addressing malnutrition challenges since 2010. They shared the legal and policy framework for the nation and strategies that have been put in place in fighting malnutrition in all its forms. Though the nation has made progress in reducing childhood stunting rates it continues to face a double burden of malnutrition that is under and over nutrition including micronutrient deficiencies. Climate change is increasing the malnutrition burden as it reduces citizen's access to food.

DISCUSSION

Our topic was centered around holding the government to account on translating Nutrition for Growth Commitments into Action. Discussions were around four levels namely policy, domestic financing, programmes and impact. Furthermore, it also included learners voices on how they want the government to end child hunger and malnutrition. Below are some of the questions the facilitator asked during the dialogue What improvements can be made to enhance accountability on Nutrition for Growth Commitments? What role do civil society organizations and international bodies play in holding governments accountable for their nutrition promises? How can our government ensure that funding allocated for N4G commitments is used effectively and reaches the intended beneficiaries? What challenges is the government facing in mobilizing and sustaining funding for nutrition, and how can these be addressed? What strategies can be employed to track and verify whether financial commitments to nutrition are being met? What challenges exist in sustaining political commitment to nutrition initiatives over time, and how can they be mitigated? How can governments balance short-term nutrition interventions with long-term strategies for sustainable change?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Learners highlighted that child hunger and malnutrition is affecting their performance in school. They also highlighted that although the government has put in place the school feeding programme, it is not targeting all schools. Tertiary students indicated that the marketing of unhealthy fast food is resulting in change in narratives as most of them now prefer consuming modern foods instead of indigenous foods.

URGENT ACTIONS

There is an urgent need to

- 1) Raise awareness on consumption of nutritious and healthy food
- 2) Scale up of the school nutrition programme to target all schools
- 3) Ensure nutrition is mainstreamed in the implementation of the Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were divergent views on the effectiveness of programmes being implemented by both the government and development partners. Some participants highlighted that some programmes are not well informed by data hence are not addressing the root challenges.

Some participants felt that the government needs to take action against companies producing non nutritious foods and drinks whilst others highlighted that they are in business and paying taxes hence the government will not act accordingly. They felt the civil society together with the media need to raise awareness on the need for healthy eating.

OVERALL SUMMARY

While Zimbabwe has made strides in addressing malnutrition on some indicators, challenges remain, particularly in addressing persistent malnutrition especially in dry regions. Effects of economic instability were also noted as one of the contributing factors of poor nutrition in both rural and urban settings. A consensus was reached that continued collaboration and investment are crucial to achieving N4G goals. The government was urged to renew its commitments during the next year's Nutrition for Growth Summit to be held in Paris. Voices of young people who were represented by learners from secondary schools and university students were incorporated in submissions to the government as the country prepares its commitments for the N4G. The media was identified as a key player in disseminating N4G commitments and holding the government to account. Furthermore, the media was tasked to scale up its efforts in raising awareness on healthy eating.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

In addition to e mails inviting speakers for the day, the project made extra efforts of calling them and briefing them on specific areas they needed to focus on during their presentation. The project developed specific questions to assist the facilitator in discussing with the participants. Organisers finalized the agenda and shared with participants before the meeting.

METHOD AND SETTING

The meeting was convened at a hotel, some speakers employed power point presentations whilst others used story telling as means of sharing their information. The facilitator used a set of questions to initiate dialogue among the participants.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Depending on the level at which the dialogue will be convened there may be need to include more media journalists.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank World Vision Zimbabwe for their financial and technical support in convening this dialogue. Special mention goes to the Food and Nutrition Council, Ministry of Health and Child Care Nutrition Department, The Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance and all participants who attended the meeting for their participation and contribution.

RELEVANT LINKS

- **World Vision joins child nutrition advocacy**
<https://healthtimes.co.zw/2024/11/15/world-vision-amplifies-efforts-in-the-fight-against-child-malnutrition/>