

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	Children's Councils and Young Journalist Committed to Improve School Meals in the Next Three Years
WORKSHOP DATE	Thursday, 14 November 2024 14:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	James Zimba, National Campaign Coordinator, World Vision Zambia.
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST CITY	Mufumbwe, Zambia
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Mufumbwe District
AFFILIATIONS	The activity was organized by World Vision in collaboration with Ministry of Education
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55420/



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

16

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

8 12-15

7 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

9 Female

7 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

The Young Journalists and schoolchildren were from mixed backgrounds and economic statuses. Some came from middle-income families, while others came from poorer families. Secondly, the team consisted of children from single parents and others raised by their grandmother. The majority of them came from the local tribe and understood the situation very well in their rural district.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING

During the introduction, children stated clearly that there are food insecurities at their homes, especially for those who came from single parents and child-headed homes. According to the children, the causes of malnutrition in their families include parental negligence, as some parents have divorced and refused to support their children. This leaves children with their vulnerable mothers, who end up sending them to sell merchandise on the streets, and some have ended up becoming street kids. The girls' situation worsens because they are encouraged to bring money home for survival. This has led to teenage pregnancies and child marriages, creating a cycle of perpetual malnutrition in the community. Climate change was also named as part of the cause due to crop failure, especially from last season. Children have also singled out the production of one crop as one of the causes of malnutrition in the community. Most parents and guardians grow market-ready crops and are primarily supported by the government. There is no diversification in crop production. Furthermore, children also stated that orphans and those kept by stepmothers are denied food at home as a form of punishment for any wrong they may have done.

SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

1. Eating one type of food from corn/maize three times daily for those who can manage, while others only eat once daily.
2. Ill treatment by stepmothers and guardians where children are denied food as a form of punishment.
3. Schools do not provide meals for them. As a result, children learn while hungry until they knock off at noon, with no breakfast at home.
4. They have no say on what they want to eat as decisions are made by their parents.

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

1. The children proposed that the school support them in producing various foods from their production unit. This would lessen the burden of depending on the government for an irregular and inadequate supply of food.
 2. They are petitioning the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit to create an opportunity for children to report cases of abuse and ensure their safety at home.
 4. They want to conduct sensitization among themselves to ensure that abuse cases are reported without fear.
- They want the school to form a child protection team involving teachers so children with problems at home can air their grievances and be helped.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The views differed significantly during the discussion because some children did not understand how it felt to be denied food at home. Others proposed that the food at the tuck shop was unhealthy because it was all packaged instead of stocking some local delicacy. However, all did agree that there is ill-treatment by some parents at some homes, and they are aware of friends who are ill-treated but scared to report it. Children also decided to produce food at school to enable those who come hungry to have something to eat.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Malnutrition in most rural communities is caused by various reasons, according to the submission from the children. Among them are parental negligence, high rates of divorce, teenage pregnancy, and child marriages. Child labor is also a big problem because some children are withdrawn from school by their parents to help with income-generation activities at home, such as piecework. For those that live with their grandmothers, they are the breadwinners at home. They engage in piecework to fend for themselves and their old grandparents. The result is poor nutrition at the household level. One girl-child narrated that when her parents died, she and her siblings were not accepted by the relatives of both their parents. She has since taken up the responsibility of fending for her two siblings. The social welfare department has since identified her, and she is being helped with \$20 after two months to cover for herself and the two siblings. According to her, this is not enough, and as a child-headed family, they have resorted to selling mangoes and mushrooms during the rainy season to survive.

The children's proposal to engage in a production unit to help other children get a meal at school is commendable. All they need is support from the school administration in the form of inputs such as fertilizer and seed. There is also a need for child protection services to be promoted in most rural areas, especially in schools. Cases of child abuse at home are rampant, given the fact that those who perpetrate them are not reported and held accountable.

Provision of school meals by the government or any other institutions concerned with children welfare must be encouraged to improve school attendance and performance especially from children who have nothing to eat in the morning. Furthermore, efforts to prevent teenage pregnancies and child marriages must include food security at home.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Children were provided with equal opportunity for participation. Individual views were respected following CSO-SUN Movement principles of engagement.

METHOD AND SETTING

The methodology deployed was an open discussion. Children were divided into groups, and individual presentations and personal experiences were shared. All safeguarding matters were taken into account, and consent forms were signed. The meeting was held in a classroom within the school grounds. Teachers were also present to ensure the administration heard everything that was discussed.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

The advice is that different audiences require different skills. Therefore. Convenors must assess the situation and tailor their session to achieve maximum results.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge Mr. Solochi, the career and guidance teacher, and Mr. Lukashi from the Mufumbwe DEBS Office for making this activity possible.

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Jairos-2-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Jairos-3-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Jairos-4-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Jaros-5-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CamScanner-10-31-2024-16.28-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CamScanner-11-29-2024-09.58-1-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CamScanner-11-29-2024-09.59-scaled.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CamScanner-11-29-2024-09.58-scaled.jpg>
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