

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	One Table, One World: Shaping the future of Nutrition
<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 19 December 2024 09:00 GMT +03:00
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Edgar Onyango, National coordinator, SUN CSA Kenya Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Charlyne Kirui. To provide professional expertise, technical support, managing logistics, and ensuring smooth facilitation to help achieve the goals of the nutrition dialogue. Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Charlyne Kirui. coordination, ensuring smooth logistics and facilitating collaboration among participants.
<b>EVENT LANGUAGE</b>	English
<b>HOST LOCATION</b>	Nairobi, Kenya
<b>GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE</b>	National Level
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	SUN CSA
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55612/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55612/</a>



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

20

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	6	19-29
10	30-49	4	50-74	0	75+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

12	Female	8	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1	Children, Youth Groups and Students	2	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
2	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	1	Food Producers (including farmers)
2	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
0	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	1	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
1	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	2	Parents and Caregivers
1	Science and Academia	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
2	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
2	Women's Groups	3	Other (please state)

## OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

N/A

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Efforts were made to include individuals from different wealth strata, ensuring representation from both affluent and underprivileged communities. Ethnic diversity was prioritized by involving participants from minority and majority groups, fostering inclusivity. Additionally, voices from rural and urban areas were balanced, ensuring insights reflected the unique challenges and opportunities across regions.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## FRAMING

The stakeholder dialogue was introduced by highlighting the local context of nutrition, emphasizing persistent malnutrition challenges and their root causes. Key concerns included widespread deficiencies in micronutrients, the seasonal impact on food availability, and pollution-related risks affecting food quality and health outcomes. Attention was drawn to regional disparities in nutrition outcomes, with vulnerable rural communities facing heightened challenges. The introduction framed the event as an opportunity to address these issues collectively, develop actionable solutions, and align local and national strategies to improve nutrition equity and resilience.

## DISCUSSION

Discussions focused on addressing gaps in nutrition policy implementation, reducing regional disparities, improving enforcement, and aligning local-national strategies. Key questions included: 1. What are the most critical gaps in current nutrition policy implementation, and how can they be addressed? 2. How can regional disparities in nutrition outcomes be effectively reduced? 3. What strategies can strengthen policy enforcement and accountability? 4. How can local and national nutrition strategies be better aligned to ensure equity and sustainability?

# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

Participants of the SUN CSA Kenya-led dialogues highlighted several pressing nutrition challenges:

- 1. Limited Food Access:** High food prices, limited market access in rural areas, poverty, and seasonal food insecurity constrain access to diverse, nutritious diets.
- 2. Micronutrient Deficiencies:** Widespread deficiencies, particularly in iron, iodine, and vitamin A, due to limited dietary diversity and insufficient supplementation programs.
- 3. Low Food Literacy:** Myths, misconceptions, and lack of awareness about balanced diets hinder informed food choices across communities.
- 4. Urban Agriculture Constraints:** Limited land and resources for urban farming prevent access to fresh, locally grown produce in urban settings.
- 5. Policy and Enforcement Gaps:** Weak implementation of existing nutrition and food safety regulations leads to unsafe food and ineffective programs.
- 6. Waste Management Issues:** Poor garbage collection and disposal contribute to environmental pollution and food contamination.
- 7. Seasonal Food Insecurity:** Seasonal fluctuations in food availability and prices exacerbate hunger and malnutrition.
- 8. Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:** Insufficient coordination across sectors limits the effectiveness of nutrition interventions.
- 9. Cultural and Behavioral Barriers:** Traditional beliefs and practices sometimes conflict with nutritional guidelines, limiting behavior change.
- 10. Post-Harvest Losses:** Lack of proper storage and preservation techniques leads to significant food waste, reducing availability and affordability.

These challenges underscore the need for targeted interventions and multi-sectoral collaboration to achieve sustainable nutrition outcomes.

## URGENT ACTIONS

### 1. Improving Food Access:

Action: Advocate for policies that stabilize food prices and improve market access, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Proposed Approach: Strengthen food supply chains by improving infrastructure, market linkages, and promoting local production through smallholder farmers. Participants suggested increasing access to financial resources for smallholder farmers to boost food production and ensure affordability.

### 2. Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies:

Action: Expand and improve the coverage of micronutrient supplementation programs and fortification initiatives.

Proposed Approach: Develop targeted campaigns for iron, iodine, and vitamin A supplementation in at-risk communities. Additionally, ensure that fortified foods are accessible and affordable for all.

### 3. Enhancing Food Literacy:

Action: Launch extensive nutrition education campaigns to address knowledge gaps about balanced diets and food choices.

Proposed Approach: Integrate nutrition education into school curricula, community health programs, and media campaigns. Participants suggested using local languages and culturally relevant approaches to make the messages more relatable and impactful.

### 4. Reducing Food Waste and Post-Harvest Losses:

Action: Promote better food storage and preservation techniques.

Proposed Approach: Research and develop affordable, local technologies to minimize post-harvest losses. The community suggested launching awareness campaigns to educate households and markets on better food handling practices.

### 5. Improving Multi-sectoral Collaboration:

Action: Establish and strengthen multi-sectoral platforms for nutrition at local, county, and national levels.

Proposed Approach: Encourage active participation from sectors like health, agriculture, education, and trade in the development of joint action plans.

By taking these actions, participants believe Kenya can effectively address its nutrition challenges, ensuring a healthier future for all.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the dialogues, participants expressed diverse views, opinions, and occasional oppositions, reflecting the complexity of addressing nutrition challenges in varied contexts.

- 1. Food Access and Affordability:** While many agreed on the need for policies to stabilize food prices and improve access, some stakeholders debated the role of subsidies versus market-driven solutions. Concerns were raised about the long-term sustainability of subsidies and their potential impact on local markets.
- 2. Urban Agriculture:** Participants supported promoting urban farming, but diverging opinions emerged on land use. Urban planners emphasized limited land availability, while community advocates argued for zoning policies to prioritize agriculture over commercial development.
- 3. Food Literacy:** There was consensus on the importance of education, but some participants opposed using traditional media alone, favoring creative, community-based approaches like songs, plays, and storytelling to resonate with local audiences.
- 4. Policy and Regulation:** Divergence arose around the regulation of GMOs. While some viewed them as a solution to food insecurity, others cited concerns about environmental and health risks, advocating for indigenous seeds and farming practices.
- 5. Multi-Sectoral Collaboration:** Stakeholders agreed on the need for cross-sector collaboration but differed on the mechanisms. Government representatives favored formal structures, while community groups advocated for informal, flexible partnerships to enhance local ownership.
- 6. Food Waste and Preservation:** While most agreed on the need to reduce food waste, opinions diverged on how to achieve this. Some proposed community-based composting and redistribution programs, while others focused on technological innovations like cold storage systems.

These divergences highlight the need for inclusive, participatory approaches that balance varied perspectives to build consensus and foster effective solutions.

## OVERALL SUMMARY

The SUN CSA Kenya-led dialogues held in Nairobi, Bomet, and Kiambu counties served as a significant platform for community-driven discussions on nutrition challenges, opportunities, and actionable solutions in Kenya. These dialogues were part of the preparation for the 2025 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, bringing together over 200 participants, including community health promoters, civil society organizations, opinion leaders, and local stakeholders. The focus was on identifying key nutrition issues and formulating strategies that can drive meaningful change, ensuring that Kenya makes substantial progress in addressing malnutrition at the local and national levels.

The overall atmosphere of the dialogues was one of engagement, urgency, and hope. There was a palpable sense of community ownership as participants shared their lived experiences and concerns about nutrition, drawing on local knowledge and cultural insights. The dialogues created an open space where voices from diverse sectors – health, agriculture, education, and others – came together to discuss pressing issues affecting food systems and nutrition outcomes. It was clear that while many challenges remain, the willingness of participants to find solutions and collaborate was both inspiring and energizing.

Key nutrition challenges identified during the dialogues included limited access to affordable, nutritious food, particularly in rural and urban informal settlements. Food insecurity, exacerbated by seasonal fluctuations, rising food prices, and inadequate supply chains, was highlighted as a significant issue. Many participants expressed concern about the lack of dietary diversity, with an over-reliance on staple foods like maize, which limits the intake of essential vitamins and minerals. In addition, the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, including iron, vitamin A, and iodine, was widely discussed, with participants emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to address these gaps.

Food literacy also emerged as a key issue. Many participants shared their struggles with understanding balanced diets and the nutritional value of different foods. Misconceptions and myths around nutrition, especially in rural areas, were seen as barriers to making informed food choices. There was widespread agreement that nutrition education needs to be integrated into schools, community health programs, and mass media campaigns. Messages should be culturally relevant and presented in local languages to ensure they resonate with diverse communities.

In terms of actions, participants proposed urgent solutions to address the highlighted challenges. These included advocating for policies to stabilize food prices, improve market access, and support smallholder farmers. They also called for the implementation of more targeted nutrition education programs, particularly in schools, and greater investment in urban agriculture. Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration was seen as a key action to ensure that all stakeholders work together to achieve shared nutrition goals. Participants also emphasized the importance of improving data collection systems to better understand nutrition issues at local levels and evaluate the impact of interventions.

From an organizational perspective, the dialogues felt inclusive, participatory, and driven by a genuine desire to create change. The open and honest conversations allowed participants to express their frustrations, but they were equally filled with a sense of optimism about the potential for transformative change through collective action. There was a shared recognition that addressing nutrition challenges in Kenya requires sustained commitment, resources, and a coordinated approach across sectors and levels of government.

Overall, the dialogues laid a strong foundation for further action ahead of the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit. The discussions provided valuable insights into the nutrition landscape in Kenya, highlighting both the challenges and the opportunities. As Kenya moves forward in its commitment to improving nutrition, the lessons learned from these dialogues will serve as a crucial roadmap for addressing the nutritional needs of its population, particularly the most vulnerable communities. The call to action from the dialogues is clear: greater investment, collaboration, and data-driven strategies are needed to ensure a healthier future for all Kenyans.



# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The dialogue was designed to align with key principles of engagement, including inclusivity, transparency, and accountability. Prior to the event, facilitators were briefed on the participant list, which included community leaders, health professionals, civil society representatives, and local government officials, ensuring a balance of perspectives. We anticipated potential competing interests, especially from stakeholders in the agriculture and trade sectors, and proactively facilitated discussions that allowed each group to voice their concerns while focusing on shared goals. To manage these interests, we emphasized a neutral and collaborative approach, encouraging participants to focus on collective solutions rather than individual sectoral concerns. While financial disclosure requirements were not specifically implemented, we encouraged openness about any potential conflicts of interest. This approach fostered a productive environment where diverse voices were heard.

## METHOD AND SETTING

Our dialogue was convened in a formal setting, held at a conference facility within a hotel. The methodology employed followed a participatory approach, encouraging active engagement from all stakeholders. We utilized structured discussions and breakout sessions to facilitate focused conversations around key nutrition issues. A mix of plenary presentations and smaller group discussions ensured diverse voices were heard. The setting provided an ideal environment for a productive dialogue.

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

When convening a Nutrition Dialogue event, it's crucial to create an inclusive, accessible space where diverse stakeholders feel empowered to share their perspectives. Prioritize community participation and ensure that all voices, particularly from marginalized groups, are heard. Prepare for potential competing interests by briefing facilitators beforehand and ensuring transparency in discussions. A clear agenda and well-defined objectives help keep the dialogue focused and productive.

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to World Vision for leading the Nutrition Dialogue initiative in collaboration with the 4SD Foundation. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders for their valuable participation in this important discussion on nutrition for growth at the national level. Finally, we offer our deepest gratitude to our generous funders, whose contributions have made this initiative possible. Together, we are fostering positive change.