

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Empowering local communities: Effective actions to address child hunger and malnutrition
DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 4 December 2024 10:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Chikondi Magombo - Food and Nutrition Office, Joseph Kanyangala School Health and Nutrition Officer Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Lizzie Lombe. Coordinating and providing technical support alongside the Convenors and other Key stakeholders Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Lizzie Lombe. Coordinating and providing technical support
EVENT LANGUAGE	Chichewa
HOST LOCATION	Nkhoma Mission, Malawi
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Chamadenga Village, TA Mazengera, Lilongwe
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55855/



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

1

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	6	19-29
13	30-49	1	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

16	Female	4	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	1	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
5	Educators and Teachers	4	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	2	Food Producers (including farmers)
4	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
2	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	3	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

The other stakeholder groups comprised members from Citizen Voice and Action as well as child protection committees. Chiefs and faith leaders including some members of Village Savings and Loans groups were also present

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The participants were a diverse group of adults from the same community, including both men and women. They represented various roles, such as faith leaders, chiefs, care group members, caregivers, Citizen Voice and Action representatives, child protection committee members and participants in village savings and loans groups. The workshop took place in a rural area, with all attendees coming from the Dzuwa communities in Lilongwe.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

A roundtable setup was arranged followed by introductions . The facilitator mentioned the objective of the nutrition dialogue. Key terms , "hunger" and "malnutrition" were introduced, and the children were invited to define what hunger means to them. There were energizers in between the the discussions to keep everyone engaged and active. At certain points, participants were divided into groups to identify the causes of hunger and malnutrition in their area and propose potential solutions.

DISCUSSION

What are some factors that perpetuates child hunger and malnutrition in the area? How can various stakeholders available in the community join hands to fight child hunger and malnutrition

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

- Selling of farm inputs: Families often sell subsidized farm inputs, such as fertilizer, instead of using them for cultivation.
- Overpopulation lead to rapid consumption of harvested food causing the food to run out early.
- Lack of knowledge on food utilization: Limited understanding of proper food preparation and storage affects nutrition and food security.
- Ignorance about food budgeting: Poor planning and budgeting lead to inefficient food use and wastage.
- Cultural practices: Traditional ceremonies often involve preparing large quantities of food resulting in significant plate waste.
- Theft of farm inputs and produce: There is high cases of theft which reduces available resources affecting food production and income.
- Climate change contribute to low crop yields and reduced agricultural productivity.
- Families often prioritize men when distributing meal portions, contributing to malnutrition among children. As one participant explained, 'In my family, men are given the larger parts of the chicken, while children receive only the head!'

URGENT ACTIONS

- Promote and adopt irrigation farming to ensure consistent agricultural production throughout the year.
- Encourage the use of organic manure to improve soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers which is expensive these days.
- Practice improved agricultural technologies to increase crop yields and resilience to climate change.
- Engage local leaders to advocate for reducing excessive food preparation during cultural ceremonies.
- Intensify cooking demonstrations to teach effective food utilization and improve nutrition.
- Promote family planning methods to address the challenges associated with overpopulation.
- Support natural regeneration practices to restore soil health and enhance environmental sustainability

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants demonstrated an understanding of the issues surrounding nutrition and hunger, including their impact on their lives. However, we observed a limited awareness of dietary diversity, as maize was frequently mentioned as the primary food source. This concern can be addressed through awareness sessions focusing on dietary diversity

OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogue session offered an opportunity to understand the perspectives of stakeholders from various sectors on nutrition and hunger. The discussions shown that most committee members are knowledgeable about good nutrition and indicated to share some of the insights gained from these conversations with others in their communities. However, there is a need to actively engage the community in nutrition awareness focusing on promoting dietary diversity.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Before the workshop began, we made sure that each participant was willing to be engaged voluntarily, reassuring them that our role was to listen to their ideas without any form of evaluation. Consent of their participation was sought first.

METHOD AND SETTING

The dialogue session took place at a Church (selected to provide a comfortable environment with enough space) The session began with introductions, followed by an explanation of the workshop's goals and a brief energizer activity to engage participants before starting the discussion.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

- Define the goals of the workshop clearly before the workshop Choose a venue that is central to all participants to ensure good patronage and participation as the participants are free in mind without disturbing thoughts of how they would travel back to their respective homes

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements go to the Lilongwe District Council, and the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture for collaborating to engage stakeholders on issues of hunger and malnutrition. Acknowledgement should also go to World Vision Malawi National Office team, The WVM Lilongwe District Programmes Manager, Mr. Harold Munthali for ably linking with the Government team at District level.

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Nutrition Dialogue to inform future interventions around addressing child hunger and malnutrition**
<https://africabrief.substack.com/p/hunger-haunts-rural-malawi-children>
- **Snippets of Nutrition dialogues in Lilongwe District**
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14LTS3A4sY/>

ATTACHMENTS

- **submission form with photos**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Stakeholders-Pre-Submission-STAKEHOLDERS-Feedback-Form-4th-December-2024-Lilongwe.pdf>
- **Additional Photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-99.jpg>
- **Additional Photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-75.jpg>
- **Additional photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-85.jpg>
- **additional Photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-102.jpg>
- **Additional Photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-68-1.jpg>
- **Photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-72.jpg>
- **Photo**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/LW-104-1.jpg>