

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	The Role of Faith leaders in fighting child hunger and malnutrition
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 5 December 2024 10:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Brian Sangala Environmental Health Officer , Alicano Mkali WASH Project Officer Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Lizzie Lombe. COORDINATING AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Lizzie Lombe. Coordinating and professional technical support
EVENT LANGUAGE	CHICHEWA
HOST LOCATION	Salima, Malawi
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	CHINGULUWE EPA, T.A KALONGA, SALIMA IN MALAWI
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55899/



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

12

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	7	19-29
5	30-49	0	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

2	Female	10	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)
0	Educators and Teachers	12	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	0	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
0	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

The group comprised of faith leaders only with a specific objective to allow them explore and discuss their role in addressing child hunger and malnutrition

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The faith leaders comprised Christians and Muslims and were all from the same community which is a rural set up

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The session started with introductions where each member present mentioned his or her name. The participants were given consent forms where they were asked to sign if they agreed to take part in the discussions on nutrition and not sign if not. All members signed the consent forms before the discussions started. The discussions started with the convenor by asking the participants on their knowledge on nutrition. The participants expressed their knowledge on nutrition by stating that they hear from health workers that eating good food enables one to have good nutrition. They also stated that availability of food 3 times a day also ensures people to have good nutrition and healthy bodies. The facilitator further asked the participants about their knowledge on the consequences of not following proper eating habits. They stated that the following are the results of poor nutrition: Having unhealthy bodies, being weak, being sick often and no development in homes. Horace asked the participants on how they can define hunger. They stated that hunger refers to a situation where there is lack of adequate food in homes. One participant gave an example when there was extreme hunger in 2001 and people were eating the roots of banana plants and some were eating dried okra. They also indicated that people are also currently undergoing hunger where others are cooking mangoes as porridge.

DISCUSSION

The main discussion topic was The role of faith leaders in addressing hunger and malnutrition and the open question shared to the participants were as follows

1. What is your understanding about Nutrition
2. What is your understanding about Hunger
3. How is hunger and malnutrition affecting members of your respective congregations and children
4. What are some of the challenges that the members of your churches/ mosques are facing around hunger and malnutrition and how can the challenges be addressed
5. What do you think is your role in addressing these child hunger and malnutrition issues

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

- Deforestation, villagers (who are also our church members) are carelessly cutting down trees as a source of income leading to soil erosion and climate change.
- Poverty which has led to the cutting down of trees for charcoal and firewood without planting more trees for example KUTI forest reserve has been completely destroyed.
- Expensive farm inputs like fertilizer and seed has led to people having no food since they are unable to harvest enough yield to sustain them throughout the year.
- Most parents are not supporting the education of their children, some are even failing to pay K1000 as exam fees in primary schools.
- The spiritual lives of people is also being affected due to lack of food. Some begin to doubt if God really loves them

URGENT ACTIONS

- Afforestation- to improve the effects of climate change and reduce soil erosion.
 - Rearing of small livestock like chickens-these can help in manure or buying farm inputs after selling.
 - Small scale businesses can support families to buy food in times of need.
 - Teaching church members in manure making to reduce hunger since community members can manage to harvest more yield even if they can have no money for buying fertilizer.
 - Careless eating methods which leads to wastage of food e.g. in times of weddings, funerals, tombstone unveiling ceremonies should be stopped.
 - Usage of water bodies for farming even during dry season can help to reduce hunger.
 - Provision of irrigation materials to make use of water bodies even during the dry season can also help to reduce hunger.
 - Backyard gardens using water from boreholes can also reduce some minor costs like that of vegetables.
- All the above should be encouraged in the churches or mosques

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Pastors and church leaders have knowledge on nutrition and hunger and the consequences on their lives and community members. However most of the participants confessed that they were not aware that lack of good nutrition is also a form of hunger and that they were only looking at maize as a source of food other than other alternative food like potatoes, bananas etc. However, they were all able to agree that their involvement in these helped them to stir discussions that they will continue with their church members as they appreciated the dialogue so much.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogue session created a platform and a valuable opportunity to hear and understand the views of pastors on nutrition and hunger. The discussions have shown that pastors have a big role in educating their members on nutrition and hunger issues as they are trusted by their members. They requested for materials and capacity building to be given to them for their effectiveness in teaching their members.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Participants to the discussion were given consent forms where they were asked to sign if they were accepting to participate in the discussions. They were informed that if they accept, their views can be quoted or published on social media. All participants signed the forms and accepted to take part in the discussions. They were all requested to freely participate in the discussions without any fear.

METHOD AND SETTING

Venue: Chinguluwe Field Office which is central and allowed all participants to attend without travelling long distances. The sessions began with introductions, followed by an explanation of the meeting's goals. Consent forms were completed prior to the event.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Plan for adequate time to make sure all areas are covered. Respect the cultures and beliefs of all participants especially for such faith based to enable a cordial discussion

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements go to the District and Community Pastors Flaternal, the Salima District Council and the Ministries of Health for collaborating to engage children and pastors on issues of hunger and malnutrition. World Vison Staff from Salima Office were also instrumental in bringing together the involved team members

ATTACHMENTS

- **photo**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/WORLD-VISION_4-scaled.jpg
- **photo**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/WORLD-VISION_2-scaled.jpg
- **photo**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/WORLD-VISION_1-scaled.jpg