

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	What it takes to have ENOUGH and nutritious food for every child at Chakhaza, Dowa
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 10 December 2024 13:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Yamikani Photo, Assistant Environmental Health Officer Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Yamikani Banda. Technical Support Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Yamikani Banda. Technical Support
EVENT LANGUAGE	Chichewa
HOST LOCATION	Dowa, Malawi
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community Level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision International
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/56168/



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

14

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	2	19-29
10	30-49	2	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

7	Female	7	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	0	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	4	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
0	Healthcare Professionals	4	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
2	Women's Groups	2	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The other stakeholders included representatives from community committees including school management committees as well as Parents Teacher Associations

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

14 participants were involved in the dialogue, (7 males and 7 females), with diverse ages. They were all from the rural communities around Kasangadzi Area Program. The group comprised of representatives from different groups such as chiefs, church/religious leaders, police forum, mother group, Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), Village Development Committee (VDC), child protection and School Head Teacher.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

After introductions, the facilitator introduced the discussion topic, "Hunger and Nutrition." In this introduction, the facilitator provided an overview of the hunger and nutrition situation in Dowa District and across Malawi, setting the local context for the conversation. Next, the facilitator outlined the workshop's objectives: • To create a safe and welcoming space where stakeholders could share their experiences and perspectives on hunger and nutrition. • To identify the challenges and opportunities in addressing child hunger and malnutrition within the community. In order to ensure a respectful and inclusive discussion, ground rules were established, including: Active listening and respect for differing opinions. Not interrupting others while they are speaking. Raising hands to request speaking time. Avoiding side conversations to maintain focus. Keeping phones on silent to avoid disruptions. Asking questions for clarity when needed. Maintaining confidentiality and encouraging participation from all attendees. By establishing these guidelines, the workshop created a supportive environment that encouraged open sharing, setting the stage for a productive and meaningful dialogue on hunger and nutrition.

DISCUSSION

The Discussion revolved around What it takes for the community of TA Chakhaza to have ENOUGH Nutritious Food.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

- Change of climate, leading to erratic rains. As a result, people are not able to harvest enough food commodities to feed their families for the whole year
- Inadequate supply of subsidy farm inputs such as fertilizer. This also result into low yields because these farm inputs are so expensive such that the community members cannot afford to buy
- Selling of farm yields (food items) to sort out other family needs instead of storing the food commodities for future use
- Selling of subsidy farm input commodities instead of using them for their farms
- Leasing of farming land, hence families do not have adequate land to farm
- Loss of fertility in most farm lands, leading to low yields
- Lack of counselling from the health sector on good nutrition practices
- Lack of counselling from the agriculture sector on modern farming
- Lack of support from NGOs with farming materials which used to boost the farm produce
- Not practicing irrigation farming to boost their food income

URGENT ACTIONS

- Planting trees to restore vegetation and weather pattern which will result in adequate rainfall
- Leaders such as chiefs should ensure that people are not selling their subsidy farm inputs but rather must use them in their gardens
- Parents should stop leasing their farm lands
- Every household should have a backyard garden and practice animal farming such as chicken to benefit them in terms of nutrition
- Children should be given food at a propriate times and also in enough quantity
- Partners such as World vision should support with school feeding programs
- Community members should be trained on how to make various food products from the farm produce which may help them to improve their nutrition. For instance, making milk from soya and cooking oil from groundnut
- Health workers such as HSAs should be providing health talks to the community members on good nutrition, including how to prepare nutritious food
- Agriculture extension workers should be advising community members on modern farming to improve their yield
- Practicing irrigation farming to boost their food income

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants diverged from the topic of discussion and started discussing about safe motherhood. The facilitator brought them back on track by reminding them politely about the topic of discussion

OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogue session started with a prayer from a volunteer and this was followed by introductions, whereby each participant introduced themselves and their position.

After introductions, the facilitator introduced the topic of discussion; "Hunger and Nutrition". In the introduction, the facilitator highlighted the local context of hunger and nutrition situation around Kasangu area and Malawi at large. Then the facilitator clearly outlined the workshop's objective which was to create a safe and convenient space for stakeholders to share their experiences and perspectives on hunger and nutrition and to identify challenges and opportunities to end child hunger and malnutrition in the community.

To ensure a respectful and inclusive discussion, ground rules were established which included: Active listening, respect for differing opinions by not interrupting when someone else is speaking, raising a hand if a participant wants to speak, avoiding mini meetings (side-talking), putting phones on silent to avoid disturbances, asking questions for clarity, confidentiality and encouragement of participation from all attendees.

Main causes of hunger and poor nutrition in our communities

- Change of climate, leading to erratic rains. As a result, people are not able to harvest enough food commodities to feed their families for the whole year
- Inadequate supply of subsidy farm inputs such as fertilizer. This also result into low yields because these farm inputs are so expensive such that the community members cannot afford to buy
- Selling of farm yields (food items) to sort out other family needs instead of storing the food commodities for future use
- Selling of subsidy farm input commodities instead of using them for their farms
- Leasing of farming land, hence families do not have adequate land to farm
- Loss of fertility in most farm lands, leading to low yields
- Lack of counselling from the health sector on good nutrition practices
- Lack of counselling from the agriculture sector on modern farming
- Lack of support from NGOs with farming materials which used to boost the farm produce

What measures should be put in place in order to overcome these challenges

- Planting trees to restore vegetation and weather pattern which will result in adequate rainfall
- Leaders such as chiefs should ensure that people are not selling their subsidy farm inputs but rather must use them in their gardens
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SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. Commitment to Improve Nutrition Throughout the discussion, participants were reminded that the ultimate objective is end child hunger and nutrition. Through this, the participants understood the aim of the discussion and they showed commitment by agreeing to implement the discussed solutions to the challenges. 2. Multistakeholder Diversity and Inclusivity The dialogue included a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from various groups such as chiefs, church/religious leaders, police forum, mother group, Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), Village Development Committee (VDC), child protection and School Head Teacher. Views from all participants were heard and valued, regardless of their background or expertise.

METHOD AND SETTING

Focus group discussion (dialogue) was used to collect data. The group consisted of 14 different stakeholders from different groups around Kasangu primary school community. There was a moderator and a note taker. The moderator followed a guide which was pre-developed in the reference manual while the note taker was recording the discussion in a notebook. The moderator used open ended questions to allow the participants to explain issues fully. Nutrition counselling cards were used.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

- Select a conducive environment (venue) and time for the discussion
- Use proper language, avoid jargons
- Stick to the recommended time
- Set the right mood in the beginning (introduction) to make the participants feel free to express their views.
- Ensure a respectful dialogue by setting ground rules in the beginning

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

World Vision Malawi

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Stakeholder Nutrition Dialogue in Dowa**
<https://malawiguardian.com/2024/12/12/world-vision-amplifies-childrens-voices-on-hunger-and-malnutrition/>