

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	Deliberation on hunger and malnutrition and its effects on children's and adolescents in Somntongo, Eswatini
WORKSHOP DATE	Friday, 13 December 2024 10:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Onias Hlungwani Program Design Evidence and Impact Coordinator World Vision
EVENT LANGUAGE	SiSwati and English
HOST CITY	Matsanjeni, Eswatini
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision, Nutrition Council Eswatini
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/56283/



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

22

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

17 12-15

5 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

9 Female

13 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

The participants are from a group of adolescents who meet on a frequent basis to get life skills training. The group consist of boys (59%) and girls (41%) of different ages. While they are all from the rural areas, they are however are of different economic status.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING

The workshop was s introduced by the oral presentation by facilitators about the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the country. This presentation triggered a question to the participants on whether they relate with what is happening in the country and to explain the situation in their own constituency of Somntongo. This constituency falls in the Lowveld and characterized by low rainfall, and high temperatures. The is high levels of unemployment and limited farming opportunities due to crop failure and poor access to water for irrigation.

SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The nutrition challenges faced by participants is poor access to food which causes hunger
There is limited access to food at school
There is poor nutritious food served at home and school
Parents are poor and can not give children money to buy food at school
Even if they get money from parents, the food that is sold at school is not nutritious at all

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

There is need to improve the school feeding program at school ensuring that there is enough food through out the learning days
There is need for government and other agencies to provide food or cash transfers to the poorest households in the community
Support parents, caregiver and youth with small businesses so that they can have an income that will improve access to food for children in the household
There is need to educate youths and children on the dangers of teen pregnancy's and how it affects their education and future prospects in life

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

To a great extent views were in congruency with participants seemingly agreeing in the topics under discussion.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The workshop was a great success and was attended by children between the ages of 12 to 8 year old. The dialogue , unearthed a number of key causes of hunger an malnutrition in the constituency of Somntongo in Eswatini. The participants noted that the area was grossly affected by poverty and this as worsened by the effects of climate change that made farming a risky business for many households. Being a dry area , water is scarce and the children recommended that households have backyard gardens to grow vegetables to improve nutrition status.

The participants discussed the effects for hunger in the community and what came out clearly as girl were vulnerable to teen pregnancies' as result of getting into relationships while they are still young to get food or money. This results in the school drop-outs. Being at the gateway border with South Africa's Kwazulu Natal province, many young girls' resort to prostitution since there is limited employment in the community. It was clear that in order to address the issue, there was need to increase access to food and livelihoods to the most vulnerable households so that children will not fall into the trap of teenage pregnancy's.

The participants recommended there was need to empower youths and parents with business skills and start-ups to improve household income, so ad to improve the situation if hunger and malnutrition. At the school levels , the participants noted that there was need to improve access to nutritious food in the schools for all children. The government and other agencies need to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable households.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The participants were informed of their rights and confidentiality. In addition, the facilitators' were asked to declare and conflicts of interest.

METHOD AND SETTING

The setting for the workshop was an informal one with the participants meeting at the community center where they normally meet. Safeguarding protocols throughout the process and doing no harm being observed.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Plan well and keep time to ensure children do not stay longer than they should.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to the support team from World Vision , including Nozizwe Ngwenya, Nkosingiphile Kunene, Busisiwe Zulu and Cebi Khumalo.

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/IMG-20241213-WA0014.jpg>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/IMG-20241213-WA0018-1.jpg>