

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Better Nutrition, Better Future
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 12 November 2024 09:00 GMT +06:30
CONVENED BY	Naw Phoeve, ENOUGH campaign lead, World Vision Myanmar
EVENT LANGUAGE	Myanmar, Kayin (local language)
HOST LOCATION	Pathein, Myanmar (Burma)
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Pathein, Ayeyawaddy Region.
AFFILIATIONS	Part of WVI ENOUGH campaign initiative
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/56640/



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	3	19-29
7	30-49	4	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

9	Female	5	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	14	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

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

In this discussion group, participants include ordained pastors, Sunday school teachers, and church-based ECCD teachers. They are from the same ethnicity, baptist religion and from rural areas. The age range varied from 19 to 74.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

WVM organized a nutrition dialogue with faith leaders from the Spiritual Nurture of Children (SNC) project area in Pathein. WVM campaign team members began the dialogue by presenting an overview and introduction to ENOUGH campaign and raising awareness about Hunger and Nutrition. With the support of SNC project staff, 14 faith leaders, including church-based ECCD center teachers from 14 villages, actively participated in the dialogue.

DISCUSSION

The discussion was based on the following questions and facts; 1) How do you understand child nutrition? 2) How do you understand malnutrition? 3) What are the challenges that hinder children's Nutrition status? 5) What are the urgent actions urgently needed to tackle the issue and how they should participate to address the issue? 6) How do you think faith leaders can participate?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The faith leaders from 14 churches shared their concerns as follows:

- When children are over a year old, some parents leave them at home while they go to work. They frequently allow the toddler to hold the phone to calm the child down. Children also suffer from side effects such as blurred vision. If the children are not properly nourished, it hinders their growth.
- Parents do not have enough money to feed their children with nutritious food, and they are also unable to spend enough time with their children since they are working. Due to the easy availability of food from outside, children no longer want to eat healthy food and are eager to eat such ready-made food. Although mothers feed nutritious food such as eggs, shrimp, fish, etc. at home children refuse to eat them. They only like and want to eat ready-made food. The children are demanding to buy and eat only such prepared foods.
- Prepared snacks, soft drinks, milkshakes, ice creams, etc. can cause coughs in children as they are made with cheap ingredients and are harmful to children's health.
- The child eats less even though the mother prepares food as he/she prefers junk food.
- Some children become overweight as teenagers due to overeating. It is common for children to be told to eat less, yet they are unable to comply.

URGENT ACTIONS

Urgent Actions mentioned are:

- It is recommended to cultivate as many vegetables as possible around the home's backyard and feed them the children. If children start to eat vegetables at an early age, they will develop the habit of eating vegetables as they get older, which is helpful for children's nutritional development.
- Overeating can also be harmful to children. Although children can be fed properly with the resources God has provided, they must be properly nurtured and cared for as God's Word tells us not to overeat.
- Churches to educate parents on how to nurture their kids in kindergartens and provide as much support as possible for child nutrition. The support of the church is important, just as community support is vital, especially for children residing in these villages. Social development organizations can be more effective if they can collaborate with the church.
- Preschool is essential to have in every village. Preschools provide training for teachers, which strengthens their understanding of child care, and parents gain more knowledge about child care as well. For this reason, parents work hard to ensure their children's nutrition but there are obstacles and problems. Moreover, there are also ways for children to share their parents what they have learned in preschool.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There is no divergence in the discussion. All see and agree on the points of children being exposed to a variety of fast food/junk food which are unhealthy for them. Those foods are easily accessible even in the villages. Some parents did have nutrition knowledge and tried to prepare food for their kids but they are weak in convincing them to eat the food that they've prepared.

OVERALL SUMMARY

WVM organized a nutrition dialogue with faith leaders at village level in Pathein, delta. 14 faith leaders including ordained pastors, Sunday school teachers and church-based ECCD teachers from 14 villages actively participated in the dialogue. Those faith leaders are mainly from Baptist denomination and from the same ethnic group.

The discussion was based on the six questions

1. How do you understand child nutrition?
2. How do you understand malnutrition?
3. What are the connections between nutrition and malnutrition in the daily lives of children?
4. What are the challenges that hinder children's nutrition?
5. What are the actions urgently needed to tackle the issue and how it can be addressed?
6. How do you think you can participate in addressing the issue?

The participants do have knowledge on children's nutrition and realized the issues facing by the children and the families that hindered children's food security and nutrition.

They raised their concerns as follows:

- When children are over a year old, some parents go to work and leave them at home. Children are not carefully fed. Parents do not have enough money to feed their children with nutritious food, and they are also unable to spend enough time with their children since they are working. If the children are not properly nourished, it hinders their growth.
- They frequently use the phone to make the toddler calm and quiet. So, children also suffer from side effects such as blurred vision.
- Due to the easily availability of food from outside, children no longer want to eat healthy food and are eager to eat such ready-made food. Although mothers feed nutritious food such as eggs, shrimp, fish, etc. at home children refuse to eat them. They only like and want to eat ready-made food. The children are demanding to buy and eat only such prepared foods.
- Prepared snacks, soft drinks, milkshakes, ice creams, etc. can cause coughs in children as they are made with cheap ingredients and are harmful to children's health.
- The child eats less even though the mother prepares food as he/she prefers junk food.
- Some children become overweight as teenagers due to overeating. It is common for children to be told to eat less, yet they are unable to comply.

Urgent Actions are:

- To grow as many vegetables as possible around the home backyard and feed the children so that they will develop the habit of eating vegetables as they get older, which is helpful for children's nutritional development.
- Children must be nurtured and taught to know to care for God's creation and to value the resources that God entrusted us. They need to be aware not to overeat which is harmful for them as well as to follow God's word not to overeat.
- Churches to educate parents on how to nurture their kids in kindergartens and provide as much support as possible for child nutrition. The support of the church is important, just as community support is vital, especially for children residing in these villages. Social development organizations can be more effective if they can collaborate with the church. Preschool is essential to have in every village. Preschools provide training for teachers, which strengthens their understanding of child care, and parents gain more knowledge about child care as well. For this reason, parents work hard to ensure their children's nutrition but there are obstacles and problems. Moreover, there are also ways for children to share their parents what they have learned in preschool

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

This dialogue was organized through WVM spiritual nurture for children project. The participants are from the target villages and are the partners of WVM in nurturing children in terms of spiritually. The facilitator was selected based on the experience working with faith leaders and briefed about the objectives of the dialogue and how the result will be used.

METHOD AND SETTING

It is a Focus Group Discussion method to get their views on children's nutrition. The setting is more on semi-formal but start with a formal introduction, and presentation of the objectives. The setting is similar to formal but the discussion was open and frank. it is an indoor activity within a compound of the partner's office.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

NA

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgment goes to the Faith and Development Manager for facilitating the dialogue and child protection coordinator who helped with taking notes. Thanks to the Spiritual Nurture for Children (SNC) project manager, the officer at Pathein and other team members for organizing the event. Special thanks to the pastors, sunday school teachers who joined the dialogue.