

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Voice of community stakeholders in child hunger and malnutrition
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 19 December 2024 14:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Liny Mwanja, Maternal and Child Health Project Officer, World Vision
EVENT LANGUAGE	Local language-Chichewa
HOST LOCATION	Machinga, Malawi
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Chamba primary school, Kalolo village, Nanda GVH, Chamba AP, Southern region of Malawi
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/56695/



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

0 19-29

8 30-49

2 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

3 Female

7 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, Youth Groups and Students

1 Educators and Teachers

0 Financial Institutions and Technical Partners

0 Healthcare Professionals

0 Information and Technology Providers

0 Marketing and Advertising Experts

0 News and Media (e.g. Journalists)

0 Science and Academia

0 Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives

1 Women's Groups

1 Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)

1 Faith Leaders/Faith Communities

1 Food Producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous Peoples

0 Large Business and Food Retailers

0 National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives

1 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

4 Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The stakeholder group comprised of traditional leader, Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) committee member, Community Health action group (CHAG) committee member, child protection committee member, youth representative, faith leader, mother group member

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

In total, 10 participants participated in the dialogue sessions and 8 of the participants were from the age ranges of 30-49 years while 2 were over 50 years of age. In this group, there were 7 males and 3 females and there was no stakeholder with disability. Participants were from Msumbo, Kapeta, Kawanula, Nanda, Mphamba and Sululu communities which are with World Vision area program.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The dialogue sessions started with introductions where each member shared the name and the sector he/she is representing and this was led by Convener from World Vision. The convener also narrated why it was important for the stakeholders to take part in the meeting. This was followed by sharing current nutrition situation. Nutrition Officer from Ministry of Health highlighted trends of malnutrition in Machinga district. He said that, currently the district is registering more cases of children with severe and acute malnutrition as such there is need for urgent action from different stakeholders to alleviate the problem. He shared to the group the long term and short-term effects of malnutrition to the children and why it is necessary to address the problem. He narrated that community members have the critical role of preventing and managing moderate acute malnutrition as such through these dialogue sessions, stakeholders should come up with tangible solution on how best they can reduce and manage at community level. Through this narration, one stakeholder commented that the major challenge faced in the community is food insecurity as such caregivers fail to provide nutritious meals for their children leading to high malnutrition cases.

DISCUSSION

The main discussion topic was on understanding issues that affect child nutrition. The facilitator initiated the discussion by asking the stakeholders their general knowledge of the six food groups and what are the locally available foods which can be prepared to come up with the six food groups. It was observed that almost all stakeholders had the knowledge on six food groups and food diversification. However, they indicated that despite the knowledge, most families in the community are failing to provide nutritious meals for their children due to several challenges.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

- Food insecurity due to climate change effects- the dry spells experienced in the area contributed to low yield for most farmers which in turn left the households to be food insecure
- Families not able to focus on their goals- the little food harvested sometimes is misused due to lack of clear goals for the parents
- High prices of agricultural inputs have limited households to produce enough leading to food insecurity
- Cultural and religious ceremonies- families prioritize to give the little food available at household level for ceremonies such as initiation ceremonies (chinamwali) and sadaka leaving their household food insecure
- Lack of skills to prepare nutritious meals from locally available foods

URGENT ACTIONS

- Conduct empowered world view training which will enable parents to have a clear vision and goals for their families targeting leaders
- Conduct cooking lessons targeting caregivers which will enable them to learn how best they can prepare nutritious meals using locally available materials
- Supporting youths to engage in small income generating activities so that they can be independent and self-reliant
- Promote backyard garden to ensure families have food diversity
- Government through ministry of agriculture to promote irrigation farming

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the dialogue sessions stakeholder's raise different issues contributing to food insecurity which in turn affect nutrition status of children. On the other hand, they identified themselves as key people to ensure there is good nutrition for their children. They challenged themselves to start implementing some of the suggested action plan.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Stakeholders appreciated World Vision for organizing such an event and they indicated that most of the community meetings conducted do not prioritize issues of how best they can end child hunger and malnutrition to children. As such, nutrition dialogue sessions have played the key role in highlighting the nutrition situation in the district and roles that can be played by different stakeholders to address the highlighted issues. Major challenge that came out during the dialogue sessions include food insecurity due to climate change effects- the dry spells experienced in the area contributed to low yield for most farmers which in turn left the households to be food insecure. Also, high prices of agricultural inputs have limited households to produce enough leading to food insecurity and cultural and religious ceremonies where families prioritize to give the little food available at household level for ceremonies such as initiation ceremonies (chinamwali) leaving their household food insecure.

Stakeholders recommended that cooking demonstrations should be done with support from ministry of health, where care givers will learn how they can prepare nutritious meals using locally available resources i.e. learn how to prepare one pot dish meal. They also suggested that if government can subsidize agricultural inputs and promote irrigation farming in the area, many households will be food secure. In summary, the activity was successful and there is need to continue engaging stakeholders to check progress of the action plan developed.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Before the workshop, stakeholders were briefed on the dialogue sessions and that every stakeholder should be able willing to participate voluntarily. They were encouraged to take part in the discussions and express their ideas on the issues to be raised. It was indicated to them that after these sessions, the stakeholders need to continue reflecting on the action plan developed and ensure that every stakeholder take part in implementing the action plan. Facilitators led the sessions through asking questions and documenting the responses

METHOD AND SETTING

Venue: Chamba Primary school The sessions 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

- Ensure that stakeholders selected is good representation of the community structures - There is need to include other vulnerable groups like women, people with disabilities so that they should also have the opportunity to express their views. - Plan for adequate time to make sure all areas are covered

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements go to World Vision Malawi staff, WV Sponsorship volunteers, the Machinga District Council, and the Ministries of Health and Education for collaborating to engage children on issues of hunger and malnutrition.

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Stakeholders expressing how to address some of the challenges faced**
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AaYrgK4SB/>