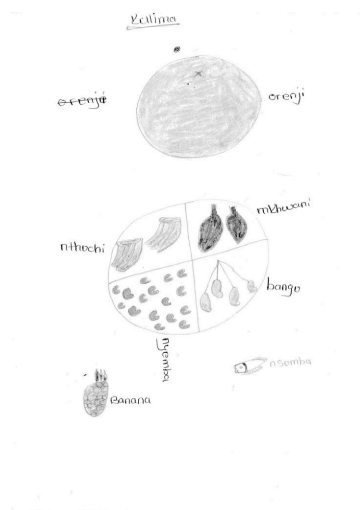


OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	Empowering children to share their voices on nutrition and child hunger in Kapeta GVH
WORKSHOP DATE	Thursday, 19 December 2024 10:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Liny Mwanja, Maternal and Child health project Officer, World Vision Malawi
EVENT LANGUAGE	Local language-Chichewa
HOST CITY	Machinga, Malawi
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Chikala primary school, Kapeta village, Kapeta GVH, Chamba AP, Southern region of Malawi
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/56845/



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

1

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

9 12-15

5 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

5 Female

9 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

Nutrition dialogue sessions were conducted in Chamba Area program, in total 14 children participated in the sessions. These were children from Kapeta, Kawanula and Mapata communities. The sessions were participated by school-going children and there was no child with disability in this group.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING

Children dialogue sessions started by a song where children had to sing their favorite song “expressing how children play on sand.” This was followed by introduction where children had to mention their name. The convenor asked the children to mention one food which starts with the letter of their first name or surname. Children enjoyed this session where they mentioned different types of food. After the introductory session, Nutrition Officer updated the children how the district is struggling with malnutrition and progress made by government in trying to reduce the malnutrition cases. He highlighted that Machinga district has been greatly impacted by climate change effects, as such most households are food insecure which in turn affect provision of nutritious meals to the children resulting into more cases of malnourished children. After this, children were given papers, crayons and pencils and were asked to draw any food that starts with first letter of their first name and surname. Children enjoyed this exercise and came up with different foods. Next activity was that children had to share their challenges and suggested action plans

SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

- Climate change effects- affected households to have low yield
- Despite that some parents harvested enough for their family, they prioritised other cultural/religious ceremonies i.e. initiation ceremonies (chinamwali), memorial feasting (sadaka) which left the children with nothing to eat
- Rising costs of farm inputs
- Children not on priority - Sometimes with little food at home, major priority is given to our father (mainly step-father) to get the only available food that is at home and children could sometimes have little or nothing to it. One case where a child was physically abused after getting food which did not belong to her (though this example is outside the AP)
- Due to food insecurities, most households sold the little they harvested to meet some basic needs like medical bills and other things and children are left with nothing to eat

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Continue supporting schools with feeding program
- Children to support their parents in establishing backyard garden so that the family can have access to all the six food groups
- Take part in re-afforestation
- Support the community with cooking demonstrations so that they can learn how best they can prepare nutritious meals
- Sensitize community to adopt male circumcision which is done at health facility which in turn will save food prepared during the chinamwali ceremonies
- Ensure they work hard at school

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Children had different views in prioritizing major challenges faced by children to have access to nourished diet. A good number of children indicated that climate change effects have contributed much for the area to be food insecure, as a result child fail to get nutritious meals. On the other hand, other children indicated that rising cost of farm inputs have contributed to the challenge since most farmers are unable to produce more.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Children nutrition dialogue sessions have enabled children to express their views on issues that affect them nutritionally. Different activities during the sessions enable the children to express themselves in different ways and during the sessions, it was highlighted that food insecurity which is due to climate change effects affect children to be well nourished. Also, cultural and religious feasts affect families as they sacrifice the little food they have at family level for such events, leaving the family food insecure.

Children expressed that they also have a big role to ensure that some of the challenges they are facing are addressed. One of the action planned indicated by them was to support their parents in establishing backyard garden so that the family can have access to all the six food groups and promote re-forestation.

"I will ensure that when I go back home, I support my parents to establish one backyard garden where we will grow vegetables and establish fruit seedlings. This will ensure that our family have a variety of foods" Stanley narrated.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Every child was asked if they are willing to participate in the dialogue sessions and this was followed by making them and their parents sign the consent forms. They were assured of confidentiality and that every participant was free to express their views and this was documented. Children were requested to respect views of everyone and ask for clarification where necessary.

METHOD AND SETTING

Venue: Chikala primary school- The place was chosen because children were comfortable and more familiar which made them to express their views freely. The sessions began with introductions, which was followed by highlighting the objectives of the workshop by the facilitator and at the end of it action plan was developed to address the highlighted challenges..

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

- Facilitators should ensure that they need to keep allocated time for the sessions which will enable the participants to be more active.
- Ensure all key stakeholders to facilitate the sessions are available
- Ensure children are in a comfortable place where they can freely express their views

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Children request for government support to address food insecurity issues**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AaYrgK4SB/>

ATTACHMENTS

- **children sharing their favorite meal**

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Drawings-Favourite-meals-Chamba_01.jpg