

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	A nutrition dialogue with stakeholders in Muramvya province, Burundi
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 26 November 2024 08:01 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Jules Habonimana Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Javan Niyakire. Technical support Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Javan Niyakire. Technical support
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST LOCATION	Rutegama, Burundi
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
AFFILIATIONS	It was initiated and run by World Vision
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/57025/



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

25

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	12	19-29
9	30-49	4	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

11	Female	14	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)
4	Educators and Teachers	3	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	5	Food Producers (including farmers)
3	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)	4	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	2	Small/Medium Enterprises
2	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
2	Women's Groups	1	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

No, participants are the ones mentioned above

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Almost all of them were from the rural area of Rutegama commune except few of them that came from the small city center of Rutegama. Some were educated/civil servants while others being from the private sector.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

Burundi, a country in the Great Lakes region, has an area of 27,834 km² including 2,700 km² of lakes and 23,500 km² of potentially agricultural land. Its total population is estimated at 13,097,399 inhabitants in 2023 with an average density of 470 inhabitants/km² (ISTEEBU projection, 2016). According to the Integrated Survey on Household Living Conditions in Burundi (EICVMB) of 2019-2020, 51.4% of the population lives below the poverty line. Burundi's economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector which, despite the scarcity of arable land, employs 80% of the population (ISTEEBU, 2021). The level of food insecurity is almost twice as high as the average for other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023 (OCHA et al., 2023). This results in a critical nutritional situation among children under 5 years of age, exacerbated by recurrent economic shocks and epidemics, thus compromising child survival and development. In Burundi, malnutrition is a major public health problem. On a national scale, according to the ENSNMB survey based on the SMART 2022 methodology, the prevalence of stunting was estimated at 55.8% [54.9%-56.8%]. This prevalence is well above the very high threshold of 30% set by the WHO. On a national level, GAM was estimated at 8.0% between 7.4% and 8.7% during this survey. This prevalence is above the average threshold (alert) of 5% set by the WHO, placing the country in a so-called average (precarious) public health situation. It increased by 3.2 percentage points compared to that observed during the ENSNMB of March 2022 where it was 4.8% [4.6-5.1], $p = 0.00$.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Nutrition-dialogue__MURAMVYA__INTRODUCTION.pdf

DISCUSSION

1. What are the nutrition problems/challenges in your environment? 2. What are the possible solutions to overcome these problems? 3. What are the nutrition problems/challenges in your environment? 4. What are the urgent actions and by whom? 5. What are the urgent actions and by whom?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

1. Insufficient knowledge in preparing balanced diets for a good nutrition,
2. Poor harvests of main crops due to soil infertility, climate change or arable land scarcity
3. Overpopulation,
4. Some adult people think fruits are for children
5. Misuse of harvests at household level
6. Many people are more interested in money than investing in their nutrition
7. Poverty in families
8. Some families sell their harvest at the market for money and forget to remain with enough food for their families.
9. In our area, people suffer from diseases related to lack of sufficient food. The body cannot defend itself.
10. They eat less food or miss it or when they get it, they eat one type of food.
11. Poor nutrient dense in consumed foods (carbohydrates, proteins, and fats)
12. Children do not study well because of hunger leading to increased dropouts

URGENT ACTIONS

1. To multiply improved seeds and chemical fertilizers and make them available on time to protect such plants: Government, Non profit organisations, seed producers
2. To increase small livestock: done by Government and partners
3. To increase fruit trees: done by Government, Population and partners
4. Organize trainings about family planning: done by Government, churches, Health District leaders
5. To protect the environment and the soil: done by Government, Agronomists and veterinarians, partners
6. Avail trained technicians on best farming techniques by the government institutions
7. Raise awareness among populations on how to invest in good nutrition, caring for their own life: done by the administration, health community workers, light mothers, community-based organizations on Family Planning
8. To increase the number of VSLAs (saving and lending associations) : Administration, Non-profit Organisations
9. To organize trainings and sensitizations on balanced diet: done by government institutions, NGOs
10. Sensitizations on harvest management: Government institutions and locally based organizations
11. Through churches preachings and the administration sensitization, mobilize community members on good management of harvest and good nutrition.
12. To sensitize people on changing negative mindset hindering good nutrition (fruits are for children, milk and eggs are for rich and civilized people)
13. Non profit Organizations and Government can help so that farmers get improved seeds and fertilizers on time

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Among participants, views, opinions and positions did not diverge.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Nutrition related issues are real in Burundi. Cases of malnutrition are frequent in Rutegama where the dialogue took place. While participants agree on urgent actions and who should take the responsibility, they also agree on challenges. They touched family planning as big family sizes come to be a challenges to food production efforts. In some families, while a family may have 10 family members, those that are able to contribute to food production are less than 5 as others might be still young or being a school.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The participants were invited ahead of the due date and were divided in small groups to facilitate an easy flow of information. Different groups that were present are: Health practitioners, education specialists, agronomists, faith leaders, local administration leaders. There were no competing interests expected.

METHOD AND SETTING

We invited the different groups we normally work with at community levels. The setting was formal. They were grouped in small groups and we worked in a room provided by the local administration.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Inviting early participants is good and disclosing the theme ahead of time is also good as participants come with a clear view of what will be their contributions in discussions. The participants should be a manageable number.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to thank any person who made this nutrition dialogue possible and all those that participate and shared their views.