

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Enhancing community Nutrition in Puntland State of Somalia
DIALOGUE DATE	Sunday, 17 November 2024 09:00 GMT +03:00
CONVENED BY	Ahmed Omar, Associate Director on Advocacy and External Relations
EVENT LANGUAGE	Somali
HOST LOCATION	Garowe, Somalia
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Garowe, the capital city of the Puntland State of Somalia
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/57258/



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

29

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	6	19-29
17	30-49	6	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

19	Female	10	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
----	--------	----	------	---	-------------------------

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5	Children, Youth Groups and Students	9	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
4	Educators and Teachers	4	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
2	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
5	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Representatives from the IDPs were also part of the dialogue

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The workshop began with an introductory presentation on key nutrition terms to ensure all participants had a common understanding of the concepts being discussed. We provided a comprehensive overview of essential nutrition concepts and terminologies. Following this, we presented background information on the current nutrition status within our community, highlighting the prevalence of malnutrition, and specific nutrient deficiencies. We also discussed the root causes contributing to these issues, including climate change, which affects food production and availability, and unemployment, which limits people's ability to afford nutritious food. Other factors such as economic constraints, cultural dietary habits, and limited access to nutritious food were also explored. This set the stage for a productive dialogue by establishing a shared knowledge base and contextualizing the challenges we aimed to address.

DISCUSSION

This discussion focused on improving community-based nutrition interventions. The open-ended questions explored key aspects of this topic, including but not limited to: 1. What are the main nutrition challenges our community faces? 2. What immediate actions are necessary to address these nutrition challenges? 3. How can we implement these actions effectively within our community? 4. Who should be involved in our efforts to improve nutrition and how can we engage them?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants identified several nutrition challenges within the community. They highlighted the high prevalence of malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant women, as a major concern. Wasting and specific nutrient deficiencies, such as iron and vitamin A, were also noted. Access to nutritious food was a significant issue, with many participants pointing out the high cost and limited availability of healthy food options. Cultural dietary habits and a lack of awareness about healthy eating practices further compounded these challenges. Additionally, economic factors, such as low income levels, were seen as barriers to making healthier food choices.

URGENT ACTIONS

Participants emphasized the urgent need for immediate interventions to address acute malnutrition and prevent hunger. They called for the provision of direct food and cash assistance to those in immediate need. There was also a strong push for implementing nutrition education programs in schools and community centers to raise awareness about healthy eating practices. Ensuring the availability of affordable, nutritious food options was seen as critical, along with promoting local food production through community gardens. Participants also stressed the importance of providing food and cash assistance for low-income families and offering regular health check-ups and nutritional counseling. To implement these actions, participants suggested a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders. Engaging community members in planning and implementation was seen as essential to ensure the success of nutrition programs. Collaborating with local businesses, NGOs, and government bodies was recommended to pool resources and expertise. Participants also proposed setting up systems to monitor and evaluate nutrition programs to ensure their effectiveness. Training community members to become nutrition advocates and improving infrastructure to support food distribution and storage were also considered important steps.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- 1. Prioritization of Actions:** Participants had differing views on addressing malnutrition.
 - Some emphasized immediate food and cash assistance to tackle acute malnutrition and prevent hunger.
 - Others advocated for long-term investments in agriculture to create sustainable improvements in nutrition.
- 2. Approach to Cultural Practices:** Opinions varied on addressing cultural dietary habits.
 - Some males criticized modernizing kitchen practices, believing it led to poorer dietary choices and stressed preserving traditional methods.
 - Some females supported modernizing practices to adapt to current lifestyles and improve efficiency.
- 3. Implementation Strategies:** Participants had different ideas on implementing nutrition programs.
 - Some preferred community-based approaches.
 - Others advocated for centralized, top-down initiatives.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The nutrition dialogue addressed various concerns about nutrition within the community, including the prevalence of malnutrition, obesity, and specific nutrient deficiencies. Participants discussed the availability and affordability of nutritious food, the impact of dietary habits and cultural beliefs on nutrition, and the level of awareness and education about healthy eating practices. Economic factors influencing food choices and the broader issue of food security were also highlighted as significant concerns.

To ensure good nutrition for all, participants suggested several strategies. These included implementing nutrition education programs in schools and community centers, making affordable, nutritious food options available, and promoting local food production through community gardens. Providing humanitarian cash and food assistance for low-income families, offering regular health check-ups and nutritional counseling, and advocating for policies that support food security and nutrition were also considered crucial steps.

The dialogue emphasized the need for collective action and involvement from various stakeholders. Engaging community members in planning and implementation, involving health professionals, and working with local authorities were seen as essential. Partnering with schools to integrate nutrition education, collaborating with NGOs focused on health and nutrition, and engaging local businesses to support and promote healthy food options were also considered important steps in achieving good nutrition for all community members.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

During Stakeholders Nutrition Dialogue, key engagement principles were followed to keep conversations open, respectful, and fair. These principles helped manage disagreements and ensured productive discussions. One of the dialogue's strengths was having participants from different areas, such as faith leaders, health practitioners, local government representatives and farmers. This variety made sure that no single voice dominated.

METHOD AND SETTING

we used an inclusive and participatory approach to promote active engagement and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The event featured presentations that encouraged open discussion and sharing of ideas. Seating was arranged to create a cooperative environment and maximize interaction among participants. This setup allowed everyone to feel included and contributed to productive and meaningful conversations.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Involving a variety of stakeholders is essential for meaningful discussions. Including groups such as faith leaders, farmers and individuals directly affected by nutrition challenges ensures a broad range of perspectives. Encourage participants to openly share their experiences and viewpoints to enrich the dialogue. Facilitating conversations with open-ended questions helps create an inclusive atmosphere where everyone can contribute. Additionally, using factual and reliable information to guide

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to both Ahmed Nor (Admin Coordinator), Abdikarin (Admin Officer), and Mohamed Osman (Area Manager) for their support during and after the event.