

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Learning & Reflecting about Nutrition
DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 23 December 2024 13:00 GMT +01:00
CONVENED BY	World Vision Angola Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Nidia Klein. Technical Support Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Nidia Klein. Technical Support
EVENT LANGUAGE	Portuguese
HOST LOCATION	Huambo, Angola
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/57300/



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

9

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-11

0 12-18

6 19-29

2 30-49

1 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

5 Female

4 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

6 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

0 Women's Groups

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

2 Faith Leaders/Faith Communities

0 Food Producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous Peoples

0 Large Business and Food Retailers

0 National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives

0 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

1 Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The group for the workshop was composed of adults, both men and women, from various social backgrounds. Among them were a pastor, youth association leaders, teachers, students, and base-level employees (cleaning workers and a doorman), residing in different neighborhoods of the municipality of Huambo.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The workshop was held in one of the rooms of the Ecumenical Center for Rural Development in Cidade Baixa and was attended by 9 members. After a brief discussion on the topic of nutrition, some stated that talking about nutrition is talking about food and how to maintain a healthy diet; others said that talking about nutrition is talking about a balanced and regulated diet; some added that for children and adults to enjoy good health, they need good nutrition. The dialogue facilitator presented the issues in the form of questions for debate, from which various contributions emerged. The participants disagreed that in less than three years, children had adequate nutrition, due to the poverty index affecting families, as currently people eat to survive and do not eat as they should, and the reality of the communities shows that the lack of adequate nutrition has been the cause of constant deaths.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FOME-E-MALNUTRICA0-INFANTIL-EM-ANGOLA-1-1.pdf>

DISCUSSION

It was a healthy and open dialogue, in which everyone respected each other's opinions, despite their socioeconomic differences. They had the freedom to express the realities of their communities, which did not differ much from those of other communities.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The main challenges identified and highlighted by the stakeholders were:

1. The country's financial reality
 2. High unemployment rate
 3. The high cost of basic food baskets
 4. The number of family members ranging from 7 to 15 people
 5. The lack of nutritionists for food education in communities
 6. Cultural routines that, in some way, hinder children's growth
 7. Lack of knowledge about preventive medicine at the community level
 8. Some government policies that do not align with the realities of the communities
 9. Difficult access to agricultural inputs to encourage family farming
 10. Violation of children's rights, which hinders their growth (forced labor, inappropriate for their age)
- These identified challenges are, according to the participants, the main causes of the high rate of malnutrition in the communities they are part of.

URGENT ACTIONS

The stakeholders described some urgent recommendations to solve the problems of child malnutrition:

1. Promoting community lectures with educational agents about nutrition
2. Improving basic sanitation in communities and families
3. Creating government policies that can reduce the prices of basic food baskets
4. Valuing local agricultural production and reinforcing the diet
5. Creating policies that facilitate access to improved seeds and fertilizers for better use of arable agricultural land
6. Investing in the creation of community kitchens to help malnourished children within communities
7. Implementing and extending school meals as a means to encourage children to stay in school, contribute to a good diet, and boost children's academic performance
8. Implementing adequate school meals (soy porridge, milk, soups, etc.), as many children do not have access to quality food at home

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In general, it was not possible to identify divergences in the points addressed in the workshop, as everyone's ideas converged significantly. The participants were unanimous and convergent in reporting the nutritional status of their community. One of the main points of convergence is the issue of poverty, which has somewhat limited the acquisition of quality food to ensure that children have an adequate diet. They also highlighted school meals as one of the main strategies to combat child malnutrition, emphasizing that these meals should be of high quality. With the implementation of quality school meals, we will not only be combating malnutrition but also reducing school dropout rates.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The participants were able to share their opinions on each point presented at the meeting. They began by sharing their understanding of the topic in question and talked about the nutritional status of the children in their community. The participants agreed that the financial conditions of most residents in their community do not allow them to provide children with food in the ideal quantity and quality. Children should eat between 4 and 5 times a day to maintain a healthy diet, or at least have the three main meals. Instead, many families have one or two meals a day at most. They shared that the high cost of basic food baskets does not facilitate the acquisition of quality food, and the lack of nutritional education prevents better use of food.

The participants shared that in the past three years, not all children have had access to specialized medical care, as the number of doctors does not meet the needs of the population. It is known that there should be at least one doctor for every 100 inhabitants, which is not the case in their communities. In the last three years, they have not seen policies supporting mothers of young children to combat malnutrition.

The workshop with stakeholders identified about 10 challenges mentioned above, which they believe are the main causes of the high rate of malnutrition in the communities. The meeting also allowed the development of about 8 urgent actions to address malnutrition, with the help of the participants. These actions include valuing local agricultural production, implementing adequate school meals (soy porridge, milk, soups, etc.), as many children do not have access to quality food at home, and implementing school meals can encourage school attendance for many children. Finally, creating government policies that can reduce the prices of basic food baskets, as it is not possible to eat well without being able to afford a healthy diet.

In conclusion, the participants shared that nutrition is a global issue that deserves the participation of all possible entities, from the national government through the implementation of appropriate policies to improve access to healthy food, to NGOs creating support programs for malnourished children and adults, and the community in general can participate in solving these problems caused by malnutrition by following the guidelines provided by specialists.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The workshop was conducted in a way that allowed all members to participate, respecting each other's opinions, as all opinions are valid. Each participant had their moment to speak and express their views to avoid conflicts, under the moderation of the facilitator and the convener, following the rules of coexistence presented at the beginning of the workshop.

METHOD AND SETTING

Based on the principle that everyone should participate with as much freedom as possible, question-and-answer methods and dialogue were used to engage all participants and achieve the desired objectives. The participants sat in a circle to allow everyone to see each other and interact more easily.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Centro Ecuménico de Desenvolvimento Rural, at Cidade Baixa neighborhood in Huambo.