

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Village Health Workers
<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 23 December 2024 16:30 GMT +02:00
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Moruti Pitso
<b>EVENT LANGUAGE</b>	English
<b>HOST LOCATION</b>	Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho
<b>GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE</b>	community level
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	Ministry of health
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/57339/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/57339/</a>



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

08 30-49

40 50-74

0 75+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

45 Female

3 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, Youth Groups and Students

0 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

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

0 Faith Leaders/Faith Communities

0 Food Producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous Peoples

0 Large Business and Food Retailers

48 National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives

0 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

0 Other (please state)

## OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

N/A

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The dialogue was 100% village health workers. The village health workers are a structured group of men and women under the Ministry of health at local government level.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## FRAMING

The dialogues were centered on factors contributing to high poverty and food insecurity and malnutrition, the effects of poverty and food insecurity in the country, challenges, how would different nutrition stakeholders fight i.s churches, youth and other CSOs, the strategies the country can put in place to fight hunger and malnutrition.

## DISCUSSION

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# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

The issue of climate change came out strongly. Participants mentioned that they teach mothers and caregivers about growing subsistence farming for day-to-day through small key-hole gardens, and how to nutritiously prepare food for their children, as well as food preservation. Production of grains like sorghum and maize, rainwater harvesting and digging of dams to collect rainwater.

On the above, the general challenge is laziness: people do not want to work for children and families, instead have a dependency syndrome on food and cash donations. For those

Lack of collaboration to work together and harmonize resources: farming equipment, seeds and other agricultural inputs

Some people manage to produce but struggle to market and sell their products, which says lack of capacity on market research before producing

A lot of theft as a result of poverty within communities.

Issues of family planning for mothers, and reproductive health education for girls of childbearing age are lacking because girls are vulnerable due to high hunger and poverty levels

## URGENT ACTIONS

Participants proposed more capacity building activities and support with block farming where different farm producers put inputs together and collaborate.

Support with boreholes for irrigation even when rains are not available. They also emphasized strongly on the need to be coordinated in order to work together and support each other.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no divergences as Basotho are a homogenous society with one culture, religion and similar ways of doing things.

The richer people in the communities usually provide and support with survival opportunities to the vulnerable households for care

## OVERALL SUMMARY

Child health is highly prioritized by village health workers because they government's helping hand as they interface with communities and gather firsthand information about real issues affecting communities.

There is need to tackle climate change issues head on by use of climate resilient agricultural inputs such as seeds and irrigation systems.

More collaborations in agricultural production to produce more and the need for mindset change about poverty and hunger in order to mitigate and mitigate the impact

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

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## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The dialogues were open ended conversations guided by a standard tool on topics to be discussed. The village health workers are a formal structured group of people who work with all CSOs and frequently receive relevant training as necessary. Their common challenge among others is lack of resources to cascade their knowledge to the grassroots and monitor the prevailing situation to come up with solutions.

## METHOD AND SETTING

The venue was a district hospital hall, and the dialogues were cofacilitated by World Vision and the district health nurse. Focus group discussions made it easy for village health workers to speak their views and real issues on the ground and real time situations as they happen.

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

The dialogues need to be context content specific as different audience or participants require different modes topics that speak clearly to their situation

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS