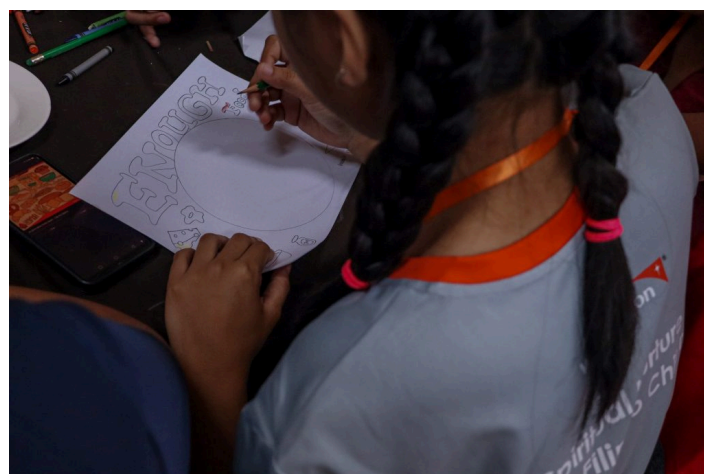


OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	Children's Consultations on Child Hunger and Malnutrition - Mindanao
WORKSHOP DATE	Wednesday, 3 January 2024 08:00 GMT +08:00
CONVENED BY	Christle Grace R. Cubelo - Health and Nutrition Program Manager, World Vision Philippines
EVENT LANGUAGE	Filipino/English
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Mindanao
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Philippines
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/58432/



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

66

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

34 12-15

32 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

45 Female

21 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

Children participants came from various World Vision-supported areas in Mindanao, both from rural and urban communities. They were a mix of boys and girls, aged 10 to 18 years, and some are active leaders and members of youth and socio-civic organizations in their respective communities.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING

The session began with a brief introduction of participants, followed by an explanation of the objectives of the consultation. A brief introduction of key concepts on hunger and nutrition, including the illustrated depiction of nutrition situation and common factors affecting nutrition in the country's context.

SECTION THREE: CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The children participants understand the concept of malnutrition and are aware that there are children suffering from malnutrition, specifically undernutrition in their communities.

They linked malnutrition to various factors, including poverty, food insecurity, limited access to education, and social neglect. Key concerns include limited access to nutritious food and clean water. While food may be available, it is often inadequate in terms of nutritional quality. Poverty worsens this issue by limiting families' ability to afford balanced meals, pushing them to rely on low-cost, nutrient-poor options.

Hunger and food insecurity, directly tied to financial struggles, were commonly mentioned as major barriers to meeting nutritional needs. Lack of money and job opportunities exacerbate the issue, leaving families without the resources to provide consistent, healthy meals. In addition, the absence of plants, seeds, and resources for planting restricts families' ability to grow their own food.

Lack of education and awareness about nutrition, particularly in remote areas, emerged as a key issue. Some children expressed confusion about nutrition, often equating large quantities of food with sufficient nutrition, without understanding the importance of balanced, nutrient-rich diets.

Beyond food and financial challenges, social issues such as child neglect and inadequate community support were also significant factors. Lack of attention from local authorities and neglect from caregivers contribute to poor nutritional outcomes. Other broader issues, such as disease, unemployment, and large family sizes, were also identified as contributing to the challenges faced by children in these communities.

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The following are the children's recommendations to address the issues of hunger and malnutrition:

- Prioritize the health and nutrition sector to prevent malnutrition, by increasing health services to have better access to care especially among youth
- Promote well-being through physical activities such as community Zumba
- Provide food and financial assistance to meet their basic needs
- Enhance social protection program such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
- Create more job opportunities, increase salaries, and improve livelihood to reduce poverty
- Improve access to education by offering scholarships
- Have sustainable agriculture by providing seedlings and farm equipment
- Increase waste management by ensuring proper garbage collection
- Promote physical well-being by having physical activities such as Zumba
- Provide seedlings and farming equipment to have sustainable food source
- Stop government corruption to ensure proper use of resources
- Improve waste management with proper garbage collection

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The children's recommendations in addressing malnutrition are diverse. Some emphasizes provision of direct support, through financial and food aide, while other are seeking more of sustainable empowerment of individuals through economic opportunities and community-level improvements. Macro-level issues that goes beyond addressing malnutrition, such as improving governance has also surfaced as one recommendations for improvement.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The consultation demonstrated the children's understanding of malnutrition and its impact in their communities. They primarily focused on undernutrition, linking it to poverty, food security, limited access to education and social neglect. A great concern was the limited access to nutritious food and clean water, with poverty and large family size worsening the issue by limiting the families' ability to provide nutritious and balanced meals. In addition, they recognized that lack of education, especially in remote areas, and child neglect from caregivers, were identified as key barriers. Broader concerns, such as unemployment and corruption were identified as contributing to the malnutrition problem. In response, the children proposed several recommendations, including strengthening health and nutrition sector, improving governance for proper resource allocation, promoting community well-being programs and activities, providing food and financial assistance, improving social protection programs, improving economic opportunities, enhancing access to education, and supporting sustainable agriculture.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The dialogue with children adhered to the principles of engagement. The focus was to ensure that every child participant was engaged in expressing their thoughts about nutrition, how to address it, and how they can also contribute to improving nutrition in their community. No marketing or promotion of any products were included in the activity.

METHOD AND SETTING

The event was held in a hotel in Cagayan De Oro City. The activities include small group discussions, collage making, use of metacards, and sharing of outputs. Throughout the entire consultation process, strict safeguarding measures were observed in accordance with World Vision's Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy. This policy, grounded in WVDF's broader commitment to child protection, ensures that children are safe from harm during all program activities.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

1) Ensure consent forms were administered and child safeguarding policy are upheld throughout the activity. 2) Be mindful of the time allotment per activity. 3) Facilitators should be trained in effectively probing further ideas and concepts shared by the participants to deepen the discussion.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the World Vision Mindanao Field office team for organizing the event and assisting with the gathering of children. Likewise, we also extend our thanks to the Advocacy and Engagement, Child Protection and Participation, Health and Nutrition, and Strategy Management, Impact and Learning teams for their unwavering support.