

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Crafts and agriculture producers
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 31 December 2024 15:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Moruti Pitso
EVENT LANGUAGE	Sesotho
HOST LOCATION	Maseru, Lesotho
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	community level
AFFILIATIONS	District level government ministries: Health, Education, Social development and Agriculture
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/58435/



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

22

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	10	19-29
10	30-49	2	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

12	Female	10	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5	Children, Youth Groups and Students	1	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	5	Food Producers (including farmers)
0	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	10	Small/Medium Enterprises
0	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
2	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Composition of women producers, small scale enterprises, farm producers and youth

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The dialogue was purely made of grassroots people in the most rural areas, inclusive of all people and the vulnerable

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The dialogues were guided by a nutrition tool. The guiding questions on the tool were actually the objectives mentioned above which are the factors contributing to high poverty and food insecurity in Lesotho, the strategies Lesotho could employ to fight food insecurity and child malnutrition as well as the challenges facing Lesotho in fighting food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition

DISCUSSION

The different groups mentioned that despite working hard to produce, there's need to be better coordinated and capacitated as producers. Nutrition clubs and women's groups were producers of vegetables, rabbits and other livestock such as sheep for wool and meat. Women's groups producing handicrafts, nutritious foods for young children, as well as preservation of such foods for later consumption, mentioned the issue of severe drought as a result of climate change has affected food security. Also, lack of funds to support small growing businesses/producers. On the strategies Lesotho could employ to fight food insecurity and child malnutrition, it came out that there's need to do water harvesting through digging of dams or rainfall water collection from house roof through water tanks. Small farmers and vegetable producers also mentioned the need to be supported with drought-resistant seeds and crop shade nets. There's also need for refresher trainings on agricultural activities. Farmers should also practice crop rotation to keep and maintain good soil quality. For livestock farmers, there's request for support with a cold room to keep the carcasses after slaughtering for selling. On the challenges facing Lesotho in fighting food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition, participants mentioned the need for access to manure: it is a highly politicized commodity therefore it should be made accessible to all farmers. There is again lack of market for agricultural produce, local retailers and wholesalers need to support and by local produced foods. No water for irrigation as a result of El Nino induced drought, and lastly there is no price regulation for agricultural produce

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

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URGENT ACTIONS

There is need for enabling policy environment to curb barriers to livelihoods activities through agricultural farming. Advocacy for policies on market regulation: selling and marketing environment

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was generally similar views and opinions about the existing challenges around hunger, malnutrition and poverty. People had context specific solutions to their challenges and believed in among others, policy implementation in combating hunger and malnutrition.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogues were in the form of focus group discussions as they were community based, and were conducted immediately after the campaign launch. The participants were divided in to different groups: children, parents and caregivers, partners and faith leaders. Partners were composed of local (community based) structures such as nutrition clubs, small scale farmers on agriculture and animal husbandry (rabbits and sheep). Different challenges were raised by different groups on how food insecurity and poverty are affecting them, as well as common factors that cut across marketing and poor price regulation, challenges on irrigation of vegetation and vegetables

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The dialogues were very informal and in the form of open focus group discussions as they were community based and conducted immediately and after the campaign launch. The participants were divided into different groups: children, parents and caregivers, partners and faith leaders

METHOD AND SETTING

Open-ended question and answer session with live experiences surrounding hunger and malnutrition as well as poverty issues in Lesotho .

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

During dialogues/conversations, probing is quite important to understand and get to the bottom of the issues. All participants need to be given equal opportunities to talk and speak for themselves. Inclusivity of all participants is also important , not all participants are vocal enough, particularly young producers need to be given a chance more and not be dominated by old experienced producers

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS