

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

WORKSHOP TITLE	Children's Consultations on Child Hunger and Malnutrition - Visayas
WORKSHOP DATE	Saturday, 3 February 2024 08:30 GMT +08:00
CONVENED BY	Christle Grace R. Cubelo - Health and Nutrition Program Manager, World Vision Philippines
EVENT LANGUAGE	Filipino/English
HOST CITY	Cordova, Philippines
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Visayas
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Philippines
WORKSHOP EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/58467/



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

70

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 12-15

0 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

45 Female

25 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPATION DIVERSITY

Children participants came from various World Vision-supported areas in Visayas, both from rural and urban communities. They were a mix of boys and girls, aged 10-18 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 identified undernutrition as a significant issue, emphasizing its connection to poverty, food insecurity, and societal challenges. A key concern is the rising cost of essential goods, coupled with decreasing family incomes, which severely limits access to nutritious food. Many families struggle to provide for their children's basic needs due to unemployment and financial instability.

Parenting issues, including lack of skills in ensuring proper nutrition, neglect due to vices, and irresponsibility, were also mentioned as major factors contributing to malnutrition. Some children noted that having many siblings often results in insufficient resources, leaving their nutritional needs unmet. In other cases, children's preference for unhealthy foods stems from inadequate guidance about proper eating habits.

Broader societal issues, such as the lack of government support, lack of education, and limited access to healthcare, were identified to worsen the problem. High food prices, food supply shortages, and unhealthy living environments compound the challenges faced by families, making it difficult to have consistent, healthy meals for their children.

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

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

- Enhance nutrition and health programs by sustaining feeding programs for malnourished and impoverished families, have free medical check-ups and implement more activities to improve overall well-being
- Support families and communities by launching livelihood programs and provide continuous education to families about proper nutrition
- Bring back school gardening in some areas and promote backyard gardening for the promotion of sustainability and self-sufficiency
- Invest in sustainable agricultural initiatives
- Enhance social safety nets to protect vulnerable families by expanding food assistance programs and create more job opportunities
- Ensure consistent government support in programs addressing malnutrition
- Organize clean-up drives and other community activities to improve environmental conditions

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The recommendations are consistent with addressing malnutrition; however, the emphasis given to various factors varies. Few recommendations took a broader perspective by addressing the root causes like poverty, governance, and economic issues for a more sustainable change. Whereas other recommendations focused more on improving conditions at the household- and community-level for immediate impact. Overall, combining all these approaches creates a comprehensive strategy to address hunger and malnutrition

OVERALL SUMMARY

The children described undernutrition as a critical issue closely linked to poverty, food insecurity, and societal challenges. They shared how rising costs of essential goods and declining family incomes limit access to nutritious food, leaving vulnerable families unable to meet their children's basic dietary needs. Unemployment and financial instability were identified as significant barriers, while parenting challenges such as neglect, lack of nutrition skills, and irresponsibility, further contributed to malnutrition. They also pointed out how having many siblings often limits family resources, leaving nutritional needs unmet, and how children's preference for unhealthy foods often results from inadequate guidance on proper eating habits.

At a broader level, the children highlighted societal issues contributing to the malnutrition problem. They mentioned about the lack of government support, lack of education, and limited access to healthcare, alongside high food prices, food shortages, and unhealthy living conditions.

In response to these challenges, the children proposed a variety of recommendations. They emphasized the importance of sustaining feeding programs for malnourished families, providing free medical check-ups, and implementing activities to improve overall well-being. They also called for livelihood programs to support families and suggested continuous education to equip parents with knowledge on proper nutrition. School gardening, along with backyard gardening, was proposed as a way to promote sustainability and self-sufficiency, while investments in sustainable agricultural initiatives were seen as vital to improving food security.

To protect vulnerable families, the children suggested expanding food assistance programs, increasing job opportunities, and strengthening social safety nets. They also emphasized the need for consistent government support for programs addressing malnutrition. Additionally, they mentioned community initiatives such as clean-up drives to improve environmental conditions.

The recommendations reflected a mix of immediate and long-term strategies. While some focused on addressing root causes like poverty, governance, and economic challenges, others centered on household- and community-level improvements for quicker impact. Combined, these approaches offer a comprehensive strategy to effectively combat hunger and malnutrition.

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 an event hall Cordova, Cebu. 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 Visayas 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.