

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Southern Africa Council of Churches Leadership Nutrition Dialogue
<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Saturday, 14 June 2025 15:00 GMT +02:00
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Dinesh Suna - World Council of Churches and Craig Stewart - World vision International
<b>HOST LOCATION</b>	Johannesburg, South Africa
<b>GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE</b>	Regional - Southern africa
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	World Council of Churches, World Vision International
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59296/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59296/</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

26

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

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

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

8	Female	18	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	0	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	26	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	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	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
0	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

## OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Indigenous people

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The dialogue event drew participants from across the Southern African region from a variety of church backgrounds. These participants came from rural and urban contexts and a variety of wealth and regional ethnicity.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## FRAMING

The dialogue spotlighted the urgent hunger crisis affecting millions across Southern Africa, with a particular focus on the devastating impact on children. The presentation highlighted alarming statistics, including over 44 million people facing acute food insecurity and nearly 18.6 million children suffering from stunting. A powerful video segment amplified the voices of children in South Africa, who shared their lived experiences of hunger and food injustice, calling on leaders to take immediate and decisive action. The dialogue emphasized the critical need for prophetic witness and collective advocacy to ensure every child has access to nutritious food and a future free from hunger.

## NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/WCC-SAR-nutrition-dialogue.pdf>

## DISCUSSION

The Nutrition Dialogue took place in the context of the World Council of Churches Prophetic Witness for Life, Justice and Peace Conference. This conference brought together church leaders from across the Southern Africa region. The nutrition dialogue focused on nutrition and hunger within the Southern Africa region and how church and faith leaders can actively contribute to a region where all children flourish. It focussed on 2 broad outcomes: • Generating feedback and ideas that will be consolidated as part of a global report from church and faith leaders to be delivered at the Committee for Food Security in Rome this October. This collaborative effort is led by WCC, Caritas Internationalis and World Vision. • Equip and envision the participants for nutrition dialogues and action for food justice in their countries. The following question was framed around the following question: "By 2028, food security and nutrition outcomes for children will have significantly improved, with church and faith communities playing a substantial role in the change. What does this look like and how did it happen?"

# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

Land and Climate Issues: Lack of access to arable land rooted in colonial and apartheid land ownership sustained by market forces and climate change are major barriers to food production. The land  
Food Access vs. Nutrition: People prioritize food availability over its nutritional value.  
Education and Awareness: There's a need to improve nutrition education.  
Economic Barriers: Nutritious food is often financially inaccessible.  
Obesity and Poor Diets: Reliance on processed and imported foods contributes to obesity and poor health.  
Household Production Decline: Limited food production at the household level.  
Urban Migration: Movement from rural to urban areas has led to a decline in local food production.

## URGENT ACTIONS

Education and Awareness: Promote knowledge about natural and fresh foods.  
Food Preservation: Develop methods for preserving food.  
Church Involvement: Encourage churches to support seed gardening, storage, and regeneration.  
Gender Roles: Challenge men to take more responsibility for nutrition.  
Land Reform: Address land distribution issues.  
Church Empowerment: Provide resources and capacity-building for churches.  
School Curriculum: Reintroduce agricultural science in schools.  
Support Indigenous Foods: Advocate for traditional food sources over imports.  
Skill Development: Train congregations in land care and sustainable farming.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Information Sharing: Agreement on centralizing knowledge and skills within churches.  
Unity and Integration: Consensus on breaking silos between land, water, and community efforts.  
Support for Indigenous Foods: Strong convergence on promoting traditional food sources.  
Food Storage and Land Use: Agreement on improving food storage and using church land for production.  
Climate Action: Shared commitment to addressing climate change.

## OVERALL SUMMARY

The discussions reveal a deep concern about declining nutrition due to limited land, climate change, and economic barriers. There is a strong call for education, advocacy, and church-led initiatives to promote indigenous foods, sustainable farming, and equitable land distribution. Participants emphasize the importance of unity, skill-sharing, and empowering communities—particularly through churches—to address food security challenges. The overall sentiment underscores the urgency of addressing land injustices and of shifting from processed food dependency to a more nutritious, locally-sourced, and community-driven food system.

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

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## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

## METHOD AND SETTING

The dialogue took place in the midst of a formal conference setting, in one of the breakaway rooms. The room was a theatre style room which did restrict movement and gathering but we found ways of addressing this. We used the standard process of introduction and overview of nutrition situation, group based dialogues followed by plenary feedback. For the dialogue portion after the question was posed we used the 1-2-4-all process from Liberating Structures

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

The Liberating Structure format called 1-2-4-all was very helpful and was appreciated by participants.

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the Land, Water and Food commission of World Council of Churches and to World Vision Southern Africa Region for their support in making this dialogue possible.