

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Faith Leader Dialogue- World Vision Lanka- Trincomalee Diocese
DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 15 August 2025 10:00 GMT +05:30
CONVENED BY	Lavanya Suriyakumar
EVENT LANGUAGE	Tamil & English
HOST LOCATION	Mutur, Sri Lanka
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Muthur- Trincomalle District Sri Lanka
AFFILIATIONS	Trincomalee Diocese- Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59552/



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

9

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-11

0 12-18

0 19-29

8 30-49

1 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

5 Female

4 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

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

9 Faith Leaders/Faith Communities

0 Food Producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous Peoples

0 Large Business and Food Retailers

0 National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives

0 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

1 Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

NA

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Three Catholic Fathers, two Sisters, and four Catechism teachers from the Trincomalee Diocese participated. They have life experience about the context.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

All of the faith leaders represent the entire district of Trincomalee, which is located in the eastern region of Sri Lanka. In this area, paddy cultivation and fisheries are the main sources of livelihood. Communities in the middle of the district are mainly engaged in farming and animal husbandry, while coastal communities are engaged in fishing. This district was heavily affected during Sri Lanka's long civil conflict; in areas such as Sampur, agriculture and fishing declined sharply due to displacement and restrictions. Some of the faith leaders also serve as teachers, principals, working with schools and preschool children.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Faith-leader-dialogue.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a welcome speech from the Area Programme staff, followed by the National Campaign Manager, who explained the purpose of the discussion and introduced World Vision's ministry and the ENOUGH Campaign. The session was conducted informally, using open-ended questions to create space for participants to share their own experiences. Five Catholic Priests and four Catechism teachers shared their ideas and insights on nutrition-related issues, challenges, and innovative approaches that could be implemented together.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The discussion covered ensuring nutritious meals, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and addressing food security-related challenges. The following challenges were highlighted.

- Food culture has changed due to the busy lifestyles of both children and parents
- Since both parents are engaged in economic activities, they often overlook their children's nutrition
- Families tend to focus on satisfying hunger rather than ensuring nutritious meals
- There is limited awareness about the value and availability of nutritious food
- The high cost of food and economic vulnerability restrict access to healthy options
- TV commercials and food marketing rarely promote nutritious choices, while children are increasingly attracted to fast food and junk food
- Hectic school schedules and extra classes cause children to miss meals, especially breakfast
- The prolonged conflict in the area has negatively affected livelihoods and nutrition levels
- Limited engagement in home gardening further reduces access to fresh and healthy food

URGENT ACTIONS

The following action points were highlighted:

- Raise awareness among children, parents, teachers, and caregivers to encourage positive behavior change.
- Promote home gardening to increase access to fresh and healthy food.
- Share educational materials and tools on nutritional values with Sunday schools.
- Improve access to affordable and nutritious food.
- Train parents and caregivers to prepare nutritious meals in ways that are attractive to children.
- Provide school meals to support children's daily nutrition needs.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

NA

OVERALL SUMMARY

According to their social experiences, participants shared insights related to nutrition, behavior, and food security in the Trincomalee district. The behavior of children and parents plays a major role, and negligence regarding nutrition is mainly caused by a lack of awareness. In addition, behavioral changes and modern lifestyles make it challenging for parents to provide adequate care. As a recommendation, continuous awareness programs are needed to change these behaviors. They also highlighted simple, nutritious recipes and presenting meals in an attractive manner as practical solutions. Promoting home gardening was identified as another solution to improve food security. Furthermore, faith leaders expressed their willingness to collaborate with WVW to raise awareness and implement interventions, especially targeting Sunday school children and their parents.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

All priests had the opportunity to express their ideas on challenges, issues, and potential solutions. The dialogue was conducted as an open discussion. Before the discussion began, the National Campaign Manager provided an introduction to the campaign. Moreover, the participants were confident and did not hesitate to share their ideas.

METHOD AND SETTING

Seating was arranged in a half-circle, and the National Campaign Manager led the discussion by asking about challenges, issues, and suggestions. The discussion was semi-informal and conducted in English, with translations into Sinhala. The target group was heterogeneous, as both Catholic Priests and Catechism teachers were present.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

They might not have technical knowledge regarding nutrition, but they have sound understanding of the contextual issues, problems, and can propose innovative solutions. So giving the basic understanding on nutrition and food security is much needed.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely appreciate the valuable support extended by the Area Programmes, the Bishop of the Diocese, the WVL technical and F&D teams, as well as the regional managers in planning and implementing these dialogues. Their collaboration has been instrumental in driving this initiative forward.

ATTACHMENTS

- **One of the Priests sharing his views**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/IMG_6916-scaled.jpg
- **A group photo during the discussion**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/IMG_6924-scaled.jpg
- **The nun is sharing her recommendations**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Image-7.jpg>