

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional Dialogues with faith leaders- Kandy Catholic Diocese- World Vision Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 20 August 2025 09:30 GMT +05:30
CONVENED BY	Lavanya Suriyakumar
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST LOCATION	Kandy, Sri Lanka
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Kandy Catholic diocese , Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59568/



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	5
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	0	19-29
5	30-49	0	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

1	Female	5	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	5	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	1	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

NA

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Five Catholic Priests shared their insights and experiences according to their context. All of them serve as Pastoral and Commission Heads. They have extensive experience in working with their communities and understand the struggles people face in relation to nutrition.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

Kandy Province consists of both rural and estate sectors, where the main sources of livelihood are agriculture and plantations. Tea cultivation remains the dominant economic activity, while vegetable farming and other export-oriented crops such as pepper, cardamom, and nutmeg also play a significant role in sustaining household incomes. In addition, small-scale tourism ventures contribute to the province's economy by capitalizing on its cultural heritage, natural beauty, and historical significance. Despite these strengths, communities in both rural and estate sectors face multiple vulnerabilities. Estate workers often experience low wages, lack of land ownership, and limited access to quality education, healthcare, and housing. Malnutrition and poor dietary diversity remain pressing concerns, particularly among children in plantation areas. Rural farming communities, on the other hand, are highly vulnerable to fluctuating market prices, post-harvest losses, and the impacts of climate change, such as irregular rainfall and crop failures. Both sectors struggle with unstable income, limited livelihood diversification, and insufficient infrastructure, which deepen their economic and social challenges.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Faith-leader-dialogue-2.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The discussion opened with a welcome speech from the AP staff, after which the National Campaign Manager outlined the purpose of the meeting and introduced World Vision's ministry and the Campaign. The session was held in an informal manner, using open-ended questions to encourage participants to share their experiences. Five Catholic Priests, who serve as Pastoral and Commission Heads, contributed their ideas and insights on nutrition-related issues, community challenges, and potential innovative approaches. Their reflections were shaped by their social experiences and the realities of their respective communities.

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.

- Most school children and their parents focus on education but not on nutritious foods.
- Commercial advertising promotes junk and unhealthy foods, which are more attractive to children
- Children often have a negative attitude toward nutritious food items
- Some children hesitate to bring traditional meals like milk rice, porridge, or green leaves, fearing others will see them, while buns, pizza, and fast food are more commonly brought
- Food adulteration and quality-related issues are common
- There is underutilization of land and home gardening
- Excessive use of chemicals and chemical fertilizers is widespread
- Compared to the price, the quality of food is often low
- There is no proper mechanism to monitor agriculture-related activities
- Farmers mainly focus on commercial farming rather than home gardening

URGENT ACTIONS

The following action points were highlighted:

- A proper mechanism is needed to control food labeling and quality
- Promote the consumption of local fruits and vegetables
- Conduct awareness sessions for children, parents, teachers, and caregivers to encourage behavior change
- Organize awareness sessions with practical demonstrations
- Use attractive methods during awareness sessions, clearly explaining why and what unhealthy practices should be avoided
- Introduce attractive, colorful, and tasty food recipes for children that are also nutritious
- Promote urban gardening and home gardening
- The Diocese and Bishop can also join in advocating with the government and engaging government officials
- Prepare promotional tools with a scientific approach, highlighting the causes and effects of healthy and unhealthy practices

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

NA

OVERALL SUMMARY

Based on their social experiences, they shared the challenges and issues faced by communities in the Kandy, Matale, and Nuwara Eliya districts. Both the estate and rural sectors have their own contextual vulnerabilities related to nutrition. The above-mentioned recommendations focus on changing the behavior of children, parents, and caregivers to promote healthy dietary practices, as well as advocating for systemic changes to ensure a long-term impact on the nation's nutrition. Moreover, the Kandy Diocese has expressed a strong willingness to collaborate with WVL to support the goals of the ENOUGH campaign. They are ready to implement awareness-raising activities within their parish classes, while WVL provides technical support, leveraging the well-established systems within the churches. In addition, they suggested implementing a project with them to establish nutritional clubs in their churches, aimed at promoting community kitchens and encouraging healthy practices.

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 the target group was active

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.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely appreciate the valuable support extended by the Area Programmes, the Bishop of the Diocese, the WWL 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

- **During the discussion**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Image-12.jpg>
- **While priests sharing their views**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Image-19.jpg>