

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional Dialogues Phase 2-STAKEHOLDERS-KALPITIYA- Sri Lanka
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 5 May 2026 10:00 GMT +05:30
CONVENED BY	Johanne Rebeira (Campaign Coordinator), Dinushi Tennekoon (Campaign MEAL coordinator)
HOST LOCATION	Kalpitiya, Sri Lanka
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Kalpitiya -Community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Lanka-Kalpitiya Area Development Programme
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/60230/



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	10
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	1	19-29
8	30-49	1	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

8	Female	2	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	3	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
1	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	3	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
3	Women's Groups	1	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

NA

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

A total of 10 participants represented the Kalpitiya community in the discussion. They included caregivers, some of whom were affected by the 'Ditwa' cyclone, as well as representatives from the core group of the Community Voice in Action Programme of World Vision Lanka
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SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

Kalpitiya is a coastal area in Sri Lanka where the community largely depends on fishing, farming, and daily wage labor for their livelihoods. The area faces socio-economic challenges, including limited and unstable household incomes, high levels of poverty, and restricted access to essential services such as safe water and quality health care. In addition, the community is highly vulnerable to climate-related risks, including cyclones, strong winds, flooding, and changing weather patterns, which directly affect livelihoods, food security, and overall well-being. The community is also characterized by diverse socio-economic backgrounds and varying levels of access to basic services

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Nutritional-Dialogues-Phase-2-Slide-deck_compressed.pdf

DISCUSSION

The discussion commenced with a welcome address from the Area Programme staff and facilitator briefly outlined the purpose of the session and refreshed participants' understanding of nutrition and the current nutritional situation using recent data. This was followed by a round of self-introductions, after which the session proceeded as an interactive and friendly discussion guided by open-ended questions. Participants shared their experiences and perspectives on the current nutrition situation in the area, key challenges, and practical suggestions, with a focus on school meals, school canteen services, and preschool meal provision. They also discussed the impact of the 'Ditwa' cyclone, highlighting how it has affected food security and nutrition within their community. Additionally, participants proposed recommendations to address system gaps and improve the quality and accessibility of nutrition-related services.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

1. Household and Community Nutrition Challenges
- Limited awareness of locally available nutritious foods and their nutritional value.
Inadequate knowledge on preparing balanced meals using local ingredients.
Poor knowledge and practices related to food preservation and storage.
Increasing consumption of junk food and processed foods, particularly among children and youth.
Community dependence on external support and limited motivation for nutrition-related behaviour change.
Excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides affecting food quality and safety.
Climate change and natural disasters disrupting agriculture, fisheries, and food availability.
The Ditwa cyclone has negatively impacted livelihoods and household food security.
Rising fuel prices and economic hardship have increased food costs.
Higher transportation costs have reduced access to affordable nutritious foods.
Unequal food distribution, with fish available in coastal areas often inaccessible or unaffordable inland.
2. Vulnerable Groups and Caregiving Challenges
- Children and pregnant women are the most vulnerable groups.
Many fathers engaged in fishing spend long periods away from home.
Mothers carry primary responsibility for childcare and household nutrition.
Limited father involvement in childcare and nutrition-related decision-making.
Substance abuse among some fathers reduces household spending on food and essential needs.
Fishing households face irregular incomes and economic insecurity.
Limited alternative livelihood opportunities due to low educational attainment and skill levels.
3. Emergency and Disaster-Related Challenges
- Food provided in safety centres mainly consists of rice, dhal, and potatoes, offering limited nutritional diversity.
Emergency food assistance often fails to meet the nutritional needs of children, infants, and pregnant women.
Families affected by the Ditwa cyclone continue to experience food insecurity and livelihood losses.
Concerns regarding the transparency

URGENT ACTIONS

- The following action points were highlighted:
- Strengthen the Village Child Development Management Committee (VCDMC) to support anticipatory actions and preparedness for disasters

- Improve the diversity and presentation of school meals, including introducing a wider variety of foods and making meals more attractive to children

- Establish and enforce regulations on fast food, particularly within school canteens

- Expand school meal programmes to secondary schools to reduce children's tendency to purchase food from outside vendors

- Ensure proper hygiene and cleanliness standards in school canteens

- Introduce nutrition education to children to promote healthy eating habits

- Regularly monitor and supervise school canteens to ensure compliance with nutrition and hygiene standards

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some mothers who stay at home have limited motivation to engage in home gardening and may not consistently prioritize providing nutritious meals for their children

OVERALL SUMMARY

The discussion highlighted that the current nutrition situation in Kalpitiya is concerning, with many households facing limited access to nutritious food due to poverty, rising food prices, climate impacts, and livelihood disruptions, especially following the “Ditwa” cyclone. Children’s nutrition is further affected by weak school meal systems and poor-quality food environments. Key issues identified include low awareness of nutritious foods, preference for unhealthy fast foods, inadequate school meal diversity, poor hygiene and quality in school canteens, and limited support systems at the household level. Environmental challenges, economic pressures, and gaps in service delivery also contribute to food insecurity, with children and pregnant mothers being the most vulnerable groups. Participants suggested several improvements, including enhancing the diversity and quality of school meals, regulating fast food in schools, improving canteen hygiene and monitoring, expanding meal programmes to secondary schools, strengthening community structures for disaster preparedness, and promoting nutrition education and home gardening. These actions were seen as essential to improving both immediate and long-term nutrition outcomes in the community. The discussion also covered the ‘ENOUGH’ campaign, with participants highlighting that the programme has contributed to positive attitude change while enhancing knowledge on nutrition. They also noted increased participation of children, as the programme has created opportunities for them to express their ideas and contribute to decision-making processes

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

All participants were provided with an opportunity to share their perspectives on challenges, issues, and potential solutions within an open and inclusive discussion. The session also utilized a problem tree as a participatory tool to facilitate deeper analysis and understanding

METHOD AND SETTING

Seating was arranged in a half-circle to encourage interaction, and the National Campaign Coordinator facilitated the discussion by guiding participants through questions on challenges, issues, and suggested solutions. The session was conducted in a semi-informal manner, with participation from individuals representing diverse ethnic backgrounds.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

NA

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

World Vision Lanka Kalpitiya Area Programme, its staff members, and community volunteers for successfully organizing this workshop. Also to Dinuka Bandara (Technical Advisor - Integrated Nutrition) and Chandrika Kularathna (Technical Specialist - Disaster Risk Reduction) for their valuable support and guidance in designing the guiding questions used to facilitate the dialogue.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Participants activity engaging in the dialogue**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/IMG_7878-scaled.jpg
- **Engaging group activity result**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/IMG_7883-scaled.jpg
- **One of the participant explaining the work**
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/IMG_7882-scaled.jpg