

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	The role of Nutrition volunteers in improving nutrition status at community level.
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 18 June 2026 15:30 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Nicholas M. Siame- Development facilitator, World Vision Zambia
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST LOCATION	Mwinilunga, Zambia
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/60640/



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

22

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	1	19-29
19	30-49	2	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

10	Female	12	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	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
1	Healthcare Professionals	21	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

1 stakeholder was a traditional leader

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The participants for this nutrition dialogue were of the same ethnicity from the same rural locality. Their main source of livelihood is farming and all were of the same economic status.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The discussion started by looking at the food production and household food security. The participants confirmed that there is enough food production in the community. The discussion went further looking at if there are children who are malnourished especially among the under five and what is contributing to there being malnourished. In response the audience mention that by and large, malnutrition among under five children in their communities is as a result of poor feeding practices and food insecurity due to lack of food preservation. The other contributing factor mentioned is poor knowledge on preparation of nutrient balanced meals for children. Despite these shortcomings, the community has volunteers who are making efforts in teaching the caregivers on how to feed the children balanced meals.

DISCUSSION

Discussion Topic: The role of Nutrition Volunteers in improving nutrition status at the community level. Open Ended Questions: How is food security in our communities? What are some of the contributing factors to malnutrition among under five children? What challenges are being faced in households with malnourished children? What can be done in order to reduce malnutrition levels?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

The participants acknowledged that there are households with malnourished children. The causes of malnutrition being insufficient foods in households as most of the people sale all their farm produce. The second factor being lack of food preservation especially on seasonal foods. The third factor is the poor feeding practices by caregivers who sometimes leave their under five children in the care of younger siblings when they go to their fields.

URGENT ACTIONS

Two major issues identified were food insecurity and poor feeding practices. Therefore urgent actions require intensified education of caregivers on the importance on feeding the children adequately and timely. Further, sensitization on the importance of preserving enough foods for home consumption as opposed to sailing everything. In order to ensure that the is achieved, the nutrition volunteers will work together with the traditional leaders and other volunteers.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the discussion men felt that some women lack adequate knowledge on managing foods at home. On the other end women argued that some men also tend to mismanage foods as others sale the crops and use the money for beer drinking.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogue was conducted as planned and the key issues contributing to malnutrition were discussed. Diversification of income was also encouraged, this is where people should not only rely on same type of crops but also keep small livestock which can be sold when they need some money but also as a source of protein at household. The preserving of seasonal local foods rich in proteins like caterpillars was highly emphasized. Mostly when people catch the caterpillars they sale most of what they have and remain with very little or nothing at all. The keeping of small livestock was identified as one of the intervention that will caution the nutrition needs as well as provision of income when in need. In order to achieve this, consented efforts will be of great help as different stakeholders have different skills which they can contribute towards eliminating child malnutrition.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

All participants were given equal chances to make their contributions. The facilitator ensured that each person's views were respected and different views were accommodated as well. Deliberate efforts were made to ensure that women were encouraged to speak out.

METHOD AND SETTING

The dialogue was conducted in a focus group discussion where nutrition volunteers and SMAGs (Safe Motherhood Action Group) were involved. The session took place in a meeting room at a health facility. Question and answer method was used with probing questions where necessary in order to get clarity.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Adequate preparation is cardinal as participants sometimes ask questions that require accurate information. During the dialogue you should also be very observant as some participants would want to take the show, deliberately ask even those who seem to be quite to speak their views.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the Ministry of Health staff who provided us with the room in which we conducted the dialogue and also for participating in the dialogue, my World Vision colleague for co-facilitating and the traditional leader who is also a nutritional volunteers for mobilizing the volunteers.