

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	District Nutrition Coordinating Committee Meeting: Exploring Gaps in Nutrition Services and Opportunities for Improvement
DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 22 July 2026 10:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Mwakamui Mongwa, District Nutritionist (Ministry of Health), Ethel Daka, WASH Development Facilitator (World Vision), Mundia Mwangala, ADP Manager (World Vision Senanga), Constancia Nawa, CDW (World Vision), Costain Simisamu, WDC (World Vision) Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Mundia Mwangala. Co facilitator Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: MUNDIA MWANGALA. Technical and leadership role
EVENT LANGUAGE	English
HOST LOCATION	Senanga, Zambia
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Senanga District at the District Hospital
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Zambia
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/60754/



Partner Engagement during design process

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	14
------------------------------	----

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

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

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

6	Female	8	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
---	--------	---	------	---	-------------------------

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	2	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	1	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	1	Food Producers (including farmers)
2	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
0	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	1	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
0	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	0	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	2	Small/Medium Enterprises
4	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
1	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Nil

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The dialogue brought together representatives from different organizational levels and sectors, including government (Ministry of Health), international NGOs (World Vision, ADRA), and community-level workers. Participants possessed a mix of technical expertise in nutrition, health, and community development, representing both urban-based coordination bodies and rural, community-facing service providers.
--

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (DNCC) meeting was convened by the District Nutritionist from the Ministry of Health, the ADP Manager from World Vision, the Development Facilitator (iWASH), and two Community Development Workers from World Vision. The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the DNCC. The dialogue was framed around the critical topic of exploring gaps in current nutrition services and identifying opportunities for improvement within the district. Participants were introduced to the local context, which is marked by significant challenges including food insecurity caused by climate-related shocks such as floods and droughts, animal-human conflicts, and low household incomes. Other contextual factors limiting nutrition service delivery included weak coordination among stakeholders, long distances to health facilities, and limited nutrition awareness within communities.

DISCUSSION

The Stakeholder Dialogue was convened with the overarching objective of critically examining current nutrition service delivery gaps and identifying actionable pathways for improvement through a highly participatory, solution-oriented methodology. Following a detailed framing presentation on the local nutrition context, including challenges related to food insecurity, climate shocks, limited healthcare access, and low nutrition awareness, participants were divided into three breakout groups, each tasked with specific guiding questions. Group 1 conducted a comprehensive situational analysis to identify and document gaps in nutrition services, exploring access barriers, inadequacies in nutrition education, weaknesses in monitoring and coordination, human resource and funding constraints, and the exclusion of vulnerable populations such as people with disabilities. Group 2 examined systemic, structural, and environmental challenges affecting service delivery, probing financial constraints, climate-related disruptions, data collection weaknesses, barriers to multisectoral coordination, low community awareness, cultural beliefs hindering adoption of good practices, and limited inclusivity in programming. Group 3 adopted a forward-looking perspective to identify strategic opportunities and concrete actions for strengthening service delivery, focusing on enhancing coordination among government, NGOs, and community structures; improving reporting systems for evidence-based decision-making; clarifying roles and responsibilities; building community capacity in monitoring and accountability; improving resource mobilization; operationalizing a genuine multisectoral approach; and documenting successful interventions for knowledge sharing. After 90 minutes of facilitated small-group discussions, participants reconvened in plenary to present their findings, followed by open floor discussions for clarifying questions and collective validation of outcomes.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants identified a wide range of interconnected challenges, which were categorized into key areas:

1. Limited Access to Services: Long distances to health facilities and inadequate outreach due to transport shortages limit community access to nutrition interventions.
2. Inadequate Nutrition Education: Low literacy levels among Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs), a lack of training materials in local languages, and limited knowledge of balanced diets using locally available foods hinder effective community education.
3. Weak Monitoring and Coordination: There is a significant gap in monitoring and coordination among the various stakeholders involved in nutrition service delivery.
4. Inadequate Funding and Resources: Insufficient financial resources and logistical support impede the effective implementation of nutrition programmes.
5. Human Resource Constraints: A shortage of trained nutrition personnel at all levels.
6. Food Insecurity: Climate change impacts (floods and droughts), animal-human conflicts, and low household incomes severely affect food availability and access.
7. Inadequate Food Supplements: Limited funding leads to a shortage of essential food supplements at health facilities.
8. Poor WASH Services: Limited access to safe drinking water exacerbates the burden of malnutrition.
9. High Burden of Malnutrition: The district faces a high prevalence of undernutrition.
10. Low Adoption of Good Practices: Cultural beliefs and practices often hinder the adoption of appropriate nutrition practices.
11. Limited Inclusivity: People with disabilities are not adequately included in nutrition programmes.
12. Dissemination Gaps: Inadequate dissemination of nutrition messages in schools.

URGENT ACTIONS

Participants identified several urgent and strategic actions for improvement, focusing on strengthening the enabling environment:

1. **Strengthen Coordination:** Enhance collaboration among government departments, NGOs, and community structures to ensure a unified approach.
2. **Improve Reporting Structures:** Establish and improve reporting mechanisms to facilitate timely and effective decision-making at all levels.
3. **Clarify Roles and Responsibilities:** Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in nutrition programmes to avoid duplication and ensure accountability.
4. **Build Capacity:** Invest in building the capacity of community structures in monitoring, reporting, and accountability to improve programme quality and sustainability.
5. **Improve Resource Mobilization:** Develop strategies for improved resource mobilization and sharing among stakeholders to address funding gaps.
6. **Enhance Multisectoral Approach:** Actively promote and implement a multisectoral approach, linking nutrition with agriculture, WASH, education, and social protection.
7. **Document and Share Learning:** Systematically document and share successful interventions and lessons learned to guide future programming and advocacy.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The group discussions demonstrated a high degree of consensus on the significant challenges facing nutrition service delivery in the district. There were no major divergent views on the core problems. The discussions were constructive and focused on identifying common solutions. While different groups may have emphasized various aspects based on their specific expertise, there was unanimous agreement on the need for stronger coordination, more funding, and a multisectoral approach as critical pathways for improvement.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (DNCC) meeting in Zambia was a focused and highly productive stakeholder dialogue convened to critically examine the state of nutrition services in the district. The meeting brought together a diverse group of professionals, including government health officials, international NGO staff, and community development workers, creating a rich environment for an in-depth and honest assessment of the situation.

The dialogue was structured to efficiently draw out the most pressing issues. The breakout group methodology was highly effective, allowing participants to analyze the challenges from three distinct yet interconnected angles: the operational gaps in services, the systemic challenges affecting delivery, and the strategic opportunities for change. This structure facilitated a comprehensive exploration that might not have been achieved in a single plenary session.

The findings from the groups painted a stark picture of a system under pressure. The challenges are deeply interwoven; inadequate funding and staff shortages lead to weak outreach and monitoring, which in turn perpetuates low community awareness and poor adoption of nutrition practices. This is compounded by the external shocks of climate change and persistent food insecurity, which create a cycle of vulnerability. A particularly poignant point raised was the limited inclusion of people with disabilities in nutrition programmes, highlighting a critical equity gap that needs urgent attention. The sentiment among participants was one of shared concern but also a clear determination to find solutions.

Despite the gravity of the challenges, the atmosphere of the meeting was one of constructive collaboration, rather than despair. The participants were visibly committed to addressing these systemic issues. The "Opportunities for Improvement" session was especially dynamic, generating a concrete list of actionable steps that were well-received by the entire committee. There was a strong sense of collective ownership over the proposed solutions, from strengthening coordination and clarifying roles to enhancing resource mobilization.

The committee members concluded the meeting by formally acknowledging the identified gaps and challenges. Most importantly, they committed to working together to address them, emphasizing the critical importance of stronger coordination, improved resource mobilization, effective monitoring and reporting, and a holistic, multisectoral approach. The meeting felt less like a standard reporting session and more like a strategic planning retreat, leaving participants with a renewed sense of purpose and a clear, shared agenda for improving nutrition outcomes in their district. This collaborative spirit is a powerful asset for driving the necessary changes to achieve better nutrition for all.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The dialogue was designed to be inclusive and transparent, reflecting the core Principles of Engagement. The diverse participant group, including representatives from government (Ministry of Health), a major international NGO (World Vision), and community-based workers, ensured that multiple perspectives were heard. The structured breakout groups allowed all voices to contribute to the discussion of gaps, challenges, and solutions in a safe and focused environment. The findings were openly presented to the full committee, ensuring transparency and collective ownership of the outcomes. The meeting was formally chaired by the DNCC Chairperson, ensuring a structured and respectful process. While different organizations may have had competing interests regarding resource allocation or programmatic focus, the meeting was framed around a shared goal of improving district-wide nutrition outcomes, which helped align participants towards common solutions.

METHOD AND SETTING

The meeting was convened as a formal, structured session of the District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (DNCC), a pre-existing coordination body. The methodology used was a combination of plenary introduction followed by facilitated small-group discussions (breakout groups). This "World Cafe" or "Fishbowl" style method was ideal for encouraging deep and focused discussion on specific subtopics (gaps, challenges, opportunities) before synthesizing findings in a plenary session. The setting was

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Our key advice is to structure the dialogue to be forward-looking. While identifying and discussing challenges is necessary, it is equally important to allocate significant time to solution-oriented discussions. Using breakout groups is an effective way to manage a large or complex agenda. Ensure the participant list represents the full spectrum of stakeholders, including community-level voices, to capture a complete picture of the situation and foster ownership of the outcomes.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all the members of the District Nutrition Coordinating Committee (DNCC) for their active participation and invaluable contributions. Special appreciation goes to the District Nutritionist from the Ministry of Health and the team from World Vision Zambia for convening this important dialogue and providing logistical support. We are grateful for the commitment of all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards improving nutrition outcomes in our district.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance List
- DNCC Session
- Group Presentations
- Group work
- Group work
- Group submissions
- group submissions
- Plenary