

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Nourishing Our Community - North
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 20 August 2026 11:00 GMT +03:00
CONVENED BY	Yara Nasser, Project Officer, World Vision
EVENT LANGUAGE	Arabic
HOST LOCATION	Tripoli, Lebanon
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community Level
AFFILIATIONS	World vision
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/61096/

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
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	2	19-29
4	30-49	3	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

4	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	4	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	2	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
3	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The Dialogue brought together diverse stakeholders from communities in Akkar, including World Vision and project partners LRI, Mada and REEF, as well as faith leaders and municipalities representatives. The participation of local authorities, civil society organizations, faith-based actors and community representatives brought different perspectives and experiences to the discussion, helping ensure that nutrition concerns were considered from different community and social perspectives.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The Nutrition Dialogue was introduced in the context of the current economic, social and environmental situation in Lebanon, with a focus on rural communities in Akkar. Participants discussed that good nutrition is not only about having enough food, but also having regular access to safe, healthy, diverse and affordable food. The economic crisis, inflation and high food prices were identified as major challenges, making it difficult for many families, especially low-income households, to afford healthy and varied food. Participants also raised concerns about food and water contamination, unsafe agricultural practices, including the inappropriate use of pesticides and fertilizers, and limited monitoring of food safety. The discussion also considered how displacement, the escalation of conflict, instability and problems with transportation, storage and markets can affect the availability, quality and price of fresh food. Seasonality and the storage and preservation of food were also mentioned as concerns. Children and older adults were identified as some of the groups most at risk of nutrition problems. Participants also highlighted the role of parents' nutrition knowledge, food habits and the marketing of unhealthy products. The Dialogue provided a space for participants to share their concerns and discuss how families, farmers, schools, municipalities, government institutions, NGOs and community organizations can work together to improve access to safe, healthy and affordable food for everyone.

DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on the community's concerns and experiences related to nutrition. Participants were asked: What are the main nutrition problems and concerns in our community, and why are they happening? Who is most affected by these problems? What can be done to ensure good nutrition for everyone in the community? What actions are needed to improve access to safe, healthy and affordable food? Finally, who needs to be involved, including families, farmers, schools, municipalities, government institutions and NGOs, to achieve good nutrition for all?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants identified several nutrition challenges affecting their communities. The high cost of food and the current economic situation were major concerns. Rising prices make healthy and diverse food less affordable, especially for low-income families, who may choose cheaper foods with lower nutritional value.

Food and water safety was another important concern. Participants mentioned water pollution and the possible use of unsafe water for agriculture, which can affect the safety of fruits and vegetables. They also raised concerns about the unsafe or excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, including not respecting the required time between pesticide application and harvesting.

Participants also discussed the availability and quality of fresh food. Problems with transportation, storage and refrigeration, especially during hot weather, can affect the quality and safety of meat, dairy products, vegetables and other foods. Seasonality and the availability of some products outside their natural season were also mentioned.

Children were considered particularly vulnerable because they depend on parents and caregivers for food choices and meal preparation. Participants highlighted limited nutrition knowledge among some parents, as well as the increased consumption of sugary and highly processed foods. Misleading food marketing was also identified as a concern, as some products promoted as “healthy” or suitable for children may contain high amounts of sugar or fat.

Older adults, especially those living alone, may face difficulties accessing, purchasing or preparing nutritious food.

Finally, participants highlighted food safety monitoring and regulation need to be strengthened, as well as challenges in promoting healthy eating in schools, where unhealthy snacks may be cheaper and more easily available.

URGENT ACTIONS

Participants identified several actions that they felt were urgently needed to improve nutrition in their communities. A key priority was to increase awareness among families and parents about healthy and balanced diets, children's nutritional needs, food choices and the risks of highly processed and sugary foods. Participants suggested regular awareness sessions and community meetings for parents and families.

Participants also highlighted the need for farmers to receive practical awareness and training on the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers, including respecting safety periods before harvesting. They proposed stronger cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant authorities to support farmers and improve monitoring.

Food safety was another urgent area. Participants called for stronger monitoring of food products, markets, agricultural practices, food-processing facilities, transportation and storage conditions. They stressed the importance of cooperation between government institutions, municipalities and other stakeholders to ensure that food is safe throughout the food chain.

Schools were identified as an important entry point. Participants proposed nutrition education for students, stronger cooperation between schools and parents, and healthier school canteens. They also suggested having qualified nutrition or health professionals in schools and providing appropriate training and support to school staff.

Participants also emphasized the need to support low-income families so that healthy food is not only promoted but is also affordable and accessible. NGOs and community organizations were seen as important actors in providing awareness, supporting vulnerable families and working with municipalities and other stakeholders.

Overall, participants proposed a coordinated approach involving municipalities, government ministries, schools, parents, farmers, NGOs and community organizations, combining awareness, monitoring and regulation.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants generally shared similar concerns about the nutrition situation in their communities, particularly regarding high food prices, food safety, contamination, unhealthy food choices and the vulnerability of children and older adults. There were no major disagreements or strongly opposing views recorded during the Dialogue. However, some differences appeared in the way participants understood the main causes and priorities. Some participants focused more on the economic situation and the difficulty of affording healthy food, while others placed greater emphasis on food safety, agricultural practices, pesticide use, water contamination and weak monitoring. Participants also had different views on where action should start, with some highlighting the role of families and parents, while others emphasized farmers, schools, municipalities, government institutions or NGOs. There was also discussion around the challenges of improving nutrition in schools. Participants recognized the importance of healthier school food environments, but noted that school canteens may continue to sell unhealthy products because they are cheaper, easier to sell and in high demand. This showed that improving nutrition involves not only awareness but also economic and behavioral factors. Overall, the different views were complementary rather than conflicting. Participants agreed on the need for a coordinated approach involving families, farmers, schools, municipalities, government institutions and civil society. The Dialogue helped show that nutrition challenges are interconnected and require action at different levels.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The Nutrition Dialogue brought together different stakeholders to discuss the main nutrition concerns affecting communities in Akkar and identify actions to improve nutrition for all. The discussion took place in the context of Lebanon's economic and social challenges, particularly high food prices, reduced purchasing power and concerns about food safety. Participants highlighted that good nutrition means having regular access to safe, healthy, diverse and affordable food. High food prices were identified as a major challenge, especially for low-income families, who may rely more on cheaper and less nutritious foods. Participants also raised concerns about children's diets, unhealthy food marketing, and limited nutrition awareness among some parents. Food safety was another key concern, including water pollution, unsafe agricultural practices, inappropriate use of pesticides and fertilizers, and weaknesses in monitoring. Participants also discussed problems related to transportation, storage and refrigeration of food. Children and older adults were identified as particularly vulnerable groups. Schools were seen as an important setting for nutrition education, healthier school canteens and stronger cooperation between schools and parents. Participants emphasized that improving nutrition requires action across the whole food chain, from farmers and food production to families and consumers. They highlighted the need for cooperation between municipalities, government ministries, schools, NGOs, farmers, parents and community organizations. Overall, the Dialogue was open, constructive and participatory. Participants shared different perspectives but generally agreed on the main challenges and the need for collective action. The discussion showed that good nutrition is not only about individual choices, but also about ensuring that healthy food is safe, available and affordable for everyone.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Dialogue followed principles of inclusion, participation, respect and confidentiality. At the beginning, ground rules were agreed with participants, including ensuring everyone had the opportunity to participate, respecting different opinions, not interrupting, and recognizing that there were no wrong answers. These guidelines helped create a safe and respectful space for participants to openly share their experiences and perspectives. The Dialogue included World Vision, Lebanese reforestation initiative, Mada, REEF, faith leaders and municipality representatives.

METHOD AND SETTING

The Dialogue was conducted online through Microsoft Teams using a facilitated and participatory approach. It started with an icebreaker question on what “good nutrition” means, followed by open-ended questions about nutrition concerns, affected groups, possible actions and key stakeholders. Participants shared their views verbally by raising their hands and also contributed through the chat.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Convenors should ensure that participants represent different groups and perspectives within the community. It is important to prepare clear and open-ended questions that encourage participants to share their experiences and concerns. Establishing ground rules at the beginning helps create a respectful and safe space for discussion.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all participants for their active participation, valuable contributions and willingness to share their experiences and perspectives. We also appreciate the support and collaboration of World Vision, Lebanese reforestation initiative (LRI), Mada and REEF in engaging in the Dialogue. Special thanks to the faith leaders and municipality representatives from Akkar for their engagement and contributions to the discussion.