

# STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

## PRE-SUBMISSION FEEDBACK FORM

This word version aims to help Convenors draft their Workshop outcomes, prior to submission of the final version via the online form on the Portal at [nutritiondialogues.org](https://nutritiondialogues.org). The text boxes are sized to help you remain within the character count. To take advantage of this, do not resize the text boxes and ensure you are using Arial font, size 10 with single spacing. For guidance on how to complete the form, please review the corresponding [Feedback Framework](#).

### SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: [ 20 ]

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE RANGE

12-15 [ 0 ]

16-18 [ 0 ]

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

Female [ 16 ]

Male [ 4 ]

Prefer not to say/Other [ ]

**EVENT TITLE: EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES: EFFECTIVE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CHILD HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION**

**CONVINED BY: LIZZIE LOMBE, ADVOCACY MANAGER, FACILITATION BY EDNA MWANGONDE**

**EVENT DATES: WEDNESDAY,04/12/24, 10:AM**

**EVENT LANGUAGE: CHICHEWA**

**HOST CITY: LILONGWE**

**GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: COMMUNITY LEVEL**

The participants were a diverse group of adults from the same community, including both men and women. They represented various roles, such as faith leaders, chiefs, care group members, caregivers, Citizen Voice and Action representatives, child protection committee members and participants in village savings and loans groups. The workshop took place in a rural area, with all attendees coming from the Dzuwa communities in Lilongwe.



## SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

### FRAMING

A roundtable setup was arranged followed by introductions . The facilitator mentioned the objective of the nutrition dialogue. Key terms , "hunger" and "malnutrition" were introduced, and the children were invited to define what hunger means to them. There were energizers in between the the discussions to keep everyone engaged and active. At certain points, participants were divided into groups to identify the causes of hunger and malnutrition in their area and propose potential solutions.

## SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

### CHALLENGES

- Selling of farm inputs: Families often sell subsidized farm inputs, such as fertilizer, instead of using them for cultivation.
- Overpopulation lead to rapid consumption of harvested food causing the food to run out early.
- Lack of knowledge on food utilization: Limited understanding of proper food preparation and storage affects nutrition and food security.
- Ignorance about food budgeting: Poor planning and budgeting lead to inefficient food use and wastage.
- Cultural practices: Traditional ceremonies often involve preparing large quantities of food resulting in significant plate waste.
- Theft of farm inputs and produce: There is high cases of theft which reduces available resources affecting food production and income.
- Climate change contribute to low crop yields and reduced agricultural productivity.
- Families often prioritize men when distributing meal portions, contributing to malnutrition among children. As one participant explained, *'In my family, men are given the larger parts of the chicken, while children receive only the head.'*

### URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Promote and adopt irrigation farming to ensure consistent agricultural production throughout the year.
- Encourage the use of organic manure to improve soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers which is expensive these days.
- Practice improved agricultural technologies to increase crop yields and resilience to climate change.
- Engage local leaders to advocate for reducing excessive food preparation during cultural ceremonies.
- Intensify cooking demonstrations to teach effective food utilization and improve nutrition.
- Promote family planning methods to address the challenges associated with overpopulation.
- Support natural regeneration practices to restore soil health and enhance environmental sustainability

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants demonstrated an understanding of the issues surrounding nutrition and hunger, including their impact on their lives. However, we observed a limited awareness of dietary diversity, as maize was frequently mentioned as the primary food source. This concern can be addressed through awareness sessions focusing on dietary diversity

## OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogue session offered an opportunity to understand the perspectives of stakeholders from various sectors on nutrition and hunger. The discussions shown that most committee members are knowledgeable about good nutrition and indicated to share some of the insights gained from these conversations with others in their communities. However, there is a need to actively engage the community in nutrition awareness focusing on promoting dietary diversity.

## SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES AND METHOD

### PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Before the workshop began, we made sure that each participant was willing to be engaged voluntarily, reassuring them that our role was to listen to their ideas without any form of evaluation. Consent of their participation was sought first.

### METHOD AND SETTING

**Venue:** Church (selected to provide a comfortable environment with enough space)

The session began with introductions, followed by an explanation of the workshop's goals and a brief energizer activity to engage participants before starting the discussion.

### ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

- Define the goals of the workshop clearly before the workshop

### PHOTOS





## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On the online form, you are welcome to upload links (limit 10) for example to other website, photos of the collages (limit 10) and attachments, for example, additional reports. (limit 10).

Acknowledgements go to World Vision Malawi National Office team, The WVM Lilongwe District Programmes manager, Mr. Harold Munthali, , the Lilongwe District Council, and the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture for collaborating to engage stakeholders on issues of hunger and malnutrition.