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DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional dialogue with internally displaced persons at the 8th CEPAC Mugunga camp in North Kivu
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Tuesday, December 3, 2024 11:00 GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	David Ngoy and Junior EKUTSHU Feedback posted on behalf of the organizer by: Patrick Abega. Technical support
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Swahili
HOST PLACE	Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE IDP Camp	
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision DRC
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/55785/

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

52

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

10 19-29

26 30-49

15 50-74

1 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

42 Female

10 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, youth groups and students

1 Educators and Teachers

0 Financial institutions and technical partners

0 Health professionals

0 Information and Technology Providers

0 Marketing and Advertising Experts

0 News and Media (e.g. journalists)

0 Science and Universities

0 Government officials and representatives
local/sous-national

0 Women's Groups

0 Civil society organizations (including
consumer groups and organizations
environmental)

0 Religious Leaders/Religious Communities

0 Food producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous peoples

0 Large food companies and retailers

0 Government officials and representatives
national/federal

0 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

0 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The dialogue was attended by 52 people, including 10 men and 42 women. The majority of participants are internally displaced persons who fled the armed conflict in eastern DRC. They are in the 8th CEPAC displaced persons camp in Mugunga (Goma)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

As for the conduct of activities, the Dialogue was subdivided into five key moments, namely, 1) prayer, 2) the presentation of participants, 3) the presentation of the enough campaign and its counterpart the nutritional dialogue 4) the work in crossroads and 5) the pooling. The prayer was made by the head of ESVECO asbl the moderator of the day and subsequently David NGOY took the floor to present the presentation phase and each participant spoke presented

SECTION TWO: FRAMEWORK AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The dialogue began with prayer and then the introduction of World Vision agents and participants. The latter were happy to participate in the dialogue. The participants introduced themselves and added their territory and village. The facilitators presented the objectives of the dialogue while discussing the ENOUGH campaign which aims to fight against hunger and malnutrition that affect children especially in the eastern part of the DRC where armed conflict is one of the major factors underlying hunger and malnutrition. The phase of defining the concept of malnutrition interested most of them and the participants were given the floor to ask questions and received adequate answers. During the debate that the exchanges generated, the participants wanted to know how they could contribute to fighting malnutrition in their environments where humanitarian aid is insufficient and that this primarily affects their children. The participants expressed doubts but also hope to see hunger and malnutrition end. They also mentioned that peace is the best factor that can allow them to get involved in the long term because they have fields to exploit to feed themselves but unfortunately they no longer have access to them. That is to say that they have been cut off from their food resources and sources of income. The facilitators called on participants to be resilient while explaining that humanitarians are advocating daily for leaders to find a sustainable solution to the humanitarian crisis affecting them. Participants were satisfied with the answers and promised to do their best to raise awareness in the camps where there are cases of deaths related to malnutrition. They wanted to know the next step to sustain this collaboration. They asked for support to start income-generating activities to better feed their children.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-9.pptx

DISCUSSION

The discussions focused on issues related to the challenges, causes, urgent actions to be taken, recommendations and other proposals to address malnutrition in the context of internally displaced persons: Regarding the causes, for example, the participants mentioned their massive displacement from their usual environments to the internally displaced persons camps where they found themselves, regardless of their own will: They are subjected to a diet to which they are not accustomed, because they have no other choice: Poverty was also part of the discussions among the causes of malnutrition, because being displaced, even the few people who did agricultural work in their places of origin, no longer have this opportunity and are content with the food distributed to them by humanitarian organizations, in this case World Vision. The participants wanted to see the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo make their return to their villages of origin a priority and this requires an end to the ongoing war between government forces and the M23 rebels, which was the basis of their displacement. The challenges are enormous, acknowledged the participants, who are mostly internally displaced persons, but the only solution for them is to first return to their places of origin and there they can get involved in this fight against malnutrition and make it a common fight in all the villages. They committed to getting involved, even while still in the IDP camps, to raise awareness among other internally displaced persons so that everyone can first understand the danger that malnutrition represents, not only for them as adults, but also and especially for children and pregnant women who are much more vulnerable people in the face of this situation of malnutrition and hunger.

SECTION THREE: RESULTS OF THE DIALOGUE

CHALLENGES

Several challenges were noted by the participants, among which we noted the following: - Poverty: The participants recognized the fact that poverty is the main cause of malnutrition, because when parents do not have the means to feed their children properly, the consequence is that the latter will be victims of malnutrition; it would therefore be necessary for parents to find jobs in order to properly meet the nutritional needs of their families.

- Lack of employment: As said above, the fact that people live on the move means that they do not work. Although they are used to working in the fields, since they live in displaced persons camps, they no longer have the possibility of working in the fields, which causes the situation of malnutrition as observed in most households living in displaced persons camps.

- Climate change: This causes insufficient rainfall, because even the few people who can still cultivate, see their crops die due to lack of rain. It is true that this is a natural phenomenon, but it constitutes one of the major challenges that promote malnutrition.

- Lack of information on nutrition: Participants also acknowledged that they do not have enough information on nutrition, which means that people eat just to eat, without considering the nutritional aspects of the foods they consume.

- Abandonment of agricultural activities due to the war: The ongoing war has forced people to move, abandoning their fields where they no longer have access. This has resulted in families no longer having the food they need for their good health, because being in displaced persons camps, they are content with the food they receive from humanitarian organizations to which they are not accustomed.

- The impassability of agricultural service roads.

URGENT ACTIONS

The following actions have been identified as urgent actions to contribute to good nutrition. These are: - Availability of nutritious foods - Access to

affordable nutritious foods - Essential nutrition, health, education, sanitation and social protection services - Age-appropriate feeding and care practices (including breastfeeding)

- Ensure the availability of nutritious foods throughout the year in different locations - Increase the ability of low-income households to access the nutritious foods they need; - Enable all household members to - Consume the nutrients they need - Reduce their risk of disease - Receive treatment when sick - Access other interventions and services as needed; - Enable access to social protection and safety nets and other forms of support and protection that households vulnerable to nutrition problems may need; - Ensure access to relevant educational opportunities.

The participants thought that if all this is taken into account and put into practice, the nutrition situation of their communities, in general and their children, in particular, can certainly improve. They further asked the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to get more involved in making the fight against malnutrition its priority because it is its sacred duty, as a Nation, to take care of the well-being of its population.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

All living in the IDP camps, the participants acknowledged the fact that their realities and living conditions are not the same as those of other families who live in their own families and in their natural living environments. For them, areas of divergence were noted and in most cases, it is related to life on the move compared to life in one's own original environment.

For some, as long as the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo does not put an end to the war in the East, the nutritional situation of these thousands of displaced people will always be precarious. For others, on the other hand, even while they live in displacement, they can get involved in the fight against malnutrition and let the State take care of the restoration of peace in the East, the only way for them to return to their villages of origin and take care of agricultural activities in order to fight against malnutrition in their respective entities.

Another point of divergence was related to the impassability of agricultural access roads, which for some is the responsibility of the Government, while for others, even the members of the community themselves can organize community works and do some cantonment work to at least save the situation.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The dialogue began with prayer and then the introduction of World Vision agents and participants. The latter were happy to participate in the dialogue. The participants introduced themselves and added their territory and village. The facilitators presented the objectives of the dialogue while discussing the ENOUGH campaign which aims to fight against hunger and malnutrition that affect children especially in the eastern part of the DRC where armed conflict is one of the major factors underlying hunger and malnutrition. The phase of defining the concept of malnutrition interested most of them and the participants were given the floor to ask questions and received adequate answers. During the debate that the exchanges generated, the participants wanted to know how they could contribute to fighting malnutrition in their environments where humanitarian aid is insufficient and that this primarily affects their children. The participants expressed doubts but also hope to see hunger and malnutrition end. They also mentioned that peace is the best factor that can allow them to get involved in the long term because they have fields to exploit to feed themselves but unfortunately they no longer have access to them. That is to say that they have been cut off from their food resources and sources of income. The facilitators called on participants to be resilient while explaining that humanitarians are advocating daily for leaders to find a lasting solution to the humanitarian crisis affecting them. Participants were satisfied with the answers and promised to do their best to raise awareness in the camps where there are cases of deaths related to malnutrition. They wanted to know the next step to sustain this collaboration. They asked for support to start income-generating activities to better feed their children.

Regarding the challenges, the participants noted the following challenges: - Poverty: The participants recognized the fact that poverty is the main cause of malnutrition, because when parents do not have the means to feed their children properly, the consequence is that the latter will be victims of malnutrition; it would therefore be necessary for parents to find jobs in order to adequately meet the nutritional needs of their families.

- Lack of employment: As said above, the fact that people live on the move means that they do not work. Although they are used to working in the fields, since they live in displaced persons camps, they no longer have the possibility of working in the fields, which causes the situation of malnutrition as observed in most households living in displaced persons camps.

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- The impassability of agricultural service roads.

The participants also proposed some urgent actions, among others: However, there were also some points of divergence noted during the group work, among which the following points caught our attention: For some, as long as the government of the Democratic Republic of

Congo does not put an end to the war in the East, the nutritional situation of these thousands of displaced people will always be precarious. For others, on the other hand, even while they live in displacement, they can get involved in the fight against malnutrition and let the State restore peace in the East.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

Participants committed to making the fight against malnutrition their priority, despite living in the situation of displacement, regardless of their will. They promised to take into account the aspects of inclusion and gender in their awareness-raising activities to combat malnutrition. The involvement of all sections of the populations living in displacement will be taken into account until they have the chance to return to their villages of origin to continue the fight which for them is very important for the well-being of their families. Mutual respect and consideration as well as the recognition of each other's weaknesses will also be taken into consideration, because it is clear that not everyone has the same capacities to raise awareness and convince residents about the causes, consequences, challenges of malnutrition, and to get involved in putting an end to it. They also promised to continue to discuss this subject.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

Endragogy was the method used because it was an adult dialogue. After each presentation, the floor was given to any participant who wanted to express themselves to contribute with a new idea, or to ask a clarifying question to advance the debate. This is what justified even the creation of the 5 discussion groups where the participants were called to exchange freely on questions related to malnutrition, before presenting in plenary.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

For other colleagues who are going to organize these kinds of dialogues, we advise to first prepare well and make sure that all the logistics are ready, because most of these dialogues are held in remote areas; refer to the experiences of others as well as the lessons learned by others in relation to the difficulties encountered. They will also have to make sure that everyone has a say and that participation is diversified based on social class.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

Our thanks go first to Mr Patrick Abega for his technical support, without which the organization of this dialogue would not be possible. To the participants, most of whom are internally displaced persons, who responded to our invitation despite their difficult living conditions in the camps. To colleague Rodrigue Harakandi who took the photos as well as to the Driver, colleague Patrick for ensuring the team's travel to the place of the dialogue.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2.Listes-participants-adultes.pdf>
- consent form <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2.Consentement-adulte.pdf>
- Photo from Adult Dialogue https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/DSC_3150-1-copy-scaled.jpg