

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Reflection on the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the Kintanu community
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Wednesday, December 4, 2024 09:00 GMT +01:00
SUMMONED BY	Ngenda Chiza Philippe Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback published on behalf of the organizer by: Dr Philippe Ngenda Chiza. Technical support
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	Lingala and French
HOST PLACE	Kisantu, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Kintanu Community,
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/55896/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

50

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

6 19-29

27 30-49

17 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

24 Female

26 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, youth groups and students

7 Educators and Teachers

4 Financial institutions and technical partners

4 Health professionals

1 Information and technology providers

0 Marketing and Advertising Experts

1 News and Media (e.g. journalists)

2 Science and Universities

2 Government officials and representatives
local/sous-national

6 Women's Groups

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

5 Religious leaders/Religious communities

6 Food producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous peoples

5 Major Food Companies and Retailers

1 Government officials and representatives
national/federal

0 Parents and Caregivers

4 Small/Medium Enterprises

0 United Nations

1 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Among the participants, there was also a law enforcement officer in the room, a police officer.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The participants belonged to 3 categories of population that are found in Kintanu. The bureaucrats who are employed in state institutions and who have a slightly higher standard of living compared to the other two categories consisted of farmers and retailers of basic necessities. Among the participants were noted also the presence of a member of the community with a disability of the lower limbs, moving with his chair rolling.

SECTION TWO: FRAMEWORK AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

At 9:00 a.m., the session began with a prayer said by one of the participants before the DF of Kintanu provided information on WV in general and on the Kongo central cluster and the AP Kintanu in particular. 10 minutes later, the participants introduced themselves by stating their professional status, in order to allow the moderator to get an idea of the different categories of population invited to the discussion. The floor was given to the moderator who, in his introduction, began by collecting the participants' points of view on the concept of "hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition". How do the participants understand these concepts in relation to the context of Kintanu? And what are the challenges they face and all the issues around these key themes of the dialogue. A presentation was made in power point on the global context of hunger and malnutrition in order to allow participants to understand the issues and use this global vision of hunger and malnutrition in order to better reflect on the specific context of AP Kintanu.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FR-Introduction-to-Nutrition-Slideset-Synthese-Dr-Philippe.pptx>

DISCUSSION

Nutrition was the topic of discussion during this adult session. The open-ended questions asked were: 1. What are the nutritional challenges in your community? 2. What actions can be taken to address them? 3. What are the points of divergence in your groups? 5 groups of 10 adults each were formed to reflect on these questions. Participants gave their views on these key concepts of the discussion. The context of the city of Kintanu is characterized by major challenges. With agriculture being the main activity of 90% of households, limited access to agricultural land remains a challenge that forces agricultural households to accept unfavorable conditions (in addition to the right to exploit, the harvest is divided equally between the owner and the tenant: this is the famous concept "Dia nkala, Luta nkala" which means 'use part of the production and leave half to the landowner). In addition to these constraints, climatic hazards lead to the scarcity of rainfall and the periodic flooding of market garden areas, which destroy household fields and crops. This results, on the one hand, in low agricultural production, which contributes to increasing the price of foodstuffs on the market, and on the other hand, in the difficulties of households in accessing an adequate and balanced diet. Low agricultural production being the basis of the low purchasing power of households in Kintanu is one of the major factors that negatively impacts the health and nutrition sector. Low productivity is not the only factor, participants also revealed ignorance and lack of information (Some households have food but do not know how to feed their families with nutritious foods (composed of 3 food groups). Finally, the community also mentioned the case of certain beliefs and prohibitions.

SECTION THREE: RESULTS OF THE DIALOGUE

CHALLENGES

The 5 groups, each composed of 10 participants, were supervised to reflect and answer the questions asked previously. At the end of the discussions, a pooling of ideas was made and the following challenges were identified: - The lack of arable land in Kintanu is the basis of low agricultural production and the scarcity of products. This leads to rising prices on the Kintanu market. Households produce little, products become scarce and prices rise at the same time.

- Lack of employment or unemployment. The heads of several households in Kintanu, mostly composed of young men, do not have jobs. They decide to work in the fields and are faced with this challenge of lack of arable land.
- Overcrowding of households, meaning that some poor households initially have several children to feed and often the births are poorly spaced.
- Ignorance and lack of nutritional information - Low household income which does not allow them to align with quality food.
- Superfluous beliefs and customary prohibitions which prohibit the consumption of certain meats such as pork, duck, bush meat etc. - Negligence of certain parents - Absence of political will on land acquisition and job creation.
- Banditry, theft and burglary (insecurity): In Kintanu, anyone who emerges becomes the target of bandits who will try at all costs to burgle their house to take everything from them.

URGENT ACTIONS

All the challenges identified also find their counterparts in terms of palliative solutions. The urgent actions proposed by the community after reflection are as follows:

- Advocate with the authorities for the granting of land and the prohibition of the system of equal sharing of harvests in the case of land rental, which is today considered a real obstacle to the development of agricultural households;
- Raising awareness among households to join savings groups to diversify sources of income; households should be encouraged to join cooperatives that organize the savings system in order to benefit from credit to organize income-generating activities.
- Training unemployed youth (bandits) in trades and social reintegration will solve the problem of banditry and theft;
- Raising awareness among households through the voice of the airwaves for educational lessons on family planning and good cooking practices;
- Material support to agricultural associations and farmers to increase production.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the group discussions, some points of divergence were noted: -

- The lack of family planning was not unanimously recognized as a nutritional challenge. According to some participants, giving birth to many children is not a cause of malnutrition. The problem lies in the lack of employment.
- Lack of access to nutritional information. Not being aware or trained on nutrition is not a problem because even without this information, parents still know what to eat to be healthy.
- Neglect is not considered a challenge by some participants that there is no parent who would neglect his family if he really had the means to feed them well. What some confuse with neglect is that some parents are forced to leave the children and go to work hard all day in order to have enough to feed the latter.
- Bad cooking techniques were not unanimous as challenges because for some, there are nutrients in any food.
- The construction of health structures has nothing to do with malnutrition which takes root in families.
- The system of equal sharing of income between the landowner and the producer -
- Religious beliefs and customary prohibitions cannot be the basis of malnutrition according to some participants because there are many things to consume outside of those prohibited by custom or religion.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Convened on December 4, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kintanu Community Library built within the grounds of the Holy Family Catholic Church, the session was actually launched at 9 a.m. by the Kintanu program development facilitator who began by talking about World Vision as required by the office. After sharing information on World Vision, the floor was given to the moderator to begin the topic of the day. Health and nutrition was the topic of discussion within the Kintanu program. 40 participants were invited to this session to represent the sample of all sections of the population of the city of Kintanu. But 10 more joined, showing great interest in the day's debate, bringing the total number of participants to 50.

The moderator began by collecting community opinions on hunger. Hunger was explained as hunger is an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of food energy. Other concepts explained by the community included nutrition and diet, which were explained as follows: diet refers to the intake of food, while nutrition defines how the metabolism uses food to provide nutrients and calories to the body and maintain its proper functioning.

After sharing information on these concepts, the moderator formed 5 focus groups of 10 members each to brainstorm on the nutritional challenges in Kintanu and actions to address them.

After pooling the results of the discussions, the biggest factor underlying the nutrition problems in Kintanu is POVERTY. Households are poor and lack the means to access complete nutritious foods whose prices are high on the market. But the causes of poverty in the community are essentially the low agricultural production of households, 90% of which are farmers. Households do not produce enough due to lack of land. Kintanu does not have arable land and when households manage, they are forced to contract landowners for an equal share of production. Besides this major challenge, the community advocates advocacy actions with decision-makers for the availability of land as well as the elimination of the practice of equal sharing of income.

Apart from this main challenge, there is also that of low household incomes which requires upstream work so that households join savings groups for the diversification of income sources.

For family planning as well as ignorance about good culinary practices, awareness sessions or educational sessions are enough to change mentalities but the biggest nutritional challenge in Kintanu remains the poverty of households whose purchasing power is low, unable to align themselves with a balanced diet. Reflections must focus on this aspect. Carry out actions likely to reduce household poverty so that they are able to feed themselves properly.

According to the various reports consulted, the majority of households with malnutrition problems live in the deprived neighborhoods of Wete and Mfuki. However, these poor neighborhoods are known to be home to populations without means and largely farmers. This constitutes evidence of the assertion that, in Kintanu, poverty is at the top of the ranking of factors underlying malnutrition. The other factors are only subsidiary.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

Based on the challenges identified as the cause of malnutrition in Kintanu as well as the urgent actions to be taken to curb this scourge of malnutrition, the community, as one, through community leaders, have made a commitment to be able to carry out a certain number of emergency actions in the medium term to combat malnutrition. It therefore undertakes to: Intensify advocacy actions with decision-makers for the granting of arable land to producers in order to enable them to produce. Ask the authorities to regulate the agricultural sector by removing or attenuating the principle of equal sharing of production between the farmer and the landowner. And to do this, they also undertake to mobilize community leaders so that the subject of malnutrition is addressed proactively in community meetings, association meetings, radio and television channels, schools and universities.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

the andragogical method to allow participants to share their knowledge on nutrition, hunger and food insecurity. This allowed them to learn at the same time and to access information that they did not have at the beginning. The discussion focused on what the participants already knew and the additional information was provided by the moderator. After group discussion, each representative gave a summary of their reflection. A Q&A game was also used

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

Other conveners should ensure that participants come from all levels of the community and that all statuses (doctors, government officials, traders, journalists, teachers) etc. are represented. This will allow for the collection of diverse opinions on the concepts of nutrition, hunger and food security for good decision-making.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We would like to warmly thank the National Director of WVDRRC for leading this . Ms. Aline Napon for her Leadership in process; we also thank the Director of Integrated Programs of WV DRC, Mr. Patrick Saah and the Associate Director of Advocacy and Comm, Ms. Farida, for their coordination and finally to the Kongo Central cluster team for the good preparation and organization of this session among many others.
May Almighty God bless them all!

ATTACHMENTS

- Photo AP Kintanu discussion group https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/20241204_114753-scaled.jpg .
- Photo discussion in the open air Adults AP Kintanu https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/20241204_101703-scaled.jpg .
- Presentation Global context of hunger and malnutrition https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/20241204_112942-scaled.jpg .
- Attendance list Adults AP Kintanu <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/liste-presence-adultes-AP-Kintanu.pdf> .