

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

WORKSHOP TITLE	THE CHILDREN OF PONT KWANGO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY ON THE MALNUTRITION AND HUNGER
WORKSHOP DATE	Wednesday, December 18, 2024 2:00 PM GMT +01:00
SUMMONED BY	Clovis Makaru and Leon ILEND Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback posted on behalf of the organizer by: Clovis Makaru. Co-Facilitator with Leon ILEND Folke
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Lingala
HOST CITY	Kenge, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE Community level	
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
EVENT PAGE FROM THE WORKSHOP	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/56709/



The outcomes of the children's workshops will help develop and identify the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a particular focus on children and youth. Each workshop contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues portal Available as public data on the "Explore
- Feedback" page of the Nutrition Dialogues portal Publicly available in an .xls file with all data from the feedback form for advanced analysis Synthesized into reports
- that cover the nutrition challenges faced, the urgent actions that need to be taken, and how to move them forward – in particular, ahead of the Nutrition for Growth
- Summit in Paris in March 2025.

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

25

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

21 12-15

4 16-18

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

18 Female

7 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON DIVERSITY OF PARTICIPATION

The nutritional dialogue activity session benefited from the participation of different children from Pont Kwango whose age varies between 12 and 18 years old from different neighborhoods and different community structures including schools, children's parliaments (PARDE) and among these children we note some children sponsored by the World Vision program. These children carried the voice of others as ambassadors

SECTION TWO: FRAMEWORK

During the workshop on nutrition dialogue, children were invited to participate in group discussions focused on several themes related to nutrition, hunger, and food insecurity, including their understanding of good nutrition, risk factors for malnutrition, and local concerns about nutrition in their community of Pont Kwango. It all started with the adoption of the code of good conduct throughout the workshop, namely: putting the phone on vibrate or silent mode, having tolerance, asking to speak and getting it, having active participation and mutual respect. The facilitator encouraged the active participation of children in a local language to promote everyone to feel comfortable. The session took place at the World Vision office under the facilitation of the nurse in charge of the Unisons-nous health area who presented on the different concepts and after the children found themselves in 3 discussion groups composed of: Group 1 composed of 10 people; 2 of 8 people and group 3 of 7 who chose a chairperson; a secretary and a rapporteur for each group. After the group discussions, a summary of the key points was presented in plenary and validated

SECTION THREE: WORKSHOP RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

CHALLENGES

Participants in the Nutrition Dialogue workshop clearly expressed the nutritional challenges they face in the Kwango community. These young people highlighted their concern about the prevalence of malnutrition in different forms. Some spoke about the difficulty of accessing nutritious food, mentioning that the quality and availability of food in the community was a major obstacle to maintaining a healthy diet.

Through their discussions, participants shared the various challenges that promote food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition among others:

- The laziness and negligence of some parents who do not want to work
- Lack of necessary food in the market due to overpopulation caused by the Teke Yaka conflict
- Lack of financial means to meet an adequate and balanced diet
- Lack of knowledge about good agricultural and livestock practices
- Lack of knowledge about good hygiene practices
- Low consumption of locally sourced foods (organic foods)

They highlighted that these local realities had a direct impact on their nutrition and overall well-being. Their reflections highlighted the compelling need to support awareness raising, education and community initiatives to address these challenges and improve the quality of life of children and youth in their community. These points underscore the importance of giving voice to children and youth in nutrition discussions, highlighting their vital role in formulating solutions that are tailored to their reality and in creating initiatives to strengthen nutritional health in the Pont Kwango community.

URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Participants in the nutrition dialogue identified several urgent actions to improve nutrition in their community of Pont Kwango, including raising awareness among parents on good agricultural and livestock practices to increase production.

Raising awareness among parents on self-care by creating income-generating activities They stressed the importance of nutrition education and promoting healthy food choices for children and families through educational workshops, information sessions and awareness campaigns on hygiene; The creation of nutritional clubs where parents can come and learn The creation of allotment

gardens and the consumption of local foods Establishing close collaboration between the community, local authorities, NGOs and the government to

to bring local initiatives to fruition.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

At first glance, there was a notable divergence regarding the causes and nutritional challenges faced by the Pont Kwango community. Some participants focused on economic factors, highlighting the impact of poverty on access to adequate nutrition, while others emphasized the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and the availability of quality local foods. Another point of divergence emerged regarding the Teke Yaka conflicts, with some believing that it is the root cause of the scarcity of basic necessities on the market and others believing that the laziness of some parents is the root cause of the increase in malnutrition rates in the community.

Apart from these divergences, it is worth noting that the discussions helped identify points of convergence regarding access to nutritious foods and community awareness on the importance of a balanced diet, which helped to find common ground.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The session on nutritional dialogue brought together different children of different age groups in front of different structures at the local level.

This framework for exchanging experiences allowed young people to feel more comfortable sharing their ideas and addressing the various proposed themes without complexes. Each child presented their opinion and experiences on nutrition to address the challenges facing the Kwango community and proposed recommendations for developing possible solutions.

Although there were differences of opinion during the focus group workshop, they identified points of convergence as they recognize that community awareness remains the means to address the challenges of malnutrition, hunger and food insecurity.

The event took place in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect, encouraging the free expression of ideas and concerns. The active participation of children and young people was at the heart of this workshop, demonstrating their ability to contribute meaningfully to discussions on such crucial issues as nutrition. The organizers ensured that a safe and inclusive space was created, thus encouraging the free flow of ideas and the opportunity for each participant to speak.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The Children's Nutrition Dialogue Workshop fully reflected several aspects of the Principles of Engagement. A space was created for young people to express themselves without complexes, thus promoting full participation through the exchange of experiences without taking into account age and other social and cultural criteria. In addition, the principle of equity was implemented by ensuring that everyone had the opportunity to participate equally and meaningfully in the discussions, regardless of their socio-economic background or status.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

The dialogue facilitators proceeded by the question and answer method by reframing the concerns by proposing the solutions. We note that respect for gender was respected because on 3 discussion groups because the reporting was done by 2 girls on the 3 discussion groups. We also note that the chosen framework encouraged the active participation of each participant.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERERS

When holding the Nutrition Dialogues, it is crucial to adopt an inclusive approach, promoting free expression and active participation of children. Ensure a safe environment, encouraging mutual respect and tolerance. Integrate interactive and playful methods to encourage children's engagement, while ensuring that discussions are age-appropriate without taking into account social and cultural aspects.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Léon ILEND, a registered nurse in the Unisons-nous health area for supporting this dialogue, as well as the Cluster Manager, Mr. Eddy AMBALI for his support in carrying out this activity. I would also like to thank the community volunteers for their involvement in implementing this great activity. But also the participants thanked the organizer's team for involving them in

ATTACHMENTS

- ATTENDANCE LIST <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/pres-enfant.pdf>
- CONSENT FORM <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/consent-enfant.pdf>
- GROUP FOCUS PHOTO https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/20241205_163313-scaled.jpg
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