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DIALOGUE TITLE	The challenges of hunger, malnutrition and food security in a humanitarian crisis zone
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Monday, December 16, 2024 2:00 PM GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	Joel Kitero Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation}
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	Swahili
HOST PLACE	Kalemie, Democratic Republic of the Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE Community	
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision RDC
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/57588/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

15

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

0 19-29

1 30-49

0 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

15 Female

0 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, youth groups and students

6 Educators and Teachers

0 Financial institutions and technical partners

2 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)

3 Religious leaders/Religious communities

4 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

1 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The men who took part in this dialogue are all inhabitants of Kalemie and distinguished themselves by their way of actively participate in the work of this dialogue. They made very good proposals and came from all couches.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The local chief plays a crucial role in coordinating community efforts and liaising with the humanitarian aid organizations. Unemployed and unemployed men represent a significant part of the population, illustrating the lack of economic opportunities in the locality. The beneficiaries of humanitarian aid are often the most vulnerable, including displaced families and the elderly. Community relays are essentials.

SECTION TWO: FRAMEWORK AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The activity began with an in-depth discussion on the concepts of hunger, malnutrition and food security. Participants, including the local chief, unemployed men, humanitarian aid beneficiaries, community relays and health centre staff, shared their perceptions of these concepts by linking them to their personal experiences. This interactive session was moderated by a nutrition specialist. The discussions highlighted several social facts that aggravate the food problems in the region. Participants highlighted the absence of jobs and businesses, as well as the lack of income-generating activities. Agriculture remains the main economic activity, but it is insufficient to meet the food needs of the population. The discussions helped to reveal other underlying problems exacerbating the situation, such as insecurity and limited access to resources. Participants shared their experiences, highlighting the daily challenges they face in providing for their families' food needs. These testimonies illustrated the divergences in perceptions and realities experienced by different members of the community. The discussions also helped to identify potential actions to alleviate the problems of hunger and malnutrition.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-7.pptx

DISCUSSION

The discussions revolved around issues related to malnutrition and hunger. The issues were open to discussion and debate so that anyone who wanted to express themselves and give their point of view had the floor and expressed themselves freely. This was done in the most absolute conviviality under the facilitation of the team of facilitators who masterfully led this dialogue. The causes, consequences, challenges and recommendations constituted the bulk of the discussions in the groups. The participants gave their best considering the importance they attach to this subject on malnutrition which for them constitutes a subject that should be the subject of several meetings within their community and everywhere else. The context of Kalemie with the need for school meals which were only a dream, is a context where the debate on malnutrition is a very important subject because it concerns everyone and this without any exception. Men, women, children and the elderly are all concerned by this issue, which is why special attention should be paid to it, both by governments and by the population, at all levels.

SECTION THREE: RESULTS OF THE DIALOGUE

CHALLENGES

Participants raised several challenges related to food security. First, they mentioned the problem of meal regularity. People do not eat at the appropriate times, and the food consumed is often of poor quality and therefore not very nutritious. In addition, crops are frequently lost due to flooding, resulting in insufficient food availability.

Children, although they have access to food, do not always receive it in sufficient quantities. Some children eat more than others, which creates disparities within families. Another major problem is resource management. Participants admitted that they do not know how to manage their resources well and do not have the culture of storing food.

They also stressed that they do not know how to prepare food well, due to a lack of culinary culture.

Finally, closely spaced motherhood increases the number of children in families, making it even more difficult to feed them properly. These challenges highlight the need for better resource management, nutrition education and strategies to improve the quality and quantity of food available.

URGENT ACTIONS

To address these challenges, participants proposed several urgent actions. "We need to find innovative ways to combat flooding and protect our crops," suggested one farmer. "It is essential to ensure the availability of cultivable land for small farmers like us, who use hand tools like the hoe," added another.

"We need to learn about family planning to better manage our household size," another participant stressed. "Training on financial management would help us better manage our resources and plan our expenses," another community member suggested.

Finally, "it would be beneficial to train women to prepare meals properly, so that our children will want to eat and benefit from better nutrition," concluded a local leader. These actions, if implemented, could greatly improve food security and the quality of life in our community.

For the participants, it would be beneficial to put in place drainage systems and dikes to control flooding.

It would also be beneficial to facilitate access to arable land through land redistribution policies.

In addition, providing agricultural tools and improved seeds could increase the productivity of smallholder farmers. Organizing awareness campaigns and workshops on family planning would be helpful. Collaborating with health organizations to provide accessible and affordable family planning services could also be considered. Another urgent action is to set up financial management training programs for families would be recommended. The creation of community savings groups could encourage local savings and investment. Finally, organizing cooking workshops to teach nutritious cooking techniques.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants discussed transparency in the management of family financial resources at length, revealing divergent views. Some expressed that the money earned by men is often not known to their families, as they prioritize alcohol over family well-being. Others argued that a man should be able to indulge himself and not sacrifice everything for his family, arguing that women do the same.

In addition, it was mentioned that women's jealousy puts too much pressure on men, which would explain their alcohol consumption and close-coupled pregnancies. These differences show the complexity of family dynamics and the need to find a balance between family responsibilities and individual needs. While all participants agreed on what they considered urgent actions to be taken, some were also dismayed by the government's attitude in relation to the attention given to malnutrition issues, which should normally be their first priority. Unfortunately, the State has abandoned its responsibilities to the point that the populations feel completely abandoned and do not know what to do. The aspect of access to land was also another point of divergence because some said that land is difficult to allocate to the average citizen, while the "big fish" end up with more land than most members of the communities. This situation should change, as the participants stated.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The local chief plays a key role in coordinating community efforts and liaising with humanitarian aid organisations. Unemployed men represent a significant portion of the population, highlighting the lack of economic opportunities. Beneficiaries of humanitarian aid often include the most vulnerable, such as displaced families and the elderly. Community relays, in collaboration with health centre staff, disseminate information and raise awareness about health and hygiene practices.

The activity began with a discussion on hunger, malnutrition and food security. Participants, including the local chief, unemployed men, humanitarian aid beneficiaries, community relays and health centre staff, shared their personal perceptions and experiences. Moderated by a nutrition specialist, this session highlighted social problems that aggravate food difficulties, such as the lack of jobs and income-generating activities. Agriculture, although the main economic activity, is not sufficient to meet food needs. The discussions also revealed underlying problems such as insecurity, limited access to resources and climatic phenomena that impact crops.

Participants identified several challenges related to food security, including irregular meals, poor food quality, and crop loss due to flooding. They also mentioned a lack of culinary culture and resource management. To address this, they proposed urgent actions such as flood control, improved family planning, and training in financial and culinary management. Access to arable land and farming tools was also suggested.

The discussions revealed divergences on the management of family financial resources, with some men prioritizing alcohol over family well-being. These divergences show the complexity of family dynamics and the need to balance family responsibilities with individual needs. Participants demonstrated respect and mutual understanding, fostering constructive dialogue to better understand the challenges and develop solutions adapted to the needs of the community. The discussions revolved around issues related to malnutrition and hunger. The issues were open to discussion and debate so that anyone who wanted to express themselves and give their point of view had the floor and expressed themselves freely. This was done in the most absolute conviviality under the facilitation of the team of facilitators who masterfully led this dialogue.

The causes, consequences, challenges and recommendations constituted the bulk of the discussions in the groups. The participants gave their best considering the importance they give to this subject on malnutrition which for them is a subject that should be the subject of several meetings within their community and elsewhere. The participants debated at length on transparency in the management of family financial resources, revealing divergent points of view. Some expressed that the money earned by men is often not known to their family, because they prioritize alcohol over family well-being. Others argued that a man must be able to enjoy himself and not sacrifice everything for his family, arguing that women do the same.

In addition, it was mentioned that women's jealousy puts too much pressure on men, which would explain their alcohol consumption and closely spaced pregnancies. These differences show the complexity of family dynamics and the need to find a balance between family responsibilities and individual needs.

The context of Kalemie with the need for school meals that were only a dream, is a context where the debate on malnutrition is a very important subject because it concerns everyone and this without any exception. Men, like women and even children and the elderly, all are concerned by this subject, that is why special attention should be paid to it, both by the rulers and by the population and this at all levels.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

Throughout the discussions, participants demonstrated mutual respect and understanding. They listened to differing views and sought to understand the challenges and pressures each faces, fostering constructive dialogue. Participants openly shared their personal perceptions and experiences regarding financial resource management and food challenges. This transparency helped to better understand the issues and find appropriate solutions. They acknowledged that combating malnutrition is everyone's responsibility, without exception, while respecting each other's opinions.

Inclusivity should also be taken into account in the process of combating malnutrition, but also the consideration of the fact that the fight against malnutrition should not be confused with an opportunity to advertise for this or that person.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

This dialogue was conducted with an active listening approach and confidentiality, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment. Participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences and perceptions of nutrition challenges. We used open-ended questions to identify key nutrition-related issues, such as meal regularity, food quality, and resource management. We noted the different perspectives

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

To ensure a productive and constructive nutrition dialogue, allowing for a better understanding of the challenges and the development of solutions adapted to the needs of the community, keeping in mind that all participants have something to say, it is enough to better direct the questions and discussions. The timing must be respected so as not to tire the participants and disorient them in their way of thinking about adequate solutions to combat malnutrition.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the chief of the locality of Tabacongo, the community relays, as well as the World Vision teams for their mobilization and commitment. Your active participation and support were essential to the success of this initiative. Thank you all for your dedication and valuable contribution. Our thanks to the Advocacy Manager of the National Office, Mr Serge Lungele for his remote support and for his guidance for success.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Liste-de-presence-Hommes-Kalemie.pdf>
- Photos https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Photo_Kalemie_Group_Work_1.jpg
- https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Kalemie_Intervention_Participant-1.jpg
- Consent Form https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Consent_Form_Mens_Kalemie_OK.pdf