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DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional Dialogue with Religious Leaders in the City of Goma in the DRC
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Wednesday, August 6, 2025 4:00 PM GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	Schadrack MULEKYA, Monitoring and evaluation ocer Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback published on behalf of the organizer by: NGOY LUHAKA David. Supervisor
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Kiswahili
HOST PLACE	Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo
GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Goma Democratic Republic of Congo
AFFILIATIONS	Faith leaders
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59403/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	13
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP		
0 0-11	0 12-18	4 19-29
6 30-49	3 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX		
10 Female	03 Male	0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP	
0 Children, youth groups and students	0 Civil society organizations (including consumer groups and organizations environmental)
0 Educators and Teachers	13 Religious Leaders/Religious Communities
0 Financial institutions and technical partners	0 Food producers (including farmers)
0 Health professionals	0 Indigenous peoples
0 Information and Technology Providers	0 Large food companies and retailers
0 Marketing and Advertising Experts	0 Government officials and representatives national/federal
0 News and Media (e.g. journalists)	0 Parents and Caregivers
0 Science and Universities	0 Small/Medium Businesses
0 Government officials and representatives local/sous-national	0 United Nations
0 Women's Groups	1 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
This workshop brought together a good number of religious leaders from the city of Goma, the majority of whom come from religious denominations of Christian obedience

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY
The participants are Religious Leaders from 7 churches in the city of Goma: Arche de l'Alliance, CUR Patmos, Restoration Church, 8th CEPAC La Source, Virunga Adventist Church, CBCE Signers and CBCA Ngangi 1.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The city of Goma is known as the epicenter of wars and conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In view of the above, religious leaders often meet to reflect on actions to be taken to address all the vulnerabilities that affect populations; and malnutrition is one of them.

In fact, the leaders of religious denominations discussed the nutritional issue openly. In their reflection, they linked the impacts of malnutrition to war and called for work on the root causes and not the after-effects.

DISCUSSION

In a city like Goma, religious leaders play a key role in community outreach. Their influential position makes them essential for any nutrition and food security intervention. Their mobilization makes it possible to reach a wide audience in vulnerable urban neighborhoods. The nutrition dialogue with religious leaders was part of a participatory approach aimed at strengthening community mobilization in the face of growing food insecurity and child malnutrition in the region as part of the Enough Campaign (ENOUGH) that World Vision is leading in the fight against hunger and food insecurity. The dialogue began at 1 p.m. and ended at 2:30 p.m. It began with prayer, the presentation of the text on world hunger, the definition of the concepts of famine, food insecurity and malnutrition and the impact of this problem on the health sector and the management of malnutrition. The discussions focused on the following issues: Food availability, access to nutritious food in the city of Goma, the role of malnutrition management programs, community feeding practices, how to improve accessibility to healthy and nutritious food for low-income households and the various recommendations to reduce hunger in our community.

Content:

- Prayer & reading of a biblical extract on hunger
- Presentation on the concepts: famine, food insecurity, malnutrition
- Discussions on:
 - o Availability and accessibility of nutritious food in Goma
 - o Malnutrition management (existing programs, gaps)
 - o Community feeding practices
 - o Role of churches in prevention

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

As the discussions revolved around the questions mentioned in the framework section, the following issues were noted:

Economic inaccessibility: Poor households lack access to nutritious food for children and women pregnant and/or breastfeeding women and adults. Inaccessibility of nutritious food for children due to lack of financial means

Persistent insecurity: Affects transportation, supplies, and food prices. The security situation has worsened the existing gaps between the richest and poorest households and impacted access to food.

Lack of nutritional knowledge: Low promotion of local foods, bad combinations/ More of the half of the city's population does not eat in sufficient quantity and quality

Market imbalance: Price volatility, lack of public control;

Lack of coverage of nutrition programs: Scarcity of suitable service points in peri-urban areas

URGENT ACTIONS

stakeholders concerned and recommendations

Ministry of Health / PRONANUT: Expand community screening programs, train relays
Community nutrition education Local churches:

Integrate nutrition into sermons and prayer groups, Organize cooking demonstrations with local food

Municipality / Governorate: Stabilize the political and security climate, stabilize agricultural markets, Improve rural transport infrastructure (agricultural service roads), support small producers, regulate the agricultural sector and the sale of agricultural products in the city, set up programs to support low-income households to access quality food NGOs and donors: Support periodic nutritional and food security surveys, finance parish community gardens, also raise awareness

among the population about healthy eating practices: cooking methods, food combinations, etc.

Community leaders / CACs: Raise awareness on the importance of three balanced meals, Monitor children at risk in their communities, Monitor reports of nutritional inputs and train people who benefit from them on their use, raise awareness on the use of nutritional inputs to reach a large audience (schools, streets, markets, churches and various public places)

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

As areas of divergence, we note:

Access to food: Some people believe that healthy eating is possible even with limited resources.

Nutrition knowledge: Many believe that households already have the information, the problem being economic

GENERAL SUMMARY

The nutrition dialogue held on August 6, 2025 in Goma brought together 13 religious leaders from different faiths to reflect on their role in the fight against child malnutrition and food insecurity. Organized by World Vision, this exchange provided a community assessment of food availability and accessibility, dietary practices, as well as structural and behavioral barriers faced by vulnerable households.

Participants highlighted several major challenges: the economic insecurity of families, the lack of nutritional information, rising food prices linked to insecurity, and the imbalance in the local market. Faced with these findings, religious leaders expressed their willingness to actively engage as community relays, by integrating nutritional awareness into their teachings, supporting community initiatives such as parish gardens, and collaborating with local health facilities.

This dialogue fostered the emergence of a strong consensus around the need to co-construct sustainable, culturally appropriate solutions rooted in religious networks. It paves the way for a strategic partnership between churches, health authorities, and humanitarian organizations to strengthen nutritional prevention and improve the well-being of children and families in Goma.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

Community-based engagement to ensure that the actions taken reach the maximum number of people in need. This will require: Community inclusion: all action must be carried out locally Cultural and religious respect in nutritional communication Co-construction: decisions taken jointly with leaders

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

The discussions took place in a calm environment, following an activity of the LCC project. This was done through a participatory and open approach

- Participatory and open approach
- Guided dialogue with respect for religious differences
- Collective brainstorming techniques

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

As advice for future dialogues we say the following: Set appointments at least 10 days before the dialogue and speak with the Religious Leaders to confirm their presence at the dialogue to maximize the chance of reaching the required number of participants; Communicate beforehand regarding the issue of taking care of the transport of the participants, because this system is applied in several activities of the organization. Provide minimal logistical support

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

Nothing to report

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance List
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/LISTE-DE-PRESENCE-Goma.pdf>
- Consent form Dialogue Goma
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Consent-Form-Dialogue-Goma.pdf>