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DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional dialogue with religious leaders in the Nyiragongo territory in the North Kivu in the DRC
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Thursday, August 7, 2025 10:30 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. Supervisor
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Kiswahili
HOST PLACE	Kibumba, Democratic Republic of the Congo
GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Nyiragongo, North Kivu , RDC
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59415/ _____



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	16
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	0 12-18	3 19-29
10 30-49	3 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

3 Female	13 Male	0 Other/Prefer not to say
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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	16 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

All participants in this Forum are primarily religious leaders, who come from religious denominations of the Nyiragongo territory. They often come together for meetings of this kind

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

They are Religious Leaders from churches participating in the "Let the Children Come" project. They are people who know each other because they interact within the framework of the said project.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

Religious leaders in Nyiragongo territory often meet as part of the "Let the Children Come" project. . this project is led by the "Faith and Development" department . On the occasion of a regular session of the activities of the said projects, we spent 2 hours talking about nutrition in the Nyiragongo territory. This discussion is came at the right time because the Zone is already facing it given the recurring conflicts there. In the discussions . The discussions focused on malnutrition as a consequence of the war affecting the region.

DISCUSSION

This dialogue was organized as part of the global ENOUGH campaign, aimed at mobilizing communities for the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The main objective was to analyze, with religious leaders, the determinants of malnutrition in the Nyiragongo territory and to formulate community responses adapted. The dialogue focused on the following themes: Determinants of a balanced diet Root causes of malnutrition Access to healthy and nutritious food Essential nutrition services (prevention, care, education) Strengthening the capacity of low-income households Reduction of diet-related diseases

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

Here are the dice identified by the religious leaders of the Nyiragongo territory:

Insecurity and war: The presence of armed groups (e.g. M23) limits access to land, markets, and humanitarian aid.

Nutritional Lack of Knowledge: Poor knowledge of nutritious foods, age-appropriate portion sizes, and eating habits healthy cooking methods.

Poverty and unemployment: Financial inability of households to obtain sufficient food in quality and quantity, nutritious foods are not affordable.

Use of chemical fertilizers: Risks linked to their improper use without technical support.

Deterioration of nutritional services: Absence or low coverage of screening, care or nutritional promotion services.

Unsuitable food culture: Unbalanced meals, excessive alcohol consumption, poor distribution of resources within the household.

URGENT ACTIONS

In terms of urgent actions to be taken, religious leaders noted the following: Local churches: Integrate

nutrition messages into sermons and organize cooking demonstrations - Create parish vegetable gardens World Vision / NGOs: - Support IGAs and VSLAs for women and

young people - Train farmers on organic fertilizers and the use of chemical fertilizers, strengthen the capacities of religious leaders in community nutrition, Create small agricultural structures or cooperatives Local authorities / Government: Build nutrition structures in health areas - Set up school canteens, promote community nutrition coverage via

PRONANUT and other nutritional support Community leaders / CACs: Promote family cohesion for better income management, raise awareness among the population on reducing alcoholism and healthy eating Donors: Fund local nutrition adaptation initiatives, and support VSLAs to improve the

economic resilience of households in Nyiragongo.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Divergences were noted at this level: Chemical

fertilizers: Some leaders consider that they do not harm the quality of food if they are used correctly.

Self-care: Divergence on the capacity of households to self-care in this conflicting context which is in the territory of Nyiragongo.

Priorities: Some propose prioritizing food crops, others livestock or agricultural products.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The nutrition dialogue held on August 1, 2025, in Nyiragongo, as part of the ENOUGH campaign led by the World Vision partnership, brought together 16 religious leaders involved in the Let the Children Come project. The objective was to analyze the local causes of hunger and malnutrition and to reflect on community and faith-based levers for action.

The discussions highlighted several major challenges: poverty compounded by insecurity, poor knowledge of good nutritional practices, inaccessibility of nutritious foods, and the lack of essential nutrition services. Other factors, such as poor household income distribution and alcohol abuse, were also discussed.

Religious leaders have proposed concrete responses such as: integrating nutritional messages into sermons, creating parish or household vegetable gardens, supporting AVECs and local advocacy for the improvement of services. They have reaffirmed their desire to play an active role in raising awareness and mobilizing followers around nutritional health.

Churches are called upon to become key players in the fight against hunger in the context of a persistent humanitarian crisis. This paves the way for a lasting and structuring interfaith commitment to nutritional justice in Nyiragongo. Leaders recognized their role as agents of change and called for a strengthened partnership with health authorities and NGOs.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

Grassroots community engagement Local ownership of proposed solutions Inter-collaboration institutional (Church–State–NGO)

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

Participatory dialogue based on lived experience Interactive discussions in French and Swahili Using a biblical framework to address nutrition rights

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

Integrate nutrition dialogues into ongoing projects to optimize resources as the latter are not supposed to use resources Anticipate logistical mobilization and support for participants Create a local interfaith committee on hunger and nutrition issues

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

World Vision sincerely thanks the religious leaders of Nyiragongo for their active engagement, openness to dialogue, and willingness to engage in the fight against malnutrition. Their voices are essential to building resilient and better-nourished communities.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/LISTE-DE-PRESENCE-Nyiragongo.pdf>
- Consent form
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Consent-Form-Dialogue-Nyiragongo-1.pdf>