

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Religious leaders speak out on hunger and malnutrition
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Tuesday, August 12, 2025 10:00 GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	World Vision Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback published on behalf of the organizer by: Francine Nyemba Lukusa. Technical support
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	Swahili and French
HOST PLACE	Kakanda, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59474/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	24
------------------------------	----

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	0 12-18	0 19-29
16 30-49	8 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

12 Female	12 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	24 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

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The nutrition dialogue organized by in Kakanda brought together a rich diversity of religious leaders, men and women, from several faiths represented in Kakanda. Representatives of the communities were present Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox, Revival Churches, as well as other local Christian denominations. Together, They discussed issues related to nutrition, particularly hunger and malnutrition, in a spirit of collaboration. interfaith

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The nutrition dialogue organized in Kakanda, in the Gulf district, was held in the United Methodist Church hall, a symbolic venue that reflects the openness and inclusiveness of the event. This meeting brought together religious leaders from various faiths: Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox, revival churches, and other local Christian denominations, illustrating the spiritual diversity of Kakanda. The session began with a welcome from CWBF Dany Sahenga, followed by praise and prayer, creating an atmosphere conducive to dialogue. The introduction presented the objectives of the nutrition dialogue, with clear definitions of key concepts: hunger, food insecurity, nutrition, and the global context of malnutrition. In Kakanda, malnutrition is a worrying reality, often misunderstood. Health problems related to poor nutrition are sometimes attributed to mystical or superstitious causes, which hinders awareness-raising efforts. The dialogue focused on the determinants of good nutrition, at-risk groups, and the expected outcomes of improved nutrition. Participants received updated data on the global and local nutrition situation, allowing them to better understand the issues. A strong call was made to religious leaders to play an active role in promoting nutrition, integrating these messages into their teachings and raising awareness among their congregations. This introduction laid the foundation for an engaged interfaith dialogue, where spirituality and public health come together to improve the well-being of families and the entire community.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024.pptx

DISCUSSION

The nutrition dialogue in Kakanda brought together religious leaders to discuss hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity. Discussions focused on the causes, at-risk groups, determinants of good nutrition, and the role of leaders in raising awareness. In Kakanda, malnutrition is often misunderstood and linked to mystical beliefs. The dialogue aimed to correct these perceptions and promote healthy eating practices in the communities.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

Among the dice the participants have sites:

- 1 Low harvests due to various factors such as: Climate disruption, lack of agricultural inputs, improved seeds, fertilizers, equipment, work materials;
- 2 Lack of supervision by state services under teams, which blackmail the poor population with taxes, lack of subsidies and agricultural credits, new production techniques;
- 3 Difficult access to arable land, rental of agricultural land, theft, bush fires;
- 4 Poverty accentuated by the suspension of activities of the Boss Mining company and its subcontractors;
- 5 The laziness of some people in entrepreneurship, in creating income-generating activities;
- 6 Food monotony, lack of information or supervision in the preparation of recipes, difficult access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation of the environment;
- 7 Lack of family planning which increasingly exposes women and children;
- 8 Artisanal digging, the majority of young people are in the quarry instead of cultivating the fields

URGENT ACTIONS

The religious leaders proposed the following actions to improve the nutritional situation in their community of Kakanda: 1 That the authorities take measures to ensure hygiene and sanitation of the environment; 2 That water be available in quantity and quality; 3 That willing partners support the population, especially the vulnerable, with agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.) so that they can improve their yields; 4 Support the population in livestock farming (poultry, cattle, fish farming), fruit tree cultivation and income-generating activities; 5 That state services (veterinarian, agronomist, fisheries and livestock) play their role in supporting the population; 6 Train households in the preparation of recipes; 7 Take charge of cases of malnutrition, raise awareness on family planning;

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Most participants attribute the causes of malnutrition to the economic crisis in the Kakanda community, unemployment due to the suspension of the Boss Mining company, subcontractors who provided employment to the population.

The circulation of money allowed individual initiatives to progress, agricultural associations were supported with agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers).

Access to food is not easy, especially for the poorest households, because local production is insufficient, and kakanda is supplied by distant communities (Lwambo, Likasi, Kasumbalesa) more than 50 km away, with the cost of transport, food is not easily accessible. Climate disturbances are also the basis of low harvests, as this year 2025 there was a drought problem in the middle of the growing season, more than a month without rain with intense heat which negatively impacted crop growth.

The high population density due to rural exodus causes unsanitary conditions and hygiene problems, the involvement of the majority of the active population in artisanal mining of minerals instead of investing in agricultural production.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The nutrition dialogue was held on August 11, 2025 in Kakanda, Gulf district, at the United Methodist Church hall with religious and religious leaders from the various churches and mosques in the area. After welcoming the participants, praise, prayer, a brief history of World Vision, its vision, mission and values, a meeting that lasted 2 hours, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The facilitator announced the purpose of the nutritional dialogue with them as a religious leader, explaining to them why they made the choice, simply because of their role in the spiritual guidance of the faithful, the children, thanks to their leadership, and the trust the community grants them. Then, an explanation of the importance of the nutritional dialogue, which is simply a framework for exchanges and discussions between different actors around the nutritional situation of their environment.

Its objective is to place greater emphasis on the challenges of good nutrition for women and children in low-income settings according to the context, to obtain their views and perspectives on ways to improve their situation, and to encourage more ambitious, effective and responsible action. Referring to their personal experiences, they proceeded to define the concepts of hunger, food insecurity, and nutrition in their own words and terms. Their definitions were in line with those proposed, before announcing them.

Explanations on the global context of hunger and nutrition, the focus of the dialogue program on human nutrition, what contributes to good nutrition, the determinants of children's nutritional status, the results of improving nutrition, the forms of malnutrition, the impact of nutrition, people at risk of malnutrition, and the global nutritional situation. After this information, the next step was reflections in four working groups on the determinants of nutrition in their Kakanda contexts. After the group work, there were presentations in plenary by groups; it was the data from the groups that enabled the writing of this report.

The participants welcomed the initiative of World Vision to organize this nutritional dialogue which was practically for them a framework for exchange, discussions, learning, around the nutritional situation in their community, and to understand the importance of their involvement as leaders of opignons, in order to contribute to the improvement of the nutritional situation for children, women more exposed, as well as for the whole community, with the other partners.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The religious leaders present at the nutrition dialogue recognized the importance of their role in improving the nutritional situation, particularly for women, children, and the most vulnerable groups. Aware that malnutrition is often misunderstood in their communities—sometimes attributed to mystical beliefs or superstitions—they expressed their willingness to actively engage in awareness-raising. Their commitment now extends beyond their traditional spiritual functions to include concrete public health actions. They pledged to collaborate with other community and institutional actors to promote a better understanding of nutritional issues. This includes education on the real causes of malnutrition, good dietary practices, and accessible ways to improve nutrition within households. By integrating these messages into their teachings.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

A participatory approach was adopted, combining interactive question-and-answer discussions and group work. This inclusive method encouraged the expression of all participants, including the most reserved, by creating a framework conducive to dialogue and the active contribution of each individual.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

The activity can only be budgeted if it is integrated into the DIP, which requires prior planning and formal inclusion in the programming document.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

Our thanks are addressed to the religious leaders who actively participated in this activity by giving their contribution to the nutritional situation of the environment, to the colleagues of the national office for documentation and coaching, of the cluster for monitoring the implementation of the said activity.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/L-istes-des-participants-au-dialogue-nutritionl.pdf>
- Consent forms <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Concentement-images.pdf>