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DIALOGUE TITLE	Dialogue with religious leaders on nutrition in PA Kikula
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Tuesday, August 12, 2025 1:00 PM GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	Mr. Joseph Kindola and Mrs. Christelle Mulanga, Respectively Livelihood Specialist and CWBF of AP Kisunka 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	Likasi, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59476/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	22
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	1 12-18	2 19-29
10 30-49	9 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

4 Female	18 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	22 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

Apart from the targeted religious leaders; the known participation of leaders of women's organizations, represents three blocks of the Nkolomoni district in the commune of Kikula.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Participants come from 22 religious denominations spread across the Kikula Program's PFAs. Among them, 10 pastors, 9 presidents of mothers' structures in churches, 3 church elders. These religious denominations actively participate in World Vision activities.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The dialogue was organized in the church by World Vision with the participation of 22 religious leaders from various religious denominations. The session took place in the church city of refuge under the facilitation of World Vision staff including the Livelihood Specialist, and three "3 CWBF from Kikula, Simba and Kisunka". At the introduction, the participants were informed about the objectives of the dialogue on nutrition, including to identify in a participatory manner, the challenges, the perspectives on ways to improve the nutritional situations of households, as well as to encourage effective, adapted and sustainable actions. Before addressing the heart of the matter, the moderator facilitated the uniform understanding of the key concepts of the dialogue, including malnutrition, hunger, food insecurity, food groups, nutrients, proteins, vitamins, etc. The understanding of these concepts, the challenges, the points of convergence, the points of divergence. This step allowed participants to clearly define good nutrition, including a varied diet, balanced with macronutrients, adapted and consumed in a healthy and beautiful environment.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-1.pptx

DISCUSSION

The discussions took place in three working groups, each composed of seven people, led by a World Vision staff member with a secretary for note-taking. The discussions focused on the nutritional context of the Kikula community, the pillars of good nutrition, the benefits of good nutrition, malnutrition, its effects, and vulnerable groups. Finally, religious leaders stated that more than half of church members are experiencing food insecurity, characterized by long lean periods between September and December. Furthermore, household agricultural production does not cover annual food needs. They were able to list the pillars of good nutrition, including food availability through agriculture, access to food through the creation of IGAs, the existence of health centers for nutrition education, and sanitation. These groups then discussed the challenges of good nutrition and urgent actions to be taken.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

The results of the work were presented in plenary sessions and consolidated by the secretary. The main findings: Low agricultural production due to the high cost of agricultural inputs and climate disruption, given that approximately 70% of households in the Kikula community depend on agriculture. This means that families experience long periods of food shortages during the year, lasting from 3 to 4 months.; Low household incomes limiting family access to quality and varied foods. This situation is due to the high unemployment rate; the lack of initiative, AGR and insufficient remuneration for low-class employees (\$120 on average); Family burden due to the high birth rate. The average household in the Kikula community is 10 people. Women are unproductive due to the direct transition from pregnancy to breastfeeding to pregnancy without rest. Lack of nutritional centers for education on good nutrition and urgent care for malnourished children. Chronic diseases or laziness make some people unable to meet their vital needs. Kikula working households devote little time to productive work, for example, farmers work in their fields about 3 hours a day from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. This results in low production and food waste. This situation is observed in consumption during harvest periods.

Food is thrown into garbage cans and distributed to family members.

Lack of jobs; Small areas of land under cultivation; Ignorance of good nutrition; Lack of diversification of sources of income; Ignorance of the creation of AGR; Neglect of parents on nutrition; Ignorance of agricultural techniques and off-season cultivation; Inadequate livestock areas; Spoliation of arable land and absence of nutritional centers

URGENT ACTIONS

Among the actions planned by the participants were: Raising awareness through exhortations among devotees on the results of good nutrition for children and families; Encouraging families to devote sufficient time to productive activities beyond 6 hours per day; Integrating into the teachings of couples, especially women's meetings, the concepts of family planning and nutrition; Strengthening financial education and food management at the household level by preaching on the love of productive work. • Conducting advocacy on: • The establishment of effective nutritional centers in marginalized communities; • Taking into account the associations of the Kanona, Nkolomoni, Kaponona districts in the agricultural subsidy to enable them to increase and spread their production throughout the year. • Raise awareness in the community to integrate savings groups and the creation of IGAs • Advocate with the authorities for the mechanization of agriculture and the facilitation of access to agricultural inputs • Raise awareness in the community on good nutrition Intensify training on agricultural techniques • Creation of IGAs • Livestock and agriculture • Support by NGOs • We must work • Training Health trainers

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Two major divergences were noted: 1. Family planning: Some servants of God rejected the idea of family planning as being contrary to the Bible. They supported the idea of multiplying and God as the provider of needs; 2. Availability of food: For some participants, food is available in the markets all year round, but for others, it is the means that count; prices vary at any time and there has been an increase in certain products, which affects good nutrition. As a point of convergence, the pastors adopted that God encourages hard work to live.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Food insecurity and malnutrition affect a large number of households in the Kikula community. This situation is directly linked to climatic conditions, poor agricultural policies that fail to protect local producers from imports, and households themselves, who neglect productive work and their own personal initiatives while waiting for jobs.

Added to this is the illiteracy rate of most household heads to access better-paid jobs. Some households want to practice small-scale livestock farming as a source of income and food from animal sources, however, the proximity of homes and the high population density do not allow this.

The actions proposed above and advocacy can help these households reduce their vulnerabilities to food insecurity and strengthen their resilience.

Since religious leaders are well listened to and influential in the community, their involvement in changing this situation is essential in communication, training and supporting families.

Thus, World Vision, through these CVA and EWW approaches, has a major role to play in involving decision-makers, development support partners and transforming certain beliefs in miracles into ease and dependencies.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

At the close of the dialogue, religious leaders pledged to actively contribute to the resilience of households affected by malnutrition. They demonstrated their willingness to go beyond their traditional roles by carrying out exhortation, support, and awareness-raising activities. They pledged to popularize the concepts of good nutrition among their followers in order to promote family well-being, improve household productivity, and enable children to grow up healthy, fully express their abilities, and develop their potential.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

To facilitate the smooth running of the dialogue, several methods and techniques were implemented, including the participatory approach, where everyone expressed their thoughts and participated in decision-making. The working group, the round table, which allowed each participant to express themselves, the presentation, and the case study to adopt certain actions.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

Other organizers are advised to provide careful planning in advance, as well as appropriate educational materials, to ensure better participation, optimal understanding of key messages and effective facilitation of discussions during community dialogues.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

ATTACHMENTS

- Photos
https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/20250813_153924.jpg