

# RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional Dialogue with Religious Leaders
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Thursday, August 14, 2025 1:00 PM GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	Didier Lwanba, Joseph Kindola, Benjamin Kayombo 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	French and Swahili
HOST PLACE	Likasi, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59482/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59482/</a>



# SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	27
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## PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	0 12-18	1 19-29
13 30-49	13 50-74	0 75+

## PARTICIPATION BY SEX

14 Female	0 Male	13 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	27 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

The dialogue was attended by 100% of religious leaders representing the different religious denominations of the Simba Community, Kamatanda and the Niche.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Most of the participants outside of their church leadership are farmers and members of S4T groups. operational. They have the skills to influence members of their communities because they are role models and have of experience in lucrative activities.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## MANAGEMENT

The Nutrition Dialogue was organized with the objective of promoting the consumption of healthy, balanced and diversified meals to ensure the good health and well-being of children. It follows the campaign aimed at contributing to the fight against hunger and malnutrition among children. In the case of the Simba Program, the Dialogue was convened and facilitated by Mr. Joseph Kindola and Mrs. Christelle Mulanga, respectively, Livelihood Specialist and CWBF of the Kisunka Program. Twenty-seven (27) religious leaders who took part in these discussions were informed from the opening on the objectives of the meeting and the motivations for their involvement. Through presentations, the moderator demonstrated that the objective of the nutrition dialogues is to highlight the challenges of good nutrition for women and children in low-income settings, and to obtain their points of view as well as the perspectives of various actors on ways to improve this situation, as well as to encourage more ambitious, effective and responsible action. A pre-test conducted revealed that participants have ambiguities about nutrition concepts. Therefore, some key concepts were explained in the local language (SWAHILI) to facilitate understanding of these concepts. Among these terms we cite: malnutrition, hunger, good nutrition, food insecurity, food groups, nutrients, proteins, vitamins etc. Understanding these concepts, the challenges, the points of convergence, the points of divergence. Assimilating this knowledge on key concepts was an icebreaker between participants that allowed them to engage with certainty in debates on nutrition. Mobilizing the global nutrition community to put an end to malnutrition.

## PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

[https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR\\_Introduction\\_Nutrition\\_Slideset\\_Dr\\_Ph\\_2024-2.pptx](https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-2.pptx)

## DISCUSSION

To encourage active and inclusive participation, three groups were formed: two of women and one of men, each supervised by a facilitator and a secretary. The discussions were facilitated by Benjamin Kayombo and Didier Lwamba, CWBFs of the Simba and Kikula programs. Discussions focused on the local nutritional context, the pillars and benefits of good nutrition, the effects of malnutrition, and vulnerable groups. Participants identified the main nutritional challenges in the Simba community and proposed urgent responses. Among the findings, some highlighted that malnutrition hinders economic growth and perpetuates poverty by reducing productivity. The groups also highlighted the visible symptoms of malnutrition in their environment. These discussions provided an opportunity to ask key questions: What are the major obstacles to good nutrition in the community? What concrete actions can be implemented quickly? How can local resources be mobilized to improve the nutritional situation? These reflections reinforced the participants' commitment to collective action for better nutritional health in their communities.

# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

## CHALLENGES

The cross-sectional work was consolidated by plenary presentations from each group. In the context of the Simba community, which has in particular some peri-urban blocks, the dialogue participants discussed the following major challenges for good household nutrition: Lack of food availability at the household level. Justified by two reasons, on the one hand, low incomes of unemployed households or those with employment but poorly paid. And on the other hand, dependence on a single source of income, either small businesses or agriculture, substances applied to small areas due to difficult access to arable land. : Rising food prices compared to the income of poor households. This increase can reach 30% compared to usual prices; Early marriage. Cases of marriage of unemployed young people living at the expense of their unemployed parents as well.

In these homes women and children are exposed to malnutrition, monotony of food in the markets.

Poor quality of food sold in markets. This mainly comes from production, packaging, and display on the market floor. For example, poorly preserved onion, vegetables produced with dirty water, etc.

Late meals.

Lack of nutritional centers for culinary training of parents

## URGENT ACTIONS

To strengthen the nutritional resilience of the Simba community, several recommendations were made. It is essential to raise household awareness about creating and diversifying income sources through productive activities, while introducing them to financial education for better resource management. Parents should be encouraged to expand their agricultural fields to increase food production and adopt effective conservation techniques to cover annual food needs. Furthermore, religious leaders are encouraged to raise awareness among young people and parents, through churches, about the risks associated with early marriage and the importance of family planning for household well-being. It is also recommended that farmers be trained in associated farming practices, which allow for better land use and crop diversification. In terms of advocacy, it is crucial to take action to facilitate farmers' access to arable land, an essential condition for sustainable production. Finally, it is proposed to initiate advocacy for the establishment of a nutritional service in the Simba community, in order to ensure ongoing technical and educational support on nutrition issues.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

GENERAL SUMMARY

The nutrition dialogue organized in the Simba community aimed to promote the consumption of healthy, balanced, and varied meals to improve children's health. It is part of a campaign against child hunger and malnutrition. The activity was convened and facilitated by Mr. Joseph Kindola and Ms. Christelle Mulanga, respectively Livelihood Specialist and CWBF of the Kisunka program. Twenty-seven religious leaders participated, informed from the outset about the dialogue's objectives: to identify nutritional deficiencies in low-income areas, gather stakeholders' perspectives, and encourage concrete actions.

A pre-test revealed ambiguities about nutrition concepts, which led to the explanation of key concepts in Swahili: malnutrition, hunger, food insecurity, nutrients, etc. This clarification facilitated the participants' engagement in the discussions. Three groups (two female, one male) were formed, each with a facilitator and a recorder. The discussions, led by Messrs. Benjamin Kayombo and Didier Lwamba, focused on the nutritional context, the pillars of good nutrition, its benefits, the effects of malnutrition, and vulnerable groups.

Participants identified several challenges: low food availability linked to insufficient or unstable income, dependence on a single source of income (small businesses or agriculture on small plots), rising food prices (up to 30%), early marriages, monotony and poor quality of food in markets, late meals, and the absence of nutritional centers for culinary training for parents.

To strengthen nutritional resilience, several recommendations were made: raising awareness among households about diversifying their sources of income and financial education; encouraging the expansion of agricultural fields and the conservation of crops; raising awareness about family planning and the fight against early marriages; training farmers in associated agriculture; and conducting advocacy to facilitate access to arable land and establish a nutritional service in Simba.

These discussions provided an opportunity to ask key questions: What obstacles are hindering good nutrition? What urgent actions are possible? How can local resources be mobilized? The discussions strengthened the commitment of religious leaders to take action for better nutritional health in their communities.

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

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## PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

At the close of the dialogues, religious leaders pledged to contribute to the resilience of households affected by malnutrition through exhortation and support actions. They also agreed to popularize the notions of good nutrition among their dear ones, to benefit family well-being, household productivity and to enable children to have good health and to express and exploit 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, where each participant was given the opportunity to express themselves, the presentation, and the case study to adopt certain actions.

## TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

For other conveners, we suggest that they provide good planning and educational materials.

# RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

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THANKS