

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Religious Leaders' Views on Nutrition
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Wednesday, August 13, 2025 08:00 GMT +01:00
SUMMONED BY	Cléo-Salem KADIMA (livelihood Ocer) and Louis Divin BOP'A Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback posted on behalf of the organizer by: Cleo-Salem KADIMA. technical support
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Tshiluba
HOST PLACE	Mweka, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	Mweka Territory
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59521/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

52

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

24 19-29

18 30-49

10 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

20 Female

32 Male

0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, youth groups and students

0 Educators and Teachers

0 Financial institutions and technical partners

0 Health professionals

0 Information and Technology Providers

0 Marketing and Advertising Experts

0 News and Media (e.g. journalists)

0 Science and Universities

0 Government officials and representatives
local/sous-national

0 Women's Groups

0 Civil society organizations (including
consumer groups and organizations
environmental)

48 Religious Leaders/Religious Communities

0 Food producers (including farmers)

0 Indigenous peoples

0 Large food companies and retailers

0 Government officials and representatives
national/federal

0 Parents and Caregivers

0 Small/Medium Businesses

0 United Nations

4 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Members of the CVA committee

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The territory of Mweka is one of the territories with strong agricultural potential in the province of Kasai and a major supplier of basic foodstuffs in the capital of Kasai province and that of Kasai Central which is Kananga. Despite this production, the community of this territory lives in food insecurity linked to certain economic, climatic, social and political constraints. Hence, religious leaders were invited to discuss this state of affairs

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

It all started with preparatory meetings of members of the organizing committee of this dialogue, preparation of invitations and targeting of the framework to host the event. Technical preparation was also made and distribution of roles for the different interventions. In the interventions some causes of the food insecurity situation: Structural causes: - Low agricultural production - Lack of road infrastructure - Lack of production storage infrastructure - Lack of good quality seeds Conjunctural causes: - Climate change - Customary conflicts in certain groups during the growing periods - fluctuations in the price of goods on the market Socio-cultural causes: - Bad eating habits: Low food diversification - Gender inequality - Population explosion

DISCUSSION

The questions discussed were: - What are the root causes of food insecurity leading to malnutrition in our community? - What are the consequences of this state of affairs or food insecurity? - What are your recommendations to address food insecurity? Structural causes: - Low agricultural production - Lack of road infrastructure - Lack of production storage infrastructure - Lack of good quality seeds Conjunctural causes: - Climate change - Customary conflicts in certain groups during growing periods - Fluctuations in the price of goods on the market Socio-cultural causes: - Bad eating habits: Low food diversification - Gender inequality The consequences are as follows: a) on health: - Chronic and severe malnutrition, acute and moderate (low weight, oedema) especially in children (kwashiorkor), - Increased vulnerability to diseases in times of food crises - Increased mortality b) on the social - School dropout due to hunger, - Conflicts between planters and breeders due to stray animals that destroy plants, - Migrations or exodus, - Social tensions around limited resources c) on the economic level: - Decline in productivity and workforce, - Increased dependence on humanitarian aid, - erosion of human capital in the long term.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

The different challenges encountered are as follows: - the time allowed - the lack of materials - the lack of resources necessary to carry out the activity.

URGENT ACTIONS

The following remedies were proposed: a) Short term: - food distribution to vulnerable households - nutrition program for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women - support for school cooperatives to ensure a balanced meal per day b) medium term: - support for agricultural cooperatives to facilitate means of production - improve access to agricultural inputs: seeds and farming tools - rehabilitation of agricultural access roads to facilitate the flow of products c) long term: - implementation of nutrition education programs in schools and communities, - promotion of diversified local agriculture. - development of local food processing units and conservation.

Other recommendations - strengthen food resilience through sustainable agriculture and agroforestry - involve local civil society organizations in awareness raising and input distribution, - create a local food security action plan - regulate the prices of basic food products on the markets, - promote crops that are resilient to climate change, - strengthen household awareness of family planning.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

GENERAL SUMMARY

This dialogue was so important so that together the religious leaders could come up with ideas on the great problem that is food insecurity which is affecting the community of Mweka while identifying the real causes, the impacts they have and proposing some possible solutions. Religious leaders spoke freely, detailing in a short time the various real problems that the community faces through frank exchange.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The CVA committee and civil society have been tasked with monitoring the implementation of the various recommendations, some of which require the involvement of authorities and other stakeholders. The various pleas will be made by the CVA community with those concerned.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

It was an active participation activity with discussion questions in focus groups. The activity took place within the confines of a World Vision partner school.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

Since religious leaders are in contact with many members of the community who are loyal to their churches, this is not a group to be overlooked when it comes to gathering the information one needs.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

Thanks to Mr Serge LUNGELE and David NGOY LUHAKA for their support and assistance even during the weekend. And to the members of the CVA Mweka committee for holding this activity.

ATTACHMENTS

- Consent Form [https://
nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Consent-Form.pdf](https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Consent-Form.pdf)
- Attendance List [https://
nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Liste-de-presence.pdf](https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Liste-de-presence.pdf)