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DIALOGUE TITLE	Gemena GROUP 2 Religious Leaders Lend Their Voice for Child Nutrition
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Thursday, August 14, 2025 08:30 GMT +01:00
SUMMONED BY	Sylvain KAYUMBA Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback published on behalf of the organizer by: SYLVAIN KAYUMBA. Facilitator
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Lingala
HOST PLACE	Gemena, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision Cluster of Gemena Sud Ubangi
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59548/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

15

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

2 19-29

7 30-49

6 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

2 Female

13 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)

15 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

0 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

RAS

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

This dialogue on nutrition which brought together the 2nd group of 15 Religious Leaders including 2 Women and 12 Men, in Gemena in South Ubangi and who agreed to give their voice for the nutrition of children and women in their respective community as Pastor or spiritual leader or supervisor, Deacon, Animator, Evangelists...; they are mixed men and women coming from different districts of Gemena city province of South Ubangi. Some also playing the role of facilitator

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

Some Participants are invited 48 hours by telephone contact and those not being reached by telephone, the Participants of the 1st day, helped us to wait for them physically, all are taken from the database of Religious Leaders who were able in FY24 in Prenatal Consultation (CPN) and Exclusive Breastfeeding (AME) and who became awareness raisers through focus groups within their community mainly targeting Dads to get involved in the nutrition of children and pregnant women; At the same time this is a support for the recommendation resulting from the dialogue sessions organized in December 2024. The TP Livelihood not being available to co-organize this session, the TP Health Nutrition did it at the space of the Interpellation Hotel in Gemena. We are in the rainy season, constituted for us a thermometer to measure the level of interest and commitment of this category to WV activities, that is to say despite the heavy rains Participants came after the rain, although late the session took place, without postponement. The facilitator signaled to the participants that the time is serious, the current situation at all levels on malnutrition, this touched WV and myself to make it the battlefield, he made a brief introduction on the objective and the expected result of this dialogue (collect the points of view of the members of the communities for a broad advocacy), then a power point presentation was made giving the different contexts of the situation of hunger and malnutrition, we defined some key concepts such as hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity. Then we explained the different types of malnutrition including acute malnutrition, chronic malnutrition, underweight and micronutrient deficiencies with their prevalence and the number of people affected.

DISCUSSION

The facilitator explained and signaled to the participants that the situation was devastating at all levels. The determinants of this malnutrition, the signs and their impact were demonstrated, as well as the behaviors to adopt to fight against malnutrition and thus improve the situation of the members of the communities of Gemena, most of whom recognized the fact that malnutrition exists in children and even in women and understood our approach for the focus groups they were conducting, it was to strengthen the strategy to fight malnutrition and hunger. The participants were divided into 2 discussion groups, focused on 3 major groups of questions such as: Their perceptions/observations, issues related to malnutrition were collected: What are the root causes? What actions/commitments for nutrition should be taken and recommendations? At the end of the slide presentation, the participants cited their findings/perceptions as follows: child begging throughout the city of Gemena, the population lives in an impossible way, i.e. a precarious life, the death of children, they remain attached to fresh food by abandoning organic food, overcrowding (increase in population), the lack of schooling of children, ignorance of malnutrition, especially chronic malnutrition, the population is undernourished. The participants listed the root causes that promote malnutrition as follows: food insufficiency among children due to the fact that food production is very low, land is not cultivated much because of laziness or lack of training in intelligent agriculture associated with poverty, lack of family planning, the negligence of some parents for the feeding of children, lack of entrepreneurship, nutritious food, no notion of saving for household food.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

The following issues were raised during this dialogue, including: The decline in food production and the increase in population (overpopulation), low income (financial impossibility) of parents, the extroversion of the economy (attachment to fresh food due to lack of local production), ignorance of chronic malnutrition (stunted growth), as well as the lack of training in intelligent agriculture associated with persistent poverty; with high mortality rates among children, undernourishment, children out of school and begging here and there throughout the city of Gemena:

URGENT ACTIONS

The ACTIONS/Recommendations to be carried out are listed as follows: Raise awareness among the faithful and supervise

them on: - Good nutritional practices such as Exclusive Breastfeeding from 0-6 months - Good nutrition;

- Encourage the parents of

the children how to look for an occupation or work to be truly responsible for the household - Family planning to fight against unwanted births, Make

restitutions of this session to all the faithful in our respective Churches; Work

the fields in peasant associations; Advocate so that the Government is responsible for taking care of its

population with regular and decent remuneration;

Remain models on the ground by working the fields, livestock breeding...

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some points of divergence were noted such as: 1. Some

participants say that women do not adhere to and do not practice breastfeeding even though most of them are sensitized in health centers during the Prenatal Consultation, Preschool Consultation 2. Some participants asserted that many parents are capable of ensuring the feeding of their children,

while others accuse parents of being incompetent (incapable and negligent) to take very good care of the feeding of their children; 3. Many Pastors preach a lot about their deeds to have an abundant and prosperous life but the deeds remain attached to prophecies, without wanting to produce food for

their children

GENERAL SUMMARY

The AP Ledia of the Gemena Cluster organized this nutritional dialogue, in line with the logic of the "Enough" campaign which intentionally targeted the Religious Leaders whose capacity we already had in Prenatal Consultation and Breastfeeding which they use until today as themes to raise awareness among Fathers and Mothers responsible for children in focus group format, hence this dialogue is the result of the databases of these Religious Leaders from different Churches of Gemena; we managed to bring together 15 participants including 2 women and 13 men during this session, we shared the nutritional situation and the very critical hunger at all levels and in turn, listen to their points of view; It took place in the meeting room of the Interpellation Hotel in Gemena, and we explained to them that they are associated to collect their points of view with a view to broad advocacy at all levels and to obtain solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition which affect several households, in this case children and women. We listened to the participants to know their perceptions or the root causes of malnutrition, the actions to be taken, what strategy to achieve this, as well as to create a space for debates and exchanges by constituting discussion groups so that everyone can have the opportunity to express themselves freely and openly. This is how the facilitator proceeded with the presentation on Powerpoint to explain the subjects; such as the definition of key concepts (hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity), the different types of malnutrition (acute malnutrition, chronic malnutrition, overweight, underweight, and also explained obesity and micronutrient deficiencies) but also we made the participants understand the triggers of malnutrition, the number, the categories of people most affected by this malnutrition. After these explanations, comes the time for open debate; 2 heterogeneous groups were formed (8 against 7 people), followed by group work with discussion questions shared with each of these groups: What are your perceptions of the nutritional situation in your respective communities? What are the nutritional challenges identified by each group in light of the realities in their respective contexts - What are the urgently needed actions and how should they be taken? Participants listed the major factors that contribute to triggering malnutrition and which are as follows: The following challenges were collected during this dialogue, including: The decline in food production and the increase in population (overpopulation), low income (financial impossibility) of parents, the extroversion of the economy (attachment to fresh food due to lack of local production), ignorance of chronic malnutrition (stunting), as well as the lack of training in smart agriculture associated with persistent poverty; with high mortality rates among children, undernourishment, children out of school and begging here and there throughout the city of Gemena:

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The principles of engagement were observed and noted by participants throughout this dialogue, including: 1. Capacity building for Church members to become actors in raising awareness about nutrition and food, by reporting on this session 2. Creation of awareness groups, comes second; 3. Becoming and remaining role models for the community will encourage others to follow the example.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

The andragogical and participatory one and that the principles are those linked to their interest and real need for their community in the light of sharing made on certain practices found normal while it is abnormal, shocking statistics, at the global, national/provincial/Health Zone level that were presented to them in record time (less time with a precise/concise/key message; no question-answer game at the end to encourage participants to share them in group discussions

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERERS

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We would like to thank the Religious Leaders of different faiths for facilitating contact to reach others because they are already connected by doing focus groups on the importance of CPN and AME in their respective Health Areas (involvement, mobilization for this dialogue, to whom we express our feeling of gratitude, but also thanks to the cluster manager for his encouragement and support, in a context of overlapping activities for our office

RELEVANT LINKS

- Gemena GROUP 2 Religious Leaders speak out for children's nutrition https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/portail/edit-dialogue/?id=59548#tab_feedback

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list and consent form DN Religious leaders Group 2 cluster gemena <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/liste-de-presence-DN-G-DEUX.pdf>