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DIALOGUE TITLE	Gemena GROUP 3 Religious Leaders Lend Their Voice for Child Nutrition
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Friday, August 15, 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/59550/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

19

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

5 19-29

11 30-49

3 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

4 Female

15 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)

19 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 3rd group of 19 Religious Leaders including 4 Women and 15 Men, in Gemena in the province of Sud Ubangi and who agreed to give their voice for the nutrition of children in their respective community as Pastor, Deacon, Animator, Evangelists...; they are confused men as women from different districts of Gemena city, province of South Ubangi, with the participation of a person alive

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

It was by invitation 48 hours before that we were able to contact by telephone the Participants drawn from the database of Religious Leaders who were trained in FY24 in Prenatal Consultation (CPN) and Exclusive Breastfeeding (AME) and who became awareness-raisers through focus groups within their community mainly targeting Dads so that they get involved in the nutrition of children and pregnant women; At the same time this is a response to 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 so at the space of the Interpellation Hotel in Gemena. The facilitator informed the participants that the current situation is serious at all levels regarding malnutrition, this has affected WV 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 community members 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; this is why the facilitator explained and emphasized 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 that malnutrition exists.

DISCUSSION

The explanations being clearly given, the participants were formed into 2 heterogeneous groups of discussions, focused on 3 groups of major questions including: Their perceptions/opinions and considerations/ observations, problems/difficulties, related to malnutrition were collected; What are the root causes? What actions/commitments for nutrition should be taken and recommendations? The participants liked the presentation by asking to share the module of the presentation with them; shows the interest and good understanding of the subject. The Participants gave the findings and their perceptions on malnutrition in these terms: most households do not eat well, children are unintelligent, juvenile delinquency is at its peak due to the lack of material and financial means of parents (economic crisis), illustrated by unemployment, unpaid wages for employees, the low level of supervision of the population, the landscape characterized by war; tribal-ethnic and family conflicts, uncontrolled births leading to population increase, low income, lack of initiative and creativity, some people are uneducated, people are in the use of the law of least effort, some households lack quality food and sufficient quantity, balance.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

Some challenges were raised during this dialogue, namely: Parents' negligence in feeding their children, in addition they do not have the culture of making food stocks in their households including the allocation of less funds (no budget in common agreement for this and causing conflicts, quarrels in the family, with a low level of income, involving unemployment, unpaid wages for employees, the economic crisis with the consequence of food insufficiency, uncontrolled births leading to population growth, low income, lack of initiative, and spirit of creativity, some people are not educated, people are in the use of the law of less effort, low food production especially in quantity and quality.

URGENT ACTIONS

The ACTIONS/Recommendations to be carried out are listed as follows: Make a holistic Gospel Guarantee the life of our children by bringing back the awareness of the populations to practice optimal breastfeeding and balanced diet Make a good choice of spouse for good family cohesion, Choose the matrimonial regime of community of property to avoid the lack of trust and family cohesion, Create self-employment, for example: raising small livestock, plotted gardens, etc.)

Raise awareness and mobilize followers on:

- The concept of malnutrition;
- The protection of children so that they do not fall into malnutrition;
- Transparency in the management of household income, especially for the benefit of children's nutrition

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some parents indulge in gambling, making them irresponsible because the winnings they make do not contribute to the household's income.

The wrong choice of spouse leads to incohesion in couples with consequences on the children's diet; but also the wrong choice of the matrimonial regime "separation of property" preferred by some husbands maintains egocentrism so that the wife takes care of the children by her own efforts and that the husband's income is for his own investments.

Some religious leaders believe that malnutrition is at its peak because people have abandoned organic foods in favor of fresh foods (modernization of food).

GENERAL SUMMARY

The AP Ledia of the Gemena Cluster organized this 3rd 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 mainly among Dads and Mothers responsible for children in the form of focus groups, hence the participants in this dialogue, is the result of the availability of the database; these Religious Leaders from different Churches of Gemena; we managed to bring together 19 participants including 4 women and 15 men in this workshop, 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 at the meeting space of the Hotel Interpellation 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 that affect several households. 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 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 (10 against 9 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? The participants gave the major triggers of malnutrition in their community such as: lack of sincerity in the management of finances especially among fathers who left all the burden of feeding the family to women, climate change does not allow good food production, polygamy, divorce and early marriage make victims of several children who do not find favorable conditions especially in terms of food, laziness due to leisure (distractions of telephones for example) forgetting the mouths to feed, the influence of culture which favors special meals to fathers or mothers to the detriment of children, lack of savings for food stock, unbalanced diet among pregnant women who end up giving birth to low weight children, negligence and irresponsibility of parents for the feeding of children, poverty, unpaid wages and unsustainable (not decent) for workers.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The principles of engagement were observed and noted by the participants throughout this dialogue, including: 1. <monitoring the children's diet, if necessary, eating together with them to reassure themselves that what adults eat is what they also eat and they eat to their satiety. This would avoid certain cultural practices among some women who think that the husband should be given first priority in food and the children come second; 2. Persuade husbands who always impose themselves and demand to be well served to the detriment of the children, for their change of mentalities; the Churches now have the responsibility to make their battlefield all the conditions that disadvantage the food and nutrition of children.

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 CONVENERS

Emphasize the points of divergence that need to be mentioned so that participants who can only have that as an idea are not stifled from expressing their thoughts. But also take care to involve all religions combined for better diversity.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We would like to thank the Religious Leaders of different denominations for facilitating the contact to reach others because they are already connected by doing the focus groups on the importance of CPN and AME in their Areas of Respective health (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 3 Religious Leaders speak out for children's nutrition https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/portail/edit-dialogue/?id=59550#tab_feedback

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list and consent form DN Religious Leader Group 3 cluster gemena <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/liste-de-presence-DN-G-TROIS.pdf>