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DIALOGUE TITLE	Dialogue with religious leaders of Sambwa
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Thursday, August 14, 2025 10:20 GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	Edouard MUSASA, Effectiveness Program Coordinator, Cluster Lubumbashi and Augustin Kazadi, Luwuwoshi Child Well-Being Facilitator Luwuwoshi AP 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	Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59605/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	14
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	0 12-18	0 19-29
9 30-49	5 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

1 Female	13 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	14 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 brought together religious leaders from different local churches including: Nazarene, EPCCM Bethel, Adventist, Garenganze, Lutheran, Tabernacle, Reformed, Neo-Apostolic, Methodist
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ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The religious leaders who participated in the nutritional dialogue represented a notable territorial diversity, with delegations from the villages of Sambwa, Makulo and Kitanda. This representativeness enriched the discussions and strengthened the community scope of the initiative

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

During this workshop, participants were invited to participate in group discussions focused on several key nutrition-related issues, including their understanding of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, risk factors for malnutrition, and local concerns about nutrition in their community.

The workshop approach aimed to encourage the active participation of all stakeholders, thus promoting the sharing of perceptions, ideas and potential actions to improve nutrition within their community. The focus group, composed of 13 participants with a facilitator and a session rapporteur, explored the following questions: What are the challenges or concerns regarding nutrition/hunger/food security? What actions might be needed to ensure good nutrition/food security in our community? Who needs to be involved to achieve good nutrition/food security for everyone in our community? What are the cultural barriers or prohibitions at the community level that lead to malnutrition? How can these barriers be overcome? Participants discussed in groups and the results of their discussion were presented in plenary.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-3.pptx

DISCUSSION

Participants were divided into groups to reflect on several key nutrition-related issues in their community. Discussions focused on understanding hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition, and its risk factors. The discussions helped identify major local concerns, including challenges related to access to a sufficient and balanced diet. Participants proposed concrete actions to improve nutrition, such as diversifying income sources, raising community awareness, and involving religious leaders. They also considered the key actors to mobilize to ensure sustainable food security, highlighting the role of families, local authorities, churches, and community organizations. Cultural barriers and dietary restrictions were addressed, with suggestions for overcoming them through education and dialogue. The results of the discussions were presented in plenary, promoting a collective sharing of ideas and perspectives. The workshop's participatory approach enabled strong stakeholder involvement and strengthened community commitment to nutrition.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

Nutritional challenges are numerous and complex. One of the major problems is idleness, marked by a lack of economic initiative and entrepreneurship. Many people devote more time to religious activities than to income-generating occupations. Access to quality agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, is limited, while the soils are infertile and unproductive. Chronic or incurable illnesses of parents and guardians prevent them from working, which affects the economic stability of households. Access to agricultural land is also difficult, with land sold but not used and high rental costs. Climate change is exacerbating the situation with scarce rainfall, drying up rivers, and a shortage of drinking water. Households are often overcrowded, with an average of ten children, making it difficult to provide food, often reduced to a single meal a day. Farmers are not supervised by government services and lack financial education, selling their produce at low prices. Early marriages are common, exposing young girls to malnutrition. Monoculture farming, poor knowledge of food combinations, restrictive religious and family beliefs, and the sale of crops by husbands to buy alcohol exacerbate the situation.

In addition to these challenges, several cultural and social barriers hinder improved nutrition. Some religious beliefs prohibit the consumption of certain foods, such as game meat, which is deemed inconsistent with the faith. Traditional healers impose dietary restrictions for spiritual reasons. Pregnant and breastfeeding women are subject to numerous dietary restrictions, such as the ban on eating small fat rats, caimans, monkey meat, blind rodents (kafumbe), or

URGENT ACTIONS

To overcome the challenges and obstacles encountered in Sambwa, a series of integrated and community-based actions is proposed. On the economic front, it is essential to train households in entrepreneurship and promote the diversification of agricultural products, particularly crops that require less fertilizer, such as sweet potatoes and peanuts, while encouraging livestock farming. Advocacy is needed to operationalize state technical services and facilitate access to arable land by reviewing land distribution policies by village chiefs and land services. Agricultural subsidies through the Agricultural Villages Approach, a project of the Provincial Government, also need to be promoted. On the social front, it is crucial to raise awareness among members about creating associations and working together, while strengthening community life and social dialogue within families. Positive beliefs and doctrines must be encouraged in churches, and pastors must be educated to better organize the calendar of religious activities. In terms of human rights, early marriages must be discouraged, education for young girls promoted, and parents educated about child rights and protection. Family planning must be promoted among women and men for better management of family resources. Furthermore, the removal of illegal payment barriers is essential to facilitate access to services and opportunities. Finally, training communities on good nutritional practices will contribute to improving health and general well-being. These actions, driven by strong community advocacy and inclusive social mobilization, aim to sustainably transform living conditions in Sambwa by strengthening household autonomy, promoting appropriate agriculture, and consolidating the social and human values essential to development.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

• The father eats the right piece of meat or fish at the household level than the other members to have the strength to go and get food. • Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers must eat much more than other members of the family to properly feed and breastfeed the child. • Marasmus in a young child in a pregnant woman can be cured by action with more varied meals. • Households with more children have more problems with hunger and food and nutrition insecurity than those with fewer children.

GENERAL SUMMARY

During a community workshop in Sambwa, participants were invited to collectively reflect on issues related to nutrition, hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Through group discussions led by a facilitator and a rapporteur, thirteen participants explored key issues such as nutritional deficiencies, actions needed to improve food security, stakeholders to involve, and cultural barriers that hinder good nutrition. The workshop's participatory approach fostered a rich exchange of ideas and perceptions, highlighting major local concerns. Discussions revealed that idleness, a lack of economic initiatives, and a heavy involvement in religious activities at the expense of income-generating activities constitute significant obstacles. Limited access to quality agricultural inputs, low soil fertility, chronic illnesses among parents, and difficulties accessing farmland exacerbate the situation. Climate change, marked by scarce rainfall and a shortage of drinking water, exacerbates the challenges. Households, often very large, struggle to ensure sufficient food, sometimes making do with just one meal a day. Farmers, poorly supervised and with little training in financial management, sell their crops at low prices. Early marriages, monoculture farming, restrictive religious beliefs, and the sale of crops to buy alcohol are all aggravating factors. Local beliefs also influence food distribution within families, such as the belief that the father consumes the best cuts to "gain the strength" to provide for their needs, or that pregnant women should eat more. To address these challenges, several community actions are proposed: training households in entrepreneurship, promoting agricultural diversification with low-demand crops such as sweet potatoes and peanuts, encouraging livestock farming, and advocating for the implementation of state technical services. It is also recommended to review land policies, promote agricultural subsidies through the Agricultural Villages Approach, raise awareness about the creation of associations, strengthen social dialogue, and encourage positive beliefs. Combating early marriage, promoting girls' education, family planning, removing illegal barriers, and training on good nutritional practices are also essential. These actions, driven by strong advocacy and inclusive mobilization, aim to sustainably improve nutrition and living conditions in Sambwa.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The Christian must serve as a model for working well in the community and even the Pastor must not be full-time, he must have an economic activity, a development activity as an alternative source of income and fight against hunger. Religious leaders and Pastors must teach good nutritional practices to the faithful in the churches. Sensitize the community to stop laziness and work like ants to preserve harvested products so that it can be used for food in times of drought. Sensitize communities on family planning for good birth spacing.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

A nutrition dialogue brought together religious leaders from Sambwa as part of the Enough campaign. The event addressed hunger and malnutrition, their causes and impacts, and the determinants of good nutrition. Participants, divided into three groups, identified challenges and obstacles to adequate nutrition in their community and proposed concrete actions to overcome them. The plenary discussions allowed for a constructive and inclusive debate on local solutions.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

The meeting takes about 3 hours, you have to start the session before, have time to finish and return to Lubumbashi which is 30 km away. The meeting took place in the 4th quarter when the programs no longer have any money. Need to organize these sessions no later than term 3 when the programs still have budget.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We thank the pastors and religious leaders of Kitanda, Makulo, and Sambwa for their active participation. We thank World Vision for its awareness-raising initiatives on hunger and nutrition. We thank Augustin Kazadi, Child Well-being Facilitator in Luwuwoshi, for co-facilitating, and Stoyen Kabila, Child Well-being Monitor, for taking photos and images during the nutrition dialogue session.