

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutrition Forum
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Friday, August 15, 2025 12:30 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	Swahili and French
HOST PLACE	Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59613/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	18
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP		
0 0-11	0 12-18	0 19-29
15 30-49	3 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX		
1 Female	17 Male	0 Other/Prefer not to say

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	18 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

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY
The Nutrition Dialogue activity session saw diverse participation in terms of Religious leaders, from different local churches. Among them: Bethsaida, Mountain of Fire, City of Goshen, Eben-Ezer, Rehoboth, Sana, 30th CPCO, Sinai, Seven Lamps, United Methodist, AICC, Light etc. which reflects a geo-religious representation varied.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

As part of a community-based nutrition activity, facilitators invited participants to take part in group discussions focused on key issues such as hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and its risk factors, as well as local concerns. The workshop, structured to encourage active and inclusive participation, brought together 18 participants led by two facilitators and a rapporteur. Together, they explored nutritional challenges, actions to overcome them, stakeholders to involve, and cultural barriers to overcome. The results were presented in plenary, enriched by open discussions.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-4.pptx

DISCUSSION

During community nutrition discussions in Malambwe, several key themes were raised to better understand the root causes of malnutrition. Discussions focused on limited access to agricultural land, difficult transportation to distant fields, overburdened households with many children, and low soil fertility. Participants also addressed the lack of agricultural inputs, chronic parental illness, idleness, climate change, the absence of government supervision, and farmers' poor financial literacy.

Other concerns include poor knowledge of food combinations, lack of clean water, early marriages, and restrictive religious and family beliefs. Cultural barriers were widely discussed, including dietary restrictions on pregnant and breastfeeding women, beliefs related to witchcraft, lack of dialogue in households, polygamy, and frequent divorces. Key questions posed to participants were: What are the nutritional challenges in our community? What concrete actions can be taken to overcome them? What cultural and social barriers hinder access to good nutrition? And how can they be overcome? These discussions helped identify community-based avenues for sustainable improvement in nutrition in Malambwe.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

The Malambwe community faces a series of complex challenges that seriously compromise nutrition and food security. Access to farmland is limited, as it is often sold or exploited by large farmers, and renting it remains difficult. Fields are far from the village, sometimes more than 30 km away, without adequate means of transportation. The very large households (around ten children each) struggle to ensure a sufficient diet, often reduced to a single meal a day. The soil is infertile, and agricultural inputs, such as quality seeds and fertilizers, are rare or inaccessible. Chronic illnesses among parents reduce their ability to work, exacerbating poverty. Idleness and a lack of economic initiative and entrepreneurship hinder local development. Climate change, marked by scarce rainfall and the drying up of rivers, exacerbates agricultural difficulties. Farmers are not supervised by government services and lack financial education, selling their products at low prices. Lack of knowledge about food combinations and limited access to clean water exacerbate malnutrition. Early marriages are common, exposing young girls to nutritional and social risks. Furthermore, cultural and religious barriers negatively influence dietary practices: some doctrines prohibit the consumption of certain foods for spiritual reasons, particularly among pregnant and breastfeeding women. Beliefs related to witchcraft and family prohibitions limit access to a diverse diet. Lack of dialogue within households, polygamy, and frequent divorces exacerbate social imbalances.

URGENT ACTIONS

To overcome the challenges and obstacles related to nutrition in the Malambwe community, several concrete and targeted actions must be implemented. It is essential to train households in entrepreneurship to stimulate local economic initiatives and strengthen family autonomy. Training community members in advocacy is also crucial to improve access to arable land and influence local land policies. The creation of associations and joint work must be encouraged to strengthen solidarity and the pooling of resources. Awareness campaigns against early marriage must also be intensified, and education for young girls and family planning must be promoted among women and men. Strong advocacy is needed to obtain agricultural subsidies through the Agricultural Villages Approach, supported by the Provincial Government. Diversifying agricultural products and promoting crops adapted to local conditions are priorities. Parental awareness about children's rights and protection should also be strengthened, and pastors should be involved in adjusting the schedule of religious activities to better reconcile faith and development. It is essential for village chiefs and land services to review land sales and distribution policies.

Overcoming cultural barriers requires promoting positive beliefs and doctrines in churches, encouraging coexistence and social dialogue within families, and training communities in good nutritional practices. Finally, by drawing on biblical references such as Matthew 7:7, religious leaders can mobilize communities to initiate advocacy with the government and partners to obtain concrete support, particularly in the agricultural sector.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Community discussions in Malambwe revealed several points of divergence that hamper efforts to improve nutrition. First, perceptions of access to agricultural land vary: some believe that the land is available but poorly used, while others denounce its monopolization by large farmers and the difficulty of renting it. Religious and cultural beliefs constitute another point of contention. Some doctrines prohibit the consumption of certain foods (game, caiman, monkey, etc.), which limits nutritional intake, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding women. These prohibitions are sometimes supported by traditional healers, creating a conflict between ancestral practices and modern nutritional recommendations. The role of pastoralists in organizing community time is also debated: some participants want a rebalancing between religious and productive activities, while others see it as an infringement on freedom of worship. Family dialogue is another sensitive issue: the lack of communication between parents is recognized as an obstacle to informed decision-making, but some believe this is a private matter and should not be discussed publicly. Finally, opinions differ on the causes of idleness: for some, it is linked to a lack of economic opportunities, while others associate it with a lack of willpower or a dependence on external support. These differences highlight the need for inclusive and respectful dialogue, in order to build shared solutions adapted to local realities.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The Malambwe community faces complex nutritional challenges, revealed during this forum, which brought together 18 members led by two facilitators and a rapporteur. Discussions highlighted structural problems such as limited access to agricultural land, often monopolized by large farmers, and the difficulty of renting land. Because fields are far away (up to 30 km), a lack of transportation exacerbates the situation. The very large households struggle to ensure a sufficient diet, often reduced to a single meal a day. The soil is infertile, agricultural inputs are scarce, and farmers receive neither supervision nor training in financial management. Climate change, chronic parental illness, idleness, and a lack of economic initiative exacerbate poverty. Early marriages, restrictive religious beliefs, dietary restrictions, and cultural practices such as witchcraft, polygamy, and divorce exacerbate nutritional imbalances. To address this, several actions have been proposed: training households in entrepreneurship, initiating advocacy for access to land and agricultural subsidies, promoting girls' education and family planning, encouraging the creation of associations and collective work, diversifying agricultural crops, and raising parents' awareness of children's rights. It is also recommended to involve pastors to revise the calendar of religious activities and promote positive doctrines. Family and social dialogue must be strengthened, as must training on good nutritional practices. Religious leaders are called upon to mobilize communities around advocacy inspired by biblical principles, such as Matthew 7:7, to solicit support from the government and partners. Despite these efforts, divergences remain over the interpretation of the causes of malnutrition, dietary beliefs, and the role of religious actors, highlighting the need for inclusive and respectful dialogue.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The principles of community engagement in Malambwe, as identified during the nutrition workshop, are based on inclusion, active participation, respectful dialogue, and intersectoral collaboration. This involves mobilizing all stakeholders—families, religious leaders, local authorities, and partners—around concrete actions such as entrepreneurship training, advocacy for access to land and agricultural subsidies, promoting girls' education and family planning, and raising awareness of children's rights. Engagement also relies on promoting positive beliefs, adapting religious practices to community development, and establishing mechanisms for family and social dialogue to overcome cultural barriers.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

The nutrition dialogue event in Malambwe, organized as part of the Enough campaign, adopted a participatory approach involving 18 religious leaders. After presentations on hunger and malnutrition, participants were divided into three groups to discuss nutritional challenges, cultural barriers, and actions to take. The discussions were reported back to the plenary session, fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

The community session in Malambwe lasted approximately three hours. For future editions, it is recommended to start earlier to allow participants coming from Lubumbashi, located 80 km away, to return on time. Given that this activity was held in the fourth quarter, a period of budgetary constraints, it would be preferable to organize it in the second or third quarter to benefit from an active budget and provide better refreshments to participants.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We thank the pastors and religious leaders of the Coordination of Churches of Malambwe (CEM) for their active participation in the sessions organized by World Vision. Our thanks go to Edouard Musasa for organizing, to Augustin Kazadi for co-facilitating, as well as to Fiston Mutombo and Hamand Bishimba for reporting and taking photos. Gratitude to World Vision for its community engagement.

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Liste-de-presence-Dialogue-NutFY25.pdf>
- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Photo-Malambwe-1.jpg>