

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional Dialogue in Mutshatsha
DATE OF DIALOGUE	Sunday, August 10, 2025 3:00 PM GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	Adamo Mwepu, Health & Nutrition Specialist WV 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	Mutshatsha, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Community level
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/59638/



SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

18

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11

0 12-18

0 19-29

8 30-49

10 50-74

0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY SEX

1 Female

18 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)

18 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

1 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

In addition to religious leaders, the workshop brought together other groups, including representatives of civil society organizations. civil society, thus strengthening the diversity of perspectives and solutions proposed.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

This religious dialogue brought together men from the same rural community, sharing a common culture, living in precarious situations, and working mainly as pastors and farmers.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The dialogue with religious leaders in Mutshatsha focused on their commitment to the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Upon arrival, participants were welcomed and seated in the room. The session began with a prayer, followed by an individual introduction of the participants, fostering a climate of trust and listening. The introduction clarified the workshop's objectives, expected outcomes, and general framework for the dialogue. The facilitator then presented the global context of hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition, in relation to local realities. Participants were divided into discussion groups according to the proposed themes. Each group designated a facilitator and a secretary, with a reminder of each group's roles and responsibilities. The discussions provided an opportunity to contextualize nutritional issues, identify challenges specific to Mutshatsha, propose concrete actions at different levels, and identify points of convergence and divergence between the groups.

The discussions highlighted issues such as low dietary diversity, cultural taboos, a lack of information on good nutritional practices, and socioeconomic constraints. In plenary, each group shared their thoughts, enriching the collective debate. The moderator then summarized the main lessons learned from the dialogue, emphasizing the importance of involving religious leaders in community awareness and promoting healthy eating behaviors. The session concluded with a final prayer and a family photo, symbolizing the unity and commitment of the participants. This dialogue laid the foundation for sustainable local mobilization to improve nutrition in the community.

PRESENTATION OF THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FR_Introduction_Nutrition_Slideset_Dr_Ph_2024-6.pptx

DISCUSSION

The dialogue with religious leaders in Mutshatsha focused on their role in combating hunger and malnutrition within their community. To guide the discussions, five open-ended questions were posed to participants, encouraging collective and contextualized reflection. The first question invited participants to define hunger according to their own local reality, taking into account living conditions in their rural areas. This allowed for the emergence of varied perceptions, often linked to daily food insecurity. The second question focused on the causes of hunger in their environment. The discussions highlighted factors such as lack of access to agricultural land, poverty, low incomes, the effects of climate change, and dependence on a poorly diversified agricultural sector. The third question requested a general analysis of malnutrition in the community.

Participants discussed the prevalence of malnutrition among children under five and pregnant women, linked to a limited diet, cultural taboos, and a lack of information on good nutritional practices. The fourth question aimed to identify local strategies to eradicate malnutrition. Proposals included promoting family vegetable gardens, raising small animals, nutrition education in churches and schools, and community mobilization around agricultural projects. Finally, the fifth question identified the assets and opportunities available in the community, such as local solidarity, the presence of influential religious leaders, and the existence of still-accessible arable land. This discussion framework allowed participants to express themselves freely and propose concrete courses of action, adapted to their context.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE RESULTS

CHALLENGES

- Climate change used to cause rain in our area to start in August but now it starts in October which negatively affects agricultural production leading to food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.
- Lack of investment in agriculture by our government because the food and market gardening done by some households do not cover the annual food needs of the community.
- The ignorance of some child care workers on good eating practices, hygiene, care and attention.
- The appearance identified as a determining factor in the low agricultural production, the majority of community members do not cultivate large areas and do not want to diversify seeds or vary the culture.

URGENT ACTIONS

The contribution to improving the nutritional status of populations through urgent actions will be achieved by 1. Conducting awareness sessions by category in churches during various meetings (e.g. mothers' meetings, youth meetings) on good eating practices.

2. Conduct advocacy work in the Mukuleshi sector, Mutshatsha territory and the government to support the community with different varieties of chemical seeds and fertilizers and technical support to ensure food security.

3. Promote varied agricultural production and poultry and livestock farming and support nutritional education to improve household knowledge and practices with a view to better diversifying the nutritious diet.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the dialogue with religious leaders in Mutshatsha, several disagreements emerged regarding the root causes of hunger and malnutrition in the community. The first disagreement concerned the origin of the problem: some participants highlighted low household incomes and local economic insecurity as the main factors, emphasizing that these conditions prevent access to adequate food. Others instead emphasized the lack of involvement of local authorities, particularly in supporting small farmers, believing that the lack of institutional support hinders community initiatives in food production.

Another divergence emerged around the preferred solutions. While some religious leaders proposed strengthening household capacities through training and agricultural projects, others advocated for political mobilization to secure subsidies and sustainable technical support. Finally, opinions diverged on the role of religious leaders themselves: some believe they should limit themselves to spiritual awareness, while others see them as key actors for social and economic change. These differences enriched the debate and revealed the complexity of nutritional issues in the local context.

GENERAL SUMMARY

This dialogue of religious leaders was attended by 19 people, all men from the same community (rural area), living below the poverty line, mostly pastors and farmers, different ethnicities but sharing the same culture.

Discussions during the workshop focused on the involvement of religious leaders in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, as well as food insecurity in the context of Mutshatsha. Upon arrival, participants were welcomed and seated in the room. The session began with prayer followed by the introduction of participants in turn. The session agenda was explained in the introduction, providing an overview of the goal or objectives as well as the outcomes of this dialogue.

Nutritional factors identified in the community. • Climate

change on the cultivation of different foods. In the past, rain in our area started from August but currently it starts in October, which negatively affects agricultural production, leading to food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. • Lack of investment in agriculture by our government because the food and market gardening crops grown by some households do not cover the annual food needs of the community. • The ignorance of some childcare workers on good eating practices, hygiene, care and attention. • The appearance identified as a determining factor in low agricultural production; the majority of community members do not cultivate large areas and do not want to diversify seeds or vary the crop. • Lack of support for religious denominations in agricultural inputs by the state in our area.

Emergency actions:

- Conduct awareness sessions by category in churches during various meetings (e.g., mothers' meetings, youth meetings) on good food practices and the importance of reforestation and the consequences of bush fires and their consequences on soil quality.
- Conduct advocacy work with the Mukuleshi sector, the Mutshatsha territory and the government to support the community with various varieties of seeds and chemical fertilizers and technical support to ensure food security.
- Promote varied agricultural production and poultry and livestock farming and support nutritional education to improve household knowledge and practices for better diversification of nutritious diets.
- Support religious denominations in agricultural inputs.

Points of divergence: •

Some religious leaders spoke about low household incomes and the current economic context in the city of Mutshatsh, the two factors being linked and not allowing households to have good nutrition. • Others spoke about the disinterest of the local authority in supporting small farmers.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

After announcing the topic of the dialogue and the agenda of the session to the participants, it was a question of recalling the selection criteria for participation in the nutritional dialogue according to social class, ethnicity and group of actors, gender and a request for authorization to consent to the disclosure of their social class and images during the reporting and unanimously all the participants agreed and this was recorded by the different facilitators chosen in the discussion groups

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

During this dialogue, the collaborative method was used, teamwork and open discussion of all participants, respecting the points of convergence and divergence, gender and social inclusion and tolerance. Clear explanations on the theme in French and Swahili for those who did not understand French for a good understanding. Some discussion groups reported in Swahili that the facilitator should translate into French and harmonize.

TIPS FOR OTHER CONVENERS

- Please respect gender and social inclusion in the selection of participants
- Clearly explain the subject of the dialogue and the expected results at the end of the discussions while remaining in the local context
- Ask open questions to involve everyone

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

Our thanks go to all the participants, despite ecclesiastical concerns, who made their time available to actively participate in this nutritional dialogue. To the local authorities and religious leaders of Mutshatsha for making the Methodist church available which hosted the workshop. To the World Vision staff for support and guidance for the success of the activity and reporting.

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Maisha-l-iste-de-presence-dialogue-nutritionnels.pdf>