

RETURN FORM OFFICIAL

DIALOGUE TITLE	Let's hear from the members of the program's child welfare committee Ledia and that of the reading club facilitators on the current situation of nutrition and hunger in the Gemena cluster
DATE OF THE DIALOGUE	Thursday, July 30, 2026 08:00 GMT +01:00
SUMMONED BY	Sylvain KAYUMBA Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {announcer_name}. {explanation} Feedback published on behalf of the organizer by: Sylvain KAYUMBA. Facilitator
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	Lingala
HOST VENUE	Gemena, Democratic Republic of Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	community level
AFFILIATIONS	World Vision
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/60933/

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	44
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	0 12-18	13 19-29
24 30-49	7 50-74	0 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

14 Female	30 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)
20 Educators and Teachers	20 Religious Leaders/Religious Communities
0 Financial institutions and technical partners	0 Food producers (including farmers)
0 Healthcare 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-Sized Enterprises
4 Government officials and representatives local/sous-national	United Nations
0 Women's Groups	0 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

SPONSORSHIP VOLUNTEERS who simultaneously serve as Book Club Leaders and Religious Leaders in the communities where the nutritional dialogues took place.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE DIVERSITY OF PARTICIPANTS

This workshop with adults saw great participation from members of the well-being committee as well as from The facilitators of the Ledia sponsorship program's Reading Clubs formed two groups, intermingled for the 2 diverse categories (religious leaders, community volunteers, teachers, neighborhood leaders) or streets, there were 14 women and 30 men from different neighborhoods of Gemena; and breakfast was shared at the end of this dialogue.

SECTION TWO: FRAMEWORK AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

This workshop with adults began with a prayer, followed by the introduction of the team (a community facilitator from the health zone and a registered nurse from the Notre Dame health area). We reviewed the context in which the Phase 1 nutritional dialogue sessions had taken place and shared some statistics on hunger (food insecurity) and malnutrition (acute and chronic) at the international, national, and provincial (South Ubangi) levels, also showing some images of the populations affected by these scourges. We announced feedback on the synthesis report of the 70 dialogue sessions organized in the DRC with 1902 participants. The main recommendations are organized into six areas (these are the several urgent actions needed to combat malnutrition): 1) food security, 2) improved healthcare, 3) intensified nutrition education, 4) economic empowerment (creating income sources, entrepreneurship, and a culture of saving), 5) environmental sustainability (protecting the environment before any action, planting trees, and avoiding cutting down trees and burning bushes), and 6) policy implementation. Here are the group discussion questions that children were invited to participate in, focusing on the main recommendations of the synthesis report: 1) What has improved since 2024, phase 1 of the nutrition dialogue, to the present day? 2) What has worsened during this period? 3) What remains to be done? A survey question regarding the validated school meal strategy adopted by WVDRC with the DRC Government from 2026 to 2030: Have children already heard about this strategy? And how do they think it will be implemented in their schools? All these key aspects are related to nutrition and food security, to gather their understanding of improvements, challenges, and risk factors.

DISCUSSION

What has been done, or what has improved since 2024 (phase 1) to the present day (phase 2) of the nutritional dialogue? Members of these two groups responded as follows: 1) Creation of permanent gardens in some households, rural activities, agriculture, thanks to the various awareness campaigns carried out by actors of the Ledia WV Gemena program and others; on the one hand, there is no longer any question of selling agricultural products at the market before they are ripe, nor of selling everything; 2) a change in eating and nutritional behavior due to the various awareness campaigns received, especially regarding child nutrition in all communities through actors of the Ledia program of World Vision; 3) some households maintain or carry out land sanitation; 4) the practice of handwashing is respected by many family members; 5) Mastery of the management of malnutrition in children under 5 years old, through the provision of materials and inputs with the support of the World Vision program, but also the training of healthcare providers in several primary healthcare themes; 6) People have acquired the knowledge and practices of income-generating activities; 7) We have been provided with drinking water boreholes in certain parts of the city by the State and Technical and Financial Partners; 8) People know how to save thanks to the creation of several savings groups; 9) Raising small livestock by some households; 10) Planting of trees in certain public places; 11) Children begin to eat more than twice a day; 12) Construction and rehabilitation of health centers and provision of medical materials

SECTION THREE: RESULTS OF THE DIALOGUE

CHALLENGES

What hasn't been done? Or what hasn't improved or has worsened? From 2024 (phase 1) to the present day (phase 2) of the nutritional dialogue, members of these two groups cited the following challenges: 1. Non-compliance with employment contracts (insufficient remuneration); non-payment of state workers by the government, with a view to their empowerment; 2. Food insecurity in many households; 3. Non-compliance with family planning by some parents; 4. Subdivision of state-reserved land; 5. Lack of compliance with regulations regarding the construction of latrines and garbage pits; 6. Our facilities lack medication, resulting in nothing more than the issuance of prescriptions; and poor access to drinking water, for a city like Gemena experiencing exponential population growth. 7) Low agricultural production, decreased sales of agricultural products at the market; 8) Hunger and malnutrition still affect children, and some die from them in our communities; 9) Our communities experience precarious financial resources (low income) and increased poverty; 10) Lack of improved seeds and agricultural tools; 11) The economic crisis is worsening; 12) State employees are not being paid; 13) Market women (the Trikpongbo) return home late, and the children often eat at night, leading to malnutrition.

URGENT ACTIONS

What remains to be done? From 2024 (Phase 1) to the present day (Phase 2) of the nutritional dialogue? Members of these two groups cited the following as urgent actions to be taken: 1. Address the economic crisis; 2. Pay civil servants; 3. Lower the price of manufactured goods; 4. Provide employment for new graduates; 5. Facilitate access to arable land to address soil infertility around the city of Gemena and prevent low agricultural yields; 6. Help some parents reduce alcohol consumption; 7. Provide farmers with improved seeds and farming tools; 8. Combat hunger and malnutrition in our community. 8. Supply health facilities with medicines to reduce prescription issues; 9. Expand access to drinking water; 10. Intensify ongoing awareness campaigns on nutrition education; 11. Strengthen capacity and raise awareness on environmental management; 12.

13. Increase the number of water boreholes in relation to the population growth of Gemena; 14. Implement school canteens; 15. Train households on food security and empowerment; 16. Pay state employees regularly; 17. Combat insecurity in neighborhoods and all provinces; 18. Work for peace and fight against political conflicts through conflict resolution mechanisms by the government and with the support of NGOs and Technical and Financial Partners.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The points of disagreement concern: participants stated that some households have allotments, while at the same time they stated that most households do not have gardens due to soil infertility; they acknowledged a reduction in malnutrition in the communities, but paradoxically, children are malnourished and die from malnutrition.

GENERAL SUMMARY

During this workshop, the adults outside of the challenges, the urgent actions needed (recommendations) to improve the nutritional situation in their community and households, listed above, were able to identify some significant improvements, namely: a change in eating and nutrition behavior; increasing the frequency of meals from 1 to 2 or more; recognizing the efforts made with the support of the Ledia WV Gemena program, in providing drinking water and addressing malnutrition in all its forms, recognizing the importance of school meals and feeling the need for the implementation of this program; the culture of saving is gaining more and more ground, although the migration to digitalization is not automatic given the context of Gemena; awareness-raising and capacity-building activities carried out, several healthcare providers and other community actors have improved their knowledge and skills, and even the quality of care; some health centers are being built in a modern way respecting government standards; The population has sufficient knowledge and experience in income-generating activities (IGAs) to increase their income to the best of their ability, although the number of water points is insufficient. There is still access to drinking water in the city of Gemena thanks to the efforts of the government and technical and financial partners. The drinking water networks, with extensions to certain strategic areas of Gemena, are major achievements in this city, thanks to the government and technical and financial partners, including World Vision.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

The adults who supervise and monitor the children in the Ledia sponsorship program in Gemena, and who participated in this dialogue on nutrition, understood and observed many aspects of the children's daily lives. They resolved not to abandon their role in development by taking responsibility for improving the living conditions of children in their communities. Various categories of adults (women, men, married and single, people with albinism, and people with reduced mobility) participated in this workshop in a reassuring setting (within the CBCO Church). At least one adult was able to express their thoughts, whether positive or negative. The workshop demonstrated a commitment to transparency by encouraging open exchanges, thus allowing for positive reflection and the free expression of concerns, especially since for some participants it was their second time taking part in this exercise.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

The Nutritional Dialogue Workshop with Adults was organized using a trust-building method, establishing a friendly atmosphere and a participatory approach that fostered open exchanges and the full participation of adults and young adults, divided into groups representing different categories of people. The methodology employed incorporated discussions in two heterogeneous groups, with interactions where each group complemented and enriched the responses of the others.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVICTORS

For other nutritional dialogues; it would be desirable to continue to delve into the school meal strategy, the program of which must be implemented by the government, what adults think about this; to do so in such a way that women express their thoughts, not to reject an idea expressed whether it is relevant or not, this is to break the dominant mindset of men in the context of the culture in southern Ubangi.

RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We extend our thanks to the National Office DRC Team (Mgr Plaidoyer and EE and Mgr H&N), the cluster Manager, the Co-Facilitators who agreed to support me closely and remotely, and the leaders of the 100% partner and the CBCO Church for mobilizing the participants; but also to the entire team involved in the nutritional dialogue program, allowing us another discovery.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance List and Consent Form - Wellness Committee of the Mentoring Program <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Liste-de-presence-CF-Comite-de-BE-DN-Juil-FY26.pdf>
- Attendance list and consent form for Book Club Leaders in the Mentoring Program <https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Liste-de-presence-CF-Animateur-Club-Lecture-DN-Juil-FY26.pdf>