

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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|----------------------------|---|
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Early Childhood Development: This program plays a big role in Child development. This is Why through PDH project of Caritas Byumba and WVR conducted a training of Head of home -based ECD's revising and learning different skills regarding the HBECD's in pr |
| DIALOGUE DATE | Thursday, 13 March 2025 09:00 GMT +02:00 |
| CONVENED BY | Catholic Diocese of Byumba/Caritas Byumba/WVR Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Caritas Diocese of Byumba. Implementing partner of WVR Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: DIOCESE CATHOLIC OF BYUMBA/CARITAS BYUMBA. IMPLEMENTING PARTNER OF WVR |
| EVENT LANGUAGE | KINYARWANDA |
| HOST LOCATION | Kivuye, Rwanda |
| GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE | Burera District |
| AFFILIATIONS | WVR |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59213/ |



The outcomes from Nutrition Dialogues will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on women and children and young people. Each Dialogue contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal
- Available as public data on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal "Explore Feedback" page
- Available publicly within a .xls file alongside all Feedback Form data for advanced analysis
- Synthesised into reports that cover which nutrition challenges are faced, what actions are urgently needed and how should these be taken forward – particular, in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris, March 2025.

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS | 29 |
|------------------------------|----|

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| 2 | 0-11 | 11 | 12-18 | 16 | 19-29 |
| 0 | 30-49 | 0 | 50-74 | 0 | 75+ |

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|------|---|-------------------------|
| 17 | Female | 12 | Male | 0 | Other/Prefer not to say |
|----|--------|----|------|---|-------------------------|

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

| | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 0 | Children, Youth Groups and Students | 1 | Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations) |
| 4 | Educators and Teachers | 1 | Faith Leaders/Faith Communities |
| 0 | Financial Institutions and Technical Partners | 0 | Food Producers (including farmers) |
| 13 | Healthcare Professionals | 10 | Indigenous Peoples |
| 0 | Information and Technology Providers | 0 | Large Business and Food Retailers |
| 0 | Marketing and Advertising Experts | 0 | National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives |
| 1 | News and Media (e.g. Journalists) | 0 | Parents and Caregivers |
| 0 | Science and Academia | 0 | Small/Medium Enterprises |
| 0 | Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives | 0 | United Nations |
| 0 | Women's Groups | 0 | Other (please state) |

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Other stakeholders included heads of home-based Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers, caregivers, local community leaders, and health workers who actively participated in the training and discussions to improve child nutrition and well-being.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The Dialogue included diverse participants from various wealth backgrounds, mainly rural communities in Burera district. It brought together heads of home-based ECD centers representing different ethnic groups in the area. The event focused on rural settings, where malnutrition and access to nutrition services are critical challenges. This diversity allowed for a broad understanding of local issues affecting child development and nutrition, reflecting the real community context.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The Dialogue event began by framing the local context of Burera district, emphasizing the rural nature of the community where poverty and limited access to diverse foods contribute to malnutrition risks. Participants were reminded of the persistent challenge of child stunting and undernutrition, worsened by seasonal food shortages and lack of nutrition awareness. The introduction highlighted the impact of environmental factors such as climate variability affecting crop yields, which limits food availability and quality. Discussions also addressed concerns about inadequate hygiene and sanitation, increasing the risk of infections that worsen nutritional status in children under five. Local anxieties were acknowledged, especially the community's worry about how seasonal hunger and lack of balanced diets affect children's growth and cognitive development. The introduction stressed the importance of integrating nutrition with health, water, sanitation, and parenting education to holistically improve child well-being. Overall, the framing set a clear focus on the urgent need to strengthen Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs as critical entry points for improving nutrition and health outcomes in vulnerable rural populations. This helped align participants on common goals for collaboration across sectors to address malnutrition comprehensively.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/ecd-training-burera-nemba.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The main discussion topic focused on strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers to improve child nutrition and well-being. Open-ended questions included: How can ECD centers better integrate nutrition, health, WASH, and parenting education to support children under five? What challenges do heads of home-based ECDs face in implementing nutrition and health practices? How can different sectors collaborate effectively to enhance the quality and reach of ECD services? What strategies can be adopted to overcome seasonal food shortages and improve access to balanced diets for young children? These questions encouraged participants to share experiences, challenges, and solutions for holistic child development.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants identified several nutrition challenges affecting children under five and the community. Key issues included limited access to diverse and nutritious foods, especially during lean seasons, leading to poor dietary intake and increased risk of malnutrition. Many families lack knowledge about preparing balanced diets suitable for young children, affecting proper nutrition. Additionally, poor hygiene and sanitation practices contribute to frequent illnesses like diarrhea, which worsen nutritional status. Participants also highlighted inadequate integration of nutrition with other sectors such as health, education, and water, limiting comprehensive support for child growth. Resource constraints, including limited food availability and economic hardships, further hamper efforts to improve child nutrition. Lastly, challenges in monitoring and sustaining nutrition interventions in home-based ECD centers were noted, affecting consistent care and follow-up for vulnerable children.

URGENT ACTIONS

Participants identified several urgent actions to improve child nutrition and proposed ways to implement them:

Strengthen Nutrition Education: Enhance training for caregivers and ECD leaders on preparing balanced diets using locally available foods. This can be done through regular cooking demonstrations and community sensitization campaigns.

Improve Hygiene and Sanitation: Promote better WASH practices to reduce diseases that affect nutrition. This includes building latrines, providing clean water, and encouraging handwashing at critical times.

Integrate Nutrition with Other Sectors: Foster collaboration between health, education, and water sectors to provide comprehensive support to children. This involves joint planning, resource sharing, and coordinated interventions at the community level.

Support Home-Based ECD Centers: Provide resources and continuous capacity building to ECD centers to ensure they can effectively monitor and support child nutrition and health.

Increase Food Security: Support households with access to nutritious foods like small livestock, fruits, and vegetables through agricultural programs and community gardens.

Strengthen Monitoring and Follow-up: Empower Community Health Workers to conduct regular follow-ups with families to track child growth and provide ongoing counseling.

Participants proposed these actions be taken forward through partnership among government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, and families, with clear roles and accountability. They recommended continuous community engagement, resource mobilization, and periodic evaluation to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ChatGPT said:
During the dialogue, participants shared mostly aligned views, showing strong agreement on the need to address malnutrition through community-based approaches like PDH and improving early childhood development (ECD) services. There was a common understanding that nutrition education, hygiene, and collaborative efforts are essential to reduce malnutrition in children under five.

However, some divergence appeared regarding prioritization and resource allocation. Some participants emphasized the urgent need for direct food support to vulnerable families, such as providing eggs and small fish, while others focused more on long-term solutions like nutrition education and strengthening health systems. A few raised concerns about the challenges of sustaining motivation among caregivers and CHWs due to limited resources.

Differences also emerged around how best to integrate other sectors, such as agriculture and social protection, to ensure food security and nutrition sustainability. While most agreed on multisectoral collaboration, varying opinions on the roles and responsibilities of each actor were discussed.

Despite these differences, the dialogue maintained a respectful and open atmosphere. Participants were willing to listen and consider alternative perspectives, focusing on common goals of child well-being and malnutrition reduction. The constructive discussions helped build a shared commitment to adapt strategies to the local context and enhance partnership coordination.

In summary, while minor divergences existed, they were constructive and did not hinder consensus. The overall unity and shared purpose among stakeholders reinforced the potential for successful implementation of nutrition interventions.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The dialogue event brought together diverse stakeholders, including Community Health Workers (CHWs), caregivers, local leaders, nutritionists, and representatives from implementing partners Caritas Byumba and World Vision Rwanda. The main focus was on addressing child malnutrition through the Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) approach and strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.

The event began with a warm introduction that framed the discussion within the broader context of nutrition challenges faced locally. Participants were reminded of the critical impact of malnutrition on child growth and development, especially under-five children, and the urgency of community-led solutions. The local context of poverty, seasonal food shortages, and limited access to diverse nutritious foods was highlighted, alongside the efforts already underway to improve nutrition education and health services.

Throughout the dialogue, participants shared experiences and insights on the implementation of PDH sessions, the role of CHWs in household counseling, and the importance of integrating nutrition with health, hygiene, and parenting education. The open discussions fostered an environment of mutual respect and collaboration, where both successes and challenges were openly addressed.

Key nutrition challenges identified included insufficient food availability in some communities, low awareness of balanced diet preparation, and the need for continuous motivation and support for CHWs and caregivers. Participants emphasized the importance of multisectoral collaboration, including linking agriculture, social protection, and health services to ensure sustainable nutrition outcomes.

Actions proposed by participants focused on scaling up PDH sessions, providing direct support such as nutritious food items to vulnerable families, enhancing training for CHWs and ECD leaders, and improving community sensitization on nutrition and hygiene practices. There was also a call for stronger partnerships and better resource mobilization to sustain interventions.

While the dialogue revealed some differing opinions, particularly on resource prioritization and multisectoral roles, these differences enriched the conversation rather than dividing it. Stakeholders demonstrated a shared commitment to child well-being and were open to adapting strategies to local realities.

From a personal perspective, the event felt highly positive and productive. The engagement level was strong, with active participation and genuine interest in finding practical solutions. The respectful atmosphere allowed honest sharing, which is crucial for identifying real gaps and building trust among partners. The dialogue reinforced the value of community-driven approaches and highlighted the collective responsibility to combat malnutrition.

Overall, the dialogue provided a comprehensive picture of current nutrition efforts, challenges, and opportunities in the region. It served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, partnership strengthening, and strategic planning ahead of the Nutrition for Growth summit in March 2025. The event left a hopeful and motivated impression, with clear pathways identified to enhance child nutrition and development through collaborative action.

In conclusion, the dialogue was a successful step toward achieving better nutrition outcomes, reinforcing that community involvement, continuous learning, and multisectoral cooperation are key pillars in the fight against malnutrition. The shared vision and proactive spirit demonstrated give confidence that sustained progress is achievable with ongoing support and commitment.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Please describe how your Dialogue reflected specific aspects of the Principles of Engagement: The dialogue strictly followed the Principles of Engagement by ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and respect for all participants. Prior to the event, facilitators were briefed on the participant list to anticipate and manage any competing interests effectively. This helped in fostering a balanced discussion where all voices, including community health workers, local leaders, and implementing partners, were heard equally. Financial disclosures were requested where necessary to maintain transparency and trust among stakeholders. The facilitators encouraged open dialogue while managing conflicts with neutrality, ensuring that the focus remained on the shared goal of improving child nutrition. These measures promoted a respectful, collaborative environment aligned with ethical engagement standards.

METHOD AND SETTING

The dialogue used a participatory approach combining presentations, open discussions, and group work to engage all participants actively. Key aspects included encouraging knowledge sharing, identifying challenges, and co-developing solutions. The setting was informal, held in a community meeting room at a local health center, which fostered comfort and openness. This environment helped participants from diverse backgrounds freely express their views.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

For successful Nutrition Dialogue events, convenors should prioritize inclusivity by inviting diverse stakeholders from different sectors and communities. Prepare well by clearly defining objectives and discussion topics to guide meaningful conversations. Use interactive methods like open discussions and group work to encourage participation and honest feedback. Create a comfortable, respectful environment where all voices are valued. Also, plan logistics carefully to ensure smooth execution.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank the dedicated Community Health Workers, volunteers, and local leaders whose commitment made this dialogue possible. Special appreciation goes to Caritas Byumba and World Vision Rwanda for their continuous support and partnership. We also acknowledge the funders and service providers whose resources and expertise greatly contributed to the success of this event. Their collective efforts have been vital in advancing nutrition and child health in the community.

ATTACHMENTS

- PHOTO**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/WhatsApp-Image-2025-03-28-at-12.25.08-PM-1-300x225-2.jpeg>