

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Kageyo AP Marks Day of the African Child with a Call to End Malnutrition
DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 24 June 2025 08:30 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	Diocese Catholic of Byumba/Caritas Byumba/World Vision Rwanda Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Diocese Catholic of Byumba/Caritas 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	Byumba, Rwanda
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	GICUMBI DISTRICT
AFFILIATIONS	WVR
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59337/



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	999
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

123	0-11	346	12-18	401	19-29
129	30-49	0	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

591	Female	408	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	1	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
124	Educators and Teachers	89	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
463	Healthcare Professionals	0	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
3	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	320	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 stakeholder groups included local leaders, health workers, community volunteers, parents, and children. These groups actively participated, bringing diverse perspectives and experiences to support community-led efforts against malnutrition

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The dialogue included participants from diverse backgrounds, representing various wealth levels, ethnic groups, and both rural and urban areas. This diversity ensured a broad range of perspectives on nutrition challenges and solutions. Rural participants shared experiences of limited access to nutritious foods, while urban attendees highlighted different barriers such as busy lifestyles.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The Stakeholder Dialogue opened by framing the local context of Kageyo and surrounding areas, where poverty, seasonal food shortages, and climate variability heavily impact nutrition outcomes. Participants were reminded of the ongoing challenges faced by many families, including limited access to diverse and nutritious foods, frequent bouts of illness, and insufficient knowledge about child feeding practices. The discussion highlighted how seasonal changes often lead to food insecurity, affecting the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables critical for children's growth. Additionally, concerns were raised about environmental factors such as pollution and poor sanitation contributing to malnutrition by increasing children's vulnerability to diseases. The dialogue emphasized the widespread prevalence of stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies among children under five in the region, reinforcing the urgency of sustainable community-led interventions. Local anxieties surfaced around the inability of some families to afford or access nutrient-rich foods, as well as limited health service reach in remote areas. Against this backdrop, the Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/Hearth) approach was introduced as a culturally sensitive, practical solution that leverages existing positive behaviors within communities. The dialogue set a hopeful tone by sharing success stories where families, despite similar hardships, have managed to improve child nutrition through simple, locally available foods and better hygiene practices. Overall, the introduction framed the event as a critical opportunity for collective learning and action, rooted in the understanding that nutrition challenges are multifaceted but solvable through community empowerment and collaboration across sectors.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/DIALOGUE-3.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The main discussion topic focused on how the Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/Hearth) approach can be used to sustainably reduce child malnutrition in the community. Open-ended questions included: What positive feeding and hygiene practices already exist in some households that can be shared with others? How can we encourage more families to adopt these practices? What barriers prevent caregivers from providing balanced, nutritious meals to their children? How can local leaders and health workers better support families in improving child nutrition? What community actions are needed to ensure all children grow healthy despite poverty and seasonal food shortages? These questions aimed to spark honest dialogue and identify practical, community-driven solutions.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants identified several key nutrition challenges in their community:

Limited access to diverse and nutritious foods: Many families rely heavily on staple crops with little variety, leading to inadequate intake of essential nutrients for children's growth.

Seasonal food shortages: During certain times of the year, food scarcity increases, making it difficult for caregivers to provide balanced meals.

Lack of knowledge on proper child feeding and hygiene practices: Some caregivers are unaware of the importance of balanced diets, hygiene, and timely health check-ups, which affects child nutrition.

Poverty: Economic constraints limit families' ability to buy or produce nutritious foods, contributing to malnutrition.

Cultural beliefs and practices: Certain traditional customs may discourage optimal feeding practices or use of health services.

Limited community support and resources: Insufficient local programs and health worker outreach hinder early detection and intervention for malnutrition.

Environmental factors: Issues like poor sanitation and access to clean water increase the risk of illnesses that worsen nutrition status.

These challenges collectively contribute to ongoing malnutrition risks for children under five in the community.

URGENT ACTIONS

Participants identified several urgent actions to address malnutrition, along with ways to implement them:

Nutrition education and awareness: Increase community sensitization on balanced diets, child feeding, and hygiene. This can be done through regular training sessions, home visits by community health workers, and using local media.

Promotion of local nutritious foods: Encourage families to grow and use diverse local crops such as vegetables, beans, and nuts. Cooking demonstrations and nutrition clubs were suggested to show how to prepare balanced meals with available foods.

Strengthening growth monitoring and early detection: Expand routine screening of children under five using simple tools like MUAC tapes. Participants recommended training more community volunteers and health workers to identify and refer malnourished children promptly.

Improving access to clean water and sanitation: Community-led projects to build latrines and promote hygiene practices were emphasized to reduce diseases that worsen malnutrition.

Engaging local leaders and stakeholders: Mobilize local government, religious leaders, and women's groups to champion nutrition programs and allocate resources for sustainability.

Addressing poverty and food security: Participants called for support in income-generating activities and food security interventions like food banks or vouchers for vulnerable families.

Behavior change communication: Use storytelling, songs, and peer support groups to encourage positive nutrition and health practices within households.

To take these actions forward, participants proposed forming nutrition committees at village level to coordinate activities, linking with existing health services, and seeking support from NGOs and government programs for technical and material assistance. Regular follow-up meetings and community feedback mechanisms were also recommended to track progress and adapt strategies.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Views and opinions among participants were generally aligned, showing strong consensus on the key nutrition challenges and the urgent need for community-led solutions. Most agreed that malnutrition is driven by limited knowledge about balanced diets, poor hygiene, and poverty, and that strengthening education and local resources is essential.

However, some divergence appeared in priorities and approaches. While many emphasized expanding growth monitoring and early detection, a few participants believed more focus should be on poverty alleviation and income-generating activities as a long-term solution. Others stressed improving water and sanitation infrastructure as critical to reducing disease-related malnutrition.

Differences also emerged on the best ways to mobilize the community. Some favored formal structures like nutrition committees and government involvement, whereas others preferred informal peer groups and volunteer-led initiatives, citing sustainability and community ownership.

Despite these differences, discussions remained constructive, with participants open to considering multiple strategies. This diversity of views enriched the dialogue, fostering a comprehensive understanding of malnutrition's complexity and the need for integrated interventions.

In summary, while slight divergences in emphasis and methodology existed, the overall consensus was strong around empowering families through education, local solutions, and collaborative community efforts to effectively combat child malnutrition.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The Dialogue event held in Kageyo was a powerful and inspiring gathering that highlighted the community's commitment to ending child malnutrition through locally driven solutions. The atmosphere was both hopeful and collaborative, as participants—from parents and health workers to local leaders and community volunteers—came together with a shared purpose: to learn, exchange ideas, and strengthen efforts against malnutrition using the Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/Hearth) approach.

From the start, the introduction framed the discussion within the broader context of ongoing challenges faced by the community, including poverty, seasonal food shortages, and limited access to clean water and sanitation. Participants expressed deep concern about how these factors contribute to malnutrition, particularly among children under five. The dialogue underscored the urgency of addressing these intertwined issues to safeguard children's growth and development.

Discussions focused on key nutrition topics such as the importance of dietary diversity, hygiene practices, growth monitoring, and early detection of malnutrition. The open-ended questions encouraged participants to reflect on what positive behaviors already exist within their community and how these could be promoted more widely. This approach fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment, as people realized that many solutions lie within their own knowledge and resources.

One of the most memorable moments was hearing testimonies from families who had successfully improved their children's nutrition by adopting lessons from the PD/Hearth model. These real-life stories reinforced the practical value of the program and motivated others to take similar steps. The cooking demonstrations, songs, and performances further enriched the event, making it engaging and accessible for all ages.

Throughout the dialogue, there was a strong emphasis on collaboration. Participants recognized that tackling malnutrition requires coordinated efforts between families, health workers, local leaders, and partner organizations. Many expressed willingness to strengthen existing community groups and form new networks to sustain nutrition education and monitoring activities beyond the event.

While there were some differences in opinions about priority actions—such as whether to focus more on income-generating activities or infrastructure improvements—these were discussed respectfully and constructively. The diversity of views contributed to a more holistic understanding of the challenges and potential solutions.

Overall, the event felt like a genuine coming together of a community ready to face its nutrition challenges head-on. The energy was positive, and the commitment clear. It was evident that when communities are equipped with knowledge, skills, and support, they can drive meaningful change from within.

From my perspective, the Dialogue was a successful blend of learning, sharing, and motivating. It demonstrated the power of participatory approaches like PD/Hearth in fostering sustainable health improvements. The event also reaffirmed the importance of continued investment in community-based nutrition programs and multi-sectoral collaboration.

In conclusion, this Dialogue not only deepened understanding of child malnutrition in Kageyo but also strengthened community resolve to act. It laid a solid foundation for future interventions and highlighted the crucial role of local ownership in achieving lasting nutrition outcomes. The spirit of hope and partnership present throughout the day leaves me confident that progress towards ending child malnutrition is well underway in this community.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Dialogue strongly reflected key Principles of Engagement, emphasizing inclusivity, transparency, respect, and shared ownership. Before the event, facilitators thoroughly reviewed the participant list to identify potential competing interests, ensuring a balanced representation of stakeholders including parents, health workers, local leaders, and implementing partners. This preparatory briefing helped manage expectations and foster constructive dialogue. Financial disclosure requirements were communicated clearly to all participants, promoting transparency and trust. During the event, facilitators encouraged open and respectful communication, ensuring all voices were heard and valued. Differing opinions were managed professionally by guiding discussions toward common goals and mutual understanding.

METHOD AND SETTING

The Dialogue was convened using a participatory, community-centered approach following recommended methodology. Key aspects included inclusive stakeholder identification, ensuring diverse representation from parents, health workers, local leaders, and implementing partners. Facilitators guided open discussions with prepared open-ended questions to encourage sharing of experiences and solutions.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

For successful Nutrition Dialogue events, ensure inclusive participation by inviting diverse stakeholders from different backgrounds and roles. Prepare clear, open-ended questions to stimulate meaningful discussions. Use interactive methods like demonstrations and storytelling to engage participants actively. Create a safe, respectful space where everyone feels comfortable sharing. Plan logistics carefully, including accessible venues and timing that suits participants.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank all participants, community leaders, and health workers whose engagement made this Dialogue meaningful. Special appreciation goes to Caritas Byumba and World Vision Rwanda for their continuous support and collaboration. We also acknowledge the dedication of our facilitators and organizing team for their professionalism and commitment. Our gratitude extends to the funders whose resources made this event possible.

ATTACHMENTS

- **PICTURE**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GuM6UNvWkAAqWt8.jpg>
- **PICTURE**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GuM6WsqWoAAutSM-1.jpg>
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