

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE TITLE | Caritas Byumba and World Vision, Fighting Child Malnutrition in Kageyo via 12 Days program :We appreciated your visit" |
| DIALOGUE DATE | Wednesday, 20 August 2025 09:00 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 | ENGLISH |
| HOST LOCATION | Byumba, Rwanda |
| GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE | GICUMBI DISTRICT |
| AFFILIATIONS | WVR |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/59848/ |



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 | 476 |
|------------------------------|-----|

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|
| 12 | 0-11 | 244 | 12-18 | 91 | 19-29 |
| 129 | 30-49 | 0 | 50-74 | 0 | 75+ |

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------|-----|------|---|-------------------------|
| 341 | Female | 135 | 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) |
| 121 | Educators and Teachers | 0 | Faith Leaders/Faith Communities |
| 4 | Financial Institutions and Technical Partners | 0 | Food Producers (including farmers) |
| 295 | 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 |
| 2 | News and Media (e.g. Journalists) | 54 | 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 community leaders, caregivers, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators. We welcomed the visitors from external countries.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The dialogue brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, ensuring a broad range of perspectives. Attendees included families from rural farming communities as well as households in peri-urban areas, reflecting different economic levels from low-income to more stable groups. Ethnic diversity was also represented, with participants contributing their unique cultural experiences to discussions on nutrition and child well-being.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The Stakeholder Dialogue event in Kageyo was carefully framed to reflect the local realities and challenges affecting child nutrition. During the introduction, facilitators highlighted the socio-economic and environmental context of the community. Kageyo is a rural sector where many households depend on subsistence farming. While agriculture sustains daily life, it is highly vulnerable to seasonality, climate variability, and increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns. These conditions often lead to food insecurity, reduced dietary diversity, and anxieties about meeting the nutritional needs of young children. The introduction emphasized how poverty intersects with nutrition outcomes. Limited financial resources prevent many families from accessing animal-source foods, fruits, and vegetables on a consistent basis. Instead, diets often rely on staple crops, which are insufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of growing children. Facilitators also noted that while parents demonstrate strong commitment to their children's well-being, widespread deficiencies in iron and vitamin A, along with cases of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, remain a pressing concern. The dialogue acknowledged local worries around malnutrition risk factors. Seasonal hunger periods, particularly during the lean season, create additional stress on household food supplies. Hygiene and sanitation challenges, including limited access to clean water, increase vulnerability to diarrheal diseases, which further compromise child nutrition. Mothers and caregivers also shared concerns about the impact of rising food prices and the lack of diverse, affordable options within local markets. By framing the discussion around these lived realities, the introduction created a shared understanding of the urgency to act. It positioned malnutrition not only as a health issue, but also as a community-wide challenge connected to livelihoods, environment, and poverty.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/VISITORS-FROM-KAGEYO.pdf>

DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on child nutrition, malnutrition prevention, and sustainable food practices in Kageyo. Open-ended questions invited participants to share their experiences and challenges, such as: "What barriers do families face in providing a balanced diet to young children?" "How can locally available foods be used to improve child nutrition?" "What support do caregivers need to sustain healthy feeding practices at home?" Participants were also asked to reflect on seasonal food shortages, hygiene practices, and community strategies to prevent malnutrition, fostering collaborative problem-solving and inclusive dialogue.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants in the Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue highlighted several nutrition challenges that affect their households and community. A primary concern is child malnutrition, including both moderate and severe forms, which remain prevalent despite ongoing programs. Many families struggle to provide diverse and nutrient-rich diets, often relying heavily on staple crops such as cassava, beans, and maize. Limited access to animal-source foods, fruits, and vegetables, coupled with rising food prices, makes it difficult to ensure children receive adequate protein, vitamins, and minerals.

Seasonality and food insecurity were repeatedly mentioned. During the lean season, food availability diminishes, forcing families to reduce meal portions or skip meals entirely. This period is also associated with increased cases of diarrhea and other illnesses that exacerbate malnutrition risks. Participants expressed anxiety over climate variability, as unpredictable rainfall affects crop yields, further threatening household food security.

Hygiene and sanitation challenges were another major concern. Limited access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities increases vulnerability to infections, which negatively impact child nutrition and growth. Mothers and caregivers reported difficulties in maintaining hygiene practices consistently due to time constraints and scarce resources.

Participants also noted knowledge gaps regarding nutrition, particularly in preparing balanced meals from locally available foods. Many caregivers desire more training on child feeding practices, breastfeeding, and complementary feeding to prevent stunting and micronutrient deficiencies.

Economic constraints remain a significant barrier. Low household income limits the ability to purchase diverse foods or access healthcare services for children showing signs of malnutrition. Women, often primary caregivers, expressed challenges balancing work, childcare, and nutrition responsibilities.

URGENT ACTIONS

During the Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue, participants identified several urgent actions needed to address child malnutrition and improve overall nutrition in the community. A key priority was enhancing access to diverse, nutrient-rich foods. Caregivers suggested expanding programs like the 12-day Hearth Nutrition initiative, which teaches families how to prepare balanced meals using locally available ingredients. Participants emphasized that these programs should reach more households, particularly during the lean season, when food insecurity is highest.

Participants also highlighted the need for improved hygiene and sanitation practices to reduce illness-related malnutrition. They proposed community-led awareness campaigns and training on handwashing, safe water use, and proper waste disposal. Mothers and caregivers recommended involving local leaders and ECD facilitators to reinforce these practices consistently at home and in schools.

Another action identified was nutrition education and capacity building. Participants requested more training on breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and micronutrient-rich meal preparation. They suggested regular workshops and peer-to-peer learning sessions where experienced mothers could share practical knowledge with others in the community.

Economic support and access to resources were also emphasized. Participants proposed forming cooperatives or community groups to collectively source and distribute affordable nutritious foods. They recommended engaging local government and development partners to provide small-scale support, such as seeds, livestock, or cooking demonstrations.

Finally, participants stressed the importance of community monitoring and collaboration. They proposed establishing local committees to track child growth, share best practices, and promptly identify cases of malnutrition.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue, participants generally shared a strong consensus on the urgency of addressing child malnutrition. Most caregivers, community leaders, and ECD facilitators agreed on the need for access to diverse, nutrient-rich foods, nutrition education, and the expansion of programs like the 12-day Hearth Nutrition initiative. There was widespread recognition that malnutrition is closely linked to poverty, seasonality, and hygiene challenges, and that multi-sectoral collaboration is essential to address these issues.

However, some divergence of views emerged regarding the most immediate priorities and practical solutions. While many participants emphasized direct nutrition interventions, such as meal supplementation and community feeding programs, others argued that long-term strategies like income-generating activities, home gardening, and agricultural support should be prioritized to ensure sustainable access to nutritious foods. Some caregivers expressed concern that short-term interventions might not fully address structural causes of malnutrition, while others stressed that immediate action is critical to prevent child morbidity and mortality.

There were also differences in opinion on resource allocation and program delivery. A few participants suggested that interventions should focus more heavily on rural households, which experience higher food insecurity, while others highlighted the needs of peri-urban families facing market-related food price fluctuations. Discussions around monitoring and follow-up practices revealed differing perspectives on the frequency and type of community engagement required to ensure lasting impact.

Despite these divergences, participants maintained a collaborative and constructive dialogue. Differences of opinion were treated as opportunities to explore complementary strategies rather than as conflicts.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The Stakeholder Dialogue held on 20th August 2025 in Kageyo Sector was a highly engaging and collaborative event, bringing together a wide range of participants, including caregivers, local community leaders, Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators, representatives from World Vision Global, funders from Australia, World Vision Rwanda, and the Division Manager of Gicumbi District. The dialogue was designed to address child nutrition challenges, explore community-led solutions, and strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration in the fight against malnutrition.

From the outset, the event was framed around the local context. Facilitators highlighted Kageyo's socio-economic and environmental realities, including the reliance on subsistence farming, the impacts of seasonal food insecurity, and the vulnerabilities created by unpredictable climate patterns. Poverty and limited access to diverse foods were identified as key contributors to child malnutrition, while hygiene and sanitation challenges were noted as critical factors affecting health and nutrition outcomes. This framing helped participants situate their experiences within the broader context and fostered a sense of shared understanding about the urgency of action.

During the discussion, participants identified several pressing nutrition challenges. These included limited dietary diversity, high prevalence of iron and vitamin A deficiencies, seasonal hunger, and difficulties in accessing clean water and maintaining hygiene practices. Caregivers also raised concerns about knowledge gaps in child feeding practices and the need for ongoing support to sustain improvements beyond short-term interventions. Economic constraints, limited local resources, and market fluctuations were acknowledged as additional barriers to achieving consistent child nutrition.

The dialogue was guided by open-ended questions that encouraged participants to share their experiences, concerns, and ideas for solutions. Key actions proposed included scaling up the 12-day Hearth Nutrition Program, which empowers families to prepare balanced meals using locally available foods, implementing community-led hygiene and sanitation initiatives, expanding nutrition education and training, and developing income-generating and food-security activities to ensure long-term access to nutritious foods. Participants emphasized the importance of community monitoring, collaboration between families and local leaders, and stronger partnerships with development actors to support sustainable interventions.

While there were some divergences in opinion, particularly around the prioritization of short-term versus long-term interventions and the focus on rural versus peri-urban households, the overall tone of the dialogue remained constructive. Participants treated differences as opportunities to explore complementary approaches rather than conflicts, reflecting a shared commitment to improving child well-being.

Overall, the event felt highly inclusive, participatory, and inspiring. There was a palpable sense of urgency mixed with hope, as participants reflected both the challenges they face and the solutions within reach. The dialogue highlighted the resilience, resourcefulness, and dedication of the community, as well as the importance of collaborative action. The atmosphere was one of mutual respect, learning, and empowerment, with participants leaving the session motivated to apply the ideas discussed in their homes, communities, and programs.

In conclusion, the Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue not only documented the community's experiences, challenges, and recommendations but also fostered a sense of shared responsibility, strengthened relationships among stakeholders, and reinforced the potential of locally led, context-specific solutions.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue was designed to reflect the Principles of Engagement by ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and respect for all participants. Prior to the event, facilitators reviewed the participant list and identified potential areas of competing interests, such as differing priorities between caregivers, local leaders, and external development partners. Briefings were held with facilitators to clarify these dynamics and prepare strategies for managing divergent views constructively. During the dialogue, participants were encouraged to express their experiences, opinions, and concerns openly, while maintaining a collaborative and respectful atmosphere. Facilitators emphasized shared objectives—improving child nutrition and supporting sustainable solutions—so that differing interests were framed as opportunities for complementary approaches rather than conflict.

METHOD AND SETTING

The Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue was convened using a participatory methodology, emphasizing inclusivity, open discussion, and shared problem-solving. Participants were invited from diverse groups, including caregivers, ECD facilitators, community leaders, and development partners. Facilitators guided discussions through structured questions while allowing flexibility for participants to share experiences and propose solutions.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

For those convening a Nutrition Dialogue, thorough preparation is key. Understand the local context, including socio-economic, environmental, and seasonal factors affecting nutrition. Engage diverse stakeholders—caregivers, community leaders, health workers, and development partners—to ensure multiple perspectives. Pre-brief facilitators on participant dynamics and potential competing interests.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to sincerely acknowledge the invaluable support of all partners and stakeholders who made the Kageyo Stakeholder Dialogue possible. Special thanks to World Vision Global, funders from Australia, World Vision Rwanda, and the Division Manager of Gicumbi District for their participation and guidance. We also appreciate the dedication of Caritas Byumba staff, community health volunteers, ECD facilitators, and caregivers whose commitment and insights enriched the dialogue.

RELEVANT LINKS

- **X LINK**
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/1958806128336200068>

ATTACHMENTS

- **PICTURE**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WhatsApp-Image-2025-09-04-at-4.09.05-PM-1-1.jpeg>
- **PICTURE**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WhatsApp-Image-2025-09-04-at-4.09.08-PM-1.jpeg>
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