

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DIALOGUE TITLE      | MEN AS CHAMPIONS FOR CHILD NUTRITION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| DIALOGUE DATE       | Friday, 4 September 2026 08:15 GMT +02:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| CONVENED BY         | DIOCESE CATHOLIC OF BYUMBA/CARITAS BYUMBA<br>Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: DIOCESE CATHOLIC OF BYUMBA/CARITAS BYUMBA. IMPLEMENTING PARTNER OF WVR<br>Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: DIOCESE CATHOLIC OF BYUMBA/CARITAS BYUMBA. IMPLEMENTING PARTNER OF WVR |
| EVENT LANGUAGE      | KINYARWANDA AND ENGLISH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| HOST LOCATION       | Byumba, Rwanda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE    | GICUMBI DISTRICT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| AFFILIATIONS        | WVR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | <a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/60096/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/60096/</a>                                                                                                                                                                              |



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 | 69 |
|------------------------------|----|

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

|   |       |    |       |    |       |
|---|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| 0 | 0-11  | 23 | 12-18 | 40 | 19-29 |
| 6 | 30-49 | 0  | 50-74 | 0  | 75+   |

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

|    |        |    |      |   |                         |
|----|--------|----|------|---|-------------------------|
| 12 | Female | 57 | Male | 0 | Other/Prefer not to say |
|----|--------|----|------|---|-------------------------|

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

|    |                                                             |   |                                                                                         |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 | Children, Youth Groups and Students                         | 1 | Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations) |
| 3  | Educators and Teachers                                      | 0 | Faith Leaders/Faith Communities                                                         |
| 0  | Financial Institutions and Technical Partners               | 0 | Food Producers (including farmers)                                                      |
| 44 | 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                               |
| 0  | 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 stakeholder groups included fathers and male caregivers, community leaders, local professionals, community health workers, and other community members involved in supporting child nutrition and household well being.

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The Dialogue brought together participants with diverse social and economic backgrounds, including community members from different sectors of Gicumbi district. It included participants from both rural and semi-urban communities, with varying levels of experience and responsibilities related to child care and nutrition. This diversity helped ensure that different community realities and perspectives were represented during the discussion.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## FRAMING

The Dialogue was framed around the importance of shared responsibility for child nutrition in Gicumbi District. Participants discussed how mothers often balance farming, work and other responsibilities, making fathers' involvement in preparing and providing nutritious meals important. Through the PDH approach, supported by World Vision Rwanda, Caritas Byumba and Gicumbi District, participants were encouraged to use locally available foods and promote practical nutrition practices. The discussion emphasized that child nutrition is a shared family responsibility and that fathers can play an active role in preventing malnutrition.

## NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/MEN-ENGAGEMENT.pdf>

## DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on the role of fathers in improving child nutrition. Participants explored questions such as: How can fathers support children's nutrition when mothers are away? What nutritious meals can fathers prepare using locally available foods? What prevents men from participating in feeding and childcare? How can fathers encourage other men to take an active role in preventing child malnutrition? Participants also discussed practical ways to turn nutrition knowledge into action at household and community level.

# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

Participants identified several challenges affecting child nutrition, including limited knowledge among some fathers about preparing and providing nutritious meals. Traditional perceptions that feeding and childcare are mainly women's responsibilities can also limit men's participation. Mothers' absence due to farming, work or other family responsibilities may sometimes leave children without adequate support for meal preparation and feeding. Poverty and limited access to diverse foods can further affect household nutrition. Participants also noted the need for stronger community awareness and encouragement to help fathers become more actively involved in child nutrition and care.

## URGENT ACTIONS

Participants identified the urgent need to increase fathers' involvement in child nutrition and caregiving. They proposed providing practical nutrition education and demonstrations to fathers on preparing nutritious meals using locally available foods, especially when mothers are away.

They also recommended community awareness activities to challenge the perception that feeding and childcare are mainly women's responsibilities. Fathers who have gained practical knowledge through the PDH approach can serve as role models and share positive practices with other men in their communities.

Participants proposed that these actions be taken forward through collaboration among fathers, families, community health workers, local leaders, Caritas Byumba, World Vision Rwanda and Gicumbi District. Regular follow-up and community-based learning were suggested to encourage sustained changes in household nutrition practices.

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was generally strong agreement among participants that fathers should play a more active role in child nutrition and feeding. However, some differences emerged regarding the extent of men's involvement in household food preparation and childcare. Some participants felt that traditional household roles can make it difficult for men to participate regularly, while others emphasized that fathers can learn and confidently take on these responsibilities.

Participants also had different views on the main barriers to fathers' involvement, with some highlighting cultural attitudes and limited knowledge, while others pointed to work, farming responsibilities and household economic challenges. Despite these differences, participants agreed that greater awareness, practical training and community support can encourage more fathers to contribute to improving children's nutrition.

## OVERALL SUMMARY

The Dialogue focused on the important role fathers can play in preventing child malnutrition and promoting healthy feeding practices within households in Gicumbi District. It provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on the reality that mothers often manage several responsibilities, including farming, work and other family duties, and that fathers can provide essential support by taking an active role in preparing food, feeding children and monitoring their well-being.

The discussion was linked to the Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) approach promoted through the collaboration between World Vision Rwanda, Caritas Byumba and Gicumbi District. Participants explored how the approach can go beyond sharing nutrition knowledge by encouraging practical changes in household behaviour. Particular attention was given to the use of locally available foods to prepare nutritious meals and to the importance of ensuring that children continue to receive appropriate meals even when mothers are away.

Participants identified several challenges that can limit fathers' involvement. These included limited knowledge and confidence in preparing meals, traditional perceptions that feeding and childcare are mainly women's responsibilities, competing work and farming commitments, and household economic constraints that can affect access to diverse foods. The discussion showed that improving child nutrition requires both knowledge and supportive household and community environments that enable fathers to participate.

A key message emerging from the Dialogue was that child nutrition is a shared family responsibility. Fathers can contribute directly by preparing nutritious meals, feeding young children, encouraging healthy practices and sharing what they learn with other men. Participants recognized that fathers who adopt these practices can become positive examples for others and help create a culture in which men see child nutrition and caregiving as responsibilities they can confidently undertake.

Participants identified urgent actions including practical nutrition education and cooking demonstrations for fathers, community awareness activities, and continued encouragement for men to participate in childcare and feeding. They also proposed stronger collaboration among families, fathers, community health workers, local leaders, World Vision Rwanda, Caritas Byumba and Gicumbi District. Regular follow-up and community-based learning were considered important for turning training into sustained household practices.

Although participants had some differences in their views about the barriers to fathers' participation and the extent of men's involvement in household responsibilities, there was broad agreement on the need for greater male engagement. The Dialogue created space for participants to discuss these issues openly and to consider practical ways of overcoming existing barriers.

Overall, the Dialogue felt open, practical and encouraging. Participants were engaged in reflecting on everyday household situations and were able to connect nutrition messages with actions that can be implemented at family level. The discussion also demonstrated the value of creating opportunities for men to learn from one another and to see themselves as active contributors to their children's health and development.

The Dialogue reinforced the understanding that preventing child malnutrition requires action beyond the nutrition training room. When fathers, mothers, community health workers, local leaders and development partners work together, nutrition knowledge can become part of everyday family practices. Strengthening fathers' participation therefore represents an important community-level contribution to creating healthier environments in which young children can grow, develop and thrive.

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Dialogue reflected the Principles of Engagement by promoting an inclusive, respectful and participatory environment. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences, views and practical suggestions openly, particularly on fathers' involvement in child nutrition and caregiving. The facilitator ensured that different perspectives were heard and that participants had equal opportunities to contribute. Differences in views about household roles, cultural expectations and barriers to men's participation were discussed respectfully and constructively. The Dialogue focused on shared objectives rather than individual interests, with participants encouraged to identify practical actions that can improve child nutrition at household and community level. Collaboration among fathers, families, community health workers, local leaders and development partners was also emphasized.

## METHOD AND SETTING

The Dialogue used a participatory approach combining facilitated discussion, open-ended questions and experience sharing. Participants were encouraged to reflect on fathers' roles in child nutrition, identify barriers and suggest practical solutions. The facilitator ensured inclusive participation and respectful exchange of views.

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Engage participants early and create a safe, inclusive space where everyone can speak openly. Use practical, open-ended questions that connect nutrition to participants' daily experiences. Involve both men and women and encourage participants to share local solutions and successful practices. Keep the discussion focused on realistic actions that can be implemented at household and community level.

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank all participants for their active participation, openness and valuable contributions to the Dialogue. We appreciate the facilitators and support team for creating an inclusive and constructive environment for discussion. Special thanks to World Vision Rwanda, Caritas Byumba and Gicumbi District for their collaboration in promoting the Positive Deviance Hearth approach and strengthening community action on child nutrition.

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **X**  
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/2093366529312133161?s=20>
- **X**  
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/2093368965993013581?s=20>
- **X**  
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/2093368109381939563?s=20>
- **X**  
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/2093367174576460049?s=20>

## ATTACHMENTS

- **PICTURE**  
[https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/HQ0g1tsWcAA-ap\\_-scaled.jpg](https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/HQ0g1tsWcAA-ap_-scaled.jpg)
- **PICTURE**  
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- **PICTURE**  
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/HQ0iJxcWEAACuUd-1-scaled.jpg>
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- **PICTURE**  
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- **PICTURE**  
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/HQ0lH5AXYAEEAZs-1-scaled.jpg>

# CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES

TitleMEN AS CHAMPIONS FOR CHILD NUTRITION

Date22/09/2026

ADJUSTMENTS IN AGES 0-11: 0 12-18: 0 19-29: 23 30-49: 40 50-74: 6 75+: 0