

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Screening for Children Under 5 in Gicumbi as one of activities included in the Professional Umuganda
DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 23 September 2026 08:00 GMT +02:00
CONVENED BY	DIOCESE CATHOLIC OF BYUMBA/CARITAS BYUMBA 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	Rwesero, Rwanda
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	DICUMBI DISTRICT
AFFILIATIONS	WVR
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/61321/



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	97
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PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	32	19-29
54	30-49	11	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

49	Female	50	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)
0	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
56	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
1	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	40	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 Community Health Workers (CHWs), caregivers, families and community members. CHWs supported the screening of children under five, under the supervision of relevant health actors.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The Dialogue brought together health actors, Community Health Workers, caregivers and community members from different sectors of Gicumbi District. This included participants working with families in rural and hard-to-reach areas, providing diverse perspectives on children's nutrition, access to services and practical community-based solutions.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The Dialogue was framed around the need for early identification and prevention of malnutrition among children under five in Gicumbi District. Participants reflected on the importance of community-based screening to identify children with nutrition, health or developmental concerns before these challenges become more serious. The introduction linked the activity to the Professional Umuganda and the Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) approach, following the three-day training held from 26-28 August 2026. The training equipped relevant health and community actors with knowledge that was then shared with Community Health Workers (CHWs) to support practical action at community level. The Dialogue emphasized that early screening is an important step in preventing malnutrition, as it enables timely counselling, follow-up, referral and rehabilitation where needed. Participants also discussed the importance of nutritious and diverse foods, growth monitoring, early care-seeking and good hygiene and sanitation. The expansion of screening from the initial focus in Kageyo and Mutete to all sectors of Gicumbi was presented as a collective effort to bring nutrition and health support closer to families and ensure that no child is left behind.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

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

DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on early screening and identification of malnutrition among children under five. Participants explored: How can CHWs effectively identify nutrition, health and developmental concerns? How can families be supported to act early? How can screening results be linked to counselling, referral, rehabilitation and follow-up? What can health actors, CHWs and communities do to ensure children receive timely support?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

Participants identified challenges related to early identification and response to malnutrition among children under five. Some children may not be identified early when families do not recognize nutrition, health or developmental concerns or delay seeking care.

Participants also highlighted challenges related to access to health and nutrition services, particularly for families living in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Limited follow-up after screening and delays in referral can also affect timely support for children who need counselling, rehabilitation or other services.

Another challenge was ensuring that nutrition knowledge is consistently translated into practice at household level, including providing diverse and nutritious foods, monitoring children's growth and maintaining good hygiene. Strengthening the capacity of CHWs and continued collaboration with health actors were therefore considered important for improving community-level screening and follow-up.

URGENT ACTIONS

Participants identified the need to strengthen regular screening of children under five across all sectors of Gicumbi District. They proposed that trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) conduct screening under the supervision of relevant health actors where possible, with children identified with concerns receiving timely counselling, referral, rehabilitation or follow-up.

Participants also emphasized the need for continued community education on nutritious and diverse foods, growth monitoring, early care-seeking and hygiene. Strong coordination between health actors, CHWs, caregivers, local leaders and partners was proposed to ensure that identified children are followed up and linked to appropriate services.

The actions should be sustained through regular supervision, community mobilization and follow-up to ensure that no child is left behind.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no major divergences in participants' views. Participants generally agreed on the importance of regular screening, early identification and timely support for children under five. Some differences focused on practical challenges, particularly access to services in rural and hard-to-reach areas, follow-up after screening and the availability of referral and rehabilitation services.

These perspectives were complementary and helped highlight the need for stronger coordination and supervision between health actors, CHWs, caregivers and communities.

OVERALL SUMMARY

The Nutrition Dialogue focused on strengthening early identification and community action to prevent malnutrition among children under five in Gicumbi District. The activity was conducted through the Professional Umuganda by Caritas Byumba, in collaboration with World Vision Rwanda and Gicumbi District, following the three-day Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) Model Approach training held from 26-28 August 2026 at Centre d'Accueil FIAT.

Following the training, participants were encouraged to translate the knowledge gained into practical community action. One key action was screening children under five across all sectors of Gicumbi District. The trained health actors subsequently shared the knowledge with Community Health Workers (CHWs), who are supporting the screening under the supervision of relevant health actors where possible.

The Dialogue highlighted the importance of early identification of nutrition, health and developmental concerns. Through screening, children who may be at risk can be identified earlier and linked to appropriate support, including counselling, follow-up, referral, rehabilitation or other necessary services. Participants recognized that early action can help prevent nutrition and health challenges from becoming more serious.

The discussion also emphasized that screening should be accompanied by continued support at household and community level. Families and caregivers need information and encouragement to provide children with diverse and nutritious foods, monitor their growth, seek care early when concerns arise, follow referrals and maintain good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Participants reflected on challenges that may affect effective screening and follow-up, including limited access to services for families living in rural or hard-to-reach areas, delayed care-seeking and difficulties in ensuring continued follow-up after children are identified. These challenges reinforced the importance of CHWs, health workers, local leaders and community actors in bringing services and information closer to families.

Overall, the Dialogue felt practical, participatory and focused on action. Participants were able to connect the PDH training with the realities faced by families in their communities and discuss how they could contribute to identifying and supporting children at risk. The involvement of CHWs was particularly important because they are close to households and can help strengthen early identification, community follow-up and links with health services.

The expansion of the initiative from the initial focus in Kageyo and Mutete to all sectors of Gicumbi was recognized as an important step toward reaching more children and families. It reflects a shared commitment among Caritas Byumba, World Vision Rwanda, Gicumbi District, health actors and communities to strengthen collective action against malnutrition.

The Dialogue reinforced that preventing malnutrition requires continuous action rather than a one-time intervention. Regular screening, community education, timely referral, follow-up and collaboration among stakeholders are essential to ensure that children receive support when it is needed. By strengthening the capacity of CHWs and connecting community action with health and nutrition services, the initiative is helping bring prevention and early response closer to families and supporting children to grow and develop well.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Dialogue reflected the Principles of Engagement through inclusive participation, collaboration and respectful discussion. Health actors, Community Health Workers, caregivers and community representatives shared experiences and perspectives on early screening and child nutrition. Participants were encouraged to focus on community needs and practical solutions, while respecting different experiences and roles. The discussion promoted shared responsibility among health actors, CHWs, local leaders and families. No significant competing interests were identified, and the Dialogue remained focused on improving early identification, referral and follow-up for children at risk of malnutrition.

METHOD AND SETTING

The Dialogue used a participatory methodology combining a brief presentation, guided discussion, experience sharing and open-ended questions. Participants reflected on screening practices and identified practical ways to improve early identification, referral and follow-up. The session was held in a formal but interactive classroom setting, allowing health actors, CHWs and community representatives to exchange experiences and agree on practical actions.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Keep discussions practical and focused on early screening, referral and follow-up. Ensure participants understand their roles and agree on clear actions. G

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the health actors, Community Health Workers, local leaders, caregivers and community members for their active participation in screening and follow-up activities. Their commitment is contributing to early identification and prevention of malnutrition among children under five.

RELEVANT LINKS

- **X**
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/2104579469810049471?s=20>
- **X**
<https://x.com/CByumba/status/2104579463988359339?s=20>

ATTACHMENTS

- **PICTURE**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WhatsApp-Image-2026-09-28-at-7.20.11-AM.jpeg>
- **PICTURE**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WhatsApp-Image-2026-09-28-at-7.20.10-AM-1.jpeg>
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