

The Dialogue was a highly productive and inspiring event that brought together diverse stakeholders committed to combating child malnutrition through the Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) approach. Participants included Community Health Workers (CHWs), local leaders, caregivers, nutritionists, and representatives from implementing partners such as Caritas Byumba and World Vision Rwanda. This inclusive gathering created a dynamic platform for sharing experiences, challenges, and innovative solutions.

The session began with warm introductions and expressions of gratitude, setting a positive and collaborative tone. Participants engaged actively in discussions centered on improving the implementation and impact of PDH sessions in their communities. The focus on rehabilitating malnourished children and preventing future cases resonated deeply with everyone present, emphasizing the critical importance of nutrition for early childhood development.

Throughout the dialogue, participants openly shared challenges such as limited food resources, difficulties in sustaining caregiver engagement, and the need for enhanced training and supervision of CHWs. These candid conversations highlighted the real-life obstacles on the ground, allowing the group to collectively explore practical recommendations. Key actions proposed included providing nutritious food support to vulnerable families, strengthening community sensitization on balanced diets and hygiene, and improving coordination among partners to optimize resource use.

The atmosphere was one of mutual respect and genuine commitment. Even where opinions differed—such as on prioritizing immediate food aid versus longer-term education—the dialogue maintained a constructive spirit. Divergent views enriched the discussion, leading to a more holistic understanding of the multifaceted nature of malnutrition and the pathways to address it sustainably.

From a personal perspective, the event felt energizing and hopeful. It was clear that stakeholders share a deep dedication to child health and are willing to collaborate intensively to overcome barriers. The engagement of CHWs, who are critical frontline actors, was particularly encouraging as they expressed readiness to continue their vital work with renewed motivation. The presence and support of local leaders and implementing partners reinforced the sense of a united front against malnutrition.

This dialogue not only advanced technical discussions but also strengthened relationships and trust among participants. The shared commitment and collective problem-solving approach create a strong foundation for ongoing efforts. As preparations continue for the Nutrition for Growth summit in March 2025, insights and messages from this dialogue will be instrumental in shaping advocacy and programmatic strategies.

In conclusion, the event was more than just a meeting; it was a meaningful step forward in the fight against malnutrition. The collaborative spirit, openness to learning, and focus on actionable outcomes leave a positive outlook for future interventions. Participants left motivated, better informed, and united in their mission to ensure that every child has the chance to grow healthy and thrive.