

The Dialogue was a meaningful and engaging event focused on addressing malnutrition among children under five years in the Mutete sector, Kageyo AP, Buranga cluster. The meeting brought together Community Health Workers (CHWs), local leaders, nutritionists, and implementing partners such as Caritas Byumba and World Vision Rwanda. The purpose was to officially launch and plan the Positive Deviance Hearth (PDH) sessions aimed at rehabilitating malnourished children and preventing future cases.

From the start, the atmosphere was collaborative and optimistic, with all participants demonstrating a shared commitment to improving child nutrition outcomes. The introduction highlighted the serious challenges faced by the community, including food insecurity and limited access to diverse, nutritious foods. There was clear recognition that malnutrition is a complex problem influenced by multiple factors such as poverty, hygiene practices, cultural habits, and seasonal food availability.

The dialogue was structured to encourage open participation and knowledge sharing. Participants actively discussed how best to implement PDH sessions, including setting timelines, identifying challenges, and reviewing tools necessary for successful activities. The open format allowed for a rich exchange of ideas, with CHWs sharing practical experiences from the field and community leaders providing insights into local dynamics and resource constraints.

One of the key moments was when participants identified the lack of sufficient food commodities as a major barrier to effective rehabilitation of malnourished children. This led to constructive recommendations to support PDH sites with nutrient-rich foods such as small fish and eggs, which could both motivate and enable poor families to better participate in the sessions. The discussion also emphasized the importance of community involvement and ownership, with the consensus that collective efforts are critical to sustaining positive nutrition outcomes.

The event was not only informative but also inspiring. It reinforced the essential role of CHWs as frontline agents of change, providing education, counselling, and follow-up care to families. Many participants expressed a strong sense of responsibility and motivation to intensify their work, recognizing that their efforts directly impact children's survival and development.

From a broader perspective, the dialogue reflected principles of inclusivity and respect, as diverse stakeholders were given space to voice their views and contribute to solutions. The facilitation ensured that technical guidance was balanced with community realities, making the proposed strategies both practical and culturally sensitive.

Overall, the event felt like a hopeful step forward in the fight against child malnutrition in the region. It demonstrated how coordinated action between government health workers, community volunteers, and partner organizations can create an enabling environment for lasting change. The shared commitment and clear action plans developed during the dialogue set a strong foundation for successful PDH sessions and improved child nutrition outcomes in Mutete sector.

Looking ahead, the dialogue emphasized the need for continued collaboration, resource mobilization, and monitoring to maintain momentum. Participants left with renewed determination to work together and a deeper understanding of how to overcome barriers to nutrition. The meeting was a vital platform not only for planning but also for strengthening partnerships and building community trust – all crucial elements for achieving sustainable nutrition improvements.

In summary, this dialogue was a constructive, energizing, and essential event that combined technical rigor with community engagement. It reaffirmed the collective responsibility to protect the health of the youngest and most vulnerable, paving the way for effective PDH implementation and a healthier future for children in Buranga cluster and beyond.