

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.