

On the 28/12/2025 Caritas Byumba in partnership with World Vision Rwanda organized the community sensitization about infant feeding in Katabagemu, Nyagatare district.

The Stakeholder Dialogue was introduced by setting a clear picture of the local context of Katabagemu sector in Nyagatare District, where many families depend on subsistence agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods.

The introduction emphasized the current nutrition situation, noting the persistent cases of child stunting, underweight, and micronutrient deficiencies, especially among children under five.

Family-related challenges were also discussed, including family conflicts, unequal caregiving responsibilities, and limited male involvement in child nutrition, which further undermine children's well-being. Religious leaders and facilitators stressed that nutrition is not only a health issue but also a family and social responsibility, deeply connected to harmony, care, and shared decision-making within households.

The dialogue was framed within the context of the Family Day of the Diocese of Byumba, linking faith-based values with nutrition and family protection. His Lordship Bishop Papias Musengamana emphasized that protecting the family begins with ensuring proper nutrition for children and maintaining peaceful family relationships. This framing resonated strongly with participants, as it addressed both spiritual and practical dimensions of daily life.

Participants were reassured that despite these challenges, practical and locally available solutions exist, such as improved infant feeding practices, use of locally produced foods, kitchen gardens, and small livestock. The introduction concluded by encouraging open dialogue, collective responsibility, and collaboration between families, faith leaders, community health volunteers, and development partners to reduce malnutrition and build resilient, healthy families.