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DIALOGUE TITLE	Nutritional Dialogue with community leaders in Bugaruma, Cheerie Rubenga, Idwi territory, South Kivu, DRC
DATE OF THE DIALOGUE	Monday, July 13, 2026 10:28 GMT +02:00
SUMMONED BY	BADERHEKUGUMA MUHUNGUSA Event announced on behalf of the organizer by: {advertiser_name}. {explanation} Feedback published on behalf of the organizer by: BADERHEKUGUMA MUHUNGUSA, Technical Support
LANGUAGE OF THE EVENT	French and Swahili
HOST VENUE	Bugarula, Democratic Republic of the Congo
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE: Bugarula Village, Bugarula Grouping, Rubenga Cheuri	. Idjwi territory, South Kivu province in the DRC
AFFILIATIONS	WORLD VISION
EVENT PAGE OF DIALOGUE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/fr/dialogue/60701/

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SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

43

PARTICIPATION BY AGE GROUP

0 0-11	0 12-18	6 19-29
21 30-49	15 50-74	1 75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

25 Female	18 Male	0 Other/Prefer not to say

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Children, youth groups and students	5 Civil society organizations (including consumer groups and organizations environmental)
0 Educators and Teachers	5 Religious Leaders/Religious Communities
0 Financial institutions and technical partners	11 Food producers (including farmers)
0 Healthcare professionals	0 Indigenous Peoples
0 Information and Technology Providers	0 Large food companies and retailers
0 Marketing and Advertising Experts	0 Government officials and representatives national/federal
0 News and Media (e.g., journalists)	0 Parents and Caregivers
0 Science and Universities	0 Small/Medium-Sized Enterprises
0 Government officials and representatives local/sous-national	United Nations
22 Women's Groups	1 Other (please specify)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

This nutritional dialogue session brought together religious leaders (Catholic, Protestant and Muslim) as well as community leaders from the center of Bugarula, in the Rubenga district, Idjwi territory, South Kivu province RDC

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE DIVERSITY OF PARTICIPANTS

It is worth highlighting the participation of the representative of the indigenous Pygmy minority people, whose presence has contributed to strengthening the inclusivity of the discussions. The session was also honored by the active presence and participatory approach of the Queen Mother, wife of His Majesty the Mwami of Rubenga, thus demonstrating the commitment of traditional authorities in favor of improving nutrition within the community

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SECTION TWO: FRAMEWORK AND DISCUSSION

MANAGEMENT

The town of Bugarula is an island where most of the population are farmers, fishermen, and livestock breeders. Their activities feed the cities of Bukavu and Goma. The nutrition dialogue session was held in the meeting room of the World Vision International sub-office in Bugarula, in the Idjwi territory. The setting was well-suited to this type of meeting, offering a calm, comfortable, and conducive environment for discussion. The room had adequate equipment for the smooth running of the meeting, as well as clean and functional sanitary facilities, ensuring good hygiene and well-being for the participants.

DISCUSSION

The topic discussed was the problem of malnutrition in the territory of Idjwi.

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SECTION THREE: RESULTS OF THE DIALOGUE

CHALLENGES

CAUSES

• Household poverty. • Limited
access to arable land. • Reduced food diversity

due to the disappearance of certain fish and agricultural species. • Over-selling of agricultural produce. • Lack of nutritional knowledge.

• Low agricultural production linked to a lack of seeds
and soil infertility. • Lack of family vegetable gardens. • Certain social

and behavioral practices detrimental to nutrition. CHALLENGES • Geographic isolation of the territory. •

Insufficient nutritional support services. • Limited
coverage of humanitarian and nutritional interventions. • Lack of technical training in agriculture and
nutrition.

• Difficulty accessing agricultural inputs and arable
land.

URGENT ACTIONS

Recommendations formulated by participants in the nutrition dialogue: • Strengthen household
livelihoods through income-generating activities to improve their access to a diverse and nutritious diet. • Promote family farming and advocate for better access to arable land for vulnerable households. • Encourage

the planting and protection of local agricultural and fruit species, as well as the preservation of fish stocks. • Raise awareness among men about their role and responsibilities in agricultural production, family food security, and household well-being. • Strengthen awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of excessive alcohol

consumption on health, family well-being, and nutrition. • Promote balanced crop management to ensure that a sufficient portion of agricultural production is reserved for family
consumption. • Regularly organize training and awareness sessions on nutrition, good food practices, and infant and young child feeding. • Facilitate farmers' access to quality seeds and other essential
agricultural inputs. • Encourage the creation and maintenance of family vegetable gardens to improve the availability of nutritious food at the household level. • Strengthen farmers' capacity in improved

agricultural techniques and sustainable soil fertility management practices. • Establish or strengthen community-based structures for nutritional
care and malnutrition screening. • Increase support from humanitarian partners
and development organizations for nutrition programs in the Idjwi territory. • Advocate with the relevant authorities for the improvement
of infrastructure and access roads to reduce the isolation of the territory.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No disagreements in the discussions

GENERAL SUMMARY

The nutritional dialogue with religious and community leaders was successfully held on July 13, 2026, as part of the Elimu Kwa Wote project in Idjwi. After the participants arrived, the session began with opening remarks, followed by introductions of the participants representing local authorities, religious denominations, community leaders, the technical service, and the local health facility.

The facilitators then led a session on chronic malnutrition, focusing on its causes, consequences, and best practices to promote within households. Discussions centered on the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child's life, dietary diversification, vegetable gardens, small-scale livestock farming, good hygiene and sanitation practices, and the protection and proper use of nutritional inputs.

Following the presentations, participants were divided into working groups to analyze the main causes of malnutrition in the Bugarula health area and to formulate solutions adapted to the local context. The results of the group work were presented in a plenary session and then further developed through participatory discussions involving all participants.

The discussions helped to identify several factors contributing to malnutrition, including household poverty, low dietary diversification, the sale of food products and nutritional inputs intended for family consumption, the inadequacy of vegetable gardens and small livestock farming, poor hygiene practices, limited access to arable land, as well as certain socio-cultural constraints unfavorable to good nutrition.

At the end of the discussions, several recommendations were made to strengthen the fight against malnutrition at the community level. Participants committed to intensifying household awareness campaigns on good nutritional practices, promoting vegetable gardens and the raising of small livestock and poultry, combating the systematic sale of nutritious food produced by households, and supporting initiatives aimed at improving the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

In an effort to combine theory with practice, participants shared a balanced meal prepared using locally available, nutrient-rich foods. This provided a concrete illustration of the concepts discussed during the session on dietary diversification and the importance of a healthy, balanced diet for household members.

The session concluded in a climate of satisfaction and commitment, reflecting the participants' interest in the topics discussed. The organizers expressed their sincere thanks to all participants for their availability, active participation, and the quality of their contributions throughout the discussions. The activity ended with a group photo, followed by a time for socializing and sharing, thus strengthening the bonds between the various stakeholders involved in promoting nutrition within the community.

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SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT AND METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF COMMITMENT

Commitments made by participants: • Increase household awareness of good nutritional practices, dietary diversification, and the consumption of locally available and nutritious foods. • Promote the creation and maintenance of family vegetable gardens to improve the availability and accessibility of vitamin- and mineral-rich foods at the household level. • Encourage small-scale livestock farming and family poultry farming (chickens, ducks, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, etc.) to increase the availability of animal protein and improve the nutrition of children and families. • Combat the systematic sale of nutritional products and inputs by raising awareness among households about reserving a portion of their production for family consumption. • Strengthen community-based screening and surveillance of malnutrition, while ensuring the rapid referral of malnourished children to appropriate health facilities.

METHOD AND FRAMEWORK

The nutritional dialogue was organized using a participatory approach, bringing together local authorities, religious and community leaders, and representatives from the CEBECA/Bugarula technical service. Following a presentation on the main causes, consequences, and preventive measures of chronic malnutrition, participants took part in group work followed by plenary discussions. These discussions helped identify the key issues.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVICTORS

For future sessions, it would be beneficial to strengthen the participation of men, religious leaders, traditional authorities, and other influential community stakeholders in order to promote a better understanding of key nutrition messages and support the effective implementation of commitments made. It is also recommended to establish a regular mechanism for monitoring the recommendations formulated during the dialogues.

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RETURN FORM: INFORMATION ADDITIONAL

THANKS

We express our sincere gratitude to the Elimu Kwa Wote project in Idjwi for its invaluable support in organizing this nutritional dialogue and for providing for the participants, particularly with regard to meals. Thanks to this support, religious and community leaders, local authorities, and other key stakeholders benefited from a conducive environment for discussion and reflection on the nutritional deficiencies facing the Bugarula community.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attendance list
- Consent form