

# Hope of Family News

*A monthly Newsletter of Hope of Family*

"BY JOINING  
OUR HANDS,  
THERE IS NO  
DOUBTS , WE  
CAN  
ALLEVIATE  
MANY  
BENEFICIARIES  
FROM **THE  
EXTREME  
POVERTY**"



**Alleviating Community from  
Extreme Poverty through Child  
Education**



Issue No 2

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## ABOUT HOPE OF FAMILY

The primary goal of Hope of Family is to promote parental involvement in their children education while improving families' socio-economic status. Families and Hope of Family staff agree on the contract terms to sign in order to effectively support their children and raise their school performance. Parents agree to visit their children on the weekly basis, provide more after-school time for their revision, respond sooner to teacher's or any other school leader's invitation to discuss about the child's learning.

### Our Mission

Reduce extreme family poverty through strong and efficient children education

### Our vision

Families that live decent life with appropriate and timely involvement in their children education.

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## Message from the Founder



*Dear partners, beneficiaries and Friends of Hope of Family,* Again I would like to welcome you to the Second Edition of Our Monthly Newsletter which is one of the many Communication Channels that Hope of Family is using to keep you informed about our activities and living conditions among our beneficiaries.

Last month was very busy at Hope of Family. We kept working closely with our beneficiaries and our Office has reopened after weeks of closing due to the lockdown that was put in place to contain the spread of COVID 19 Pandemic.

Among key activities that we conducted, there is an act of helping our beneficiaries who were affected by the torrential rain which has destroyed houses and properties of some of our beneficiaries. We responded to those emergency cases and many more other activities were conducted including the advancement of our communication programs, of which, we rely on for timely and accurate information about Hope of Family and our Stakeholders' role in alleviating rural community from extreme poverty.

Let me use this opportunity and express my sincere gratitude to our funders and special thanks to Jessica Bylo whose contribution continues to bring positive impacts among our beneficiaries.

I wish you a fruitful reading throughout the second edition of our newsletter.

*Best Regards.  
Mpayimana Aimable,  
Founder and Legal Representative*



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# BIG STORY

## Illiteracy limits parents' role in children's education - study

A study dubbed "Parental involvement in children's education in Rwanda: A case study of vulnerable families from Shyogwe Sector in Muhanga District", has indicated that low level of education and illiteracy of parents is the main barrier against parental involvement in children's education.

The study was carried out by scholars Cyprien Tabaro and Jeanne d' Arc Uwamahoro from the Department of Humanities, Arts and Languages Education at University of Rwanda's College of Education.

Researchers interviewed 1,118 vulnerable families from 1st Ubudehe category, teachers, school administrators and learners from G/S Shyogwe and Mbare Primary School in Muhanga District.

It indicates that the challenges which vulnerable families face include poverty, conflicts, and inadequate education.

Highlighting the barriers to parental involvement in children's education, it shows that 70 per cent of parents cited low level of education and illiteracy as the main barrier while 69.9 per cent lack the time to be involved in their children's education.

It also shows that 68.9 per cent of the respondents lack family basic needs and school needs due to poverty.

Parents' lack of confidence stands at 29.4 per cent while 13 per cent think it is not their role to be involved in their children's education.

It indicates that six per cent have no electricity and water, while divorce and conflict between parents was at 2.4 per cent, both barriers of children's education.

"Some parents involve their children in housework more than school activities and others are busy," reads the study.

In the study, school authorities say there is extreme poverty of parents, lack of financial means to buy school materials, lack of basic needs, lack of enough food due to lack of cultivation land.

They also mention that some children complained that

they did not go to school regularly due to lack of food, and they were unable to attend class because they had not eaten.

"Some parents have a poor mind-set and they are less motivated to be involved in their children's education. They think that the education of their children concerns the school and authorities only, and getting involved in their children's education is not their role."

### Recommendations

Some parents are against the idea that children can read books at home, because when children are home, it is used as an opportunity to help them with housework, instead of revising what they learnt in school, the study shows.

The researchers suggest that if given the resources and support, parents can get more involved in their children's education.

"Parents need to receive adequate supportive educational training so that they can understand their role in the education of their children," reads part of the study.

It mentions that extreme poverty should be reduced among vulnerable families as a way to motivate them, and also create time to collaborate with schools and provide relevant educational support to their children.

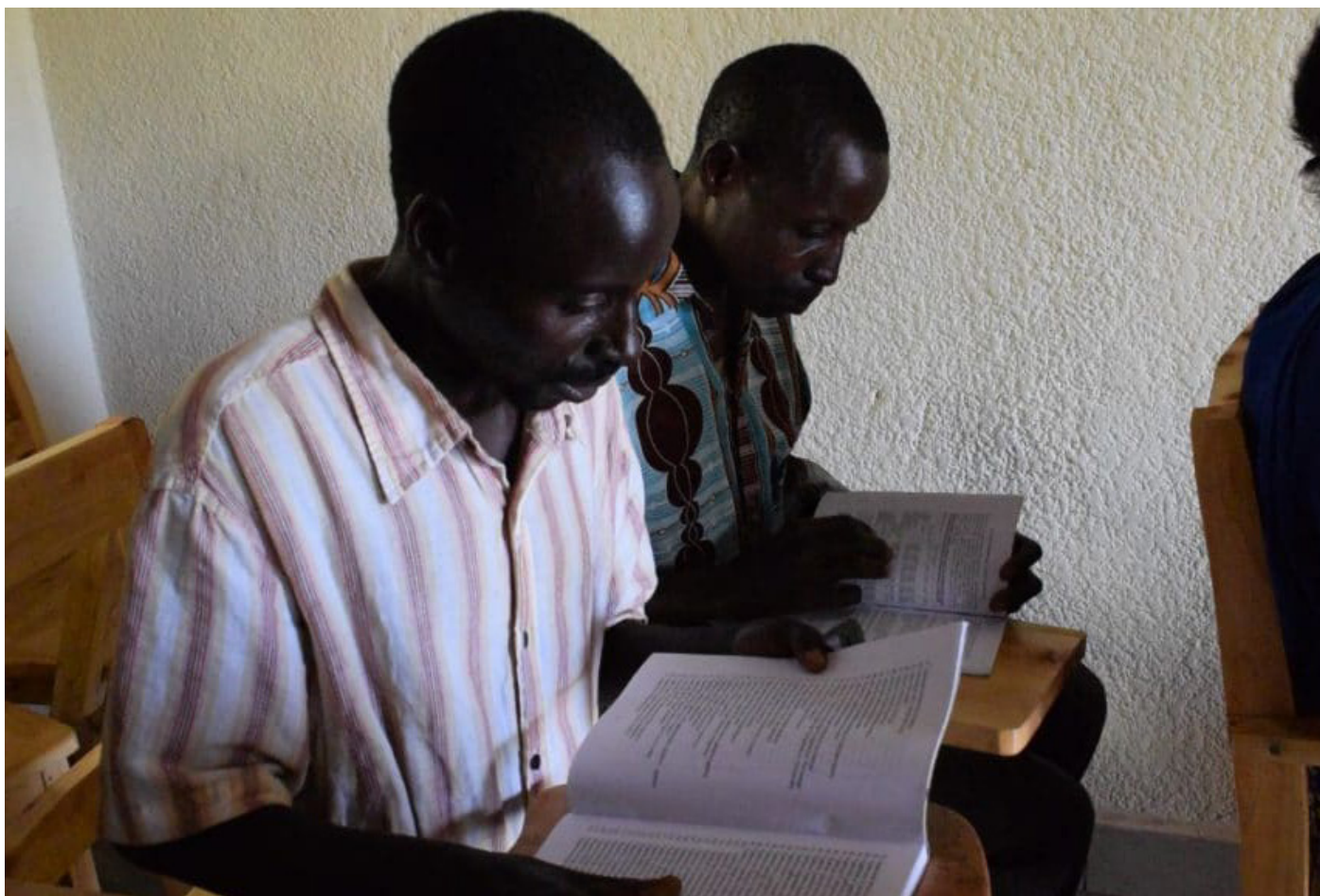
This, it says, will increase learners' performance and lead to future success of the children.

"Parents need to be motivated and regularly sensitised to understand the role of their involvement in children's education, facilitate them to conduct small scale projects to get financial means in order to buy school materials for their children," the study recommends. It also indorses providing advocacy to vulnerable parents, providing school materials to children from vulnerable families, frequently motivating and encouraging parents to be involved in their children's education.

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## **“During the Research in Shyogwe, we excluded Beneficiaries of Hope of Family Project”-Researcher clarifies**



The Study which aimed to assess the Parents' involvement in their children's education was conducted by two Rwandan University lecturers (Cyprien TABARO and Jeanne d' Arc Uwamahoro) and later published their findings in the International Journal of Contemporary Applied Researches Vol. 7, No. 2.

The targeted population live in Shyogwe Sector where a local NGO Hope of Family has been providing sponsorship of Children Education as well as interventions in families socio-economic aspects since 2018.

Researchers noted that normally the study was conducted to check if Hope of Family Education Support has had positive impacts which can lead to the scaling up of the project's programme to more beneficiaries and increase them from 100 families currently benefiting from the project.

According to Jeanne d' Arc Uwamahoro, a co-researcher from the Department of Humanities and Language Education, School of Education, University of Rwanda-College of Education, the study didn't in-

clude current beneficiaries of Hope of Family rather its targeted residents listed in the 1st Category of Ubudehe programme.

Ms. Jeanne d'Arc explained that "While conducting the study, we excluded beneficiaries of Hope of Family to avoid research bias. The targeted families were those in the first category of Ubudehe."

Ubudehe refers to the long-standing Rwandan practice and culture of collective action and mutual support to solve problems within a community, according to a recent academic research paper. It is not known exactly when Ubudehe was first practiced, but it is thought to date back more than a century.

Under the four categories of Ubudehe, the first category has the very poor who do not have a house or cannot pay rent; have a poor diet; cannot get basic household tools and clothes. The second category includes those who have their own houses; can afford to rent a house; mostly get food and earn a wage from working with others. **ENDS**



# Responding to the Emergency cases as flood damages Beneficiaries' homes



Hope of Family has issued payment for temporary accommodation to families affected by the recent floods that have ravaged different sectors in Muhanga district, Southern Province of Rwanda.

The accommodated families are beneficiaries of Hope of Family.

Emmanuel MFATENEZA, HoF Executive Director said that the recent flood caused by heavy rain in Muhanga District has also had negative impacts on HoF beneficiaries where some beneficiaries' houses and properties were destroyed by the downpours.

However, he adds that, as emergency response, Hope of family immediately paid for their temporary accommodation as reconstruction of the damaged houses is set to begin soon.

In Rwanda across the country dozens were killed as heavy rains trigger floods, landslides. Worst downpours in past months damage roads, houses and bridges and sweep away farms, Rwandan government says. At least 65 people have died recently in Rwanda after heavy rains damaged houses and washed away bridges, according to officials.





# Hope of Family' Beneficiaries get Hygiene and Sanitation Tools to fight COVID 19



Muhanga: 28th May 2020: Hope of Family has donated Hygiene and sanitation materials to five families recently affected by the torrential rain that has demolished their houses as well as destroying home properties including hygiene tools. Emmanuel MFATENZEZA, Executive Director of Hope of Family explains that the donated materials will help beneficiaries to keep preventing the COVID 19 contamination as well as to promote the culture of hygiene and sanitation at the household level.

Benefited families are those who recently affected by the flood caused by the torrential rain that have ravaged different sectors in Muhanga district, Southern Province of Rwanda.

These families are currently hosted by their neighbors, thanks to Hope of Family payment for their temporary rent. However, Mfataneza explained that “Hope of Family is currently working closely with the affected families and local leaders to processing the houses renovation permit after which they the construction activities will kick off.”



Also on 28th May 29, 2020, this NGO constructed two Kitchen gardens to two families who live in Kabungo village, Kinini cell, Shyogwe sector in Muhanga District.

The two Kitchen gardens are part of ensuring the quality food nutrition among Hope of Family beneficiaries.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN RWANDA: A CASE STUDY OF VULNERABLE FAMILIES FROM SHYOGWE SECTOR IN MUHANGA DISTRICT



Lack of time among Parents to be involved in their children's education:  
**69.90%**



Low level of education and illiteracy of the parent:  
**70.10%**

# 68.90%

Lack of family basic needs and school needs due family poverty

## QUALITY OF LIFE

There is extreme poverty of parents, lack of financial means to buy school materials, lack of basic needs, lack of enough food due to lack of cultivation land.



## PARENT MINDSET

Some parents have low mindset and they are less motivated to be involved in their children's education. They think that education of their children is regarding the schools authorities and teachers only, and getting involved in their children education is not their role

## EDUCATION HINDRANCES



Parents who are living from doing temporary small jobs such as daily work for farmers, etc. If there is no such jobs, a serious problem occurs in family and the children stop to come to school during that period"

## LITERACY AROUND SHYOGWE

The findings indicated that despite the barriers that parents from vulnerable families face, they try to be involved in their children's education though at moderate level. Few challenges reported include among others family poverty, conflicts in families, lack of time, low level of education and illiteracy to many of them.

## Prominence of Smart phones on Family level



Rwanda is a country where the use of smart phones is sharply going up. The smart phones are used in several activities including e-commerce, e-learning, access to information related to agriculture, health, and of course smart communication

However, it was noticed that in rural areas, family can't easily have access to smart phones due to limited or lack of financial means. For Hope of Family beneficiaries as soon as they are given smart phones; they will benefit much.

### Among the benefits are:

- Ø Receiving accurate information regarding family development
- Ø Access to timely information as soon as they are distributed by the Government or other stakeholders
- Ø Social networking between family members and friends
- Ø Involve in children's education as soon as parents will be able to communicate with school administration about child's education.
- Ø Access to health services in a timely manner
- Ø Sending and Receiving money via smartphones apps, Mobile Money, Tigo cash and Airtel Money and this is part of the promotion of cashless economy.
- Ø Timely reporting of Gender based violence and other forms of violence at family level.
- Ø Children will be able to follow lessons provided via smart phones networks
- Ø Children will be able to conduct Research on Google
- Ø Increased reading culture among children as they will be able to easily have access to online reading materials.
- Ø Reporting on the progress of Hope of Family Interventions at a family level
- Ø Filling online forms needed in various research activities that are relevant to Hope of Family project among many other benefits.

Together we can create an informed community which is able to effectively use digital tools for sustainable family development.

TOGETHER WE CAN