



ANNUAL REPORT FOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: July, 2019- June,2020



June 2020

HOPE OF FAMILY'S THEORY OF CHANGE



Figure 1: Hope of Family Theory of Change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hope of Family (HoF) vision is all about families that live decent life with appropriate and timely involvement in their children education. Hope of Family is based in the rural south of Rwanda. The organization's mission is to reduce extreme family poverty through supporting child education and family livelihoods. In order to achieve this mission, Hope of Family works around four clear and concrete objectives: provide wrap around support to children from vulnerable families ,improve children's basic education by involving more their parents ,promote adult literacy and capacity building among the beneficiaries, support families' initiatives for their socio-economic welfare.

This report outlines activities that were carried out by Hope of Family program since July 2019 up to June 2020. The implementation of activities at field level is done in Southern province, Muhanga District, Shyogwe sector. HoF support has so far reached 1469 individuals from cells of Kinini (Kabungo, Nyakabingo) and other cells in Shyogwe sector. The whole source of budget comes from the US-based organization, Running Chicken. The special support to these lowest income families includes provision of materials to their children, provision of domestic animals, hygiene and sanitation materials, long term project to boost their well-being, provision of mobile phones and radios, talent detection for children and finally regular trainings of parents.

Achievements realized in this period are organized under four objectives of HoF stated above. In addition to key objectives of HoF, there are other crosscutting activities supporting the overall HoF mission. Some of them include conducting research on HoF intervention and project midline evaluation. Hope of Family team and beneficiaries are very thankful to Running Chicken organization for their generous support in order to realize all these achievements within this year of 2019/2020 period of implementation.

Aimable MPAYIMANA

Founder& Legal Representative

HOPE OF FAMILY'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT GLANCE

Activities done	Target planned	Success in Numbers
Objective one: Provide wrap around support to children from vulnerable families		
Distribution of school materials packages to children	52	137
Organizing Plan of individual children coaching	37	52
Identifying children's talent detection and development	52	65
Payment of school fees for orphans children	0	4
Objective two: Increase children's basic education by involving more their parents		
Encouraging parents to be engaged in in their children education	23	22
Tracking children school performance and Children behavior at school	0	41
Organizing children 's study Trip of King Palace Museum at Nyanza	37	36
Objective 3: Promote adult literacy and capacity building among beneficiaries		
Encouraging adults who can't neither read nor write to attend community literacy schools	50	466
Organizing regular parents training about parental involvement in children education and	23	22
Attending training of balance diet preparation organized by Kula project in Kayonza district	25	25
Encouraging beneficiaries to attend community library	100	80
Objective 4: Support families for their socio-economic welfare		
Construction of kitchen garden in family	50	61
Promoting Saving culture and support Family's saving group	20	100
Distribution of hand washing tools and cleanliness materials	100	114
Distribution of pigs to vulnerable families and set up piggeries	20	20
Constructing family's modern toilets	20	87

Distribution of mobile Phones and Radio to beneficiaries	0	80
Supporting beneficiaries to get foods during lockdown due to COVID-19	0	101
Supporting the family members to get Community- based Health insurance “Mutuelle de santé”2019/2020	1445	1469

Table 1: Hope of Family's achievement at Glance

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hope of Family would like to express our deepest appreciation to all those who provided the possibility of completing all these wonderful activities,

Great thanks to Running Chicken organization for their generous support in order to realize all these achievements within this year of 2019/2020 period of implementation,

We would like to express our gratitude to our generous donors and other development partners that understand and support HoF cause. We appreciate their comments and guidance especially while implementing all these wonderful field activities,

Furthermore, our appreciation goes to JADF of Muhanga district and Shyogwe sector management for their comments and guidance especially while implementing all these wonderful field project activities,

Last but not least, many thanks to the HoF beneficiaries who have so far embraced HoF philosophy and through their cooperation they are improving their socio-economic standards while getting involved in their children education.

Table of Contents

HOPE OF FAMILY'S THEORY OF CHANGE	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
HOPE OF FAMILY'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT GLANCE	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
LIST OF TABLE AND FIGURES	8
I. Overview of Hope of Family project.....	9
II.1.Objective one: Provide wrap-around support to children from vulnerable families	10
II.1.1. Distribution of school materials packages to children	10
II.1.2. Talents detection among children	11
II.2.Objective two: Increase children's basic education by involving more their parents.....	12
II.2.1. Achievements in parental engagement in their children education	13
II.2.2 Children study Trip	14
<p>The children from HoF beneficiaries have visited King's Palace Museum located in Nyanza district, Southern province. The purpose of this trip was to help the children to understand the history of Rwanda and learn more about kingdom leadership and the colonial history of Rwanda. The 36 primary students supported by Hope of Family have visited Museum and gained an explanation about Kingdom leadership and Rwanda history.....</p>	
II.3. Objective three: promote adult literacy and capacity building among beneficiaries.....	15
II.3.2. Achievements in Community library.....	16
II.4. Objective four: Support families for their socio-economic welfare.....	17
II.4.1. Supporting saving group of 100 families to start long term project	17
<p>HoF has encouraged 100 families of beneficiaries to form saving groups for working together and combine their income capacity for improving their living condition and basic needs of their children. Hope of Family has been supporting them through saving groups in order to start small businesses that can support them to generate income. The families were very vulnerable and they did not have the source of family income. This event happened at HoF office in presence of Local leaders at sector level sector level.</p>	
II.4.2. Construction of Kitchen garden at family	19
<p>HoF supported 62 families to construct the kitchen garden at their home for promoting a balanced diet and reducing malnutrition among children under five years old. The Kitchen gardens are very critical at family's level especially for improving balanced diet and protecting children from malnutrition. Each kitchen garden was constructed at each family and now kitchen garden constructed it is at production stage and families are enjoying well vegetables.The 59 families received support from Hope of Family and they are living in Songa village of Mbare cell and Nyakabingo village of Kinini cell in Shyogwe sector.</p>	
II.4.3 Distribution of Pigs and set up piggeries	19
II.4.4. Distribution of hand washing tools and cleanless materials.....	20

II.4.5. Construction of modern family toilets	21
II.4.5. Community- based Health insurance “Mutuelle de santé”	21
II.4.6. Distribution of foods to 100 families for mitigating Covid-19 impact	22
II.4.6. Distribution of Mobile phones and radios	23
III. Hope of family crosscutting activities	23
III.1. Academic research carried out by the University of Rwanda lecturers	24
III.2. HoF project Midline evaluation	24

LIST OF TABLE AND FIGURES

List of tables

Table 1: Hope of Family's achievement at Glance	5
-------------------------------------------------------	---

List of figures

Figure 1: Hope of Family Theory of Change	2
Figure 2: School materials packages distribution	11
Figure 3: Children in talent detection session	12
Figure 4: Parent visited her kid at Mbare Primary School	14
Figure 5: Children visited King pelace Museum at Nyanza	15
Figure 6: Training of balanced diet preparation Hope of Family’beneficiaries with Kula project beneficiaries	16
Figure 7: HoF staff with beneficiaries during reading session	17
Figure 8: The 100 beneficiaries received long term project ‘support	18
Figure 9: The kitchen garden constructed at family	19
Figure 10: The distribution of pigs to families and piggeries constructed	20
Figure 11: Distribution of hand washing tools to beneficiaries and cell offices	20
Figure 12: Family’s modern toilets constructed	21
Figure 13: Distribution of food to families during lockdown period due to Covid-19	22
Figure 14: Distribution of Mobile Phones and Radios to Families	23

I. Overview of Hope of Family project

Vision of HoF is all about families live decent life with appropriate and timely involvement in their children's education. Hope of Family supports most vulnerable families within two years of the timeline. The families and Hope of Family staff agree on the contract terms to sign to effectively support their children and raise their school performance. Parents agree to visit their children at school 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 the child's learning. More specifically, Hope of Family (i) provide wrap-around support to children from family beneficiaries, (ii) improve children's basic education performance by involving more their parents, (iii) promote adult literacy and capacity building among the beneficiaries, and (iv) support families' initiatives for their social-economic welfare.

Moreover, our project activities focus on Family support (HoF supports the family to improve their socio-economics status) , Health and sanitation (HoF supports families to afford medical health insurance so that they can easily have access to medical care), Support for children education (HoF provides school materials packages to children) and Parental coaching (HoF provide training and encourage parents to be involved in children education). Hope of Family is operating its project activities in Shyogwe sector, Muhanga district in the southern province of Rwanda.

The most vulnerable families are being identified alongside with the local administration guidance. Hope of Family intervenes in those families' livelihoods and economic development. Hope of Family project activities include distribution of school materials package, supporting

children to identifying their talents, providing parental coaching training on the regular basis, encourage the adults who can neither read nor write to attend community literacy, providing a domestic animal to family, establishing kitchen garden at family, providing handwashing tools, repairing family's houses , providing mobile phones and Radios, covering medical health insurance to family members and supporting families to start long term project that can generate income

Project activities done during the project implementation period 2019-2020

The project activities implemented by Hope of Family from 2019 through 2020 are classified by project objectives and those activities were done from July 2019 up to June 2020.

II.1.Objective one: Provide wrap-around support to children from vulnerable families

Education is a fundamental human right and an essential tool to ensure that all Rwandese citizens (women and men, girls, and boys) realize their full potential. Education has been considered as a critical tool to achieve development and poverty reduction in Rwanda. Education is a basic human right and a significant factor in the development of children and communities. There are also significant constraints to accessing primary education services among low-income children. According to the baseline results conducted by Hope of Family, it was revealed that 78 % of children are at primary whereas 22% are not school. Those who are at school, they seriously lack school materials and yet, this is a critical area to make sure that learning is happening.90 % of parents who were asked, they have reported that they are not able to provide a full package of school materials.

II.1.1. Distribution of school materials packages to children

Hope of Family has distributed school materials packages include pens, pencils, notebooks, a box of mathematical and pads for ladies to 107 Students from the primary level and 30 students from the secondary level. We have also paid the school fees (secondary level) of first semester of academic years 2020 to 4 students who are total orphans. Over 137 children received full school

materials packages and the ceremony happened at HoF office in the presence of HoF staff and local leaders.



Figure 2: School materials packages distribution

II.1.2. Talents detection among children

Most of children from vulnerable families of rural area do not have enough opportunities for doing extracurricular activities and yet, they are a source of enjoyment, excitement, and nurturing their talents. Hope of Family has organized different extracurricular activities for over 130 children from HoF beneficiaries to support them to discover their talents. Out of 130 children attended talent detection sessions, 65 of them have been selected to develop their talents. Up now, we have 5 children in drawing talent (art), 30 in football talent and 30 in traditional dancing.



Figure 3: Children supported by Hope of Family attending talent detection sessions. There is also a football club, traditional dance and art. All these led by professional coaches hired and paid by the project.

II.2.Objective two: Increase children’s basic education by involving more their parents

Parental engagement in their children's education is of paramount importance, especially when encouraged at very young age. HoF knows that parents have an influential role in the successful education of their children. Parents become more useful in their children's education by setting higher aspirations regarding the formal school environment and home. Very specifically, vulnerable families supported by Hope of Family agree to visit their children on the weekly basis,

they agree to respond to any call from teachers or school administrators and take part in all school meetings that concern parents. They also agree to support their children in the homework and any other activity that should favor the appropriate learning of their children. The objective of this activity is all about mobilizing parents about the importance of getting involved in their children's education.

In the recent baseline survey, 80 % of the parents do not visit their children at school. 90 % of parents do not allow their children to revise lessons while being home. This is a great challenge that hampers effective schooling; immediate attention and appropriate strategies should be laid upon because without active parental engagement, all formal schooling efforts will be in vain. Children's grades will suffer because kids who live with such parents who do not value the importance of education and their active participation, it becomes very difficult to accomplish assignments which in most cases affect their scores. In most cases these uninvolved parents can show negative attitudes towards the school and it may affect negatively kids' academic success.

II.2.1. Achievements in parental engagement in their children education

Parents visit children on the weekly basis. This program has been specifically monitoring 23 parents that are directly assisted by HoF considering their level of need. The parents visited their children at Mbare Primary school and Shyogwe Primary school from. On average, each head of the family has visited her kid at school for 5 hours per month. While being at school, parents assist some class activities. Additionally, they also talk to the concerned teachers and in most cases, there is also a debrief meeting with the teacher to ensure the study progress of the kids. The impact has been very huge: children feel more supported and for these schools located in rural places, teachers and school administrators feel they are not alone in the whole teaching and learning process. Parents learned how imperative to allow their children do homework after school and teachers themselves say this has a positive impact. The primary school performance of children has been increased by 3% during the academic year 2019



Figure 4: Parent visited her kid at Mbare Primary School

II.2.2 Children study Trip

The children from HoF beneficiaries have visited King's Palace Museum located in Nyanza district, Southern province. The purpose of this trip was to help the children to understand the history of Rwanda and learn more about kingdom leadership and the colonial history of Rwanda. The 36 primary students supported by Hope of Family have visited Museum and gained an explanation about Kingdom leadership and Rwanda history.



Figure 5: Children visited King pelace Museum at Nyanza

II.3. Objective three: promote adult literacy and capacity building among beneficiaries

Adult literacy is the cornerstone for sustainable development and in the context of Hope of Family, it is very hard to ask for a parent to support his/her child's education if he himself can neither read nor write. For example, they cannot read teachers' comments on students' assignments, they can hardly use communication gadgets, and in most cases, they cannot read different information that pertains to their socio-economic development standards. To those who can both read and write, they need ongoing pieces of training that revolve around different themes and topics to make sure that they clearly understand what they are supposed to be doing in terms of parental engagement and improvement of their socio-economic standards. Additionally, they need ample opportunities for educating themselves through reading a wide range of books that cover the most important areas that reflect Hope of Family intervention. The 60 % of heads of households can neither read nor write, Hope of Family is committed to supporting and sending beneficiaries to schools who can neither read nor write. In addition, the strategy of scaling up how to reach out all people sector-wide is now being considered. In the Shyogwe sector, we have so far 3 community literacy schools namely in Vunga, Songa, Kinini cells that are close to our office.



Figure 6: Training of balanced diet preparation Hope of Family’beneficiaries with Kula project beneficiaries

II.3.2. Achievements in Community library

According to a recent baseline survey conducted by HoF, all 100% parents have never heard of the existence of the community library and yet this is the source of knowledge to ensure that they complement what they learn on the regular basis. It is in this context that Hope of Family library has been set to not only enable HoF beneficiaries to have access to it but also help the entire community around be able to read different interesting books with the overall purpose of improving their family life and children school performance. The community library run by HoF has now 214 books of 90 titles; most of them talk about issues of community development and other different aspects of human life that include culture, history and conflict resolution. HoF beneficiaries have demonstrated a high interest in these books and most of them are properly written in Kinyarwanda. The average of 80 people (beneficiaries & non-beneficiaries) of Hope of Family attended library at least for two hours per week. That figure is not very high but at least this is very promising start as this concept is still new in the rural places of Rwanda. In addition, Hope of Family extended the use of the community library in the recent exhibition that happened in Muhanga district. This was another chance to allow HoF support visitors



Figure 7: HoF staff with beneficiaries during reading session

II.4. Objective four: Support families for their socio-economic welfare

Families' socio-economic welfare is very important for the learning of students. Students that find themselves in the most conducive environment are the ones who can easily adapt themselves in the school environment. Hope of Family understands that in order to be properly engaged on their children's education, families socio-economic standards have to be viable.

II.4.1. Supporting saving group of 100 families to start long term project

HoF has encouraged 100 families of beneficiaries to form saving groups for working together and combine their income capacity for improving their living condition and basic needs of their children. Hope of Family has been supporting them through saving groups in order to start small businesses that can support them to generate income. The families were very vulnerable and they did not have the source of family income. This event happened at HoF office in presence of Local leaders at sector level sector level.



Figure 8:100 beneficiaries received long term project support

II.4.2. Construction of Kitchen garden at family

HoF supported 62 families to construct the kitchen garden at their home for promoting a balanced diet and reducing malnutrition among children under five years old. The Kitchen gardens are very critical at family's level especially for improving balanced diet and protecting children from malnutrition. Each kitchen garden was constructed at each family and now kitchen garden constructed it is at production stage and families are enjoying well vegetables. The 59 families received support from Hope of Family and they are living in Songa village of Mbare cell and Nyakabingo village of Kinini cell in Shyogwe sector.



Figure 9: The kitchen garden constructed at family

II.4.3 Distribution of Pigs and set up piggeries

Hope of Family distributed 20 pigs to 20 families of beneficiaries with purpose of promoting the livestock and applies extensive agriculture at their home. Hope of Family has also supported them to construct 20 piggeries houses at their home. As HoF encourage the parents to be engaged in children education, the income generated from livestock activity will be used to find out basic needs for children education and family level. Now pigs distributed, are at production stage.



Figure 10: The distribution of pigs to families and piggeries constructed

II.4.4. Distribution of hand washing tools and cleanliness materials

HoF is committed to increased cleanliness among community members. People should have a culture of washing their hands especially after using bathrooms in order to avoid different diseases; this is the culture that HoF has been encouraging. 110 Hand washing tools and cleanliness materials that include soap, jerrican, basin and water detergents were distributed to families and cells offices (Kinini, Mubuga, Mbare and Ruli) of Shyogwe sector. This event took place at HoF office with presence of local administration.



Figure 11: Distribution of hand washing tools to beneficiaries and cell offices

II.4.5.Construction of modern family toilets

Hope of Family has supported 22 family's beneficiaries to construct modern toilets or latrines in their families in order to promote hygiene and sanitation culture at family level and 65 families received a support of iron sheets and doors for reconstructing their toilets at home.



Figure 12: Family's modern toilets constructed

II.4.5. Community- based Health insurance “Mutuelle de santé”

Health insurance is of paramount significance to ensure that people have better lives. This is much connected with students' performance because in case parents cannot afford necessities that including this type of insurance, all their children's class efforts will be in vain. A student who can't get proper medication on time is very hard to expect from him/her good performance.

Health insurance was covered to 1469 individuals for fiscal year of 2019/2020. Out of this big number, 383 individuals came from 75 families that were originally meant to be supported by Hope. HoF had planned to help 100 families but 25 of them were in the category one and this means that Government paid for them. In order to raise our visibility and respond to the sector request, HoF additionally paid 1086 individuals from different cells of Shyogwe sector. Those people have themselves said that whenever they fall sick, they are able to immediately go to the

health center for adequate treatment. This is also good news that normally affects their children's grades.

II.4.6. Distribution of foods to 100 families for mitigating Covid-19 impact

Hope of Family has distributed special support of food to 100 families of beneficiaries who live in Kabungo and Nyakabingo village, Kinini cell in Shyogwe Sector .Over 2 tons of food have been distributed to families by Hope of Family. This activity was done as solution of mitigating Covid-19 impact at family level and it happened with presence of local administration. HoF provided also contribution at Shyogwe sector level for supporting other vulnerable families.



Figure 13: Distribution of food to families during lockdown period due to Covid-19

II.4.6. Distribution of Mobile phones and radios

Hope of Family donated radios and mobile phones to 80 families to facilitate them have access to information as well as sharing daily updates among its beneficiaries. HoF also gave them solar power bank and home light. Now, radios and mobile phones are supporting children to follow lesson courses that are passing on radio program organized by Rwanda Education Board.



Figure 14: Distribution of Mobile Phones and Radios to Families

III. Hope of family crosscutting activities

Crosscutting activities are not directly connected to the four objectives of HoF but in one way or another, they support the overall vision and mission of the organization. In order to make our work have an impact we always need to evidence our work with monitoring and evaluation data. Academic researchers are also important in order to see how people understand our intervention from an external eye of academicians. Community awareness championed by the staff of HoF as well as planning massive campaigns about parental engagement should be considered. All these become successful only if we have an appropriate platform of communication channels while at the same targeting opportunities of partnering with people and organizations that we share the same cause and passion.

III.1.Academic research carried out by the University of Rwanda lecturers

Dr. Tabaro Cyprien and Uwamahoro Jeanne d' Arc from the University of Rwanda conducted an academic research "*Parental involvement in children's primary education in Rwanda: A case study of vulnerable families from Shyogwe Sector in Muhanga District*". This research was carried out with the collaboration of Hope of Family. The concept of parental involvement in children's education seems to be new in Rwanda and mainly in rural areas like Shyogwe sector where many parents are not highly educated. Hence, such a situation motivated both of them to undertake this research to come up with tangible facts and seek how parents can be made aware of their role following their children's education. The main objective of the study is to evaluate the level of parents' involvement in children's education in Shyogwe Sector, Muhanga District. Through this research, they hope to raise parents' awareness and improve their involvement in their children's education with the support of HoF. The findings of this research will help Hope of Family and other partner's development to plan good program that will be encouraged the parents to be engaged in children's education. The paper was published at [IJCAR Journal](http://ijcar.net/assets/pdf/Vol7-No2-February2020/4.-Parental-involvement-in-childrens-education-in-Rwanda-A-case-study-of-vulnerable-families-from-Shyogwe-Sector-in-Muhanga-District.pdf) and its available at this link: <http://ijcar.net/assets/pdf/Vol7-No2-February2020/4.-Parental-involvement-in-childrens-education-in-Rwanda-A-case-study-of-vulnerable-families-from-Shyogwe-Sector-in-Muhanga-District.pdf>

III.2. HoF project Midline evaluation

Hope of Family has conducted project midline evaluation for 100 family's beneficiaries for assessing project performance and tracking project impact after one year of implementation. This project evaluation was carried out from November 2019 up to December 2019. HoF conducted this midline evaluation on project impact towards enhancing children's educational and family livelihood. The findings show more achievements that ensure the full graduation of beneficiaries by the end of May 2020 as it was in the organization's plans. The students' school performance for the academic year 2019 has been increased by 3% from 46.10% in 2018 to 49.20% in 2019. The findings of this midline project evaluation are available on this link: <http://hopeoffamily.org/full-report/hof-midline-project-evaluation-full-report1587158720>

Conclusion

Hope of Family has implemented those project activities planned and there is an extensive acceptance and recognition that Hope of Family intervention has affected positively the children education and improve the socioeconomic status of families. The engagements of parents in children's education have been improved school performance and behavior of children at school. Additional support is needed to expand Hope of Family intervention by adopting an approach that integrates solutions that cheaply and easily handle families' initiatives for their socio-economic welfare. The beneficiaries themselves, local administration, generous donors, and any other party should know that all that intervention packages have been happened just on the simple ground for support families to live a decent life in order to appropriately and timely get involved in their children education