

AUGUST 2020| ISSUE 05

IN FOCUS FOUNDING MEMBERS ASSEMBLY

STAFF REFRESHED ON "THEORY OF CHANGE"

where are we?
where we go?
How to be there?

BEST QUOTES

THINK OF HOPE OF
FAMILY

EXCLUSIVE!

NON-PROFIT WORK
AND COVID 19: **HOW**
RWANDA BASED
HOPE OF FAMILY
STAYS ON COURSE
DESPITE
CHALLENGING TIME

Greetings From the Founder



MPAYIMANA Aimable, Founder

Greetings to all,

In these days when the entire World lives in extremely difficult season because of COVID 19, we still think of you and your loved ones encouraging you to work hard and always respect measures and guidelines put in place to curb this destructive COVID 19 spread.

I salute commitment and assiduity of Hope of Family staff and beneficiaries, as well who always put in their efforts to respect those health measures that mainly include handwashing, social distancing and use of face masks while carrying out their day-to-day duties. Despite this most unprecedented season because of this pandemic, at least other two exciting events happened :Hope of Family staff interacted with a wonderful team of founding members to exchange ideas around this great initiative. Founding members themselves spent their time to meet beneficiaries in order to have first-hand experience of Hope of Family intervention. All these have happened in close collaboration with local administrators and we are proud to see this solid partnership that is hugely impacting many people's lives.

As we advance, I always encourage you to support Hope of Family work because there is always a great reason to do so. Hope of Family staff are committed to the highest sense of accountability and all our core values are driving force behind our successful field activities rotating around four pillars of the Theory of Change. This young but great organization has built strong ties with our beneficiaries through close collaboration with our partners that mainly operate in Muhanga district. Even during these difficult days worldwide, we have never relinquished our philosophy; this tempting period rather revealed who we are and how we live up our great mission that we are wholeheartedly committed to. I write this with firm awareness that challenges coming along with COVID 19 containment efforts are many but together we will beat them one by one. While reading this newsletter, I always urge you to keep high optimism and positive outlook towards health officials 'measures' in order to halt COVID 19.

Happy reading!

Hope of Family Founding Members meet



On 22nd August 2020, in Muhanga District, Southern Province, Hope of Family Founding Members have convened in a general assembly to evaluate the organization's current status as well as to chart the way forward. The meeting was led by Mr. Aimable Mpayimana, Founder and Legal Representative of Hope of Family.

HoF Founding members were satisfied with the progress made so far. Participants also joined in a field trip to assess the impacts of ongoing programmes among beneficiaries. The meeting also approved the financial budget for the year 2020/2021.

Such a meeting is attended by only principal founding members and the high-level meeting of the organization.

It is during this meeting that members examined themselves and agree on where they want to take the organization. Outcomes are also share with other members in their respective level



Non-Profit Work and COVID

19: How Rwanda based HOPE OF FAMILY stays on Course despite Challenging Time



Rwanda-The Corona Virus pandemic has affected the work of many non-profit organizations until some of them decided to close the doors while others kept on the course with limited means as well as limited field works which also might have affected the on ground results of activities mostly put in place to help local beneficiaries.

Through the Meet the Professional Programme, TOPAFRICANEWS Reporter has joined with the Executive Director of Hope of Family Organization to discuss how their NGO tried to stay on during the challenging moment when every one in the community was looking for the direct assistance to cope with the situation upstretched from COVID 19 pandemic.

As we have been reporting on this Organization's work which has inspired many people among them, some went even beyond and asked us to kindly let them the financing model of Hope of Family's activities

currently reaching directly to 100 families who live in Shyogwe Sector, Muhanga District in the Southern Province of Rwanda. The reporter's direct questions to Mr. Mfateneza Emmanuel, the Executive Director of Hope of Family Organizations touched on the status of financial means during the COVID 19 pandemic, advocacy programmes, benevolent activities as well as the reason why whoever has the ability can support the organization's financing model in order to reach as many beneficiaries as possible.



Mr. Mfateneza Emmanuel, a resident of Shyogwe sector who is always working from the field with his team under direct guidance of Mr. Aimable Mpayimana, the Founder and Legal representative of HoF, explained that "Normally, Hope of Family has one donor called "Running Chicken", a San Francisco-based non-profit that partners with local organizations in East Africa to kick-start community designed and owned development projects."

"This is the only donor that we have until now." Mr. Mfateneza added

He noted that in order to survive the harsh times of Corona Virus, it was due to the financing model where Hope of Family supports a beneficiary's family in a period of 2 years which are pre-budgeted and that might have been one reason the organization's work had not been heavily affected by the pandemic.

"So, this means that we are still able to provide for our beneficiaries since the two-years for our current beneficiaries have been designed and budgeted before the outbreak and again our donor is still here." He added.

Throughout its work, Hope of Family works with people with wide range of expertise to share knowledge and hands-on experiences about family poverty reduction, empowerment, successful primary education, saving culture and volunteerism.

Mr. Mfateneza explained that "Since many citizens need to be supported, Hope of Family is of course unable to reach all families in Shyogwe Sector."

"It is against this that we also engage in advocacy programmes where we ask those with benevolent heart to support our initiatives with the objective of alleviating families from extreme poverty as well as enabling a decent education for their children."

He added that also Hope of Family has Volunteerism opportunities where for instance a graduate from University or college can help this local non-profit organization by contributing needed skills that can help the Organization's growth.

In statistics, Hope of Family support 100 families made of 500 direct beneficiaries. The organization's also 2500 indirect beneficiaries.



“Due to limited means, Hope of Family can not cover the funding for all 3000 beneficiaries despite their lowest household income which also led to the school drop out among the growing number of children.” He explained.

“So, from this situation, we develop project proposals and present them to those whom we think can donate to such cause. We also use our social media platforms and media friends in our advocacy programs and when someone is touched, he or she can donate to one or three families and so on.” Mfateneza added.

In case one might need to donate to Hope of Family programmes, as explained by the Executive Director, it is very easy. You can send an E-mail to: info@hopeoffamily.org or visit their Physical address which locates in Muhanga District, Southern Province of Rwanda, Shyogwe Sector in Kinini Cell.

You can also use the bank account below.:



DONATE TO THIS CAUSE

**GT BANK ACCOUNT:
211237691251060 (USD)**



Muhanga: Hope of Family *Staff refreshed on “Theory of Change”*



On 14th August 2020, all staff of Hope of Family participated in a one-day training on “Hope of Family Theory of Change” focusing on four pillars of Hope of Family namely Family Resilience Actions, Children Education Support, Family Awareness and Capacity Development as well as Family commitment and Actions. All the four pillars lead to the Family’s Hope and sustainable livelihoods.

Held in Muhanga District where Hope of Family’s activities are implemented locally, the training was provided by Mpayimana Aimable, the Founder and Legal Representative of this Non-profit organization whose main mission is to alleviate families from extreme poverty through Children’s Education.

Mr. Mpayimana explains that “this training is a refresher to all staff to get understand well the reason for the existence of those four pillars as well as to have the common understanding on the long-term vision of Hope of Family.”

According to Mfateneza Emmanuel, the Executive Director of Hope of Family, “After this training all the staff will be able to act based on the updated action plan of the organization in order to fully achieve the HoF goal which is: to promote parental involvement in their children education while improving families’ socio-economic status as well as enabling Families to live a decent life with appropriate and timely involvement in their children education.”

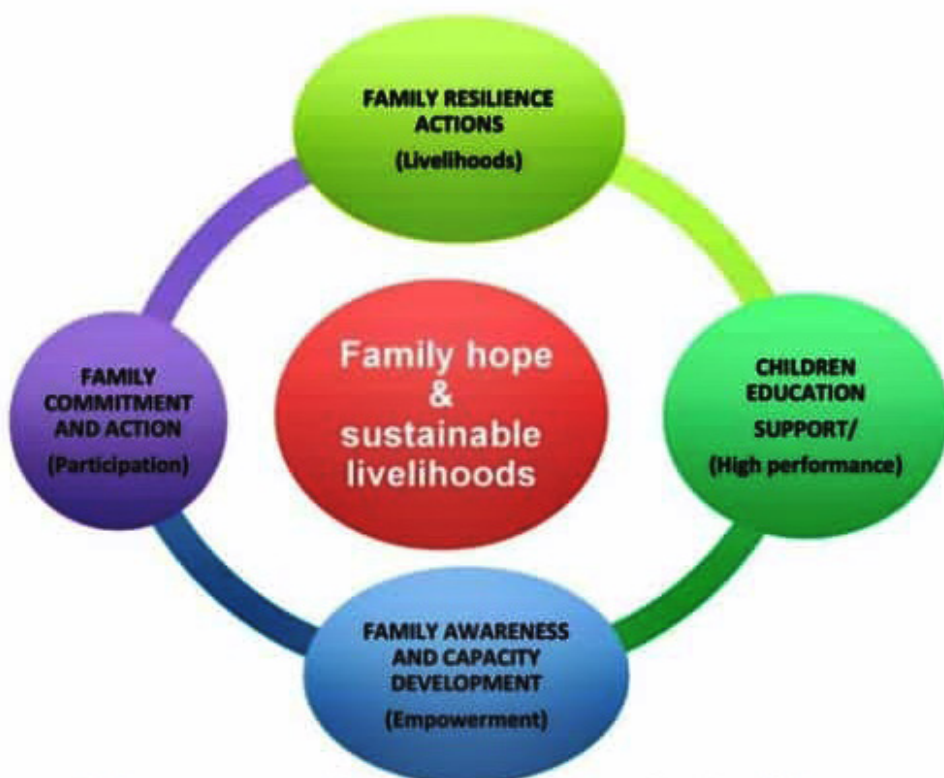


hopeoffamily
Muhanga District

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THEORY OF CHANGE



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***Q&A:* Hope of Family**
**Executive Director speaks
about impacts of COVID 19**



**EMMANUEL
MFATENEZA**

Executive Director

Working with communities is the task that has been affected by Corona virus pandemic. No movement were allowed to meet beneficiaries of various programs and for some organizations communications with beneficiaries had to get interrupted due to the lockdown which was to be observed in order to help the Government deal with the task of controlling the spread of the virus.

TOPAFRICANEWS had an Interview with the Executive Director of Hope of Family, Mr. MFATENEZA Emmanuel, who responded to some questions regarding the effects of COVID 19 on the daily activities of this organization whose main tasks need to be implemented in a participatory approach which also most of the time needs physical presence of beneficiaries.

Hope of Family serves residents of Muhanga District in Shyogwe sector where, the Organization's focus on alleviating beneficiaries from extreme poverty.

Below is excerpts of our Interview:

TAN: *Tell us about Hope of Family?*

Mr. MFATENEZA: Starting with the brief Introduction of Hope of Family, it is a Non-Governmental Organization which operates in Muhanga District in Shyogwe Sector. 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' invitation to discuss about the child's learning.

TAN: *As Corona virus has impacted us in various ways; how COVID 19 has affected the Organization's work?*

Mr. MFATENEZA: It's true, the Corona virus has had negative impacts on the work of our organization. You know we should all stay at home to prevent the spread of this virus. And as you still know There were many activities that require that we meet with our beneficiaries, these have been postponed. Among the postponed activities we can cite, for example, training for the parents of children aimed at showing them how they can participate in the education of their children, activities aimed at detecting children's talents and also family mobilization at the village level where parents also approach neighbours to educate them about the education of their children. All these activities we decided to postpone them to avoid the corona virus.

TAN: *Does this means that during the lockdown period your Organization totally closed services to the beneficiaries?*

Mr. MFATENEZA: Not at all. As you can be aware, we had also to assume other responsibilities to our beneficiaries during the time of the pandemic like this one of COVID 19. We had to communicate with them, we had to give them food because as you know no one was allowed to go for work. Really, we didn't stop working. We only changed the way of working.

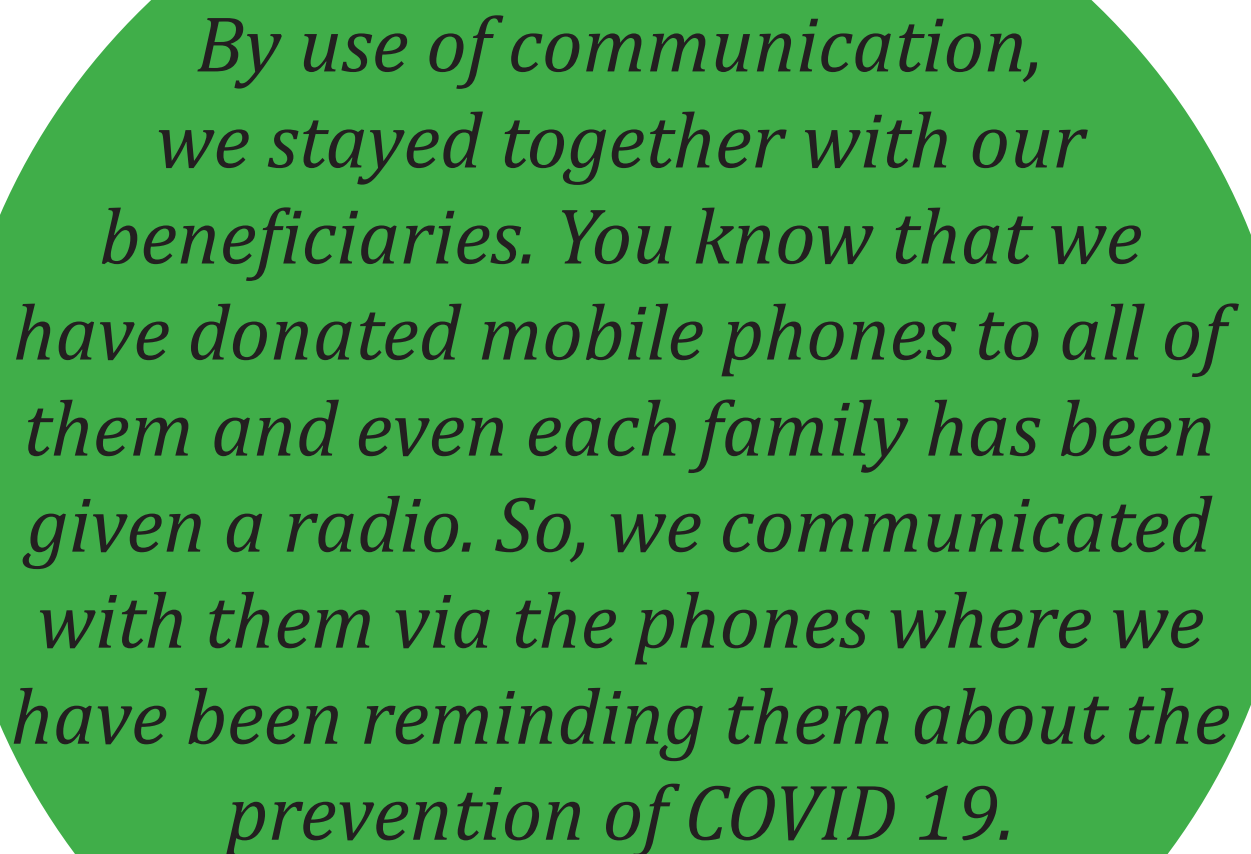
TAN: *You say that you changed the way of working. How is that way?*

Mr. MFATENEZA: By use of communication, we stayed together with our beneficiaries. You know that we have donated mobile phones to all of them and even each family has been given a radio. So, we communicated with them via the phones where we have been reminding them about the prevention of COVID 19. We also reminded them to use their radios to listen to the message from Government officials

on Corona Virus. As lock down measures were being partially removed, our community mobilization staff also started to go and meet them at their residents. In such circumstances, all of them had to observe the COVID 19 prevention measures such as physical distancing and wearing facemasks. We have distributed those facemasks to all beneficiaries as part of prevention measures among our organizations and its beneficiaries.

TAN: *Thank you for this important time to interact on this subject.*

Mr. MFATENEZA: *You are most welcome*



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**SHYOGWE
MUHANGA**

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."

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

**NELSON MANDELA, FORMER
PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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