



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

6th Edition: April 2021

## NEWS:

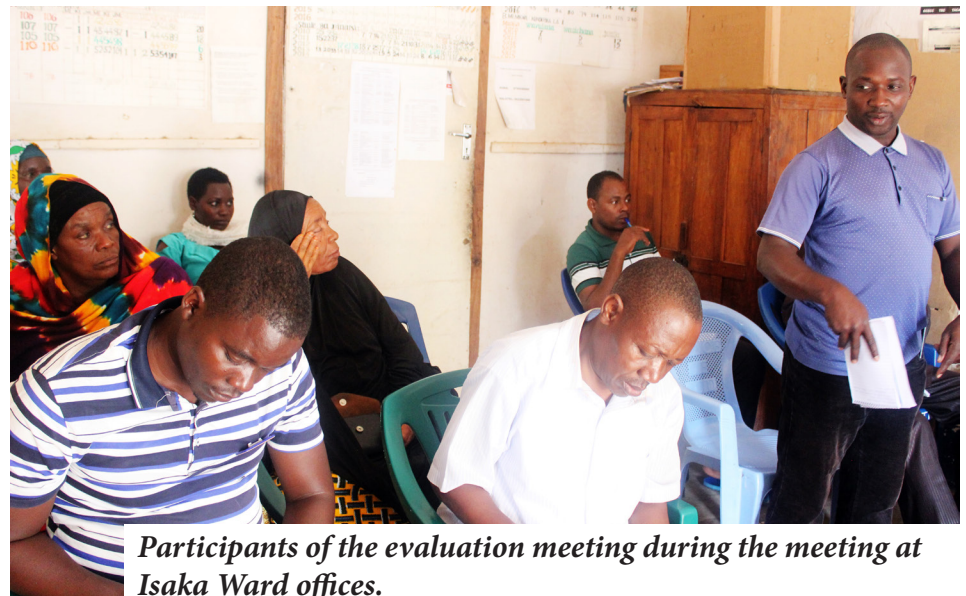
- Rafiki - SDO positively impacted Isaka society pertaining maternal health development.
- Radio Dialogue: Are the Statistical Challenges on GBV a hindrance to implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania (MTAKUWA)?

## Rafiki - SDO has positively impacted Isaka society pertaining maternal health development.

30th April, 2021

An evaluation meeting for the community action for children and families project held on Friday 30th April 2021 at Isaka by Rafiki - SDO with the Isaka Ward Health Committee Msalala District Council reached a resolution that education on pregnant mothers and children's health should continue be spread more to the society stirrup a change that has begun to emerge in among the society members.

On an introduction the Program Officer Rael Joseph gave a summary of the project and its implementation, the summary stated that the project targeted to reach 100 pregnant women, 100 children between age 0 to 6 years old, 4 Community Health Workers and a Ward health committee with 9 members, and according to the reaching evaluation the project has met and exceeded the target.



*Participants of the evaluation meeting during the meeting at Isaka Ward offices.*

Although the project has met the target, members of the health committee said the reached population is just a part of a very large population and that although some changes has begun to be seen still the society needs education to fully understand the importance of taking high care to

the pregnant woman and children. Mr. Gangai Manyama the acting chief physician of Isaka dispensary said "The tendence of pregnant women attending clinic sessions without their partners has somehow decreased they take their husbands with them, but the problem is still

there I think it is because the education has not reached the whole society, so some of them are still in the dark.”



*Acting Chief Physician Mr. Gangai Manyama explaining the current situation.*

He also added “The big challenge is in the rainy season as most of the families around here are famers, it is the time when most men insist on farming than anything else so they either stop their pregnant wives or they send their wives alone because they have farm.”

Responding to the question asked the Deputy Manager Mr. George Nyamboto about the situation of child deaths he said. “The rate of child deaths has dropped compared to past days, before we could record 2 to 3 deaths in a month but now in a whole month there was a 0-death recorded.”

He said “Most of the deaths reported before were due to nutrition problems, most of parents did not know what food was best for children diet and since the community health workers working with Rafiki – SDO have been providing education concerning the best diet for children most of the parents have changed the type of food they give to their children.”

At last, the Deputy Program Manager Mr. George Nyamboto made a call to the members of the ward health committee and the local government leaders of Isaka to cooperate with them whenever they need their hand even with other projects, and he said the duty to help the society being a better society is for every one not only Rafiki – SDO or the government leaders.

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## Radio Dialogue: Are the Statistical Challenges on GBV a hinderance to implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania (MTAKUWA)?

24rd April, 2021



*Rafiki - SDO representative Charles Ally in Faraja FM radio studios during a dialogue.*

On Thursday April 24th Rafiki – SDO represented by their Staff Charles Ally, joined a Radio dialogue hosted by Faraja FM radio station Shinyanga and was led by the host Josephine Charles with a topic titled “Are the Statistical Challenges on GBV a hinderance to implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania (MTAKUWA)?”

In his Contribution Mr. Charles Ally representing Rafiki - SDO said, “Statistics is what can give you a clear picture of the problem you are about to face, without clear statistics you may underperform or overperform, as Rafiki – SDO, we have been visiting these committees providing them with some capacity building strategies to ensure that they provide accurate statistical data to help them to work efficiently.”

He added that “Statistics is not the only problem these committee face, there are other challenges like resources, the committees are there but mostly lack resources to aid their performance, they fail to perform their duties because they don’t have resources to run them. So, we should not overlook other challenges apart from the statistical challenge to facilitate best performance.”

The host of the dialogue Josephine Charles also raised a question about how violence cases keep happening in most places’ despite of the education and other strategies like the MYAKUWA Committee presence and the efforts of other stakeholders like Rafiki – SDO, if the local government is involved in any way.

In response Charles Ally said, “It is true there that sometimes there are problems with the authorities in some localities, local government leaders are the one who are close enough with the society, so they are supposed to be helping the fight against these practices, but in other places you may find that the local leaders are taking part in such acts like supporting child marriage, participating negotiating dower money for a girl under 18 years.”

He added “The local leaders have been dealing with the cases with just assuring settling between the two parts, the victim and the suspect no any legal action are enforced while the case was required to be solved with the high institutions like a court, I think we need to educate them they can help to end violence.”



*Rafiki - SDO representative in a picture together with other participants after the dialogue at Faraja FM radio station headquarters.*

He said to solve the ongoing statistical challenge there must be a well-defined means of recording the statistics from ward level to regional level so we can acquire most accurate data. He also called for the society to fight violence as it is a violation of human rights and it causes a lot of damages on the society so whenever they have an opportunity to help, they should act and the best way to help is reporting all violence acts to respective authorities.



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