



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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NEWS:

- Rafiki – Sdo, Uwawa At Mpenje primary School Rukwa Found A Solution To High Absenteeism.
- Rafiki – Sdo Played A Vital Role In Retaining Peace To A Number Of Families At Mwamadilanha, Pandagichiza After Violence Took It Away.

Rafiki – Sdo, Uwawa At Mpenje primary School Rukwa Found A Solution To High Absenteeism.

04th May, 2021

Rafiki – SDO in collaboration with the teachers-parents association known as the Ushirikiano wa Walimu na Wazazi (UWAWA) launched a so-called School feeding Program to reduce the rate of absenteeism at Mpenje primary school, Kalambo District Rukwa.

From the trainings Rafiki – SDO provided to 106 Rukwa Primary school's head teachers, the Mpenje primary school's head teacher formed the UWAWA association as required by including 24 members, who are 16 parents 8 male parents and 8 female parents two to represent each class, and 8 teachers representing the 8 classes of the primary school's system meaning from the nursery class to the standard seven class.

Through the evaluation UWAWA members did under the Mpenje primary school's head teacher they found out that one of the leading



Parents Serving Porridge To The Pupils During A Break At Mpenje Primary School, Rukwa.

factors for the high rate of drop-outs at their school is that, most of children stay all day long with their stomach empty so they concluded that hunger can be a big influence to children dropping out of school therefore they decided to set a goal to feed the children at least a cup of porridge to cool down their hunger and help them stay at school.

After they found out what the problem was UWAWA Mpenje under the leadership of the Mpenje primary school's head teacher and the supervision of Rafiki – SDO Rukwa proposed to the school's Committee and the village authority to lunch a contribution for acquiring the needs for implementing the program and they acquired

a permission to launch the project.

To implement the program every parent is required to contribute 200 Tsh per week which makes it 800 Tsh per month, because it is the start, they decided to provide porridge to children two days per week which are Wednesday and Friday and the parents are the one responsible to prepare the porridge in shift under the supervision of the UWAWA members.



Mpenje primary school's pupils during break time having porridge as provided by the UWAWA Mpenje Rukwa

On a visit that a team from Rafiki – SDO together with the Executive Director Mr. Gerald S. Ng'ong'a on Tuesday 4th May at Mpenje primary school, they found the implementation of the program is at a high percent as they found children having their porridge before heading back to class.

Speaking at the visit the Executive Director Mr. Gerald congratulated the Mpenje Primary School's head teacher and the UWAWA members as well the parents for making such a program possible as it will help children overcome the hunger problem and it can bring the best results.



The Executive Director Mr. Gerald S. Ng'ong'a during the visit at Mpenje primary school, Rukwa

He also advised them to have a school producing system like using the school farm to produce food for the program to avoid the inconvenience of parents contributing everything from their pockets

Mpenje primary school's UWAWA has done other things apart from providing porridge to the children, for example renovating the broken desks to provide convenient environment for the children to study since a number of children studying while sitting on the floor.

Rafiki – Sdo Played A Vital Role In Retaining Peace To A Number Of Families At Mwamadilanha, Pandagichiza After Violence Took It Away.

03rd May, 2021

On January 2021 Rafiki – SDO lunched a project providing education at Pandagichiza ward which intended to fight violence against women and children along with providing positive parenting skills to parents through Community Facilitators and through other activities like joint dialogues and debates.

On Tuesday 3rd April the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer from Rafiki – SDO, Maria Maduhu visited Mwamadilanha to meet people who were once the victims and instigators of Violence who testified how this project has impacted their life and help them land a new page of their life.



M&E Officer Maria Maduhu With the members of the Parents group at Mwamadilanha discussing about Violence in their Community

MAGRETH CHARLES:

Testifying, Magret Charles said when she married her husband, they were living happy but it did not last long as her husband changed started to mistreat her by not providing her with any care, and even when she tried to demand his care, he assaulted her physically.



Ms. Magret Charles Testifying How Violence Haunted her Family before Rafiki - SDO's Arrival.

“Whenever I tried to tell my husband that we are short of food or I need some money to buy us vegetable for lunch or dinner my husband got mad and hit me. There was a time when our child was sick so I asked my husband for money to take our child to hospital but he refused so I decide to borrow some money from our neighbours but when he found out that I took our child to hospital he came to me asking where I got that money, he couldn't trust me so he hit me claiming that I took money from other guys.” Said Magret.

She added “I was not happy with that kind of life so we decided to separate, but when Rafiki – SDO launched this training, I joined and attended every day, my husband too was reach by the community facilitator who helped him to understand that what he did was not right, so he came to me we talk it out and we get back together, we have been living happy together as a family since then.”

REBECA WILSON:

Another testimony was from Rebeca Wilson also a victim who once suffered economical violence instigated by her husband, her husband had a tendency of selling everything they got from their farms and left nothing for his family. They had a family with children so sometimes it was hard for Ms. Rebeca to take care of the family on her own.

“One time he came with a truck at home, he took everything so we were left with no food for our family, we have children so it was really hard to think of how will I be able to feed them, but my husband didn't care at all so I was on my own.” She complained.

Ms. Rebeca said there was a time when her parents asked her to at least take the children to them so they can help her raising them, she sent their children to her parents and she continued to argue her husband to change but there was no hope at all, therefore when Rafiki – SDO launched the project she convinced him to attend one of their sessions.



Ms. Rebeca Wilson Telling A story about her Experience on Violence.

“I tried to tell my husband that what he was doing was not right and that it was a form of violence against me and the children but he didn't listen, so I convinced him to attend Rafiki – SDO sessions where the community facilitator spoke about economic violence, I thing the message touched him so when we get back home, he started asking when are the children coming back and since that fay my husband continuously attended the session and he changed a lot.”

PETER PIUS:

Peter Pius on the other side, he is an instigator of violence to his wife, he said he never cared at all about his wife's view nor her feelings, he used to sell things at home without asking for the family's opinion and when the wife questioned his actions his answer was a beating.

He said “I was one of the worst husband one can name, we had cattle but I sold them then use the money to get myself drunk and other luxuries, and then my wife left me I didn't care as I thought I was right, but being left alone without a family was not something

I could handle, it was hard for me though I still couldn't seem to understand that what I did was not right."



Mr. Peter Pius Testifying How he Once practiced Violence.

He said "I was one of the worst husband one can name, we had cattle but I sold them then use the money to get myself drunk and other luxuries, and then my wife left me I didn't care as I thought I was right, but being left alone without a family was not something

He proceeded "It was not until the day I met with the people from Rafiki – SDO who brought this program telling us about violence against women and children, it was when I understood that what I did to my lovely wife and my family was not right, so I decided to apologize to my wife and ask her to come back home she came back and now we are among the happiest family in Mwamadilanha."

At the end of the discussion and testimonies most of them recommended that Rafiki – SDO has helped them to regain the piece that was once lost in most families and that thanks to the education Rafiki – SDO provided now the community understands what can be termed as violence and where they can report such acts.



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