

## **Interview 1. Uwineza Chaste**

Uwineza Chaste is 4 years old. A student at Anglican Nursery school.

### **Q1. Daily routine**

Chaste spends the day playing, eating and sleeping. She is very young and parents are busy all day farming.

### **Q2. How do children feel about the school closure?**

She is not happy. She wants to go back to school.

### **Q3. What is the most enjoyable moment these days?**

She always thinks about school and asks every day to her parents when schools will open. She, however, knows that schools are closed because of the Covid-19

### **Q4. What do children miss the most about school?**

Chaste misses many things: doesn't want to forget what she learned before, misses porridge from Kageno project, and playing with other kids at school, etc

### **Q5. How do parents feel about the school closure?**

Mother: "The school closure is not good for us. The kids staying at home all the days is not good. They may be engaged in bad behaviours. The family is spending money to buy face masks while our saving groups stopped because there is no more source of income."

## **Interview 2. With Umutoniwase Sifa**

My name is Mutoniwase Sifa. I am 10 years old and study in P4 at GS Banda.

During this school closure, I continue my studies by reading my notebooks at home. Our radio doesn't function, and we do not have a TV at home to help me follow the lessons provided by the Rwanda Education Board.

### **Q1. How do you spend your day during this school closure?**

I used to follow this timetable at home:

- In the morning:
- Take bath
- Clean house
- Go to school for community work if it is our class day of community work.
- Read my lessons
- Wash clothes
- Eat
- Take rest(sleeping)
- Play with others
- Wash dishes
- Help my mother to cook or grind grain
- Eat dinner

- Sleep

**Q2. How do you feel about the school closure?**

At the beginning, I was happy to stay at home, but it is taking too long and I am becoming bored.

**Q3. What is the most enjoyable moment these days?**

I enjoy having enough time to read through my lessons and help my parents

**Q4. What do you miss the most about school?**

I missed a lot of lessons at school. What I miss the most is the promotion to the next level as we will repeat the school year. I was prepared to go to secondary school next year but I will not.

**Q5. How do your parents feel about the school closure?**

My parents are not happy because I am not with teachers at school and I don't have any teacher to assist me at home. Sometimes they feel happy when I am helping them with home activities but when they remember that I am missing my classes they say COVID is very bad.

**Q6. What are the critical issues and needs among families with children as a consequence of Covid-19?**

I always ask my parents to buy masks for me and they are annoyed because we are many at home and all need face masks as we cannot go out without wearing it. We also need to eat a lot because we no longer get a daily meal at school.

**Q7. How do teachers spend their time during the school closure?**

I don't know what the teachers are doing right now. They also stay at home and take care of their children.

**Interview 3 with Dusenge Michael**

My name is Dusenge Michael. I am 17 years, and a student in S4 at GS BANDA. During this school closure, I continue to study from home. I used to follow education program via radio every day from Monday to Friday from 13h30 and I read my notebooks. Teachers don't give any homework.

**Q1. How do you spend your day during the school closure?**

I try to do this regularly (my home routine).

- In the morning, I do physical exercises
- Take a bath
- Collect grass for goats
- Listen to the news on radio
- Collect grass for goats and firewood
- Cook dinner
- Eat
- Revise lessons (books & notebooks)
- Sleep

**Q2. How do you feel about the school closure?**

I don't feel happy because I am not benefiting from lessons from my teachers (no interaction with teachers and colleagues for learning more)

**Q3. What is the most enjoyable moment these days?**

I am now getting opportunity to do sports because I didn't have time before this closure.

**Q4. What do children miss the most about school?**

I missed a lot of lessons because not all the lessons are aired on radio, and I am not able to ask questions, or get all the details that I need. Also, the teacher has a high speed when teaching on radio. I missed the school porridge and my parents can't afford it to feed me and this make us unhappy.

**Q5. How do parents feel about the school closure?**

My parents are not happy because when the schools reopen, they will be asked to buy new school materials.

**Q6. What are the critical issues and needs among families with children as a consequence of Covid-19?**

Budget has increased due to buying face masks, soaps, and food. When I am at school, everything is organized very well.

**Q7. How do teachers spend time during the school closure?**

I didn't see any teachers sending me homework, maybe because of this stay at home and social distancing.

**Interview 4. With Teacher Uwingabire Berthilde**

My name is Uwingabire Berthilde. I am 36 years old. I am married and have 3 children. I am a teacher at GS Banda in P3. Most of the children don't study because parents don't have radio or TV and many parents live in poverty. Instead of spending money for buying dry cell, [in the case of those] with radio, they first of all buy food. Children studying alone is not easy. Children need to be supervised either by their parents, and if available, by the teacher. As a teacher, I help my own children at home whenever Covid-19 requires social distancing and stay at home.

**Q1. How do you spend your day during this school closure?**

It depends on the day, but my routine schedule is the following for children:

Waking up, preparing breakfast for my children, farm activities if there is no community work at school, coming home, helping my children to revise or follow on the radio.

**Q2 How do you feel about the school closure?**

I understand that the school closure has been for the safety of all of us. I consider it the necessary evil. However, it is having huge negative effects mostly on students.

**Q3. What is the most enjoyable moment these days?**

Nothing is enjoyable these days. I am tired to stay at home all the days as a teacher. In the beginning, we were happy to have a rest but it is becoming longer than required.

#### **Q4 What do you miss the most about school?**

Children missed lessons, there is lack of enough hygiene, lack of organization in work, and children move without controlling social distancing. Me as a teacher, I don't have the courage to update myself.

#### **Q5. How do parents feel about the school closure?**

Parents are not happy, not able to find food that satisfy their children. Children disturb parents, more fighting among siblings, etc. In general parents are making children work hard. They go together to farm at the same time and come back at the same time.

#### **Q6. What are the critical issues and needs among families with children as a consequence of Covid-19?**

Problem of [not enough] food for families [with] many children because they have to purchase more. Expenses for unusual materials (face masks), adopting new habits (way of greetings), special hygiene such as washing hands, etc.

#### **Q7. How do teachers spend their time during the school closure?**

The teachers occupy themselves in: farming activities and household hygiene. Sometimes following some lessons and training on the phone (BLF program). Interacting on cell phone with their trainers about lessons they will teach in the terms to come according to the termly scheme of work.

### **Interview 5. With Parents**

#### **Nzeyimana Ezechiel and Wife Seraphina**

During the school closure, some students continue to study at home by reading their lessons (notebooks). Some of them follow education programs on radio but teachers do not give any homework.

#### **1) How do your children spend their day during the school closure?**

My 4 children who studied in P6, P5, P5, P1 at GS Banda stay at home now. We have no land to farm. However, they help in fetching water, collecting firewood, cleaning at home, washing clothes, helping their mum in cooking, visiting their grandmother in farming and carrying food from there. But this is not done every day.

#### **Q2. How do children feel about this school closure?**

Children are not happy because they stopped their lessons and this will result in repeating the school year in September 2020. One in P6 is totally unhappy because she was ready in her mind to be in S1 next year. The children are also unhappy because they missed their daily SOSOMA porridge and suffer from hunger at home. The sign is that they rush to go to community work because they are sure that after that they receive a cup of SOSOMA.

#### **Q3. What is the most enjoyable moment these days?**

Our children look unhappy all the time with no way of meeting their [friends] to exchange.

#### **Q4. What do children miss the most about school?**

The children miss many things including: lessons, school materials, repeating the school year, hunger, etc.

**Q5. How do you as parents feel about the school closure?**

We have problems. Managing children when parents do not have means of [going outside] and making money is bad. When they are at school, we feel much better and we have time to work for their food. But now, all has stopped.

**Q6. What are the critical issue and needs among families with children as a consequence of Covid-19?**

We want Covid-19 to stop [so we can] move and work freely. We stay in poverty until the schools open and we have our jobs again as porters of food to schools. They ask us to buy masks. It is good for our health, but there is no source of money.

**Q7. How do teachers spend their time during the school closure?**

Teachers help in nothing during this school closure. Some of them follow education programs on radio as scheduled but teachers do not give any homework. A teacher helps his/her own child at home but not her/his class students.