



Story of Change: Domestic Violence prevention in Kabuwambo Parish, Mityana Municipality

From Left to Right: paralegals Mariam, Joweria, Sylvia M

Mariam, Joweria, and Sylvia M's paralegal experience

My name is Mariam, and I am a paralegal from the Bwavu Mpologoma women's group in Kabuwambo. My colleagues are Joweria, and Sylvia, and we have worked tirelessly to create change in our community by reducing instances of domestic violence. After the paralegal training in May from SSA, we led training on marriage and gender based violence in the home (physical, economical, psychological, and sexual). After the training session, several cases of domestic violence were brought to us by women who attended our sensitization. One noteworthy case was between a husband and wife who got into a midnight fight due to economic disparities between the couple. As an income generating activity, they run a business frying fish. Noticing that money was not coming into the home, the wife asked her husband what he was doing with their income. After a violent beating in response to the question, the woman came to my house. Joweria, Sylvia and I immediately intervened and went to the couple's home to try and mediate. We explained the importance of including women in the economic investments of a household. It led to an agreement with the husband that he would give 2000 shillings to his wife each day, so that she can put it away to save. Since our mediation,

the couple has apologised to one another and made peace. As paralegals we are continuing to monitor the case to ensure the husband keeps his promise of 2000 shillings a day.

Leaders of change in the community

Our work is leading to sustainable change in Kabuwambo Parish, with community members having a greater understanding of the economic rights of women, and the right to live free from abuse. We have personally noted that due to our work as paralegals, we have learned the importance of interpersonal skills such as making peace and apologizing, as well as the importance of men being able to say sorry. This training by SSA is not only lowering instances of violence against women, but it also empowers them economically, and increases crucial non-violent conflict resolution skills for all of us.