

Interviewed by Janine Mitchell at CCAP Likhubula Church, Malawi on Wednesday 07.06.2023.

Interviewee: Ruth Kalonda

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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My name is Ruth Kalonda. At the church I am the chairlady for the Women's Guild. And for the Dunblane partnership, I'm the one who is coordinating between the ladies of Likhubula Mvano and the Dunblane partnership committee. About the partnership with Dunblane: it seems that every lady, every woman in the guild knows that there is that partnership and they also know that every year we do communicate with the women's guild in Dunblane. Ya, they know if something is going to happen, they do ask what is it? What has happened?

Ya, let me see. The partnership is well known to every member of the women's guild. And even today, as you can see, all the ladies were happy. Meaning that they were aware that you are coming. That means it helps the ladies to be active in the women's guild activities.

Every year we do receive a support like money to support or to top up our activities. That is also well known to every member. That means it's a well-known partnership to everybody in the community as well as in the women's guild.

01:40

For the community, we have a lot of activities. Like for this year, we have in our program that we have to support the needy, and we discussed that do we need to support the orphans. Because for a lot of activities we have been supporting the elderly and we also do other activities like assisting the one who is suffering. Like for example, in our women's guild, one of our women's guild member sister was sick during the harvest time and we went to assist her in harvesting her maize while she was in the hospital at the Queen Elizabeth Center hospital. So, we recognize that, oh, our friend is not available. And sometimes people can go and steal their maize which is, which she had all her effort. So, we went to support to harvest the maize. And we also have contributions like maize, we do contribute every year to make the flour and we support the needy, mainly in December.

There are some children who are now at secondary school, they are being paid by Dunblane. And it is benefiting the community because the other children, they are also being encouraged to work hard in class. Because many of the people can be discouraged that my friends and my parents are poor and they are not able to give me enough things for the school, but because of Dunblane they have hope that if you have been selected to secondary school I will go to Dunblane and ask for the assistance. That means they work hard because they know somebody who is also at school and being assisted by Dunblane. So that encourages other people, other children to work hard in class because their friends have the assistance. And even the other children they saw that, oh our friend is a tailor just because of Dunblane. If you work hard in class, you learn, you know how to write, you take the measures - you can't be a tailor without knowing the measurements. So if you write something and you know the measurements you can be a tailor or you can be a carpenter, or else nowadays we do use the motorcycles. There are a lot of garages which have been opened by the local people.