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Transcript of an Audio-Recorded Conversation in Post-Conflict Rwanda

Participants:

- Mukamudenge Angela
- Ndarihoranye Gaston

Relation: Mother

Relation: Son

Facilitator: Kabanyana Laurette

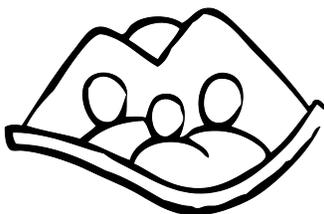
Date: 24/08/2009

Recording Location: Kigali

Story Number: SFH0070

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Mukamudenge Angela & Ndarihoranye Gaston

Story Number: SFH0070

Angela: I am called Mukamudenge Angela, this is my son.

Gaston: My name is Ndarihoranye Gaston, this is my mother. I want to ask her about my grandfather, I don't know how he died, yet I want to know how he lived so that I can learn from him.

Angela: Your grandfather was hardworking, he was a farmer and he loved people so much. I wish that you also develop that culture, that you respect every elder like your parent, that you live with your friends at school, that you learn to live in peace with everyone. We wish we could bring back our culture because it has totally been changed nowadays. We are happy our country is advancing in various ways towards development.

Facilitator: In response to what your child has asked, he wants to know how his grandfather lived. I think he might have not gotten a chance to see him.

Angela: I am sure he doesn't know any of his grandparents. They are all dead. They lived a happy hardworking life, they had a good lifestyle. They used to sit around the fireplace and share stories and proverbs with their children, young people liked it so much because that's where they could get great advice. It was such a great bond to unite them!

Facilitator: What great thing did he do that your son can remember?

Angela: He did many things. He was not educated, but at least he proved and showed strength in his career as a farmer. He would wake up very early and go farming. That is a good example to live on today. You're lucky now because you have education, but you should not rely on that mainly. There is a time when you may need

A conversation between Mukamudenge Angela and Ndarihорanye Gaston

the help of your hands, not books! Allow me to pass on this advice too... please take good care of yourselves. There is a big disaster waiting to ruin your life outside there because life has changed today, everything is more complicated now, unlike long ago when we could give birth to any number of kids we wanted and with no problem. I hope this story will help you, I hope you will be able to tell your children how unique our culture was!

Facilitator: What advice can you give the rest of the youth?

Angela: What I can tell them is nothing but to behave themselves. We are not always together when they go into those schools, they should avoid ethnic segregation and live together uniquely as Rwandese.

Facilitator: Is there anything like a story or proverb that you used long ago that can be helpful to these children?

Angela: What we can tell them is to develop that strong brotherhood friendship. If you have a kind heart you can achieve all that. Like these orphans, they need love and someone to talk to. I always tell these ones in Kicukiro sector that whenever they have a problem they should be inviting me, I would be glad to share with them some pieces of advices! Like my son is happy today because he has gotten this opportunity to ask me what he wants!

