

Rusizi: The feeding program helped over 200 children attending Mihabura Primary school located in Nyange, sector Bugarama, who abandoned school each year choosing instead to do labour jobs such as working in fields, harvesting rice, selling small items in Congo etc to return to school and never abandon school again.

In Invaho Nshya interview with the headmaster of the school owned by ADEPR church, Japhet Ndagijimana said partnership with a British organization called RSVP (Rwandan School Village Project), after a survey that looked at dropout rates in 2007, this organization started school meal program.

Abandoning school was especially due to extreme poverty found in children families. Such poverty is due in Bugarama and Muganza sector to in flood of migrants in search for labour jobs who face extreme poverty when their arrive in Bugarama. And due to this poverty, children then have no choice but to earn a living outside classroom.

Mr Ndagijimana continued to say from the first year to fifth year of primary school, children receive a cup of porridge, whether on morning or afternoon shift, and those in sixth year have a cooked meal.

In the last 7 years, this program lifted Mihabura from a poor performing school and led to an increase in the total number of pupils attending school with the school roll reaching now 1052.

Ishimwe Jean d'Amour wiga who studies in sixth year says it's thanks to this program that he improved his grades, coming top in his year group. All this happened when he had considered leaving school on several occasions: when he arrived home from school he would find nothing to eat at home, and he would also go to school the next morning with no breakfast ending up studying hungry.