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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Introduction

The reporting year 2024/2025 saw VFM-Kenya implementing impactful interventions across its core program areas in alignment with the Annual Work Plan (AWP). The organisation remained focused on enhancing education access, strengthening healthcare services, supporting household economic empowerment, improving food security, and expanding social services, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs. Each initiative was strategically designed to uplift vulnerable households in Kamasengre, Rusinga Island, ensuring community-driven and sustainable solutions to socio-economic challenges.

During this financial year, significant milestones have been achieved in education, with a 10% increase in school enrollment. The efforts to strengthen food security were particularly evident through the smart gardening initiative, which was introduced in collaboration with Development in Gardening (DIG). Economic empowerment programs gained momentum, with 80% of households engaged in income-generating initiatives reporting improved financial stability. The expansion of the WASH program also led to a 15% decline in waterborne diseases, underscoring the importance of targeted hygiene and sanitation education.

Despite these successes, challenges such as the prolonged harsh climatic conditions and community resistance to certain initiatives posed barriers to full-scale implementation. However, VFM-Kenya leveraged a blend of community participation, capacity-building, and strategic partnerships to navigate these challenges and make tangible progress. This report provides an in-depth review of the activities undertaken, their impact, the challenges encountered, and the strategies recommended for sustained progress, ensuring seamless alignment with the set objectives of the Annual Work Plan

Household Engagement and Reach

Throughout this year, VFM-Kenya reached 523 households, ensuring that interventions were targeted at those in most need while maximizing efficiency in service delivery. Each household was engaged in at least one of the core program areas, with strategic emphasis placed on supporting women, children, the elderly, and differently abled individuals.

Education initiatives benefited over 3000 children, demonstrating the organization's commitment to enhancing access to learning opportunities. The WASH program was extended to more households, addressing the critical need for improved sanitation and clean water access. Social services were provided to 981 households, reinforcing support systems for vulnerable groups through counselling, child protection initiatives, and mental health advocacy. Household economic empowerment efforts engaged 997 households, focusing on financial literacy training, income-generating activity (IGA) projects, and cash transfer programs that particularly benefited women-led households. The health services program reached 895 households, ensuring community members had access to essential health screenings, vaccinations, and preventive care education. Lastly, the food security initiative impacted 1,067 households, strongly emphasizing promoting climate-smart agricultural practices to combat food shortages caused by prolonged drought conditions.

The household engagements conducted during this period were fully aligned with the Annual Work Plan's objective of expanding community outreach, ensuring that interventions not only met immediate needs but also fostered long-term resilience within households. VFM-Kenya remained committed to a people-centered approach, emphasizing community participation and ensuring that beneficiaries played an active role in shaping the interventions they received.

The Report

Outcome 1: Boys and girls have access to quality and inclusive education

The project aims to ensure boys and girls have access to schools that provide quality and inclusive education tailored to their needs. In the short term, this objective seeks to increase school enrollment and participation rates, particularly among children from marginalized groups, ensuring they are given equal opportunities to learn and grow.

Output 1.1: Safer learning environment realized

This outcome refers to creating a secure and supportive setting where students can focus on learning without concerns about physical, emotional, or psychological harm. It involves fostering an environment free from violence, bullying, or harassment, with measures in place to ensure the well-being and safety of all learners and educators.

Activity 1.1.1: Sensitize the school management CDC, and stakeholders on school safety measures

- 15 school management CDC members and 45 other stakeholders engaged and sensitized twice every quarter on school safety for the 4 quarters in the financial year.

Activity 1.1.2: Sensitize the school management CDCs, parents, and teachers on the importance of education and a friendly teaching and learning environment

- 15 school management CDC members, 45 parents and 17 VFM teachers were sensitized on the importance of education and the use of updated pedagogic materials while enabling a conducive learning environment. This activity took place four times for the year.

Activity 1.1.3: Conduct school inspection on safety.

- VFM partnered with the State Department of Public Health and the Ministry of Education to conduct four comprehensive inspections of VFM School. These evaluations assessed the school's physical condition and ensured the safety of learners. Additionally, 18 teachers underwent capacity-building training to align with government safety policies in schools, promoting a secure and compliant learning environment for students.

Activity 1.1.4: Infrastructural development: Construct Science Laboratory, Home Science Room, and Grade Nine Classroom for VFM Kenya Junior Secondary School Learners

- VFM has made significant strides in enhancing educational infrastructure for Kenya Junior Secondary School learners. The construction of a modern science laboratory and a home science room is currently underway, reflecting a commitment to advancing practical learning facilities. Additionally, a fully furnished Grade 9 classroom has been completed, providing an improved and conducive learning environment for students. These developments underscore VFM's dedication to quality education and resource accessibility.

Output 1.2: Strengthened curriculum delivery

This outcome focuses on enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of delivering educational content. It involves improving teaching methods, ensuring access to quality resources, integrating modern tools and technologies, and fostering teacher capacity to provide a well-rounded and impactful learning experience for students.

Activity 1.2.1: Assess and evaluate teaching quality

VFM ensured the provision of updated scholarly materials to support effective learning. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, classroom teaching quality was thoroughly evaluated. This initiative reinforced educational standards, promoting a robust and impactful learning environment for students.

Activity 1.2.2: Recognize better-performing teachers and students

- VFM acknowledged the efforts of top-performing students and teachers by presenting them with gift boxes as a token of appreciation. This initiative aimed to motivate both award recipients and their peers, fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration in achieving the program's collective goals.

Activity 1.2.3: Lobby for deployment of qualified staff

- VFM consistently engaged with the Ministry of Education through the State Department for Curriculum Development (KICD) to facilitate the hiring and training of teaching staff, ensuring quality service delivery in schools. Furthermore, teacher stipends were provided as a motivation strategy, fostering commitment and enhancing the overall effectiveness of educational programs.

Activity 1.2.4: Provide adequate teaching and learning materials

- VFM has prioritized enhancing educational resources by providing updated scholarly materials recommended by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for quality service delivery. All 419 learners at VFM School gained access to high-quality learning materials, supporting their understanding of the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC). Additionally, VFM acquired textbooks for Grade 9 learners, ensuring comprehensive coverage of educational needs and promoting effective learning.

Output 1.3: School performance is regularly monitored.

This outcome emphasizes the consistent evaluation and tracking of school performance to ensure quality education. It involves establishing systems and processes for gathering data, assessing progress, and identifying areas for improvement. By regularly monitoring metrics such as student outcomes, teacher performance, and resource utilization, schools can maintain high standards and address challenges proactively.

Activity 1.3.1: Engage BOM in monitoring school performance.

- Fifteen members of the Board of Management (BOM), serving as community representatives, actively participate in the regular monitoring of VFM School's overall performance. This termly activity is conducted in collaboration with VFM management and Ministry representatives, ensuring a comprehensive approach to evaluating and enhancing the school's academic and operational outcomes.

Activity 1.3.2: Create a school management system to improve performance in the school

- To ensure the school's effectiveness, every classroom has a representative (parent) to enhance communication between parents and the respective class teachers and ensure service delivery.

Activity 1.3.3: Monitor school attendance for children

- VFM has established a meticulous process for monitoring school attendance and retention rates. This involves regular scrutiny of all nine class attendance registers at VFM School. Such measures ensure consistent tracking of student participation, fostering accountability and supporting efforts to enhance educational outcomes. The year recorded a 98% attendance and 88% retention rate at VFM, while other schools recorded significant improvement.

Outcome 2: Boys and girls have access to proper nutrition in school for greater school retention

This outcome highlights the importance of providing students with adequate and nutritious meals in schools to support their physical health, cognitive development, and overall well-being. Proper nutrition not only improves students' ability to focus and learn but also increases school attendance and retention rates, as it addresses food insecurity and ensures a stable environment for growth and learning.

Output 2.1: Enhanced nutrition awareness among children, parents and teachers

This output focuses on building a deeper understanding of the importance of proper nutrition among children, parents, and teachers. It involves educational initiatives, workshops, and campaigns to promote healthy eating habits, the benefits of balanced meals, and the role of nutrition in overall well-being and academic performance. By increasing awareness, schools can foster a community-wide commitment to supporting the nutritional needs of students.

Activity 2.1.1: Develop and display nutrition information

- VFM has centralized nutritional data for VFM School with the program nurse, ensuring organized tracking and accessibility. This approach has contributed to improved immunity among students, which in turn has positively impacted their academic performance during the reporting period, highlighting the connection between good nutrition and educational success.

Activity 2.1.2: Provide incentives to reinforce message implementation (Learning from the best)

- VFM employed an approach of "Learning from the Best" by awarding outstanding individuals during meetings to incentivize and reinforce the implementation of health and nutrition messages. This strategy motivates community members and participants to actively engage in promoting better practices, driving impactful change within the community.

Activity 2.1.3: Design and implement a curriculum for nutrition education

- With recommendation from Green Food Foundation, VFM School, through the program nurse has devised a nutrition curriculum for all VFM learners to enhance their understanding on the importance of limiting the use of processed food and encourage consumption of organically produced foodstuffs.

Activity 2.1.4: Child nutritional assessment and growth monitoring

- VFM conducted termly nutritional assessments for all 419 learners at VFM School, monitoring their growth and Body Mass Index (BMI). These assessments ensure the students' physical development is closely tracked, enabling early detection of nutritional gaps and promoting healthier growth outcomes for every child.

Activity 2.1.5: Demonstrate healthy eating practices to children and families

- Through the nutrition curriculum in VFM School, learners are taken through sessions on healthy eating habits and practices. The school has incorporated these sessions in the normal learning timetables, while the respective caregivers also conduct sessions at homes guided by cluster officers and Community Health Promoters.

Output 2.2: Enhanced capacity of healthcare providers to give nutritional support

This output focuses on improving the skills, knowledge, and resources of healthcare providers to offer effective nutritional support. It involves training programs, access to better tools and materials, and collaboration with schools to address students' dietary needs. By building healthcare providers' capacity, schools can ensure consistent and informed support for children's nutrition, contributing to their overall health and academic success.

Activity 2.2.1: Train public health care workers on nutrition interventions

- Not implemented in Year 1

Activity 2.2.2: Support awareness creation by health care providers

- VFM organized four short refresher courses to enhance healthcare providers' skills in health communication, community engagement, and participatory learning methods. As part of this initiative, 21 healthcare workers actively contributed to designing culturally sensitive and local-language-friendly awareness materials such as posters, flip charts, songs, and short skits, tailored to the island's specific health challenges. These efforts reached a wide audience through sensitization sessions held in 16 schools, 20 churches, and six community barazas, effectively addressing recurring health trends and promoting public health awareness within the community.

Activity 2.2.3: Support the dissemination of health and nutrition information by HCPs

As part of its health and nutrition awareness initiatives, VFM deployed a nutritionist to support the dissemination of nutritional information within the community. This effort aims to educate individuals on better dietary practices and promote healthier lifestyles, contributing to improved overall well-being across the community.

Output 2.3: Enhanced nutritional support

This output emphasizes improving the provision and accessibility of nutritional support for students. It involves initiatives such as supplying nutritious meals, introducing fortified foods, and addressing any gaps in dietary needs. By enhancing nutritional support, schools can better ensure that children receive adequate sustenance for their physical health, cognitive development, and educational success.

Activity 2.3.1: Sensitization on effective infection control

- Not implemented during this project period – Year 1

Activity 2.3.2: Promote healthy eating habits in the villages.

- VFM, through its 5 cluster officers, has actively promoted healthy eating habits by teaching households to establish small, diversified kitchen gardens. These gardens include crops such as leafy greens, tomatoes, carrots, onions, and herbs, using affordable methods like planting in used sacks, old buckets, or tins. Additionally, VFM School integrates this initiative into its learning programs, enabling children to share their knowledge with their parents. This approach fosters better nutrition and food security within the community while engaging families in sustainable practices.

Activity 2.3.3: Provide healthier foods for children

- VFM School has taken significant steps to enhance child nutrition by providing two nutritious meals daily—breakfast and lunch—focused on balanced diets. During the reporting period, a total of 158,382 meals were served to students. Additionally, caregivers were informed about the school's dietary practices, enabling them to incorporate similar nutrition-focused habits at home. This initiative has greatly contributed to improving the health and well-being of the children within the community.

Activity 2.3.4: Involve students in planning the school menu

- Class representatives (students) and teachers engage in the preparation of a budget-friendly and sustainable school menu- this was reviewed by students four times in the year. This menu takes into account all learners' needs, where the ones with dietary complications are offered specialized treatment as recommended by the program nurse and approved by their caregivers.

Outcome 3: Men and Women, Boys and girls, have access to the highest possible quality healthcare

This outcome aims to ensure equitable access to top-quality healthcare services for all individuals, regardless of gender or age. It focuses on providing comprehensive healthcare that meets the highest standards, including preventive care, treatment of illnesses, and promotion of overall well-being. By addressing healthcare disparities, this outcome seeks to foster healthier communities and improve quality of life for everyone.

Output 3.1: Enhanced adequacy of staff, medical devices, and supplies

This output focuses on improving the availability and sufficiency of healthcare personnel, equipment, and essential medical supplies. It involves efforts to recruit and train more qualified staff, ensure access to modern and functional medical devices, and maintain a steady supply of necessary resources. By addressing these areas, healthcare facilities can provide better services and meet the needs of the community more effectively.

Activity 3.1.1: Provide adequate medical equipment

- VFM has ensured that the school clinic is fully equipped with essential medical supplies to foster healthier children. Additionally, necessary resources have been provided to the program nurse and

field staff, enhancing their capacity to conduct effective community health outreaches. These efforts have strengthened healthcare delivery, promoting better health within both the school and wider community.

Activity 3.1.2: Training of Health Care Providers on Emergency Response (ER)

- VFM successfully trained 5 Cluster Officers and 15 Community Health Promoters on essential first aid techniques. Additionally, a peer-to-peer training model was employed among the health providers to enhance their understanding and application of emergency response techniques. This initiative has equipped healthcare providers with critical skills, ensuring rapid and effective responses to emergencies within the community.

Output 3.2 Strengthen healthcare awareness

The output "Strengthen Healthcare Awareness" reflects the efforts by VFM to improve knowledge and preparedness within the community regarding health practices and emergency responses. This includes educating children on good health habits, sensitizing both children and caregivers about emergency response techniques, and training healthcare providers in first aid and emergency procedures. These actions collectively aim to create a health-conscious community capable of effectively managing healthcare challenges.

Activity 3.2.1: Sensitize children and parents on emergency response

- VFM organized 36 health talk sessions at VFM School, seamlessly integrating these sessions into the regular school timetable. These talks educated learners on techniques for managing health emergencies both at school and at home. Additionally, five social workers, in collaboration with the government's Community Health Promoters (CHPs), conducted weekly door-to-door visits to caregivers' homes to share knowledge on basic emergency handling techniques, with fire break scenarios as a key example. This comprehensive approach has empowered both children and parents, fostering preparedness and resilience in emergencies.

Activity 3.2.2: Educate children on good health practices

- VFM implemented educational initiatives to teach children essential health practices, fostering awareness and promoting healthier lifestyles. These programs focus on instilling habits such as personal hygiene, proper nutrition, and disease prevention, laying the foundation for a healthier future generation within the community.

Output 3.3: Improved healthcare support

This output highlights the strengthened healthcare support provided by VFM within the community. Through activities such as regular deworming and immunization programs for children under 5 years and comprehensive geriatric assessments for the elderly, the community has witnessed improved access to essential healthcare services. These efforts have enhanced the well-being of vulnerable populations, showcasing VFM's commitment to fostering a healthier and more resilient community.

Activity 3.3.1: Regular medical checkups for the children

- Routine medical checkups for 419 children at VFM are conducted by the program nurse. Children with underlying medical conditions are monitored keenly, with referrals and medical support offered to this group. 15 children who live with sickle cell anaemia in the community are constantly monitored from time to time with VFM offering a helping hand in footing the ever-increasing medical expenses.

Activity 3.3.2: Promote the uptake of reproductive health services for adolescent girls and young women

- Implementation of the integrated menstrual health education at VFM school and the nearby schools for adolescent girls
- Quarterly distribution of sanitary towels to 126 adolescent girls at VFM School and the nearby schools

Activity 3.3.3: Regular deworming and immunization of children under the age of 5 years

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, VFM implemented quarterly deworming and immunization programs for children under the age of five. These sessions, conducted rotationally at fish landing beaches on the island, reached 926 children. This initiative has significantly contributed to improving child health, preventing diseases, and enhancing the overall well-being of young children in the community.

Outcome 4: Boys and girls have access to child-friendly social and counselling services

This outcome focuses on ensuring that children have access to supportive and approachable social and counselling services tailored to their needs. It emphasizes creating safe spaces where boys and girls can openly address emotional, psychological, or social challenges. These services are designed to promote their well-being, build resilience, and foster healthy development in a compassionate and understanding environment.

Output 4.1: Strengthen the capacities of counsellors to provide child-friendly counselling and services

This output focuses on equipping counsellors with the necessary skills, tools, and knowledge to deliver counselling services tailored to the unique needs of children. It involves specialized training, development of child-friendly approaches, and access to resources that enable social workers to create a safe, supportive, and empathetic environment for children to express themselves and overcome challenges.

Activity 4.1.1: Train counsellors on the identification of cases for counselling

- During the reporting period, VFM conducted four capacity-building sessions, successfully training eight social workers on prudent procedures for identifying social cases requiring counselling. This initiative enhanced their ability to recognize and address the needs of vulnerable individuals, fostering more effective and impactful counselling interventions within the community.

Activity 4.1.2: Train counsellors on support service to the children

- Not implemented during this period

Activity 4.1.3: Quarterly Counselling Support, Supervision & review meetings

- VFM organized four quarterly counselling support, supervision, and review meetings involving the designated sub-county Health Care Professional (HCP). During these sessions, reported cases were evaluated, progress was monitored, and the impact of interventions was assessed. This structured approach ensured continuous improvement, accountability, and effective support for individuals receiving counselling services.

Activity 4.1.4: Conduct community outreach programs to raise awareness on the availability of counselling and support services

- VFM social workers attended four local administration meetings organized by the Assistant Chief/Chief, creating awareness about the counselling and support services offered at VFM. These outreach efforts successfully reached 2,600 community members, fostering greater understanding and accessibility to the available services. This initiative has strengthened community engagement and expanded the reach of VFM's support network.

Activity 4.1.5: Facilitate counsellors to conduct home visits

- VFM supported 6 trained social workers by providing stipend, movement fees, airtime, and lunch tokens to enhance their mobility and productivity in conducting activities implementation. This facilitation ensured effective outreach and strengthened support systems for individuals and families in need, contributing to improved community well-being.

Activity 4.1.6: Implement positive parenting sessions with the caregivers to provide a nurturing and supportive environment for child growth and development

- Through the Family Matter Program (FMP!), VFM conducted positive parenting sessions targeting 160 caregivers of 160 children aged 9 to 12 years (pre-adolescents). These sessions aim to reduce sexual risk behaviors among both caregivers and adolescent children, fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for their growth and development. Additionally, Information, Education,

and Communication (IEC) learning materials were shared with caregivers for home use to provide ongoing guidance and support. This initiative underscores VFM's commitment to strengthening family relationships and promoting safer, healthier communities.

Output 4.2: Strengthen case management

This output emphasizes improving the processes and systems used to manage cases involving children in need of social or counselling support. It involves streamlining protocols, enhancing coordination among service providers, and ensuring timely interventions. Strengthening case management ensures that children receive comprehensive, well-organized, and effective support tailored to their individual needs.

Activity 4.2.1: Case identification

- A total of 23 professionals, including 5 social workers and 18 teachers, were trained and equipped with essential techniques to effectively identify social cases and injustices within the community. Their expertise has strengthened efforts to address critical issues, fostering a more just and supportive environment for vulnerable individuals.

Activity 4.2.2: One-on-one counselling with the children

- VFM facilitated one-on-one counselling sessions with children and teachers, supported by school social workers, to address 63 identified cases. These cases were professionally managed, with parents and caregivers actively involved in the case management process. This holistic approach ensured comprehensive support for the individuals involved, fostering emotional well-being and strengthening family and school relationships.

Activity 4.2.3: Referral to other services

- VFM facilitated the referral of 5 persons with disabilities to improved medical services provided by the government hospital in Mbita. This initiative ensured access to specialized care and enhanced support for individuals with disabilities, promoting better health outcomes and quality of life within the community.

Activity 4.2.4: Develop a reporting system for children who are abused.

- VFM successfully established 6 reporting desks in surrounding public schools and an additional 4 desks at fish landing beaches. These desks aim to enhance the reporting of child abuse cases, fostering a safer environment for children and promoting accountability within the community. This activity has strengthened mechanisms for addressing abuse and protecting vulnerable children.

Output 4.3: Enhanced awareness of child protection

This output focuses on increasing understanding and vigilance regarding the safety and rights of children among individuals, families, and communities. It involves educational campaigns, training programs, and advocacy efforts to ensure everyone recognizes the importance of child protection and takes active steps to prevent abuse, neglect, or exploitation. By raising awareness, it aims to create a safer environment where children can thrive.

Activity 4.3.1: Family education sessions

- Family education sessions on child protection successfully reached 500 households, benefiting 705 children. These sessions aimed to raise awareness and equip families with the knowledge and tools to safeguard children's rights and well-being. This impactful initiative has strengthened family units and contributed to creating safer and more supportive environments for children within the community.

Activity 4.3.2: Train children on child protection

- VFM School conducted training sessions to empower children with knowledge of child rights through community advocacies and awareness from child abuse case reports. Additionally, the school established "Speak Out" suggestion boxes, which are regularly monitored by the field officer for appropriate escalation and counselling. This initiative has strengthened child protection

measures and fostered a safe environment where children can freely voice their concerns and seek support.

Outcome 5: Improved quality of life and well-being of elderly persons

This outcome focuses on enhancing the overall living standards and health of elderly individuals. It involves providing accessible healthcare, social support, and opportunities for engagement to address their unique needs. By ensuring dignity, comfort, and inclusion, this outcome aims to promote a fulfilling and happy life for elderly people while addressing challenges related to ageing.

Output 5.1: Improved access to healthcare services for elderly persons

This output focuses on ensuring that elderly individuals can access healthcare services more easily and effectively. It involves addressing barriers such as affordability, availability, and accessibility of medical care. By improving healthcare infrastructure, offering specialized services, and tailoring support to the unique needs of elderly persons, this output aims to promote their health, independence, and overall quality of life.

Activity 5.1.1: Conduct geriatric assessment to identify specific healthcare needs and design personal care plans

- Health assessments were conducted for 25 older individuals to thoroughly understand their specific healthcare needs and challenges. Based on these evaluations, the social department developed personalized care plans aimed at ensuring dignity, safety, and adequate support for each individual. This activity has enhanced the overall care for the elderly and reinforced a commitment to meeting their unique health and social requirements.

Activity 5.1.2: Provide regular monitoring and medical care for chronic illnesses

- Routine home visits were conducted to monitor and support elderly individuals with chronic illnesses. Cases of chronic ailments were identified, and severe cases were referred for specialized treatments. As a result, 25 older citizens (9 men and 16 women) received advanced care, ensuring better management of their health conditions and improving their quality of life. This activity has reinforced the commitment to providing essential healthcare for the elderly within the community.

Activity 5.1.3: Create linkages to preventive health care and rehabilitative services; regular health screening and wellness checks.

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.1.4: Train caregivers and health care professionals on geriatric care

- In partnership with the Ministry of Health, capacity-building sessions were conducted for healthcare professionals, equipping them with essential procedures for elderly care. Following this training, the professionals carried out home visits to further educate caregivers on effectively supporting the elderly. This initiative has enhanced the quality of geriatric care and strengthened the support system for elderly individuals within the community.

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Output 5.2: Livelihood and enhanced social protection for elderly persons promoted

This output emphasizes supporting the economic and social needs of elderly individuals to ensure their dignity and well-being. It involves initiatives such as creating income-generating opportunities, providing financial assistance, and strengthening social protection measures. By promoting livelihood and enhanced social support, this output aims to empower elderly persons to lead secure, comfortable, and fulfilling lives within their communities.

Activity 5.2.1: Support access to financial assistance for the elderly

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.2.2: Support a cash transfer scheme and social assistance programs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.2.3: Provide access to information and resources relevant to the elderly

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.2.4: Explore and harness the skills of elderly people to optimally exploit the natural resources and improve their livelihoods

- Not implemented in year 1

Output 5.3: Enhanced social inclusion and community support of elderly persons

This output focuses on fostering a sense of belonging and active participation for elderly individuals within their communities. It involves initiatives that encourage intergenerational interactions, community engagement, and opportunities for social connections. By enhancing social inclusion and providing robust community support, this output aims to address isolation, promote emotional well-being, and improve the overall quality of life for elderly persons.

Activity 5.3.1: Engage the elderly in volunteer work within the community

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.3.2: Conduct home visits by trained professionals and community volunteers

- Although not budgeted and planned for year 1, trained professionals and community volunteers conducted home visits, successfully reaching 25 elderly individuals. This achievement provided essential care, support, and companionship to the elderly, significantly enhancing their well-being and quality of life. The initiative demonstrates the community's dedication to fostering inclusion and dignity for its vulnerable members.

Activity 5.3.3: Promote caregiver support and respite services

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.3.4: Facilitate the establishment of community support groups and networks

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.3.5: Advocate for the protection of the rights of elderly persons

- Four community meetings with caregivers were successfully organized to advocate for the protection of elderly persons' rights. This effort was supported by Mr. Wachianga Otieno, the administrator for Kamasengre West. The initiative fostered awareness and strengthened the commitment to safeguarding the dignity and well-being of the elderly within the community.

Activity 5.3.6: Support palliative and End-of-Life Care

- Not implemented in year 1

Output 5.4: Holistic well-being of elderly persons fostered and promoted

This output emphasizes nurturing every aspect of elderly individuals' well-being—physical, emotional, mental, and social. It involves tailored initiatives such as promoting healthy lifestyles, providing access to recreational and educational activities, ensuring emotional support, and fostering a sense of purpose and community. By addressing their overall needs, this output aims to empower elderly persons to lead fulfilling and meaningful lives.

Activity 5.4.1: Support and counselling sessions for the elderly

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.4.2: Sensitize the elderly people and their caregivers on nutrition, physical fitness, and mental health

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.4.3: Conduct elderly people-friendly social events, group outings, and recreational activities

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.4.4: Incentivize the elderly people through regular cultural events

- Not implemented in year 1

Output 5.5: Established platform for enhanced joint advocacy and collective voice for elderly people

This output focuses on creating a unified and effective platform to amplify the voices of elderly individuals and advocate for their rights and needs. It involves fostering collaboration among stakeholders, such as community organizations, policymakers, and caregivers, to promote awareness and drive action on issues affecting elderly persons. By establishing this platform, the collective efforts can ensure that elderly individuals are empowered and have a stronger presence in decision-making processes.

Activity 5.5.1: Collaborate with government agencies, NGOs, and community leaders to influence policy development and resource allocation for elderly care in the target community

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.5.2: Advocate for the rights and needs of elderly persons at the local, national, and regional levels.

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 5.5.3: Implement capacity-building programs to equip elderly persons with advocacy skills, leadership development, and communication strategies

- Not implemented in year 1

Outcome 6: Enhanced economic security for children with disabilities and special needs

This outcome focuses on improving the financial stability and opportunities available to children with disabilities and special needs. It involves implementing measures to reduce economic barriers, provide access to necessary resources, and support families through financial aid, skill-building initiatives, and inclusive policies. By enhancing economic security, this outcome aims to ensure these children have equitable access to education, healthcare, and overall well-being, empowering them to thrive in their communities.

Output 6.1: Children with disabilities and special needs are provided with the best chances of academic, personal, and social success.

This output emphasizes creating opportunities for children with disabilities and special needs to thrive in various aspects of their lives. It involves providing inclusive and accessible education, fostering personal growth through tailored support, and promoting social integration. By addressing their unique needs and removing barriers, this output aims to empower these children to achieve their full potential academically, personally, and socially.

Activity 6.1.1: Identify and assess children with disabilities and special needs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.1.2: Integrate children with disabilities and special needs into mainstream schools and learning institutions

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.1.3: Sensitize Teachers on care for children with special needs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.1.4: Lobby for and support placement of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs)-trained-Interpreters/Instructors in public schools

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.1.5: Advocate for the construction of disability friendly structures in select public and private schools

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.1.6: Provide bursary and scholastic support for needy children with disabilities.

- VFM provided financial support to 19 children with disabilities, enabling them to access quality education. Additionally, 37 children with disabilities received school uniforms, backpacks, and other scholastic materials to support their learning needs. This initiative has played a vital role in promoting educational opportunities and enhancing the dignity and confidence of these children, ensuring their active participation in school.

Activity 6.1.7: Provide Assistive Devices (mobility support) and supplementary foodstuffs to the children with special needs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.1.8: Link children with disabilities and special needs to Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) for skill development, and employability skills development

- Not implemented in year 1

Output 6.2: Children with disabilities and special needs and their caregivers have improved household income.

This output focuses on enhancing the financial stability of families with children who have disabilities or special needs. It involves initiatives such as skill development, income-generating opportunities, financial assistance programs, and inclusive economic policies. By empowering caregivers and families to improve their household income, this output aims to alleviate economic challenges, ensuring better access to essential resources and opportunities for these children to thrive.

Activity 6.2.1: Implement household-specific case plans

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.2.2: Implement age-appropriate savings and behavior change curriculum

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.2.3: Establish appropriate Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in targeted households to promote integration and inclusion of children with disabilities and special needs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.2.4: Train caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs on entrepreneurship and business management

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.2.5: Provide business loans and grants to caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.2.6: Link the caregivers of children with disabilities and special needs to Voluntary Savings and Loaning Associations (VSALs) or Savings and Internally Lending Community (SILC)

- Not implemented in year 1

Output 6.3: Greater protection of rights of persons with disabilities and special needs

This output focuses on ensuring stronger safeguards for the rights of persons with disabilities and special needs. It involves implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, raising awareness about their rights, combating discrimination, and advocating for inclusion. By promoting greater protection, this output aims to create an equitable society where individuals with disabilities can access opportunities, resources, and services without barriers or prejudice.

Activity 6.3.1: Train the Cluster Development Committee (CDC) on disability inclusion

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.3.2: Engage the CDCs to provide one-on-one support to children with additional needs in the classroom

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.3.3: Sensitize caregivers and duty bearers on disability inclusion, rights of persons with disabilities, and special needs

- Not implemented in year 1

Activity 6.3.4: Implement parenting training for the parents and caregivers of persons with disability

- Quarterly training sessions on parental care for persons with disabilities were successfully conducted. These sessions provided parents and caregivers with essential knowledge and skills to better support individuals with disabilities, fostering a more inclusive and supportive home environment. This initiative has strengthened families and improved care practices within the community.

Activity 6.3.5: Establish safe spaces - rescue and friendly centres

- Although not planned for the Year 1 project period, VFM adapted the activity by shifting focus to making homes the safest places. Through advocacy with Rusinga community members, social workers conducted household visits to raise awareness and offer support to beneficiary families. This approach has strengthened family environments and promoted safety and well-being within the community.

Activity 6.3.6: Provide medication support services, physiotherapy, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- VFM, through Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and cluster officers, provided vital services including medication adherence support, physiotherapy to enhance movement and recovery, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals recovering from drug addiction. These combined efforts have improved health outcomes, supported recovery journeys, and promoted holistic well-being within the community.

Output 6.4: Enhanced coordination, partnerships, planning, and accountability for the provision of better services to persons and children with disabilities and special needs

This output emphasizes improving collaboration, strategic planning, and responsibility among stakeholders involved in providing services to persons and children with disabilities and special needs. It involves fostering partnerships between organizations, governments, and communities, streamlining processes, and ensuring transparent accountability measures. By enhancing coordination and collective efforts, this output aims to deliver more efficient, accessible, and impactful support to address the unique needs of these individuals.

Activity 6.4.1: Develop a directory of partners supporting children with disabilities at the local level

- VFM Kenya, in partnership with Leonard Cheshire, developed a directory to bolster local fundraising efforts and improve support for differently-abled children. Additionally, schools' capacity was enhanced to improve their physical infrastructure by installing ramps in classrooms and washrooms, promoting inclusivity and mobility for this group. This initiative has improved the quality of life and educational opportunities for children with disabilities within the community.

Activity 6.4.2: Set up a consortium to enhance coordination and capacity building amongst local organizations and education providers

- Under the leadership of the VFM director as interim chairperson, and with support from the assistant county commissioner for Mbita sub-county, a consortium was successfully established. This collaboration has unified local organizations and education providers, enabling streamlined coordination, improved information sharing, and enhanced capacity building. The initiative is proving transformative, fostering more effective partnerships and driving impactful development efforts.

Activity 6.4.3: Train school leaders and frontline workers on disability inclusion and Child Protection

- Not implemented

Activity 6.4.4: Harmonize data and information harvesting for persons with disabilities

- Not implemented

Outcome 7: Boys and Girls, men and women enjoy economic freedom, improved water and sanitation facilities, and conducive environments.

This outcome focuses on empowering individuals, regardless of age or gender, to achieve financial stability while ensuring access to clean water, proper sanitation, and environments that promote health, productivity, and well-being. It emphasizes fostering opportunities for economic growth and independence, enhancing infrastructure for water and sanitation, and creating safe, supportive, and sustainable surroundings for communities to thrive.

Output 7.1: Enhanced sanitation and hygiene

This output focuses on improving sanitation facilities and promoting better hygiene practices within communities. It involves initiatives such as constructing and maintaining clean public restrooms, ensuring access to clean water, and educating individuals about hygiene practices. By enhancing sanitation and hygiene, this output aims to reduce health risks, prevent the spread of diseases, and create a healthier and more sustainable environment for all.

Activity 7.1.1: Implement Phase II of the Rusinga West Location Water Project

- The Phase II implementation of the Rusinga West Location Water Project is planned for Year 2 of the cooperation agreement. VFM will conduct an impact assessment to guide strategic decisions for the second phase, which aims to extend coverage to Kamasengre East and Rusinga Central. This initiative holds the potential to further enhance access to clean water, benefiting a wider community and contributing to improved health and well-being.

Activity 7.1.2: Educate children on personal hygiene.

- VFM School successfully conducted health talks and personal hygiene sessions for all 419 learners, enhancing their awareness and promoting better hygiene practices. Additionally, five cluster officers visited nearby local schools to sensitize 3021 students on maintaining personal hygiene both in school and at home. This initiative has significantly contributed to fostering healthier habits among children and reducing hygiene-related illnesses in the community.

Activity 7.1.3: Provide adequate sanitary facilities.

- The provision of sanitary towels to 126 adolescents at VFM School and 263 girls from other schools has significantly enhanced their dignity and confidence. This initiative has also contributed to improved school retention among these girls, ensuring uninterrupted learning and fostering a supportive educational environment. By addressing their needs, the activity has empowered these young learners to focus on their education and personal growth without unnecessary barriers.

Activity 7.1.4: Support schools with hand washing and safe water storage facilities

- 6 local public primary and secondary schools received hand-washing facilities and training, and this has reduced incidences of diseases related to poor hygiene.

Activity 7.1.5: Create awareness on water treatment methods.

- Raising awareness of water treatment methods has improved health, reduced waterborne diseases, and promoted sustainable hygiene. Communities are now better equipped to access clean water and manage resources responsibly. Social workers conducted household-based advocacy, reaching out to 500 households and benefiting over 2000 family members.

Activity 7.1.6: Advocate for the provision of clean and sustainable water in schools and homes.

- Advocacy for clean and sustainable water in schools and homes connected 283 households to clean water and set up four water kiosks serving 186 households. This initiative enhanced access to safe water, improved health, reduced waterborne diseases, minimized child abuse, and increased study time for children previously burdened by water collection. Additionally, human-animal conflict significantly declined, with 2024 recording zero deaths related to animal attacks.

Activity 7.1.7: Support the construction and branding of toilets with key messages

- This planned activity involves supporting one Beach Management Unit in Year 2 by constructing and branding an ultra-modern public toilet with bathrooms featuring key messages. The initiative aims to enhance sanitation, hygiene, and accessibility in public spaces, fostering healthier and cleaner environments. Additionally, branding with impactful messages will help raise awareness about hygiene practices and community values, contributing to long-term behavioral change and improved well-being.

Activity 7.1.8: Improve shelter for vulnerable children's households

- Support for improving shelters benefited 8 households, significantly enhancing the well-being of vulnerable children and their families. This initiative fostered a sense of belonging within the community, providing safe and secure living environments that contribute to their stability, comfort, and dignity.

Output 7.2: Enhanced environmental conservation, preservation, and natural resources management

This output emphasizes sustainable practices to conserve and manage the environment and natural resources effectively. It involves initiatives such as reforestation, protection of biodiversity, sustainable agricultural practices, and community education on environmental stewardship. By promoting conservation, preservation, and responsible resource management, this output aims to create a balanced ecosystem that supports long-term environmental health and community well-being.

Activity 7.2.1: Train farmers on climate resilience farming practices such as hydroponics and aquaponics

- Although unplanned for this financial year, VFM secured a partnership with Development In Gardening, enabling the training of 247 farmers organized into four groups. Through weekly participatory learning and action sessions, farmers gained knowledge on climate-resilient farming methods, such as hydroponics and aquaponics. This initiative has equipped farmers with sustainable practices to enhance food security and ensure continuity at the household level.

Activity 7.2.2: Support farmers to implement smart agriculture and community-based agroforestry

- Farmers were supported to adopt smart agriculture and community-based agroforestry practices through the provision of essential inputs, such as seeds. Additionally, four fences were established around demonstration plots to showcase sustainable techniques. This initiative promotes environmental conservation, enhances agricultural productivity, and empowers farmers to implement resilient and eco-friendly practices in their communities.

Activity 7.2.3: Support community environmental clean-up

- VFM School learners and community members conducted 6 clean-up sessions focused on 3 fish landing beaches under the CBC framework, fostering environmental responsibility. Additionally, VFM partnered with the Ministry of Health to carry out 4 general environmental clean-ups, ensuring safer and healthier spaces for all. These efforts have significantly enhanced cleanliness, safety, and community well-being.

Activity 7.2.4: Implement proper waste management systems to maintain a clean and healthy environment

- Six dust pits were distributed across six landing beaches to establish effective waste management systems. This initiative promotes cleanliness and environmental health while fostering sustainable practices among community members, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

Activity 7.2.5: Behavior Change Communication (BCC): Implement BCC campaigns to raise awareness on shelter, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices

- Behavior Change Communication (BCC) campaigns were implemented to raise awareness on shelter, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. These campaigns have positively influenced community behaviors, fostering improved living conditions, better hygiene practices, and sustainable use of resources. The initiative has contributed to creating healthier, safer, and more informed communities.

Activity 7.2.6: Sensitize children and adults on environmental conservation

- Not implemented

Output 7.3: Women and young persons are empowered and enabled to reach their full potential for enhanced wellbeing through training and support

This output emphasizes providing women and young people with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities they need to realize their aspirations and improve their overall quality of life. It involves initiatives such as skill-building workshops, mentorship programs, access to education, and support networks. By empowering these groups, the output aims to foster confidence, independence, and active participation in economic and social development, ultimately enhancing their well-being and contributions to their communities.

Activity 7.3.1: Promotion of community-level revolving fund and micro enterprise

- Not implemented

Activity 7.3.2: Implement 100 weeks of the Temporary Cash Transfers Program targeting widows

- The Temporary Cash Transfers Program, now in its second year, continued to provide impactful weekly transfers of 8 euros to 100 widows. Despite not being funded under this agreement in Year 1, the program has significantly transformed lives, enabling recipients to improve their livelihoods. Many women have started successful micro-enterprises, while others have enhanced their well-being through various initiatives. This activity has empowered women, fostering financial independence and community resilience.

Activity 7.3.3: Provide scholarships, grants, and financial assistance for the underprivileged youth to pursue higher learning and vocational training.

- Scholarships were provided to 21 underprivileged youth (8 males and 13 females), enabling them to pursue higher learning in TVETs and universities. In addition, business management trainings were conducted, and capital was offered via a revolving fund to support startup businesses for 9 youths who completed their studies and lack formal employment. This initiative has empowered young individuals, fostering education, entrepreneurship, and financial independence, while contributing to their personal and professional growth.

Activity 7.3.4: Establish mentorship programs connecting young entrepreneurs with professionals: Provide business start-up capital for groups

- The planned activity aims to establish mentorship programs to connect young entrepreneurs with professionals, fostering guidance and networking opportunities. Additionally, it intends to provide start-up capital for youth groups to support entrepreneurial ventures. While this activity has not been implemented yet, it holds the potential to empower young entrepreneurs, enhance their skills, and promote sustainable economic growth within the community.

Activity 7.3.5: Foster entrepreneurship and employability skills for the youth through linkages to Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) institutions

- During the reporting period, VFM successfully linked 13 young men and 6 young women with TVET institutions, enabling them to enhance their technical expertise. This initiative has significantly improved their prospects for employment in both local and international job markets, fostering economic empowerment and self-reliance among the youth.

Activity 7.3.6: Establish VFM Youth Resource Centre to provide safe and inclusive spaces for the youth

- VFM secured funding and began construction of the Youth Resource Centre; however, the funds were insufficient to complete the building. Despite this challenge, the progress made demonstrates a commitment to providing safe and inclusive spaces for the youth, with potential for future funding to bring the vision to full realization.

Leadership

The success of the project at VFM can be attributed to the remarkable leadership and oversight provided by the director. Their guidance ensured smooth coordination and effective collaboration across all departments and leadership roles. This cohesive effort led to the successful implementation of various initiatives that had a significant impact on schools and communities. Key programs included improving school infrastructure, establishing sustainable community water projects, delivering cash transfers to vulnerable households, promoting accessible healthcare services, and providing school feeding programs to support nutrition for students. Additionally, other community development efforts contributed to enhancing livelihoods and well-being. The collective commitment and coordination demonstrated by the entire team ensured the project's objectives were achieved, reflecting VFM's dedication to creating lasting positive changes in the community.

Challenges

The project at VFM encountered several challenges during its implementation, which impacted the execution of its activities. A significant issue was the limitation of resources in the face of overwhelming demand from the community. This disparity created pressure on the available resources, making it difficult to fully meet the needs of all intended beneficiaries. In some instances, funds had to be reallocated to activities they were not originally intended for, which further complicated financial planning and project prioritization.

Another major challenge was poor communication with donor partners. This gap often led to misunderstandings, delays, and misalignment of expectations, which hindered the smooth progress of the project. Effective communication is critical for ensuring transparency and maintaining the trust and support of donors, making this a particularly pressing issue.

Additionally, there were logistical challenges in coordinating efforts across different departments and leadership roles. Ensuring seamless collaboration in a multi-faceted project required robust systems and processes, which sometimes fell short under the constraints. Furthermore, unexpected external factors, such as fluctuating economic conditions or community-specific issues, added unforeseen complexities.

As of the time of this report, VFM is actively working on improving its structures to address these challenges. Efforts are underway to enhance resource management, establish clearer communication protocols with donors, and strengthen internal coordination mechanisms. By implementing these improvements, VFM aims to build a more resilient and efficient framework for future projects.

Way forward.

The success of the project at VFM is a reflection of exceptional leadership, teamwork, and commitment. Under the director's guidance and oversight, all departments worked collaboratively, ensuring effective implementation of various initiatives such as school programs, community water projects, cash transfers, healthcare services, and school feeding programs. However, the project faced several challenges, including limited resources, which were strained by high demand from the community. This led to instances of fund reallocation to activities they were not originally intended for, which hindered optimal resource utilization. Poor communication with donor partners further complicated the process, causing delays and misalignment

of expectations. Other logistical issues and unforeseen external factors also posed hurdles during the project's implementation.

In response to these challenges, VFM is taking steps to enhance its structures and processes. Improved financial management will ensure better resource allocation, while strengthened communication with donor partners, through timely email responses and regular project reports, will build transparency and trust. Additionally, developing robust risk management plans, improving community engagement, and implementing effective monitoring and evaluation systems will address current bottlenecks and strengthen future initiatives. Capacity building for staff will also be prioritized to enhance skills in communication, coordination, and problem-solving. With these measures in place, VFM is poised to achieve even greater success in its mission to create lasting positive impacts in the community.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, the project at VFM has demonstrated the power of effective leadership, collaboration, and commitment in addressing the needs of schools and communities. While challenges such as resource constraints, poor communication with donors, and logistical hurdles were encountered, these obstacles provided valuable lessons for growth and improvement. By focusing on better financial management, strengthening donor relationships, enhancing resource allocation, and building robust structures for monitoring and evaluation, VFM is actively working towards more efficient and impactful projects in the future. With these efforts, VFM is poised to continue its mission of creating meaningful, sustainable change within the communities it serves.

Annexes

1. [Financial reports](#)
2. [Project photos](#)