



VICTORIA FRIENDLY MONTESSORI

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



VICTORIA FRIENDLY MONTESSORI | PO BOX 166 MBITA –KENYA

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Message from the Program Director, Odhiambo Tom Mboya.

As we come to the end of this very special year, yet a difficult one at the same time, I am glad to be able to address these few words to you. You, our very distinguished partners and stakeholders, you have found yourselves in various situations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that ravaged our everything in this year. Our thoughts went out in particular to those staying in places where the virus had huge impacts on livelihoods, those who may have health problems, and those with limited opportunities to see and meet up with family and friends due to government policies.

After last year's (2019) achievements, this year has been historic in its own way. Unprecedented in peacetime, there were no partner visits in the year, schools halted for over six months, exposing children to unsafe environments. We have only had virtual meetings and other online meetings with donor partners, also for the first time. Since March 2020, people have been working in varying situations and degrees depending on national circumstances. It was a testing period for VFM, which involved continuing to serve our beneficiary groups, maintaining links with them, and demonstrating that we were able to adapt while giving priority to the duty of care and protecting the health and safety of staff. With regard to staff health and safety, the administration at VFM has always endeavored to consult and share relevant information with them in relation to the pandemic. The Office has invariably sought the views of the VFM Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (VFM-COSH) on issues of health and safety at work. Feedback from beneficiaries is generally positive, and this has required an enormous effort on the part of everyone. Building on these positive experiences, VFM focused on implementing the activities that we report here in, the achievements as we plan a challenge of recovery and ***“Building Rusinga back better.”*** This year was a difficult time for the community members as they grapple with the economic, financial, social and health impacts of the pandemic. Let us see our way forward through the glimmer of hope signaled by the advent of vaccines that is looming in 2021. I believe we have emerged stronger from this crisis as, “One VFM and partners.” We look to the future with confidence; we stand more than ready to keep meeting the challenge and playing our part in building a future of work that is both different and better for the people of Rusinga.

My best wishes to all of you for a happy new year 2021.

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INTRODUCTION

The year started on a high note. Every worker reported with a lot of enthusiasm and renewed energy to work extra hard to achieve our set goals. Our dedicated Teachers also reported in full swing except the two who got deployed by the government and a replacement successfully done by the school recruiting department.

VFM still implies the integrated approach to execute the six pillar projects on Education as the mother and the link to others, Economic empowerment, Health and nutrition, Food security& Agriculture, WASH and Social services to improve the situation of vulnerability in our catchment areas with the major focus on the child through their caregivers and the community at large.

Our social workers in partnership with the community health volunteers (CHVs) ensures that the activities are implemented into the 17 targeted villages that are submerged into five clusters; Gumba, Nyangera, Lwanda, Waembe and Sienga respectively.

Community members are involved in the implementations of these activities, we normally conduct a quarterly community dialogue day where all community members are invited on board to share their opinions and give their views on how best to ensure the implementation of the projects.

The Approach

VFM and her activities would be so expensive if each project is implemented as one.

Thus, we integrated our activities into one and created opportunity for a beneficiary to have a full basket of all our products at one particular household meeting or organized community meeting. In one particular household a social worker and community health volunteers ensure the family is modelled and everyone who is involved is participating. The household for example must have access to food, clean water, children go to school, family health, and proper waste management, involvement in social groups and participation in education and community meetings. The approach does not encourage handouts.

Clustering

At least a Social worker and a community health volunteer (CHV) is directly attached to a cluster to take up the responsibility of ensuring that all our programs are integrated and the community reached with the information. The seventeen villages are clustered in to five as mentioned above. One social worker and at least two CHVs work in the clusters. The CHVs

are actively engaged in the advocacy mission. They are community members and so they are as well role models. They participate in the community resilience.

Report Overview

Community by Numbers;

Indicators	Clusters					Total
	Gumba	Lwanda	Nyangera	Waembe	Sienga	
Total Population	2167	2392	2279	1212	2239	10289
Number of Households	470	500	501	334	595	2400
Number of villages	4	2	3	3	5	17
Number of CHVs	4	2	3	3	5	17
Public Primary Schools	2	1	0	2	1	6
Private Schools	0	2	3	2	2	9
Private/ Public Secondary Schools	0	1	1	0	1	3
Number of fish landing beaches	2	1	1	3	1	8
Number of Social Groups	9	9	7	5	13	43

VFM recorded a number of activities that were geared towards improving livelihood of children and their families. Children are always our primary target as all our activities are geared towards enhancing their wellbeing.

The report includes achievements that were recorded as a result of partnerships that were initiated by VFM, we have not reported our work alone. The work we did was a collective responsibility of different persons including the local organizations and the community at large.

It is laid out in chapters that gives the review of all planned activities in the specific focused strategic area.

Tables and images that are taken during the activity implementation by field staffs are used.

The targets have been pre-set and more achievement is reported in narration. Summarized as at below;

Socio -Economic Empowerment:

16 new SILC groups were formed with members between 15 – 25 members. From the findings; the number of women outweigh the number of men. There were 351 women as compared to only 49 men.

Tailoring and dress making

18 women successfully completed their tailoring, dress making training and mat weaving.

Metal fabrication

11 young men went through welding and metal fabrication training through apprenticeship.

Horticulture

Horticulture farming became ineffective due to the rising levels of Lake Victoria waters that destroyed both the farm and the grazing areas for the hippopotamus near the lake shores.

Banana production increased at household level as children were involved during the holidays that were as a result of COVID 19 pandemic.

Poultry

Poultry farming has also improved 7 individual farmers and 4 poultry keeping groups have embraced the practice.

Community resilience:

2400 households in Kamasengre Community were sensitized on proper hand washing, general hygiene, latrine usage, water treatment and health education.

10 environmental cleanup exercise done in the beaches.

10 schools were reached with hand washing demonstrations exercise before the schools were closed because of corona pandemic and this was a success to the containment of the virus.

75 households were supported with kitchen garden fences, this enhanced security to crops in the gardens.

150 conical gardens were given to 150 families.

A total of 546 banana suckers and 1121 papaya seedlings were also given to households to support their food security. The plants are doing well and families are harvesting fruits.

Social Services:

10 very needy students from very vulnerable families were supported with school fees.

2 elderly and very vulnerable families were identified and were supported with food basket that would run through six months, a project that was initiated in December 2020 though may 2021.

100 youths were equipped with tree seedling production skills.

615 families were supported with a monthly food basket for two months while another 385 households received the food relief for four months. Another 308 elderly persons got the same support in form of cash transfer from the government of Kenya a program that is set to continue.

Two dialogue meetings was conducted to create platform for community members to meet and interact with the social workers on matters of program implementation.



All households benefitted through advocacy on healthy living during corona virus pandemic that struck the country so hard and interfered with many activities including schools closure. Children were at home and were reached to through the outreaches.



Education

298 vulnerable children enrolled and getting access to equitable basic education.

1 new community secondary school established and 26 students learning.

Eddie Memorial Primary benefited **1** classroom from NG-CDF, **2** from global partners and a fence and gate from Victoria Friendly Montessori.

VFM ready for a new set of learners in grade 8, the classroom is furnished courtesy of Frans and friends.



Figure 1: Photo showing community members on a dialogue day.

CHAPTER ONE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Outcome: Improved socio- economic status of the community for sustainability.

Sustainable livelihood: *The overall objective of this is to promote participation of children, youth and adults in initiatives for adequate food and household income. Specifically, the program aims to support communities increase farm production through adoption of good agricultural practices; sensitize and support community initiatives on soil conservation and agro-forestry; strengthen the capacity of communities to seek technical support and devolved funds from the government; strengthen the capacity of farmers to engage in market led production and value addition; and promote access to community based savings and lending opportunities.*

Community members continued to participate in various activities to increase their income and provide basic needs for their children to improve their living standards at household level.

Social workers and community health volunteers sensitized and empowered the community members with knowledge on income generating activities.

A lot was achieved through Saving Internal and Loaning committee (SILC) done by young and dedicated vulnerable women organized in social groups, poultry keeping and horticultural practices to ensure food on the table and money in the pocket by groups and individuals, apprenticeship skills to young women and youths.

The pandemic affected this activity, the government implemented a COVID 19 containment policy that barred group meetings. For over six months – from March through to September.

Savings and Internal Loaning Committee. (SILC)

This model considers poverty reduction through involvement of individuals in groups; these groups are formed in the basis of interests, values and social backgrounds. Members are identified and their membership are recognized unconditionally.

The social groups consist of a minimum of 15 individuals interacting with each other with respect to; common motives and goals, accepted division of labor, their status relationship, accepted values with reference to group matters.

More new social groups were formed as a result of learning from the best as the field officers follows up on the already formed SILC groups. This has been one of the most embraced activities by young women as it has changed their perception on saving for investment. Women are able to pay school fee from their own savings for their children.

16 new SILC social groups of 15 – 25 membership each was achieved. 5 in Sienga cluster, 3 in Gumba, 3 in Nyangera, 2 in Waembe and 3 in Lwanda clusters respectively

The groups have been capacity built to make sure that all the financial records are properly maintained and in order. This eases their loaning process.

Female participation in this still out ways men. Women being 351 and men 49. Reason being women in Rusinga stays at home as they work so hard in abuse and frustrations so as to provide for their children – *the love of a mother to her children*, unlike most of Rusinga men who goes fishing in the night, comes back home fully drunken then sleeps the whole day as he waits for the next fishing time, hence most Rusinga men have no time to attend development meetings.

Besides SILC process, women meet, interact and share their grievances and success stories, as they encourage each other.

SILC activities have continued to exist despite the covid pandemic even though savings have become low given some businesses closed down. Members still benefited from enhanced financial discipline, savings, accessible loan services and income options.

Integrated/cross cutting activities VFM implemented that also play part in economic empowerment were:

1. Home based farming (smart farming, kitchen gardening.)
2. Provision of tree nursery establishment skills to youths.
3. Provision of fruit seedlings.

Lesson learnt

The culture of savings if adopted by both men and women in the community can really create a great impact and change lives for it enhances financial discipline and encourages responsible spending. As from March because of Corona Virus pandemic most of the groups savings were low as life became quite hard given restrictions like social distancing, restricted movement laid by the government on measures to combat the pandemic, most businesses also closed down this affected the rate of income hence low savings spirit.

Apprenticeship

We continue to enroll young women in our women empowerment center to be trained on tailoring, dressmaking and mat weaving skills. This far we appreciate the successful exit of 18 women equipped with these skills to start their own livelihoods.

Welding/ metal fabrication

This targeted Most of the youths who finished primary levels and secondary levels of education and have not transited to higher levels. This far 11 young men were taken through this training. The boys were linked to contractors who have provided opportunity for their growth and development. The contractor offered the boys with environment to produce windows and doors

Recommendations

- There is need for the provision of a variety of vocational courses for the youths to choose from.
- Upscale advocacy strategies on apprenticeship to include attitude change.

Horticulture

It feels good to register that Rusinga, a fishmonger community has acknowledged that garden crops such as fruits, vegetables and even tree farming are sources of income too. This because of advocacy on smart farming and having variety sources of income by the social workers and partners on different forums.

Horticultural farming has become a very effective alternative to the overcrowded fishing activities as a source of income to families. More individuals have embraced this practice. 15 new farmers from the various clusters practices this.



I was introduced into horticultural farming by VFM social workers. I started and they boosted my efforts by giving me a water pump. I now reap the fruits of this venture. Now I can afford school fees, medical expenses and other requirements without relying on external support.

Our frequent visit to the farms, in collaboration with the government's agricultural extension officers has helped address some of the challenges to successful farming.

Provision of farm kits on loan by the program to the groups enhanced the production i.e. more kales and tomatoes are locally available. More people at individual levels have also embraced this practice as a result of learning from the best.

The rains were there in August that boosted horticultural farms and farmers got good harvests. Again, famers who adopted Moringa farming are now harvesting and getting money out of it.

Achievements

1. Horticultural, poultry and Moringa farmers have got ease in sending their children back to school in this hard time of pandemic,
2. With active farmers, dress makers, mat weavers and value addition, money in circulation has been beefed up.

Loan Repayments

All groups are working hand in hand with Victoria Friendly Montessori to remit their loans. Active existing new groups are already planned to benefit from loaning capital.

Poultry farming

More farmers also practice this at family levels. At least the benefitting household practices poultry farming as a result of advocacy by the VFM team on ensuring variety of food and income generating activities. Poultry farming activities have also increased. Currently, there are 7 individual farmers and 9 poultry keeping groups all with a capacity of a minimum 100 birds and a maximum 500 birds per unit. Farmers only got a challenge of getting poultry feeds due to increased cost of producing the feeds

Planned activities

Activities planned	Frequency		PLANNED 3 YEARS	PLANNED 2018	ACHIEVED 2018	% Achieved 2018	PLANNED 2019	ACHIEVED 2019	PLANNED 2020	ACHIEVED 2020	% Achieved 2020
Activity 1.2.2b: Support groups with loaning seed capital @ 1000 per member for 20 members	Capital	Groups	15	15	19	127%	20	19	20	12	60%
Activity 1.2.3 a: Communities are involved in vocational skills though apprenticeship.	Trainees	people	30	31	123	397%			12	11	96.6%

Activity 1.2.3b: Support apprenticeship graduates with start-up capital	Capital	people	30				10	6	6	0	0%
Activity 1.2.4: Support groups with poultry units.	Units	Groups	6	4	4	100%	2	2	Achieved		
Activity 1.2.5: Support groups with irrigation kits for horticultural production.	Kits	Groups	6	4	4	100%	2	2	Achieved		
Activity 1.2.6: Support one group with vaccine store for poultry and other livestock disease management.	Store	Groups	1	1	1	100%					
Activity 1.2.7: Support one group with poultry feed processing unit for poultry feed production.	Unit	Groups	1	1	1	100%					
Activity 1.2.8- NEW: Support the establishment of Table Banking groups.	Members	SILC	215	215	215	100%	215	657	375	400	106%

CHAPTER TWO

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

OBJECTIVE: *the overall objective of this is to promote participation of children, youth and adults in initiatives for adequate food and household income. The program aims to support communities increase farm production through adoption of good agricultural practices; sensitize and support community initiatives on soil conservation and agro-forestry; strengthen the capacity of communities to seek technical support and devolved funds from the government; strengthen the capacity of farmers to engage in market led production and value addition; and promote access to community based savings and lending opportunities and to practice good sanitation and Hygiene to ensure Healthy environment.*

VFM Community resilience equally looks at the sustained ability of the Rusinga communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity.



Water Sanitation and Hygiene

VFM continues to promote and advocate for access to clean and safe water, open defecation free community and personal hygiene practices. Our clean and safe water dispenser at VFM School continues to benefit the community as families from afar adopts water treatment practices. We also participate in environmental clean-up exercises as well as in community action days, always in partnership with the MOH and other stakeholders.

To ensure this is implemented, Social workers conduct home visits and one on one counseling to advocate for safety stay and ensure healthy environment.

Community members were reached to with information on new water treatment methods using Moringa seed aside the use of water guard, chlorine. More sensitization is done on different grounds including at community barazas. 2400 Households were reached with this information this far.

The efforts included health education, proper hand washing practices demonstration and awareness creation on water treatment methods at household levels, schools and at the community level among other activities.

Sanitation

VFM is objective to ensure that families have access to use of pit latrines and proper waste management. VFM campaigns are focused on reducing open defecation by increasing latrine coverage. VFM empowers and facilitates households-led initiative to build, maintain and use latrines.

Latrine coverage has increased to 87%. Majority of the households use latrines except some few who lives in rocky places and loose soil which is quite expensive to maintain based on the low livelihood especially to most vulnerable.

10 environmental clean ups were conducted in the various clusters to ensure good sanitation. Waste management especially human waste management improved as open defecation rates lowered according to the community health volunteers.

Hygiene

This is ensured to reduce minor illnesses. More families have been sensitized especially now with this Corona virus outbreak. We also managed to conduct a door to door home visits to advocate and emphasize on measures put in place by both the government and health ministry to ensure proper hygiene. 80% were reached with this information through our team. 10 schools were reached to with hand washing demonstration before the schools were closed because of corona pandemic. And more hand washing facilities were ensured in schools and households to ensure hand washing in every touch as shown in the pictures below



Hand washing

The attitude of the community about this activity changed and the program recorded an improved hand washing practice by the community. As one of the ways COVID 19 is prevented, the community increased efforts in continuous hand washing that has realized hygiene. In the beaches the county government supported with the hand washing units while VFM supported young women to make soaps as their contribution during the pandemic.



Water

Universal, affordable and sustainable access to water is key to the Rusinga community. Water is a daily requirement to all households irrespective of their income levels. Rusinga is an island, this means that water is available. It is very dry and most families lack access to the water resource. Some families still walk more than 2 kilometers to fetch water from the lake. Its inaccessibility hinders the kitchen garden activities that are promoted by VFM.

VFM work on water focused on the ability for children and their families to access safe water. We majored on the quality of water and with high hopes to focus on the distances they walk to collect it.

They said that “water is life” it was confirmed in the pandemic, water is everything that the community needed to ensure their increased safety from the outbreak of COVID and other water related diseases.

Children played a vital role in ensuring that there was enough water in the households for all domestic water needs.

The lake even though far from some households provided the major source of water, rain water harvesting was not very practical as Rusinga realized no rains in the months.

Advocacy on safe water is very active and majority of families’ record that they use chlorine to treat their water to make it safe for drinking.

Food Security and Agriculture.

Food insecurity in Rusinga is a matter of concern for VFM family and her partners. As the year begun, food imports was still a practice and as it would be a business that thrived. Food accessibility had been a factor that led to insecurity. Rusinga has been so deeply rooted in fishing for long and production of food has never been considered. VFM encouraged own food production against dependency on externally sourced food.



The gardens are ready with food and families are harvesting and healthily eating vegetable (leafy green vegetables) that provides good source of vitamins, minerals and fiber. It is not just food security but an important part of a healthy diet. VFM chose kale (sukuma wiki), it is considered the most nutrient-dense vegetable in Kenya due to

its numerous vitamins. Minerals and antioxidant. Spinach is another popular leafy vegetable that VFM promotes due to it nutritious benefits.

Spider plant (Dek) is another choice that VFM promotes since it contains high level of vitamin and beta-carotene. It equally has moderate levels of minerals.

To address the challenge of roaming animals VFM sampled 75 households to support with stronger fences of at least 20 square meters as shown below. With this VFM expected framers to get more production in terms of food supply. This is spread in all the respective clusters.

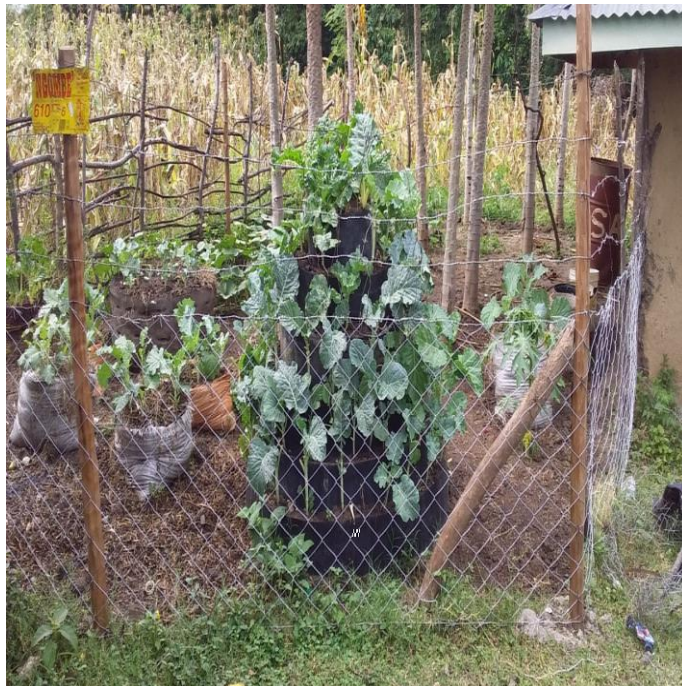


Figure 2 sample of an improvised fence that is easily invaded by the roaming animals. An enforced one is a better option



Figure 3 Sample reinforced fenced kitchen garden at Sienga cluster

Kitchen gardening for food production



VFM social workers continued to sensitize the community to embrace small scale farming to ensure more food on the table. Families are actively involved in this practice. During this pandemic period, VFM managed to support the establishment of 150 conical gardens that are protected by a fence to the vulnerable families. This was equally distributed to the five clusters where a cluster received at least 30 conical gardens, the garden holds up to 110 crops/vegetables. This is economic number to feed a household of five members and as a result families are enabled to get enough food to serve them.

Community resilience		Indicator	PLANNED3 YEARS;	TARGET FY2018	ACHIEVED FY 18	% achieved 2018	PLANNED FY19	ACHIEVED FY19	PLANED 2020	ACHIEVED 2020	% ACHIEVED



Achievement

All of the conical gardens are now ready with food vegetables

Bananas suckers were also provided and papaya seeds to households in 2020. This was to ensure variety of food production to ensure at least a balance diet. Families can now smile as they have readily available food at their door steps.

Activity 2.1.1: Educate and promote personal hygiene in schools and at household level-(Hygiene kit and IEC materials).	Kit	Households	150	50	66	132%	50	53	50	1700	3400%
Activity 2.1.2: Provide for adequate sanitary facilities to VFM for improved hygiene at the ablution block.	Equipment	Month	36	12	12	100%	12	12	12	12	100%
Activity 2.1.3: Demonstrate proper hand washing practices.	Children	schools	36	12	12	100%	12	12	12	10	83%
Activity 2.1.4: Support schools with hand washing and safe water storage facilities. (500 Liters)	Schools	Tanks	12	12	11	92%	12	12			
Activity 2.1.5: Create awareness on water treatment methods and provide 3 chlorine dispenser	dispenser	Beaches	3	3	3	100%					
Activity 2.1.6: Advocate for provision of clean and sustainable water in three school.	provision	schools	3	3	9	300%	12	12			
Activity 2.1.8a: Support construction and branding of 3 public toilet in 3 beaches.	Beaches	VIP Latrines	3	1	1	25%	2	1.5			
Activity 2.1.8b: Support construction and branding of toilets 6- 4 doors toilets to 3 schools)	Schools	VIP Latrines	6	2	6	300%	1	1			
Activity 2.2.1: Train farmers on climate resilience farming practices	Trainings	farmers	2040	680	626	92%	680	618	680	684	100.6%
Activity 2.2.2: Sensitize children and adults on environmental conservation.	Advocacy	Meetings	36	12	12	100%	12	12	12	12	100%
Activity 2.2.3: Environmental clean-up by strategic placement of dust bins for solid waste management in public places.		Dust bins	30	30	30	100%	0	0			
Activity 2.2.4: Support establishment of household kitchen gardens for food production. (Seeds)	Seeds	Households	2040	680	495	73%	680	715	680	1700	250%
Activity 2.2.5: Support families/ households with gunny bags for smart kitchen gardening.	gunny bags	Households	2040	680	488	72%	680	715	680	150	22%
Activity 2.2.6: Promotion the establishment of fruit and timber tree nurseries	Tree nurseries	Groups	3	1	1	100%	1	2	1	1	100%
Activity 2.2.7: Provide subsidized water tanks to the community for agricultural water storage and usage.	Tanks	Households	110	110	91	83%	72	61			

CHAPTER THREE

SOCIAL SERVICES

Greater access to social and counselling services: *Interventions aims at Promoting inter/intrapersonal relationships by providing psychological counselling services and behavior change support to the children and youths in schools and out of school especially the orphans, expectants school girls and children whose rights have been violated. It extends to promoting rights of the elderly and the disabled members of the community.*

It is an obligation of VFM program that children in this community and their families access social services whenever they need it. The social workers make everyday efforts to ensure community members get these services.

Support to the Identified Disabled/ very needy Individual

VFM offers school fees to the identified disabled children in their schools. VFM supported five disabled students with school fee.

The Elderly

VFM care for the elderly in the communities. Despite the limited resources to support them, we continue to visit t and offer them the psychosocial support in terms of general counselling.

Child Abuse cases

Despite the continued efforts to ensure child protection/ rights is observed, Children in Rusinga west location still undergo the various abuses, however these cases have reduced based on the measures put in place including offering skillful parenting skills to the caregivers. The following were different cases realized in the various clusters;

Case realized	No. of children abused	Where/ cluster
Sexual abuse	More girls (30) were reported as pregnant.	Clusters
Emotional abuse	Over 300 children reported to have emotional pain and counselled in the reported period.	Clusters
Child neglect	14 Children left alone in the beaches	Clusters
Child labor	21 children reported between March and December 2020	Clusters

Note:

VFM follows all the reported cases and those that ended in court never saw the light of the day as witnesses got compromised and justice lost for them.

Youth Services

VFM supported the adolescent girls by offering them with life skill and provision of basic requirements like sanitary pads and laundry soaps (basic hygiene kit).

The pandemic led to many youths lacking social protection; parents were not able to provide for the basic need while these youths find themselves engaged on unhealthy activities with majority facing different forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse being evident in the community prompted VFM efforts to offer life skills, peer education and role modelling integrated with other activities to help over 100 youths out of this.

The theme of the life skills was: *A sexually healthy youth in the pandemic.*

The messages were designed age appropriately, for the pre adolescents it is promotion of total abstinence while those who have been sexually active, secondary abstinence techniques and other skills were offered.



VFM managed to equip 100 youths with tree seedling production skills so that they could produce fruit plants and other plants at home. VFM also provided them with 500 pawpaw seedlings, each with 5 seedlings. This would enhance nutrition as well as enable the youths get income for their use.

Since schools were not operational children were idle and hence engaged in negative activities including bad influence by the bodaboda riders which resulted to pre-mature pregnancies in school going girls.

Child Monitoring

To correct these, VFM continued to advocate to parents and caregivers to monitor movement of their children and create activities that could keep them busy. Through the involvement of the local administration, children gathering were stopped and school going children were prohibited from motor cycle riders without the presence of their caregivers.

Bodaboda riders and young men were also sensitized to be the girl child keeper and NOT the abuser.

Unfortunately, 30 young girls reported cases of early pregnancies in Rusinga community at this tough time of COVID pandemic. Fortunately, none from VFM school

In the bid to curb this, VFM engaged the youths in Mentorship sessions, Peer-peer sessions that VFM targeted both boys and girls and with this VFM reached to 100 youths in 2020. VFM also gave them an option to Vocational skills where 45 youths were registered for tailoring and mat weaving training, plans to engage them underway.

All these VFM did under strict observation of the COVID 19 measures meant to prevent it.



VFM Food Basket Relief provision in COVID 19 Pandemic

This activity was facilitated for six months to help the vulnerable families secure food to eat during this pandemic.

When schools closed and children released to homes, feeding them through the day with three meals became a challenge, this led to increased food demand because of increased number of household members,

Besides, the government restrictions and the **stay at home** COVID 19 prevention strategy was also a challenge, no member of the family engaged in productive household income generating activity, the curfews affected the fisher folks. Hence, there was hunger and as a result, VFM reached out to the vulnerable members with food packs to help bridge this gap. Packs of foodstuffs was bought and families listed to benefit were invited in bits to come and pick the baskets. 618 Households were reached to with food baskets. The food baskets were composed of

nutritious food stuffs; a combination of all aspects of good diet and nutrition was considered; carbohydrate, protein, fats and minerals were inclusive this to enhance their health status.

A basket comprised of a monthly 4 Kgs Beans- protein, 4 Kgs Rice- carbohydrate, 10 Kgs Maize – carbohydrate, 2 Liters of cooking oil- Fats, 2kgs sugar and 100 grams of Moringa powder given mostly to the elderly to boost their immunity. This was one of the most successful activity appreciated by the community. *See a few selected photos below*



Impact of the relief food as highlighted

- No child has suffered malnutrition as a result of hunger in the island.
- Women who bear huge burden of finding for food for the families have always appreciated the activity as they are hopeful and healthy.
- Own efforts on food production –kitchen gardening- has been realized in the households that benefitted compared to the other families, they were encouraged and they did this as their own contribution to their food problem.
- As a result of the food production at household level, families have made savings of up to KES 350 weekly, money they would have used to buy green leafy vegetables.

The Baskets

MONTH 1 & 2 = 615 Households weekly for 8 weeks 4,954

MONTH 3- 6 = 385 Households weekly for 16 weeks 6,178

A total of 11,129 baskets were distributed to the families for a period between April and December, the community participated in food production and the harvest in July 2020 was another relief to many families.

The community contribution in the pandemic

VFM is always committed and clear in the path to doing no harm to the community and the policy is to completely avoid pure handouts, their participation and contribution in all activities is very key. Their efforts in kitchen gardening was amazing as they harvested vegetable to support their feeding during the scourging pandemic. Boat owners in Litare contributed ‘omena’ to support the program as hunger became a threat and after the government allowed fishing.

The government of Kenya

In the governments social protection initiative, sampled elderly persons were offered cash transfer of KES 3000 monthly which cumulated to KES 18000 for the six months per benefitting individual. VFM director and other community opinion leaders together with the area MP Hon. Milly Mabona Odhiambo formed a Rusinga Progressive Forum, a fund supported by the community and that raised food that also reached to the community.

What Next for the families after the six month’s support

The community resilience programs are adopted and food security activities are being implemented, however, families are still food insecure, children are feeding in schools. Kageno Kenya CBO is a partner in school feeding programing. Kageno is currently supporting 7 public with a lunch program benefiting over 2,800 children in Rusinga Kamasengre. This means children are relieved while in school while majority will miss a meal in 2021.

Strategic Objective Three: Greater access to social services.			PLANNED 3 YEARS	PLANNED FY18	ACHIEVED FY18	PLANNED FY19	ACHIEVED FY19	PLANNED FY 2020	ACHIEVED FY 2020	% ACHIEVED FY 2020
Activity 3.1.1: Train counsellors on identification of cases for counselling, child protection and social service delivery.	Trainings	People	25	25	25	25	42			
Activity 3.1.2: Train community members and staffs on support service to children.	Trainings	People	400	400	349	120	127	58	58	100%
Activity 3.1.3: Training support groups and community on HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and Drug abuse	Trainings	People	400	400	349	120	127	58	15	100%
Activity 3.1.4: Facilitate 3 social workers, 2 Facilitators and a nurse to conduct home visits.	5 Staffs	Month	36	12	8	12	12	12	12	100
Activity 3.1.5: Conduct community dialogue days to find solutions to own problems.		Meetings	36	12	8	12	12	12	2	16%
Activity 3.1.6: VFM participate in national and international child days (orphans day, day of African child etc.)			12	4	2	4	4	4	0	0%
Activity 3.1.7: Employ three more social worker. Pay wages for 3	1	Person	3	3	100	0	0			
Activity 3.2.1: Case identification						180	103			
Activity 3.2.2: One on one counselling with the children and caregivers.						300	402			
Activity 3.2.3: Referral to other services.	1	Month	36	12 units	8	12	12			
				51 referrals		300	241			
Activity 3.2.3: Develop a reporting system for children who are abused.	Follow up meeting	Meetings	1	1		1	1			
Activity 3.3.1: Family child protection education sessions		Sessions	2592	864	581	300	241	864	864	100%
Activity 3.3.2: Enhance parent - child communication through Families Matter! Program.	1	Parents	5280	1760	1210	586	521	586	586	100%
Activity 3.3.3: Identification and inclusion of discriminated disabled children.				9		16	10	16	16	100%
Activity 3.3.4: Train children on child protection and life skills				12 sessions		12	12			100%

CHAPTER FOUR

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Improved access to quality healthcare: *Interventions are geared at strengthening the capacities of duty bearer to provide equitable, accessible and quality services as well as create demand by promoting health seeking behaviors. The interventions endeavor to create awareness and health education to all the target beneficiaries for better health outcomes.*

Health Services before COVID 19

The following were achieved as highlighted

- VFM program Nurse with the help of CHVs conducted Home based medical care to 3047 community members were treated for simple illnesses, among them were 57 elderlies. 567 were children under 5 years.
- VFM social workers liaised with CHVs to trace children under five years who are in immunization defaulters refer them to health facilities for vaccination,



Minor illnesses

Upper respiratory tract infections and malaria were the highest recorded illnesses last year 334 and 233 cases of under 5 years respectively, most likely due to a rainy and cold weather. VFM managed to advise parents on preventive measure like the children putting on sweaters and

jackets during cold weather, sleeping under treated mosquito nets, keeping the residential surroundings clean.

The government also conducted the mass residual spraying to help curb malaria. This was done in every residential household. Over 1000 households were sprayed for the same. We hope for reduced malaria as a result of this exercise

Growth Monitoring

VFM does this frequently to assess the health status of children. This year VFM recorded growth improvements in our ECD children due to abundant vegetables and fruits boosted by rains and at our disposal at school farm and at home. 289 children were monitored and none recorded a retardant growth.

Deworming

VFM administer deworming drugs as a preventive measure as well as treatment for worms in children. By doing this, VFM prevent anemia, malnutrition and impaired mental and physical development and also the child's concentration at school. 289 at VFM school were dewormed.



Figure 4 deworming exercise for ECDE school

Health Talk

VFM boys and girls have grown and most of them have got into adolescent stage. At this stage, they tend to explore a lot and they need to understand themselves. Through health clubs VFM took them through behavior change, self-esteem and being responsible. VFM also took them through sexual and reproductive health education. 289 children were reached with information through health talk.



Outreaches before Covid 19 pandemic

For effective service delivery, enough drug supplies were in stock. This boosted medication services.

Through this, VFM reached out to individuals who were not able to access health services. This approach helped improve the role of health delivery and raising community awareness on the existing services. It also improved the identification of under- served population, follow-ups and service referrals. These were done to 1171 families in Sienga cluster, Lwanda and Nyangera respectively in partnership with Kolunga Dispensary. The following services were provided:

- Family planning
- General medical examination
- HIV counseling and referrals
- Immunization to under 5 years
- Antenatal care referrals



Success Story During outreach at bright light academy, program nurse noticed a child who was not actively participating in the school activities. She wanted to find out what could have been the problem with the child and discovered that the child had a serious wound with a protruding bone and the teachers were not aware. She then referred her to “kolunga” community dispensary for further medication. Monitoring of the child progress is underway.



COVID 19 pandemic from Health Department desk



Stay safe Covid 19 is real! Keep distance, mask up and sanitize.

This presented with various challenges that forced school to be closed hence making health department at VFM in dilemma of

work distribution. In this regard resorted to house hold visits to our school children to monitor

their health status and sensitize them on COVID 19 awareness message i.e. continuous observation of hygiene by putting up hand washing facilities, use of masks and observing our diet.

This far Nutrition was the key topic of discussion during home visits especially to the elderly with low immunity for the virus affects mostly people with low immunity.



More food on the table as a result of smart kitchen gardening has ensured availability of vegetable and fruits which are rich in nutrients that helps build immunity and as a result Most families have reported increased good health with minimal infection



Despite this, social workers and Community health workers continues to create awareness on COVID 19 pandemic transmission and preventive measures e.g. washing of hands using running waters and soap, wearing of masks and observing social distance. Fortunately, the community Members are aware of the disease control measures in place as realized by the increased number of hand washing facilities in place and the increased use of masks and observed social distancing by the members of the community. This was achieved in partnership with other organizations like RUSINGA –TRUST who also provided masks to the community members making them meet the requirements. As a result, none got infected with COVID 19 in Kamasengre community.

However, more activities were thwarted and as a result the economic status of the community was hindered as most activities were at standstill including SILC activity not functioning normally. All these made life become very difficult to the whole community mostly to the very vulnerable households.

How VFM responded to health concerns

- Due to high medical demand as a result of COVID 19 VFM gave an access to health services by conducting several community health outreaches that offered medical services to the community.
- More medical supplies were purchased due to the increased medical service demand.
- The program nurse offered consultancy services and made referrals to the Sub County Hospital in Mbita.

The ministry of health improved the work force helped in preventing the spread of the Corona virus by introducing TOM MBOYA HEALTH facility as an isolation center and Litare

Dispensary a nearby facility was upgraded to offer HIV/AIDS care and other health services in Kamasengre community.

Moringa- The Nutritious Plant



This is a supper food as it provides high level macronutrients. It provides vitamins and proteins. Moringa powder is used an ingredient in all foods in school while the community has displayed their love for Moringa by planting it in their kitchen gardens and horticultural farms.

More farmers were trained on the importance of moringa. This year 5 farmers plus 6 social workers were trained as trainers of trainees on the same. As a result, we anticipate for a healthier community with more moringa



Health Talks and Life Skills.

VFM conducted 32 health talk sessions to 100 youths on varies topics on sexual and reproductive health as well as general life skills for youths to be able to effectively protect themselves

Strategic Objective Four: Improved access to quality healthcare	Frequency		PLANNED 3 YEARS	PLANNED 2018	ACHIEVED 2018	PLANNED 2019	ACHIEVED 2019	PLANNED 2020	ACHIEVED 2020	% achieved 2020
Activity 4.1.1: Employ a nurse	1	Months	1	1	1	0	0			
Activity 4.1.2: Provide adequate medical supplies for minor illness management during medial outreaches	1	Quarters	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Activity 4.1.3: Training of health care providers on emergency response	1	Training	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	100%
Activity 4.2.1: Sensitize children and parents on emergency response	1	Sessions	396	132	112	132	131	132	132	100%
Activity 4.2.2: Educate children on good health practices	1	Sessions	396	132	112	132	131	132	132	100%
Activity 4.2.3: Strengthen health clubs for awareness creation	1	Clubs	12	12	12	12	12	12	6	50%
Activity 4.2.4: Provide IEC materials to boost health awareness.	1	Flyers	20	20	20	13	13	500	300	60%
Activity 4.2.5: Community participate in national health days (Malaria, Aids, Tb, Cancer, Malezi Bora)	1	Days	12	4	4	4	4	4	1	25%
Activity 4.3.1: Regular medical checkups for the children	1	Quarters	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Activity 4.3.2: Child growth monitoring	1	Quarters	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Activity 4.3.3: Treat minor illnesses	1	Quarters	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Activity 4.3.4: Monitor nutritional status of children	1	Quarters	12	4	4	4	4	4	3	75%
Activity 4.3.5 Advocate for health seeking by the community.	1	Meetings	36	12	14	12	12	12	12	100%
Activity 4.3.6 Conduct community outreaches to upscale health service delivery by service providers.	1	Outreach es	108	36	39	36	42	36	24	67%
Activity 4.3.7 Equip the school clinic with basic medication drugs for ease of minor illnesses management.	1	Quarters	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Activity 4.3.8: Support Tom Mboya Health Center with post- natal room in partnership with Homa Bay County government.	1	Building	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Activity 4.3.9: Upscale ANC attendance.	1	Follow ups	0	216	61	216	189	216	189	88%
Activity 4.4.0: Regular deworming of children	1	Quarterly	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%

CHAPTER 5

EDUCATION

Improved equitable access to quality education: Interventions aim to make at helping every child under our care to achieve the highest educational standards that he or she possibly can.

We continue with our endeavor towards an improved equitable access to quality education. Through education advocacy done by our social workers, CHVs and in collaboration with other stakeholders in the community, more enrolments were realized both in our school and in the surrounding schools.

However, in March the first case of corona virus was announced which caused the schools to be closed hence the children only stayed in school for 2 consecutive months. Policies were drawn to ensure that children were safe when schools reopen.



Feeding Program in school

VFM continued to provide 2 meals a day for the children in school. In 2020, this was done for only two months then school closed down as a result of the first corona virus case in Kenya. Schools then reopened in September for grades four and eight in the whole Kenya, VFM then continued to feed grade fours up to the end of the year. This highly contributed towards increased child performance and good health.

As a result, reduced absenteeism in schools due to addressed hunger amongst pupils. Child attendance rate also improved. VFM continued to record highest attendance and retention rate. VFM efforts to produce food improved, bananas are doing well, reduced cost of fruits in the school feeding menu as a result the school managed to save money.

Grade fours Re-opens school as per the government directives

VFM's grade 4 pupils Reopens school. All teachers were available to attend to them. The program continued to provide breakfast and lunches for these in school. This helped as many of them came from hunger stricken homes where only one meal aday was affordable.



Photos of grade fours in class. Social distancing and masks directives are ensure to the later

Objective 6 - Improved equitable access to quality Education.				PLANNED 3 YEARS	PLANNED 2018	ACHIEVED 2018	PLANNED 2019	ACHIEVED 2019	PLANNED 2020	ACHIEVED 2020	% Achieved 2020
Activity 6.1.1: Sensitize on school safety measures		quarterly	12	4	4	4	4	4	4		100%
Activity 6.1.2: Sensitize on friendly teaching and learning environment		quarterly	12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Activity 6.1.3: Conduct school inspection on safety		Quarterly	12	4	4	4	5	4	5		125%
Activity 6.1.4: Installation of firefighting equipment		Buildings	17	17	17	2	2	0	0		0%
Activity 6.2.1: Assess and evaluate teaching quality		quarterly	12	4	4	4	6	4	4		100
Activity 6.2.2: Recognize better performing teachers and pupils		Tests	27	9	9	9	7	9	3		33%
Activity 6.2.3: Lobby for deployment of qualified staffs (New)		Teachers	4	4	4	0	0	1	1		100%
Activity 6.2.4: Promote learners and teachers achievements through regular awards, announcements and activities.		Quarters	12	4	4	4	5	4	5		125%
Activity 6.2.5: Provide adequate teaching and learning materials for new class		Year	3	1	1	1	2	1	1		100%
Activity 6.3.1: Engage PTA in monitoring school performance -	1	Meetings	12	4	4	4	3	4	1		25%
Activity 6.3.2: Create a system of monitoring performance in the school		System	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		100%
Activity 6.3.3: Monitor school attendance for children	1	0	585	195	195	195	123	195	165		85%

Activity 6.4.1: Construction of administration facility at VFM	1	Building	1				achi			
Activity 6.4.2: Construction of administration facility at Dr. Williams Primary School in partnership with the local community.	1	Building	1							
Activity 6.4.3: Establish a youth friendly center at VFM to benefit youths in Rusinga.	1	Building	1	0	Land acquired					
Activity 6.4.4: Construction of an ECDE center facility at EDDIE Primary School in partnership with the local community.	1	Building	1		Fencing the school is prioritized					
Activity 6.4.5: Establish and equip a community resource center.	1	Facilities	1	0					0	
Activity 6.5.1: Provide very needy children with school uniforms in Rusinga to boost child retention and classroom comfort.	1	Children	300	100		100	143	100	50	50%
Activity 6.5.2: Provide school fee subsidies to needy children in partnership with CDF bursary fund and county government - Rusinga Ward		Children	6					5	5	100%

VFM arrangement on COVID 19 containment when schools Re-opens in 2020

VFM will need only a single tent after classes are rearranged, the current temporary office for social workers and that provide for a clinic/sick bay will be made into a classroom, social workers will share the boardroom with the few teachers who will not have their offices in classes due to numbers.

The office that sits the manager and the program manager will be a clinic while part of it that sits the administrator and the field operations manager will remain. This means that the program director and the manager will rent a space outside the school premises to allow for space for the implementation of the COVID 19 containment policies and protocols for schools.

VFM then will be able to comply with the rules even if all classes/ grades are all back to school.



Otto Pavilion

A commemorative tree which ones served as a classroom before any structure was eminent at VFM was conserved and never uprooted as advised by Mr. Otto the chairman Koornzaayer. It currently provides a very wonderful shade that serves children during their environmental and science lessons and even staffs when they need a free air space. This is after it was renovated into a wonderful structure.

Landscaping

To enhance the beauty of VFM, more flowers are planted in the compound and an escarpment and a parking area has been built along the pavements through the main gate. Giving VFM a beautiful view as shown in the photos



Destroyed SUMP

The water levels in the lake rose that destroyed the SUMP at the intake point. This was as a result of a strong wind that left all the sump walls fallen. The adapter box was equally submerged.



What VFM did

With the help of an engineer, the strength of waves were broken by putting up gabions, the sump was then renovated and its strength increased.

CONCLUSION

VFM has recorded a positive community ties and all activities create impact to the vulnerable families. This annual report gives a true reflection of what was achieved and the next report shall sample success stories.

The team at VFM is energized to offer perfect services to the community. Their professional ability has seen the most robust project- community partnerships.

We at VFM still believe in community service and we look forward to another year- 2021