

Final Report

Adopt a Village – Salabwek

Submitted To:
SVQF



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Abbreviations

AAV – Adopt A Village

AI – Alternative Income

BEP – Better Education Program

FEWSNET – Famine Early Warning Systems Network

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

FTC – Free The Children

KCPE – Kenya Certificate of Primary Education

MHC – Mobile Health Clinics

SVQF – Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation

VCT – Voluntary Counseling and Testing

WFP – World Food Programme

Introduction

The start of a new year brings with it promise of a brighter future for hundreds of children and their families in the community of Salabwek. This is an exciting time to both reflect on past successes and challenges, celebrate the difference you have made, and describe our way forward. The new year is of particular importance in the communities where Free The Children (FTC) works in Kenya because this is also the beginning of a new academic year.

Key highlights over the past quarter include implementation of the final component of this partnership with the water project in Salabwek as well as a celebration honouring the investment made by students, educators and families in support of primary education. Development activities continue in Salabwek through the strength of both the FTC field team and actively involved community members. In late March, a major stakeholder meeting took place between various FTC communities where village leaders played a lead role in strategic planning for the future to ensure long-term sustainability of the projects' impacts.

The FTC team in Kenya is able to experience the growth and impact that your support has made possible over the past few years and is also able to document the stories from the field that tangibly describe the change taking place. By sharing the impact with you, and inviting SVQF to in turn transfer this knowledge through innovative networks such as the Clinton Global Initiative, SVQF has positioned itself as a critical partner for FTC in the pursuit of social justice for underserved rural populations. In this way, FTC and SVQF together can foster increased coordination and use of best practices in the development sector.

FTC is pleased to share this final report with our generous supporters from SVQF reflecting on the impact that your support has made and will continue to make in this region. For the past several years, SVQF has played an integral role in FTC's ability to successfully implement its AAV model of international development in the community of Salabwek, Kenya. Activities have been carried out for all four pillars of programming that SVQF is currently funding. The following report details the program objectives, includes updates since the last report and describes the next steps in for each pillar. In accordance with FTC's established evaluation methodology, information is provided describing indicators that demonstrate FTC's developmental results and the overall impact thus far made possible by SVQF.

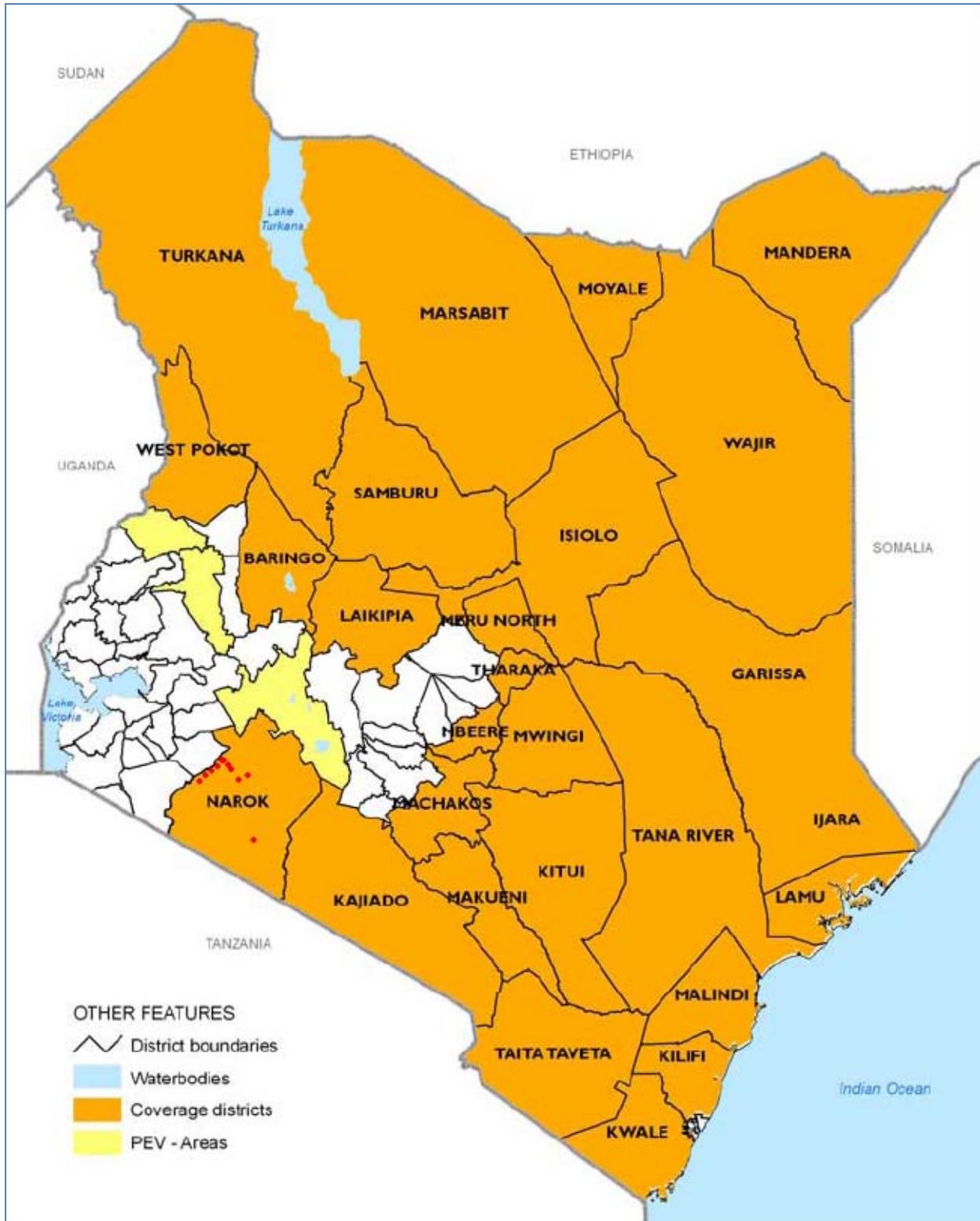


Executive Summary

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Title | Adopt A Village |
| Country | Kenya |
| Program Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase access to quality primary education- Reduce poverty and the incidence of poverty related diseases- Reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health- Increase empowerment and independence of women- Increase base family income through sustainable and diversified income generating activities- Improve access to clean and safe water for all community members |
| Sectors of Focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Education- Water and Sanitation- Health- Alternative Income |
| Operational Area | Salabwek |
| Program Start Date | January 2009 |
| Funding Partner | SVQF |
| Current Funding | 118,600 USD |
| Direct Beneficiaries | 5,200 |
| Free The Children Contact | Ashley Hilkewich; Seerat Kazmi |
| Contact Details | Email: Ashley@freethechildren.com Phone: 416.460.9798 Email: Seerat@freethechildren.com |

Maps

Kenya District Level Map



Communities



Salabwek Community

Before Free The Children began working in the community of Salabwek, there were many challenges the people of this Maasai community had to face. The average child had to walk three to four kilometers to school and some children in the community had to walk as much as seven kilometers to school. In order to get water, mothers and children in the community need to walk an entire day to fill a 20L bottle with water. Textbooks were shared one book for every four children in the lower primary and one book for every three children in upper primary. Due to the inability to lock the mud structure classrooms, chalkboards and classroom posters had to be removed and stored elsewhere every day.

The headmaster of the old school described three major problems facing the school and the students in general. These included: a lack of classrooms to accommodate all of the school-aged children, a lack of pit latrines appropriate for both boys and girls, and problems recruiting and retaining quality teaching staff because of poor conditions and lack of staff accommodations.

The people of Salabwek play an incredibly vital role in overcoming the challenges they face and have truly embraced what it means for a community to drive change themselves. Parents in Salabwek are very supportive of education for their children. In fact, many of the parents in the community participate in Salabwek's Parent Teacher Association. Not only this, but since Free The Children began operating in this community not too long ago, this community boasts the highest number of actively participating women's groups and parents. Both women and children are standing up to act as ambassadors for the entire community.

Adopt A Village

Education

Overview

FTC schools provide a safe, bright and positive learning environment for children to earn the education they deserve. Classrooms are outfitted with all the necessary materials and equipment that a child needs to succeed in school. Building new classrooms staffed by qualified teachers, broadens access to education and brings class sizes down ensuring delivery of quality teaching.

Celebrating Students' Success

This January marked the start of a brand new school year in Salabwek and the community members of have many successes to look forward to. Last year, the Kenya Nutrition Program which provided children with a warm, healthy midday meal helped increase enrolment levels in our Kenya communities, driving us to keep classroom construction moving quickly across the region where FTC is active.

On February 10th, to honor students and teachers for their hard work, the Head Teachers' Forum arranged an awards ceremony, inviting all Free The Children schools and their community members. The categories awarded included: the most improved school in academics, the best performing school in academics, the best student overall of all Free The Children schools both boy and girl, the most well maintained school, the best environmental club and many others. The head teachers were also awarded out of appreciation for their hard work in managing the schools. The day was a huge success and the community members were all so proud of their achievements. The ceremony opened with

community leaders affirming that “success is about you and me, so we begin together.” The recognition that improving their lives and the lives of their children is the result of cooperation and coordination is a key indicator of the longevity of the impacts that will be felt in Salabwek. A nearby community prepared an original song to perform at the awards ceremony called “Masomo Baraka,” meaning education is our blessing. The ceremony continued with several community leaders speaking about targeted issues, including the need to focus on and invest in the child, the need to prevent girls from dropping out of school, early marriage and early pregnancy. Yet another respected elder in the region commented on the fact that the key to successful education and community development is commitment. During the awards ceremony Salabwek ranked as having one of the highest achieving environmental clubs and commitment to the environment.

Reflecting on Our Success

At the outset of our educational programming, we sought out to increase students’ access to quality educational facilities and resources and provide a positive learning environment. Our second expected outcome was that both students and teachers would demonstrate a high level of performance and motivation to learn based on the increased access to resources. Lastly, we expected teachers to be better equipped with the skills and resources to be motivated to offer higher quality teaching to students in the community. All of these expected outcomes were achieved, firstly through SVQF’s support for school-building and support for teaching staff, secondly by the students continued commitment to excellence and school and ability to reach completion of primary school and take the KCPE exams, and lastly by the strong participation of representatives from the Salabwek education community to become actively engaged in FTC programming.

Water and Sanitation

Overview

The Water and Sanitation programming carried out by FTC in partnership with SVQF is a critical component to achieving better life outcomes for the people of Salabwek through FTC’s AAV model. Upon entry into the community of Salabwek, 90 per cent of the households did not have access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities. In order to access the closest water source, children and women would have to walk for hours to collect water for the household, preventing both groups from engaging in more meaningful activities such as attending school and income generating activities respectively.

Delivering Clean Water and Sanitation Facilities

In the past quarter, the last major project supported by SVQF in the community of Salabwek has entered the implementation phase. As of March 1st, drilling activities began in the community. Drilling quickly reached a depth of 125 metres with some flow and continued to past 200 metres. In line with the depths at which the aquifers were reached in Enelera and Oloonkerin communities, a sustainable and sufficient water source will be accessible at a depth of more than 200 metres before assessments can be done to determine the number of water kiosks that can be built. SVQF’s support was instrumental in being able to develop this deep water well and will also support the construction and development of the first access point or kiosk.

Next Steps and Reflecting on Our Success

The next steps to complete this project include the construction of a generator house and installation of piping network. The generator will be used to pump water into the tanks and to the water stations spread out in the community. Trenches for the pipes and the foundation for the masonry tank will be dug out. Lastly, registration of the water project members will take place. This will help with future management of the water project and hence its sustainability.

FTC has taken action on all components of the water programming in Salabwek that will help realize the expected results for this pillar of programming including increasing water security and improving access to sanitation devices like hand-washing stations and latrines.

Health

Overview

FTC's Health program objectives are to improve the health of the community members of Salabwek, reduce the rates of various poverty related diseases, and reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health.

Making Health Care Accessible

With the start of the new school year, a new set of Health Club members were recruited. Voluntary counseling and testing of mothers to learn their HIV status was encouraged along with the benefits of seeking out preventing mother-to-child transmission services.

Reflecting on Our Success

Our targets for our health care programming focused on the delivery of quality primary care, provision of health education and awareness and well as support for health care resources. SVQF's contribution towards health care programming allowed FTC to fulfill all program deliverables.

Alternative Income

Overview

One of FTC's primary goals in Salabwek is to promote women's empowerment in order to contribute to an overall increase in gender equity in this community. In order to accomplish these goals, FTC has implemented FTC's three phase alternative income programming method. Traditionally, male heads of household are the primary income earners. However, because of low household incomes, families often remove their children from school in order to contribute to income earning activities. It is therefore important to ensure that women heads of household are able to contribute to household income as well as develop to ability to actively participate in household economic decisions to ensure their children can remain in school.

FTC's Alternative Income program objectives are to increase empowerment and independence of women, alleviate poverty through by increasing the base family income – through sustainable and diversified income generating activities, and to promote greater self-sufficiency, independence, empowerment and solidarity of the entire beneficiary community.

Building Better Livelihoods

Alternative income programming has been key to our continued success in this community. Through active engagement of women in supporting strong livelihoods, women have continued to reinvest their income into their households. Strategic planning amongst FTC communities has indicated a need and a desire from men in the villages to also become engaged in microenterprise related programming. The success that women's groups have experienced have encouraged men to also show an interest in and commitment to supporting their households in new and unique ways. Through SVQF's support, FTC has been able to support new small businesses that community members are eager to participate in and bring a high level of skill to.

Celebrating our Success

The most important learning from our alternative income programming in Salabwek as well as across our Kenya communities has been the vital role that introducing redundancy and leveraging social networks plays in allowing FTC to reach project targets. The example that best demonstrates this is the higher uptake of safe water and hygiene practices in households where women were part of a women's group relative to the community as a whole. This learning can be applied to future implementation of projects where the FTC field team can better mobilize groups of people for strong impact rather than large segments of the population at once.

Conclusion

SVQF's partnership with FTC has been the primary driving force in our projects in Salabwek. Looking back at the past year of engagement in particular we have taken several key learnings away. First of all, FTC recognizes the importance of partnering with an organization that provides the organization with access to a community of like-minded individuals and organizations committed to rural community development. Secondly, this partnership has reinforced the value of utilizing new media in outreach to communities as a powerful tool for community mobilization. Lastly, this partnership has helped foster capacity building amongst the community members and field team in Kenya to continue their commitment to excellence in community development.

Appendixes

A1. Financial Report

| Item | Component | Total Cost | Total Funded |
|--|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Water and Sanitation | | | |
| 10 double latrines | Water/Sanitation | \$15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| 1 Bore hole | Water/Sanitation | \$50,000.00 | \$50,000 |
| Health | | | |
| Medication | Mobile Health Clinic | \$3,600.00 | \$3,600.00 |
| Medical Supplies | Mobile Health Clinic | \$2,400.00 | \$2,400.00 |
| First Aid Kits for School | Mobile Health Clinic | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Staff Costs to Conduct Workshops and Administer Programs | Mobile Health Clinic | \$24,000.00 | \$24,000.00 |
| Educational Tools | Health Clubs | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| Educational Tools | Primary Schools | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| Educational Tools | Women/Men/Youth Groups | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200 |
| Stationery/Food/Misc. For 2 Awareness Days | Awareness Days | \$2500.00 | \$2,500 |
| General Operational Costs (including fuel & vehicle maintenance) | All components | \$2,400.00 | \$2,400 |
| Emergency transport/bills for community members in need. | All components | \$600.00 | \$600 |
| Alternative Income | | | |
| Staff Costs to Conduct Workshops and Administer Program | Alternative Income | \$12,000.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Workshop Supplies/Miscellaneous | Alternative Income | \$2400.00 | \$2400.00 |
| Total | | \$118,600 | \$ 118,600 |