

FREE THE CHILDREN

Interim Report

Adopt A Village - Salabwek

Submitted To

SVQF

Reporting Period

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Abbreviations

AAV – Adopt A Village

AI – Alternative Income

BEP – Better Education Program

CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child

EFA – Education For All

FEWSNET – Famine Early Warning Systems Network

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

FPE – Free Primary Education

FTC – Free The Children

MHC – Mobile Health Clinics

SVQF – Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

WFP – World Food Programme

Introduction

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly adopting by resolution the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified by Kenya in the year 1990. During the same year, the international community including national government representatives from 155 countries, civil society groups, and development agencies launched the Education for All (EFA) initiative, led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Through this movement, the international community committed itself to achieving six education goals including expanded access to free and compulsory primary education and achievement of gender equality in education by 2015.

In the decade following, there was slow progress in achieving EFA objectives and so in the year 2000, the international community met once again to reaffirm its commitment to these goals. In 2002, Kenya implemented their new Children's Act to ensure the realization of children's rights as laid out in the CRC. Shortly thereafter in 2003, Kenya introduced its Free Primary Education (FPE) policy opening up primary education for all Kenyan children who had never before been able to enjoy their right education. The response was literally overwhelming. With over 1 million new students enrolling in the first year of FPE, the challenges presented by increased enrollment were immense. Among them were the issues of inadequate and insufficient educational infrastructure, compromised education quality due to increased class sizes but limited number of quality teaching staff, an increasing disparity between the needs of students and the availability of required educational materials, and teacher support facilities.

Free The Children (FTC) has been operating in Kenya since 1999, and has witnessed the impact of these changes. FTC's unique approach to holistic sustainable community development, Adopt a Village (AAV), was well designed to cope with and address these challenges. Over the past decade, FTC's development efforts in education have included school-building, furnishing and outfitting schools, the Better Education Program, provision of school kits, Community and Resource Centre and Library development, Education Awareness, scholarship programs for secondary school, amongst many other projects. The success of FTC's programs in Kenya is largely attributable to FTC's AAV model, through which we address the additional barriers to education faced by children including poor health, families' lack of economic security, and poor water and sanitation facilities. FTC also mainstreams issues of gender equality, environment and sustainability into all its program activities.

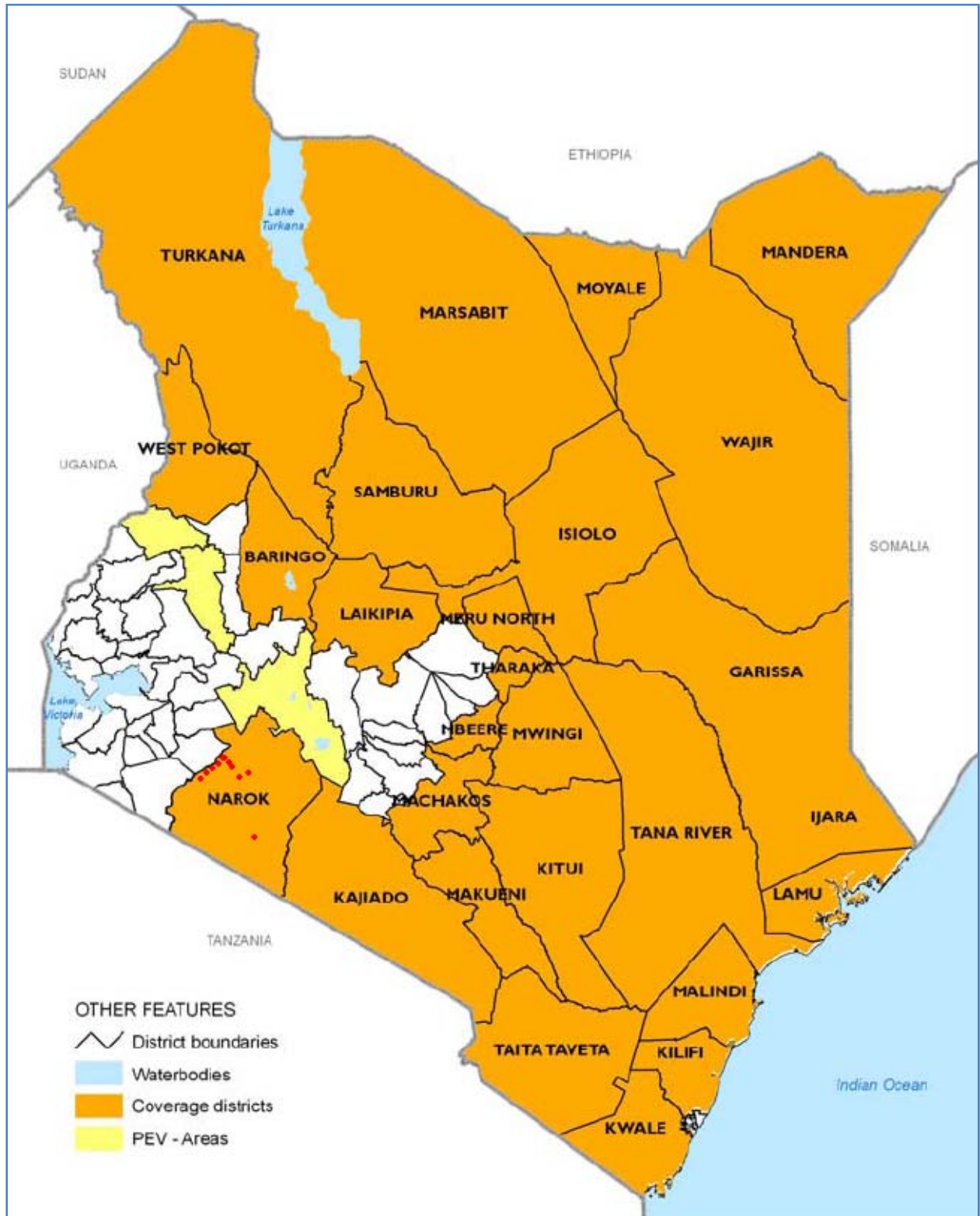
Free The Children is pleased to share this interim report with FTC's generous supporters from SVQF. For the past several years, SVQF has played an integral role in FTC's ability to successfully implement its AAV model of international development in the community of Salabwek, Kenya. Activities have been 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

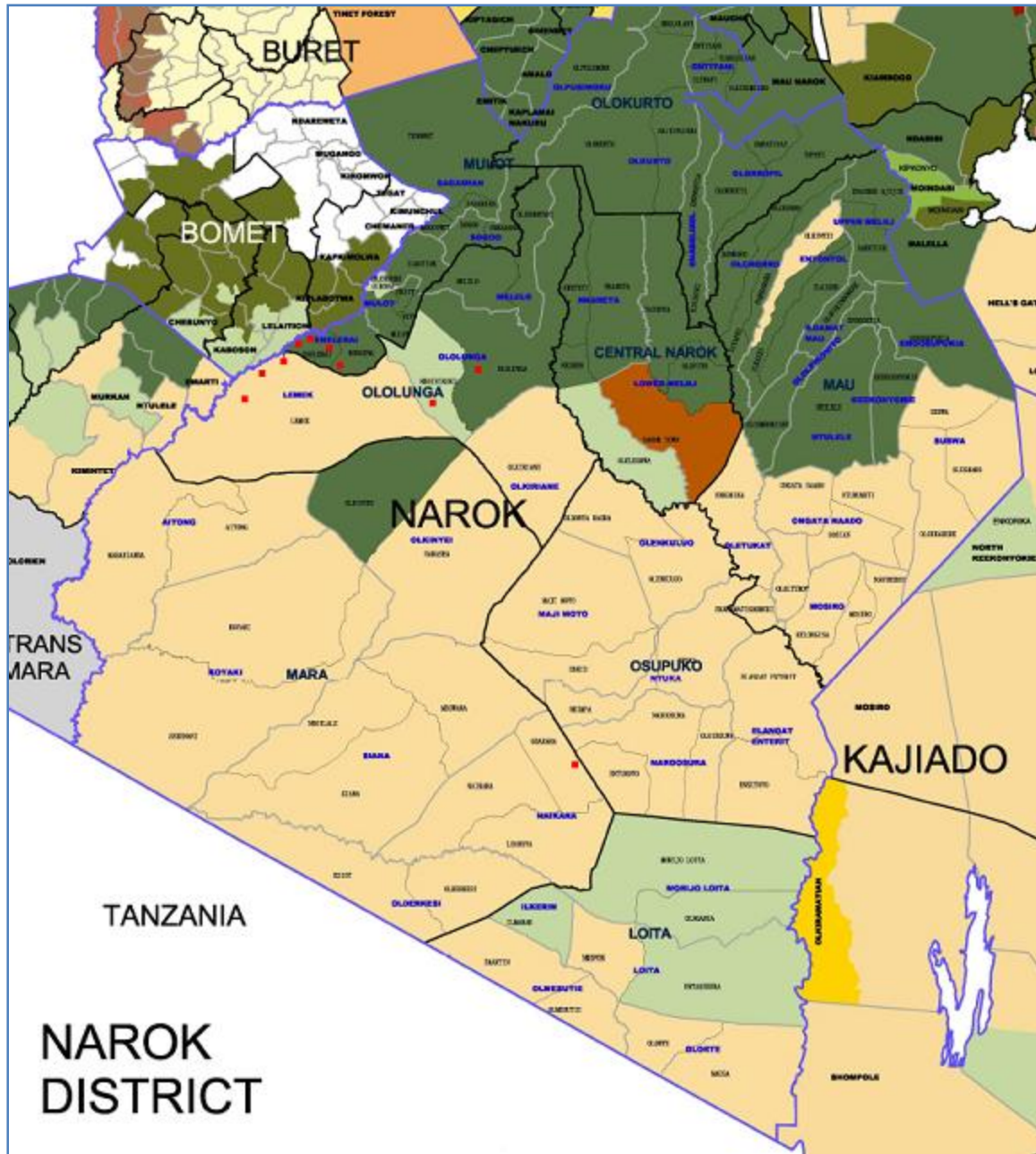
Title	Adopt A Village
Country	Kenya
Program Goals	<p>Increase access to quality primary education</p> <p>Reduce poverty and the incidence of poverty related diseases</p> <p>Reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health</p> <p>Increase empowerment and independence of women</p> <p>Increase base family income through sustainable and diversified income generating activities</p> <p>Improve access to clean and safe water for all community members</p>
Sectors of Focus	Education, Water and Sanitation, Health, Alternative Income
Operational Area	Salabwek
Program Start Date	January 2009
Funding Partner	SVQF
Total Budget	118,600 USD
Fund Disbursed To Date	65,000 USD
Predicted Number of Beneficiaries	5,200
Free The Children Contact	Ashley Hilkewich; Seerat Kazmi
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Maps

Kenya District Level Map



Narok District



Salabwek Community

Salabwek is a community located in Narok South District, Kenya. The population of the community is approximately 5,200 people. The area is largely populated by the Kipsigis, a pastoralist tribal group, speaking the Kipsigis language. The Kipsigis originated in Sudan and moved into the Kenyan region in the 18th century.

Over the past two years, Kenya has experienced drastically reduced rainfall. As subsistence farmers, Kipsigis community members have been more severely impacted by this year's drought. Low levels of rainfall in Narok South District have resulted in two consecutive crop failures, leading to a food shortage for the entire year. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), USAID, and the UN World Food Programme have all reported that communities within Narok South District are highly food insecure. This, coupled with the rise in food prices for staples such as maize, can lead to emergency situations for households unable to cope with food shortage. Salabwek community is geographically exposed to these risks presented by this year's drought. The negative impact that food shortage has on families in rural Kenya as it relates to our educational programming ranges from decreased academic performance, fatigue, and decreased attendance. The more serious implications of food insecurity include malnutrition, stunting, and increased susceptibility to disease.

In addition to this, regional challenges faced by this community include gender inequality, female circumcision, child labour, and rural to urban migration. Despite this, Salabwek community continues to demonstrate the capacity and resilience to cope with a harsh set of circumstances. Salabwek community has the largest number of women's groups and parents actively participating in FTC's AAV programming of all of FTC's active communities.

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.

Towards Delivery of Quality Primary Education

In order to provide adequate educational opportunities for the children of Salabwek, FTC is planning on building 25 classrooms for the 1013 students attending school on a regular basis. Thus far, FTC has built 14 classrooms accommodating all of these children, of which SVQF has provided support to construct eight. The classrooms generously supported by SVQF are directly contributing to reducing student to teacher ratio, and increasing the delivery of quality primary education. This past year, 490 girls and 523 boys enrolled at Salabwek Primary School, and just under 40 children graduated. Currently two more classrooms are under construction and will be completed by December 2009 as are 4 rooms for teachers' accommodations.

The community has consistently shown its commitment to education by volunteering time towards construction activities for the primary school. Furthermore the school management committee has been very helpful in ensuring that the construction process continues unimpeded by repairing broken tools and providing accommodations for construction workers in nearby locations.

To date, there are 19 teachers participating in FTC's Better Education Program in Salabwek community. This program includes the Teacher Incentive Program challenge which encourages teaching staff to deliver quality education, promotes student and teacher attendance, promotes respect for school space and lastly also fosters increased academic performance.

Recently, FTC gave an education workshop facilitated by Barbara Hoskins. This workshop was attended by Salabwek community and other active Free The Children communities in Kenya. This one day workshop included topics such as alternative approaches to teaching, participatory methods in the classroom, how to communicate with children at different developmental stages, how to communicate effectively amongst co-workers, how to use story telling as a learning method and how to use story creation as a method for exploring a child's creative ability. In total over 80 teachers, headmasters and community education leaders attended the workshops. The day brought together leaders from 3 different cultural communities including Kisii, Kipsigis and Maasai communities. Subsequent site visits at FTC schools reveal the active role that teachers are playing in their schools. The teachers and headmasters are taking many of the lessons learnt in the workshop and implementing them in their classrooms. For example, teachers are seen bringing students' desks together so that they can work together in groups, teachers using role playing with the students in class, and also teachers giving students the opportunity to lead the class.

Hallmarks of FTC's success in Salabwek include an increased number of parents encouraging their children to attend school as well as supporting teaching staff who are not provided with salaries by the Kenyan government.

Next Steps

FTC will continue classroom construction and teacher recruitment in Salabwek community to achieve the target student to teacher ratio of 40 to 1. With the expanding student population and demand for quality education amongst Salabwek community, coupled with the continual hiring of teaching staff, facilitating effective teacher training in order to meet the specific needs of this Kipsigis community is of the utmost importance. Also, other roadblocks inhibiting children from attending school need to be addressed. This includes providing children with necessary school supplies and ensuring that their nutritional needs are met through the school Feeding Program, especially in the context of this year's severe drought.

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. The main source of water that the community members of Salabwek have access to is the Mara River, but in recent years this vital natural resource has also come under threat. Ecosystem encroachments in the Mau Forest Complex, the largest of five major water towers that forms a water catchment area for the Mara River have led to gross deforestation. Deforestation in turn impacts river flow and water storage, among other environmental concerns. A report released by the Government of Kenya in September 2009 warns that continued destruction of the Mau Forest Complex will inevitably lead to a water crisis affecting both Kenya and Tanzania.

Delivering Clean Water and Sanitation Facilities

FTC's Water and Sanitation program objectives are to increase access to clean water for all community members thereby increasing water security and to reduce the incidence and prevalence of waterborne and water related illnesses.

To address community members' immediate water needs, FTC has built a rainwater catchment system at the school site in Salabwek. The rain catchment system uses the school's roof as a collection tool, funneling the rain through the gutters and into a storage tank. In the past several months repairs have been done on the already existing tanks to ensure that they are in good condition in preparation for the rains. The repairs involved fixing taps on both the tanks and hand washing stations. Due to the size of the school FTC has added extra gutters to maximize on rain catchment. The success of the rain catchment systems is severely impacted by this year's drought, but remains an important source to supplement clean water supply.

To ensure proper sanitation and hygiene and that the community is consuming clean water, FTC has undertaken several education and infrastructure projects. By providing the community with latrines, 10 of which were built directly through SVQF support, hand washing stations and sanitation workshops, FTC is also decreasing hygiene and sanitation concerns in the community. Since the community has already been taught on the importance of boiling water before drinking, the percentage of community members practicing this has increased to 70% thus reducing the number of incidences of water borne diseases. As part of the 7 habits to a healthy home, the community members are now adhering to the practice of consuming boiled water, digging pit latrines and also having hand washing stations. Furthermore, the women have started purchasing safe water tanks that are used to purify water before use.

Next Steps

To cope with the issue of water scarcity, development of a water well for Salabwek community is the next priority. SVQF's support will help fund the development of a well that will benefit all 5,200 community members.

Health

Overview

In Kenya, one in 14 children will die in their first year, and one in nine children will not live to see their fifth birthday. Ethnic minorities and indigenous groups such as the Maasai, Kipsigi and Kiisi people of

Narok South District where FTC operates, are particularly vulnerable to the health and livelihoods risks presented in times of drought and in an environment of water scarcity.

The Kenyan Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation launched an eight year plan, the Child Survival and Development Strategy 2008-2015 in June 2009 on the day that Africa as a whole marks International Day of the African Child. Kenya's strategic plan is aimed at reducing the health inequalities experienced by both children and women by improving health care related services. This document serves several purposes including reaffirming the government's commitment to maternal and child survival and development as a national priority, raising awareness, and creating a tool that will serve as a set of strategic guidelines. The strategies to implement this plan include encouraging breastfeeding, antenatal care, and increasing access to clean water and sanitation.

In line with FTC's human rights based approach to international development, FTC's other objective is to ensure a better quality of life, by helping the people of Salabwek realize their right to the highest attainable standard of health. The people of Salabwek are at higher risk for contracting various waterborne, vector borne and parasitic infections as a direct result of their geographical location and poor water sources. These include typhoid, malaria, ring worm, intestinal worms, amongst many others. The people of Salabwek are also affected by other more general ailments and poverty related diseases including but not limited to diarrhea, malnutrition, fevers/flu, stomach cramps, eye, ear and skin infections, injuries and wounds.

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

FTC's health care team is ensuring that all the community members of Salabwek have access to consistent quality health care services. In addition to the services of a mobile health clinic, which involves primary health services and health care related workshops, a health club has been established at the school in Salabwek. The club is responsible for monitoring the cleanliness of the school, as well as spreading knowledge of personal hygiene and health care to the other students. FTC also actively works with women and other student groups. In the community of Salabwek, FTC currently works with 12 women's groups and the Student Environmental Club on disseminating health information.

FTC's health programming activities in Salabwek to date have included:

- Traditional Birth Attendants Training to the community Mama's. They received training on risk factors during delivery.
- Providing school-based health education to all children from grade 1 -8 on several topics including personal hygiene and harmful cultural practices.
- Conducting mobile health clinics to the community members who really utilize this service and appreciate it; there of 8 of these to date.
- Providing de-worming services to all the pupils and the teachers once every three months.
- Holding/Facilitating health workshops with the women groups on good health practices/ habits including the 7 health habits to a healthy home: boiling drinking water, building a latrine with a hand washing station, digging a rubbish pit, putting up a clothes line , building a dish rack and constructing a bathroom (a place to have a private shower)

- Ensuring that if a health emergency occurs they are able to call on the nurses to provide emergency transport to a local facility.

The final objectives of the Health Programming are to improve the overall health of the community members in Salabwek, especially amongst women and children, reduce maternal and infant mortality, increase community awareness of health related issues, and decrease in physically damaging behaviours including alcoholism and FGM. In order to achieve these goals FTC's programs are based on two key components, health education and provision of health care services. FTC is working to increase the number of community members being diagnosed and treated for disease and other ailments relative to those who report illness. FTC is also monitoring the frequency with which community members are implementing lessons learnt into their daily lives and how receptive community members are to various health workshop topics. All of this depends on FTC's clinics, workshops, and training sessions being well attended.

Next Steps

The next element of the Health program to be implemented in Salabwek community is a series of general Health awareness days that target the whole community. Health awareness days focus on a single topic and present information relating to that topic as it relates to community health. This is an important addition to the workshops that are held as it introduces communities to important concepts and gives both men and women exposure to information about these critical health issues, rather than immediately entering into training in a workshop type setting.

FTC's "7 habits to a healthy home" is one of the organization's most successful health related initiatives in Salabwek. An 8th habit will be added to the program, namely building a chimney in the home in order to reduce the impact of respiratory diseases caused by close proximity to cooking fires without proper ventilation.

Lastly, FTC would like to continue to work closely with local government health officials. The government has committed to providing FTC with free immunization for children and pregnant mothers. Also, by completing official government statistics forms FTC will be better able to monitor the health of the community.

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

The dominant sources of income in Salabwek are derived from selling livestock and farm products and the production and sales of charcoal. The average monthly income for a family is \$17 US. Free The Children initially began working with four women groups in Salabwek and that number has grown steadily since. The percentage of women who are not in women's groups decreased steadily. By mobilizing the people of Salabwek, especially women, into alternative income groups, FTC provides the community members with knowledge and tools to generate and manage income. The groups are trained in financial literacy, business skills, micro-financing, leadership, and conflict resolution. Small loans are provided in order to expand or establish small businesses to diversify the household income.

To date, a large majority of Salabwek community members have benefitted directly or indirectly from FTC's alternative income programs in Salabwek. The women who regularly attend FTC workshops go on to not only implement the skills and knowledge they gain regarding financial literacy and microenterprise but also to implement other important aspects of Free The Children programming including those pertaining to health, education and water and sanitation. All of the women participating in these workshops have shown practical examples of prioritizing the health of their families and in this way women have become leaders in achieving better life outcomes. In the past several months FTC's alternative income workshops have trained women on leadership, group dynamics and opening bank accounts in order for them to have access to loans and community development grants.

Due to increased household income, the long term impact of the "merry-go-round" has meant that the living standards of the community members have improved. For example, mamas are able to buy materials to build bathrooms, dig pit latrines or to buy utensils for the general running of the household. The cow, goats and chickens that some women buy through the extra money they are making are a long term investment. They rear them in order to sell them at a later date for an increased profit. In the mean time, they are able to use some of the livestock to maintain a healthy nutritional diet.

Due to the drought and the resulting crop failure, many community members have been suffering. The increase in the number of women participating in the alternative income program has led to some of the mamas being able to earn additional income. With this extra money, they not only help their own families but they help their fellow community members. They help provide food for one another and also provide milk for each others' children. They work as a unified group in order to ensure that mamas are able to dig gardens and help in digging their latrines.

Setting up kitchen gardens has enabled the members to sell produce and earn additional income as well as provide food for their families.

Next Steps

Women in Salabwek are continuously joining FTC's women's groups, moving through the three phase merry-go-round program, and are reinvesting their income into their households. The focus on

generating savings and accessing loans will continue. For women entering the third phase of the program, training in financial literacy for the effective management of a microenterprise will remain in place.

A World of Impact

SVQF in Salabwek

SVQF has made an incredible impact in Salabwek through its support of FTC's full AAV model and SVQF's commitment to improving the lives of community members in Salabwek has been instrumental in FTC's overall success. One unique element of this partnership in particular has played a large role. The series of animated films produced by SVQF for our community members have been incredibly well received. The lessons provided through these videos have engaged thousands of children and adults in Salabwek. The lessons included information on boiling water, women's empowerment, and HIV/AIDS management. Not only were the showings of the films well attended, but since watching them there has been a demonstrated impact in the lives of community members. Families are more receptive to the messages contained in the lessons and are implementing these lessons into their daily lives. Since these animated films were shared, the number of families practicing boiling water, having awareness and knowledge surrounding HIV/AIDS and women who take on leadership roles has increased. By showcasing the SVQF videos, the community is being educated on gender issues in a more exciting and visual way. The animation depicts a typical community setting that the community members find relatable and contains information that appeals to their own personal lives. This has helped create a deeper understanding of these issues, has helped facilitate discussion and strengthened the lessons learnt.

Success Stories

Alternative Income

Beatrice Koskei is a successful business woman from Salabwek Community. She buys and sells beans and maize. She acquired the skills to start her own microenterprise after being taught by FTC on alternative income generating activities. Beatrice started as part of a small group of women with the merry-go-rounds. Each week they would to pay 100 shillings to each member and they were able to raise a little money. After contributing for some time they were able to purchase goats for each other.

Women in the group also assisted each other develop kitchen gardens in their homes. This enables Beatrice to sell the surplus vegetables to some of the members of the community. All these activities have enabled her to sustain her business without any financial concerns.

Health

Health services in Salabwek community have been made accessible through the MHCs organized and implemented by FTC. The community has benefited from the MHC as they are able to access medicines more frequently. Paul Chepkwony, a community member who has benefited from the service remembers when the only other health care available to the community members was at the nearest health facility 15km away.

Paul describes that the teachings community members receive through men's groups or women's groups and from school pupils have brought about change in their lives on health issues, personal hygiene, and sanitation. All of this has helped decrease the prevalence of disease. For example Paul shares that he has noticed that boiling water has decreased diseases like typhoid and diarrheal diseases. Paul also said that community members have seen a lot of positive changes in their homes after close interaction with FTC. The community has also learnt that prevention is better than cure.

Conclusion

SVQF's partnership with FTC has led to measureable developmental results for all four pillars of FTC's AAV model. SVQF's unique and dynamic contributions to FTC programming go well beyond supporting a series of projects, but instead support a community as a whole. This is a critical juncture for both FTC and SVQF to continue proceeding with planned projects in order to realize both organizations' goals and fulfill the community's most pressing needs. The right to quality primary education is being achieved in Salabwek community for school-aged children through SVQF's support. In order to maintain the positive impacts being made, further progress on FTC projects will continue to be made in Salabwek. Going forward, to complete the water and sanitation programming, the water well construction is FTC's next priority, as are holding FTC's Education Awareness Days for the health programming component. FTC will provide SVQF with progress reports on these activities upon their successful implementation.