

Interim 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

As we mark the end of a challenging year for Kenya and for the whole Horn of Africa, Free The Children (FTC) is taking a moment to pay thanks to our generous supporters and development partners worldwide. We have been able to move forward with many of our planned projects benefitting thousands of community members in the Maasai Mara where we work. None of our success would have been possible without your dedication.

Following years of consecutive drought, this fall brought with it promise of stronger El Niño enhanced rains during the short rains season from October to December. The communities in which FTC works in the Maasai Mara experienced a wet December, but after what proved to be a dryer than anticipated November, worries about food security have not lessened. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) describes that the populations most at risk of ongoing food insecurity include pastoralists in the Maasai Mara amongst others.

In our collective pursuit of improving the life outcomes of a vulnerable group of children in the Maasai Mara, we acknowledge the role that proper nutrition plays in the ability of youth to benefit from increased access to education facilities. Our ability to ensure the school attendance in our communities remained on par with initial enrollment was largely due to our Feeding Program initiatives. This project is made possible through strong community participation, student involvement and of course through donor contributions.

FTC is pleased to share this interim report with our 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.

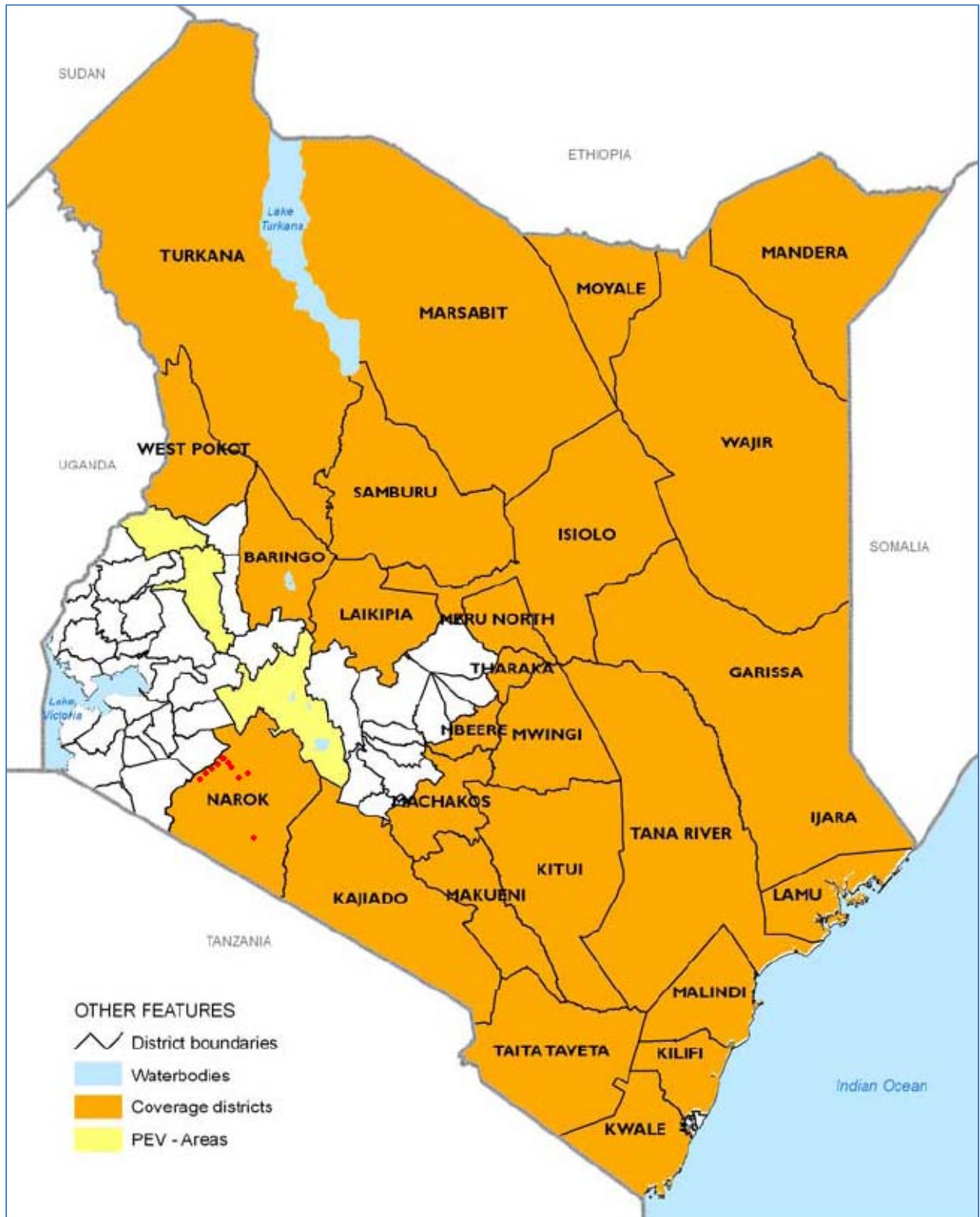


Executive Summary

Title	Adopt A Village
Country	Kenya
Program Goals	<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
Predicted Number of Beneficiaries	5,200
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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.

Towards Delivery of Quality Primary Education

The motto for Salabwek Primary School is *"Education and Discipline for All"* and the mission for this school and community as a whole is *"to get an education which will help us to learn and change our attitudes and become good disciplined citizens."*

Salabwek Primary School Aims:

- To provide better quality teaching and learning opportunities. This will strengthen all pupils' ability to pass the KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) national exams.
- To strengthen relationships between the school and the stakeholders leading to shared responsibilities for learning resources.
- To provide an education that will encourage pupils to appreciate their cultural heritage within and outside their community.

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. Construction activities on the remaining classrooms have continued swiftly. As of December 2009, roofing for classroom 15 was completed and classroom 16 is at the ring beam level. Since our last report, the four teachers' accommodations have been completed and are in use. Lastly, the kitchen built in conjunction with the primary school has been completed and outfitted with shelves and a grill and is also now operational.

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.

Recent updates on our education programming from the community include:

- The Grade 8 pupils have sat for their final exams this term:
 - 22 boys and 22 girls sat for the KCPE exams
- The community continues to demonstrate its sense of ownership and pride for its school by assisting with repairs at the school.
- The schools established action plans at the beginning of the year and have since reported on their accomplishments for the year, including:
 - High enrollment of pupils;
 - Maintenance and cleanliness of school resources and facilities;
 - Discipline amongst the pupils has improved;
 - Motivation and commitment with the teachers has improved as well as performance.
- School enrolment has gone up with the continuation of the lunch feeding program.



Free The Children in Salabwek Impact At A Glance

Total classrooms planned: **25**
Classrooms built: **14**
Classrooms under construction: **2**
Kitchens built: **1**
Students Enrolled: **1013**
Girls: **490**
Boys: **523**
Students graduated: **39**
Teachers: **19**

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.



Delivering Clean Water and Sanitation Facilities

Since our last report the following progress has been made:

- Mamas from the community have begun to install safe water tanks that are used to purify water before use, reducing the incidence of contracting water borne diseases. The women are looking forward to purchasing more of these for their homes.
- Follow-up visits were conducted by the nurses to ensure that the Mama's are adhering to the 7 Habits to a Healthy Home which include boiling water, digging pit latrines and also having hand washing stations amongst other activities.
- Staff and students at Salabwek Primary School continue to make an effort in maintaining the hand washing stations within the school.
- The onset of rains has allowed the tanks in the rain catchment system to fill with water that will be used for drinking and cooking for the school pupils.



Free The Children in Salabwek Impact At A Glance

Latrines built: **6 (double-latrines)**
Hand-washing stations built: **3**
Water and Sanitation Workshops: **6**

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

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

Since our last report the following activities have taken place for our health projects:

- The Health club members at Salabwek Primary School were taught on harmful cultural practices, teenage pregnancy, peer pressure and common disease prevention.
- The Health Club members were also given exercise book for use in the coming year.
- Following Free the Children's lesson on how to handle emergencies, the school has now stocked its First Aid Box.
- As per the established schedule de-worming activities are carried out every three months and Mobile Health Clinics are conducted once every month per community

Health Programming for Women's Groups:

- Members of the Salabwek women's groups were visited by the community nurses
- They participated in a workshop on harmful cultural practices, and learned how to create awareness to curb FGM and early marriages as December is a common initiation period.



Free The Children in Salabwek Impact At A Glance

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Total no. community members trained: **124**
Monthly mobile health clinic users: **30**
School Health Club Members: **40**

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

Since our last report, the following activities have taken place in Salabwek related to our alternative income programming:

- In the month of November, the Community Mobilizer was not able to have a special meeting with the group, but the activities of the group continued as per established:
 - The women's groups conducted their weekly group meetings to discuss plans on how to continue to invest in their households.
 - The merry go round continued its fund rotations. Through this project, the Mamas are able to buy materials and also supplies for their homes and to support their families.
 - The women have cultivated their Kitchen Gardens in preparation for the long awaited rains.



Free The Children in Salabwek Impact At A Glance

Women's Groups: **12**
Workshops: **36**
Livestock: **200 hens/roosters, 24 calves**

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's Animated Video Series

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 of the ways in which SVQF has demonstrated its dynamic vision for improving the lives of vulnerable people in Kenya is through its educational animated video series. Following the videos being shared in our Maasai Mara communities, the FTC Kenya team put together a brief impact report on feedback on the animations. The following highlights some of the discussion:

- The video was played for community members in Salabwek, Motony, Enelerai and Emori Joi.
- Over 2000 pupils have watched the videos amongst the various communities.
- The communities enjoyed watching the video and are still requesting to watch it again.
- The movies had captured their daily lives both in the school and in the community and was more realistic
- 1600 additional community members have watched the video – the majority being women!
- 200 community members/mamas have put up hand washing stations immediately after watching the video
- All community members that watched the video said that they are now boiling water after watching the Nabaala Story.
- Women in the groups have requested to be given teaching on gender issues and rights after watching the video
- The community was surprised that domestic animals also can infect human beings and they are now building animal pens to prevent the spread of disease.
- Most girls that watched the video are looking forward to clearing school and becoming professionals to come back and work with their communities
- During MHCs, community members who requested voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) were referred to the right clinic.
- The communities are welcoming change and are really trying to grasp and implement what they have been taught.
- The use of visual aids has more impact on their understanding (feedback from community FTC nurses)
- Everyone that watched the video enjoyed this dynamic learning experience.

Currently, the community nurses are making plans to play the videos again once school resumes in the new year.



Success Stories

Meet Judith Cherono



Judith is a young girl from Salabwek community who has just completed grade 7. Her day is mostly busy with taking care of household chores including tending to cattle, collecting firewood, washing utensils and clothes and collecting water. Judith wakes up early in the morning to prepare a breakfast of tea and sweet potatoes for her family then sets off for school. At school her favourite subject is Kiswahili, and she looks up most to her teacher, Rachel Kirui. Free The Children has impacted Judith's life in several positive ways. Judith feels the new classrooms have made a huge difference. She says:

"Learning has become so much fun!"

She also tells us that the lessons on personal hygiene and the environment have improved her quality of life and helped her stay healthy. Judith dreams of furthering her education and one day becoming a doctor. Her greatest wish is for all children to be able to enjoy their right to education so that they can all have a brighter future.

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. Going forward we hope to continue to share testimonials from our community members in Salabwek to demonstrate the impact your support is having in this vibrant community.