



Annual Report

2024

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FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

“ Let us embrace the coming year with renewed energy and determination as we strive to make a lasting impact in the lives of the people we serve.”

As the President of Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I present our findings and achievements in this year's report (2024).

This year has been marked by remarkable progress, particularly in the areas of child protection, women empowerment, youth capacity development, and assistance to the most vulnerable families in Rwanda.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Rwanda for their unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision.

Their collaboration has been instrumental in enabling us to implement effective programs that have positively impacted the lives of many individuals and families across the nation.

I am especially proud of our dedicated Rwanda team, whose hard work and passion have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Their tireless efforts on the ground have fostered a culture of resilience and hope, demonstrating that when we come together with a common purpose,

we can achieve extraordinary results.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am filled with optimism. With everyone on board and a strong, capable team at the forefront of our initiatives, I do not doubt that we will continue to build on our successes. Together, we can create even more opportunities for growth and empowerment, ensuring that our efforts reach those who need them most.

Let us embrace the coming year with renewed energy and determination as we strive to make a lasting impact in the lives of the people we serve.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Calorina Tosso
President, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus





INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, through its Ministry of Local Government, in its Social Protection Unity, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus has realized tremendous achievements in 2024 to contribute to the speedy livelihood improvement of Rwandan Society

Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus, through its Rwanda office, is happy to share its achievements in directly improving **500** Children, **1321** youths, and **772** Other household members in the Eastern province of Rwanda.

From January 2024, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus through its country office in Kigali, took on a load

of 33 Activities grouped into 9 projects in two main programs to protect children, prevent drop-out of 12 years of basic education, build capacity for a skilled workforce, and agriculture-livestock support for food production, and a pilot program to improve the livelihood of poor families called Household strengthening program.

In the 2024 action plan, FMO-Rwanda Country Office has realized the planned activities at a rate of 88%, whereas **29** activities, including 2 unplanned, were successfully implemented and reached their target beneficiaries and produced expected results, and 4 planned were postponed.

2024 Achievements Overview

No.	Activity	Planned outcomes	Achieved outcomes
1	Shelters	Construction of two houses for Zamuka beneficiaries	Funds were redirected to M-VTC operations due to the new auto engine cohort. Two houses, built as a cost-efficient alternative by the M-VTC Masonry trade, are under construction and differ from the original plan, reported under “Urgent Community Support.
2	Cows distribution	2 cows to be distributed to 2 beneficiaries	This activity has not been realized because the two beneficiaries who expected to receive the cows declared they were not ready yet to become cow owners.
3	Small livestock distribution?	2 goats or pigs to be distributed	This activity has not been realized because the two beneficiaries expected to receive the declaration they were not ready yet to become small livestock owners.
4	Agriculture support	1 remaining Zamuka beneficiary to receive a bicycle	12 zamuka households have been given agricultural materials including hoes and machetes to help them in the cultivation season. All families had received bicycles the previous year

5	Welding	To train 60 trainees in welding practices	73 trainees have been enrolled in Welding and trained. Through the training, a new Welding hangar and MVTC fence were constructed (unbudgeted)
6	hairdressing	To train 60 trainees in the Hairdressing trade	101 Trainees have been enrolled and trained Giving them additional courses including Manicure and Pedicure
7	Masonry	To train 60 trainees in the Masonry Trade	82 trainees have been enrolled and trained and have anticipated the construction of a gate tower and 2 houses in the community throughout the training
8	Tailoring	To train 60 trainees in the tailoring Trade	97 trainees have been enrolled and trained at the MVTC site and 60 have been enrolled and trained at MUSENYI and Nyarugenge sites
9	Auto engine technology	To train 60 trainees in the Auto engine technology (Automotive repair and maintenance) trade	135 trainees have been enrolled and trained. Practical Driving lessons were additionally given to them
10	Multimedia	To train 60 trainees in the Multimedia trade	25 trainees have been enrolled and trained.
11	New Machinery (Tailoring & Multimedia)	Furnish a new Multimedia workshop and add additional industrial machines in the Tailoring	multimedia class and studio have been rehabilitated and equipped and a car for the Auto engine repair trade has been procured.
12	Auto Engine Service Pit & Storage	Construction of Hangar and storage for auto-engine trade	The automotive repair trade hangar has been constructed and the existing workshop has been rehabilitated to serve as the Trades's Class.
13	Accommodation Infrastructure	Furnish new dormitories and the dining hall	The Dormitory Facility has been equipped and the dining hall has been furnished
14	Benimpuhwe Center Rehabilitation	Workshop, dormitory, and toilet renovations at Benimpuhwe Center	Benimpuhwe compound premises have been rehabilitated to be used as Dormitories and dining areas for boarding trainees
15	Toilets Construction	Construction of 4 additional toilets at MVTC main center	It is being constructed by Masonry trade to get hands-on experience. It will be concluded in January

16	Entrepreneurship Training	Training for VSLA committee members and MVTC graduates applying for microcredit and toolkits.	Activity has been done with minimum Funds. Youth at MVTC have been given training in entrepreneurial practices and VSLAs have been given brief training on loan usage before giving them loan
17	Microcredit and Toolkits	Expansion of microcredit to more Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)	182 individuals from 9 VSLAs have directly benefited from Loans and 103 youth received toolkits (breakdown of 103: Rilima =29 ; Musenyi = 49; Nyarugenge = 25)
18	School Feeding Support	Support 350 students in 12 YBE to get Annual school feeding	451 Students were supported until September 2024.
19	Scholastic Materials for Reintegration	provision of School materials for 30 Zamuka family children	Uniforms ,Notebooks and pens were given to 30 students.
20	Girls Room	200 girls from school feeding program have been given sanitary pads	200 girls from school feeding program have been given sanitary pads.
21	Unplanned	Kabahaya support	Stipends paid for 2 caregivers. 83 children attended ECD Kabahaya in the 2023-2024 school year.
22	Community ECD Support	Provision of Financial support for ECD Kimaranzara	In the 2023-2024 academic year, 92 students were taught, with 32 graduating. Currently, 119 students are being taught in the 2024-2025 academic year, At ECD Kimaranzara.
23	Rilima Nutrition Center	New cooking demonstrations and nutritional packages for children	298 kids in malnutrition were given nutrition support
24	Nursing Scholarships and other university scholarship	To support 16 prospective nursing/midwifery scholars at RULI	A total of 31 university scholars received support. This includes: 17 prospective nursing scholars 3 new nurses and 5 new midwifery students starting their studies on a partial scholarships,1 civil engineering scholar , 5 university scholarships were granted to one year long serving Volunteer in FMO (2 at the University of Kigali, 2 at University of Technology & Art of Byumba, 1 Univ of Tourism and Business) 1 nursing scholar graduated earlier this year.

25	ALU Scholarships	To sponsor 3 Prospective African leadership university scholars.	3 ongoing scholars and 1 new scholar at ALU have been sponsored
26	Professional Internships for MVTC Staff	Internship support for 3 MVTC students and other scholars	The 4 MVTC Trainers have received professional training
27	Specialized Training	Support for specialized community skills training	4 young people have been supported to get technical short courses.
28	SRH&R and Family Planning	Training 30 matrons on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, birth control, and Gender-Based Violence	12 Matrons have been trained on SRHR Curriculum to help them support the Student in respective schools
29	Basic Health Care	Healthcare for 300 underprivileged families (1,000 individuals)	337 Individuals have received the “Mutuel de Sante” support.
30	Urgent Community Support	Support 10 individuals / Zamuka households with food assistance.	30 families (Zamuka + other needy households) have received food support ,11 individuals received medical support while 200 have received support for adherence to the national basic pension scheme (Ejo heza). And two houses construction were initiated.
31	Traditional and modern entertainment equipment	Procure traditional Dance costumes for the MVTC dancing club	Traditional dance costumes have been procured for MVTC troupe
32	Sports coaching and facilities	Procure additional sports equipment for Youth at MVTC	Sports equipment for youth in MVTC has been procured including balls, Igisoro
33	Unplanned	Conduct holiday camp	A total of 472 kids participated in the Holiday Camp, engaging in sports activities and learning valuable life lessons.

Summary	Numbers	Type
Ecd Kimaranzara	119	Children
ECD kabahaya	83	Children
Malnutrition	298	Children
	500	
ZAmuka	12	Household individuals
Microcredit	182	Household individuals
MUSA	337	Household individuals
Urgent Community support	241	Household individuals
	772	
MVTC graduates	299	Youth
FMO MCR	60	Youth
Holiday Camp	472	Youth
Toolkits	103	Youth (Duplicate n training)
Dropout control	451	Youth
University	35	Youth
TVET scholarship	4	Youth
	1321	



1. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

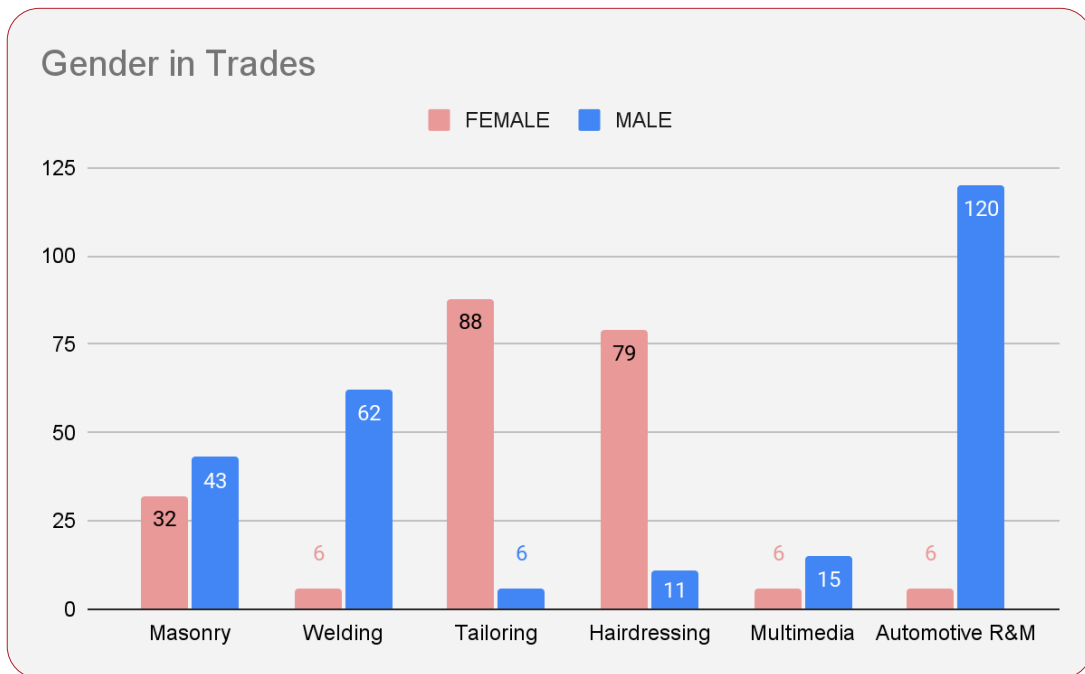
In recent years, the Government of Rwanda, like many other developing countries, has prioritized expanding access to and improving the quality of basic education, alongside enhancing access to capital.

These efforts have resulted in significant increases in enrollment rates and ongoing improvements in the quality of education for the nation's youngest learners.

This year, within the framework of these initiatives, key achievements have been made. As part of its five-year strategic plan, FMO has actively contributed to community empowerment by equipping youth, including the **573 Beneficiaries** reached, with diverse professional skills While also improving their access to capital.

1.1. Marcegaglia VTC Running

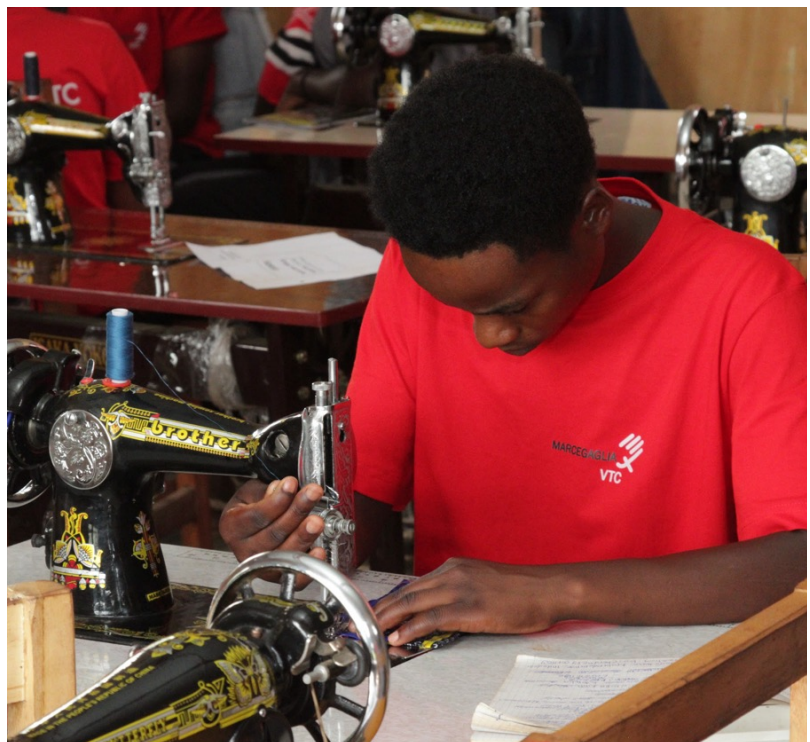
Rwanda's TVET policy underscores the importance of education for the country's economic and social development, aiming to create a skilled and adaptable workforce. Vocational training is essential for preparing individuals to join the labor market. To support individuals facing challenges such as family responsibilities, single mothers, and school dropouts, FMO has established a local TVET center offering 6 months of training. The center currently offers 6 technical trades, with Multimedia and Automotive Repair and Maintenance newly added this year. This year, 513 Trainees have accessed training including 175 currently in training, 299 who graduated and are waiting for RTB certificates and 39 students who dropped out for different reasons.



	September 2023 - March 2024 cohort	January - July 2024 Cohort	March - September 2024 Cohort	June 2024 Intake (Ongoing)	September 2024- March 2025 cohort (Ongoing)
Multimedia	0	0	8	0	13
Welding	29	0	17	0	22
Tailoring	30	0	38	0	26
Masonry	25	0	26	0	24
Hairdressing	29	0	30	0	31
Auto-engine	0	32	35	26	33
Total / trade	113	35	151	26	149
GRAND TOTAL STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED IN 2024 AND WIL RECEIVE RTB CERTIFICATE			299	TOTAL STUDENTS CURRENTLY BEING TRAINED	175

1.2.1. Tailoring

Tailoring, the first trade introduced at MVTC has successfully produced numerous skilled workers for the labor market. The skills taught include operating sewing industrial machines like “broderie” and “cornerie”, using mechanical sewing machines to make, transform, and repair various garments from different fabrics, applying a variety of stitches, knitting with both machines and by hand, and making machines basic maintenance, and supervised industrial Attachment. This year, two current trainers in the trade enabled 68 students to graduate among 71, while 26 recently enrolled are still fully in training.





As part of linking training and productivity, Tailoring Trades have successfully sewed and Branded Uniforms for the next MVTC cohorts, Libaya blouses for vulnerable females in the community, ECD Kids Uniforms and Pullovers, ECD kids small Bags, School uniforms for Zamuka families students among others.

1.2.2. Hairdressing

Hairdressing, introduced in early 2022, has successfully produced numerous hairdressers for the community. The skills taught include hair braiding using various materials and styles, hair cutting and shampooing for different hair types, pedicure and manicure techniques, makeup application for various skin tones and shapes, and supervised industrial attachments.

This year, facilitated by three trainers, 59 trainees graduated among 70 enrolled in the program, while 31 recently enrolled are being trained. These newly enrolled trainees are expected to graduate in March next year.



Hairdressing trainees have given haircutting services to the Schools in centers Neighborhood

1.2.3. Welding

The welding trade was introduced at MVTC to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in welding. This program has successfully trained numerous welders, equipping them with essential skills needed in welding and fitting.

The welding curriculum technical part includes various welding techniques, Shielded Metal Arc Welding, and gas Welding to Join and repair metal components using high heat., Understand safety protocols and proper handling of welding equipment., Perform basic fabrication, assembly tasks, understanding, basic electricity, and Supervised industrial attachment

Facilitated by 2 experienced trainers,46 trainees have graduated among 51 enrolled in m the program, while 22 new trainees have recently enrolled and are undergoing training. These newly enrolled students are expected to graduate in March next year.



The welding team has successfully carried out a variety of productive tasks this year, such as constructing the welding hangar, setting up the automotive repair and maintenance trade hangar, building washroom hangars in the MVTC dormitory, and rehabilitating other dormitory facilities. They have also worked on the MVTC fence, guard tower steel structures, and steel classroom, Windows and doors for Zamuka Houses, and gutters fixation.



1.2.4. Masonry





The masonry trade was introduced to meet the demand for practical skills, with professional masons entering the market since early 2023. The training covers various aspects, including setting out buildings from drawings, constructing foundations and walls with market materials, assembling timber roofs with accurate measurements, and applying various finishing techniques such as fixing doors and windows, pavement, tiling, plastering, painting, wood ceiling fixation and an introduction to domestic plumbing.

Facilitated by 2 experienced trainers, 51 trainees have graduated among 58 enrolled in the trade, while 24 recently enrolled are being trained. These newly enrolled trainees are expected to graduate in March next year.

The masonry trade has significantly benefited the community by constructing Zamuka houses from

the ground up, and applying all the acquired skills. At MVTC, they have also played a vital role in rehabilitating dormitories, building hangars, and guard tower among others.

1.2.5. Automotive Repair and Maintenance

The curriculum focuses on engine systems, vehicle transmission systems, chassis systems, and electrical systems, along with car driving theory and practical instruction. Students also participate in an internship and receive entrepreneurship training.

Facilitated by 3 experienced trainers in two classes, 67 trainees have graduated among 76 enrolled in the trade, while 59 recently enrolled are being trained. These newly enrolled trainees are expected to graduate by March next year.



1.2.6. Multimedia

Multimedia trade being the recent discipline was introduced to equip youth professionalism in multimedia production. the skills given include safety protocols, basic computer use, photography, video production, and media editing. Scriptwriting and graphic design courses round out the program, enabling complete content creation from concept to final product.

Facilitated by an experienced trainer, 8 trainees among 12 enrolled have graduated, while 13 recently enrolled are being trained. These newly enrolled trainees are expected to graduate in March next year.



The multimedia trade has been beneficial to FMO by contributing to the capturing, editing, and organizing of multimedia content. They also play a key role in producing project documentaries.

1.2.7. Other Achievements

- Boarding School services

This year, FMO began providing accommodation for trainers through a partnership with Benimpuhwe Organisation, which provided the facilities, inline with our shared mission. FMO has renovated these premises, and as of October, the dormitories accommodate 49 girls and 85 boys.

- Internships

Internships are essential for trainees to obtain certification and also serve as valuable post-training employment opportunities. Therefore, FMO is dedicated to maximizing collaboration with private sector stakeholders. This year, each trainer visited



the internship sites before the trainees' placements and conducted two follow-up visits to each site after the trainees arrived, ensuring comprehensive oversight throughout the country. Feedback from companies regarding the content we offer to trainees has been positive, with recommendations primarily focused on incorporating new technologies into our training sessions.

- Accreditation

This year, MVTC obtained a one-year renewable accreditation to offer Automotive Repair and Maintenance, a newly introduced trade.



Additionally, the application for Multimedia is still pending as we work on expanding the workspace to meet the minimum accreditation requirements. This accreditation builds upon those previously acquired in 2023 for Welding, Hairdressing, Masonry, and Tailoring, which have all been renewed this year.

- Extra-curricular courses

Additionally, at MVTC, we engaged professional consultants to offer supplementary courses to our trainees. In hairdressing, we introduced manicures and pedicures, as well as makeup courses. For tailoring, we brought in a knitting expert, and for welding, we secured a gas welding specialist.



1.2. VTC Infrastructure Development

1.2.1. Acquisition of New Machinery

Throughout the year, various pieces of equipment were acquired to enhance training and operations. In the first quarter, multimedia equipment was purchased as planned. However, the acquisition of a tailoring embroidery machine was postponed in favor of urgently needed auto engine equipment for accreditation purposes, with the embroidery machines scheduled for purchase in the upcoming quarters or next fiscal year. Desktop computers designed for video processing were procured, along with lighting and sound production equipment. Additionally, the multimedia studio was treated with foam boards to ensure soundproofing, improving the overall quality of media production.

1.2.2. Auto Engine hangar construction

The construction of an auto engine hangar, alongside rehabilitating adjacent classrooms, was completed within the first two quarters of the year. Key tasks included foundation and pavement construction, erecting a steel tube superstructure covered with corrugated sheet metal for the roof and walls, constructing a retaining wall for the car stand, landscaping, and installing electrical systems. By the end of the second quarter, the hangar was fully operational, providing trainees with the necessary space for practical lessons.



1.2.3. Accommodation infrastructure

Significant improvements were made to the accommodation infrastructure throughout the year. In the first quarter, 60 bunk beds were assembled to accommodate 120 trainees and 100 mattresses were purchased, enabling the hostel to host 80 trainees. A TV was also purchased to provide evening and weekend entertainment. In the second quarter, more beds and mattresses were acquired in preparation for hosting new trainees, along with the purchase of dining tables to improve the dining experience at the boarding hostel. A caged smart tank Water filter were installed, and additional sanitation tools were acquired to ensure a clean and comfortable living environment for all trainees.



1.2.4. Benimpuhwe Compound Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation works on the Benimpuhwe compound were completed during the first quarter, enhancing the workshops and dormitories for MVTC trainees. The tasks accomplished included painting, electrical installations, roof sealing, the rehabilitation of the existing bathroom, the construction of a new male bathroom, sewage system rehabilitation, installation of a clothes drying area, partition wall installation, water tank installation, window mosquito net installation, and the rehabilitation of toilets. The second quarter

marked the conclusion of all planned rehabilitation activities, ensuring that the compound is fully functional and fit for purpose.



1.2.5. Construction of Sanitary facilities

At the MVTC compound, with an increasing number of trainees enrolling, the budget has now allocated funds for constructing additional toilets to enhance sanitation across the facility. Currently, these new facilities are under construction, with masonry trainees contributing to the building process as part of their practical training. This initiative aims to improve hygiene and accommodate the growing trainee population in a cleaner, healthier environment.



1.2.6. Others (Unplanned activities)

- Fabrication and installation of fence poles around the institution

As an unplanned activity to enhance the security and infrastructure of the institution, trainees assembled and installed fence poles. The chainlink fence was reinforced around the perimeter, providing a secure boundary for the institution. This project gave trainees hands-on experience in welding and construction, while also improving the safety of the facility.

- Reallocation and assembly of a welding workshop



In response to the need for sound management within the institution, a welding workshop was assembled and relocated as part of an unplanned initiative. This reallocation aimed to distance the noisy welding operations from other trades that require a quieter environment, such as multimedia production. This measure enhanced the functionality of various training spaces while improving the overall working conditions for trainees.

1.3. Community Training Centers Partnerships

To expand its reach to a broader youth audience, FMO has identified collaboration with other institutions as a key strategy, especially for exploring new engagement areas.

This year, FMO partnered with Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR) to offer tailoring training for youth

in the MUSENYI and Nyarugenge sectors. For the second training cohorts in both Musenyi and Nyarugenge, FMO supplied toolkits to support the training, while MCR provided consumables, and trainers, and managed the program.

This partnership fosters a comprehensive approach to skill development for the youth involved. Since January, a total of 60 trainees have received tailoring training in both sectors as a result of this initiative.





2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

In alignment with national policy, social protection is designed to be inclusive, addressing a range of vulnerabilities within communities. It is structured around four key pillars: Social Security, Social Care Services, Short-Term Social Assistance, and Livelihoods Enhancement. These pillars are guided by the principles of Protection, Promotion, Prevention, and Transformation, which aim to uplift and empower vulnerable populations.

This comprehensive approach has strengthened the policy's framework, providing a foundation for poverty reduction, enhancing community resilience, fostering social cohesion, and supporting human capital development. Promoting economic progress and social transformation contributes to the broader goal of building a modern, inclusive society that respects the rights of all citizens.

Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus (FMO) actively contributes to community empowerment through social protection efforts, primarily focusing on poverty reduction. Key initiatives, such as the “Zamuka” Household Strengthening project, are designed to improve livelihoods, alongside projects aimed at ensuring access to quality education and healthcare for all.

2.1. Zamuka(Household Strengthening)

2.1.1. Shelters

Under the “Urgent Community Support” initiative, two separate houses are currently under construction as a cost-efficient alternative to the originally planned two-in-one house. This adjustment was necessitated by the reallocation of funds to support M-VTC operations, specifically to accommodate the new auto-engine cohort.

The houses are being constructed by the M-VTC Masonry Trade, showcasing their skills while addressing urgent community needs within the revised budget constraints.

2.1.2. Agricultural support

To support agricultural productivity and ensure preparedness for the rainy season, 12 Zamuka families were equipped with essential farming tools, including hoes and machetes. This initiative aimed to empower the families by providing them with the necessary resources to cultivate their land effectively and enhance their food security.



2.2. Business Development Program

A successful strategy for fostering economic growth in underdeveloped regions involves offering affordable small loans, known as microcredit, to farmers, small-business owners, and aspiring young entrepreneurs in need of start-up capital. These initiatives provide critical financial resources to communities that often lack the collateral required by traditional banks. The country has adopted this approach through programs like the National Employment Program (NEP), the Business Development Fund, and VUP, all aimed at driving job creation and business development.

Since 2016, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus (FMO) has been actively supporting small enterprises through its FMO-Terimbera fund. This fund is managed by local representatives appointed by sector authorities in collaboration with FMO staff and provides essential toolkits to young individuals starting their businesses. This year three activities were conducted, Conducting business enhancement training sessions, Toolkits distribution to skilled young people, and Loan distribution to VSLAs

2.2.1. Entrepreneurship training

This year, entrepreneurship training was strategically integrated into the loan distribution process to enhance the impact of the financial support provided. Before distributing loans, comprehensive discussions were held with all members of the Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to ensure a clear understanding of the benefits and responsibilities of effectively utilizing the loans. These sessions educated 182 recipients on proper loan management, business planning, and sustainable investment practices, aiming to maximize the success of their ventures and ensure long-term financial stability.



In addition, youth at MVTC participated in 30-minute entrepreneurial training sessions three times a week, designed to empower them with essential entrepreneurial skill sets.

2.2.2. Microcredit

In 2024, using existing funds in the FMO-Terimbera Fund, 9 VSLAs were funded, directly benefiting 182 individuals across various sectors. Additionally, 103 young trainees trained at MVTC and FMO-MCR sites in Nyarugenge and Musenyi were given sewing machines as subsidized toolkits



No.	Vslas Name	Sector	Direct Benefiting Members	All Members	Number Of Times Received The Loan
1	Twitekubuzima	Nyarugenge	20	30	2
2	Baturebereho	Nyarugenge	18	30	1
3	Twisungane Kabuye	Nyarugenge	7	11	2
4	Tuzamurane	Shyara	15	15	2
5	Twisungane Shyara 15	Shyara	5	12	2
6	Dufatanye	Rilima	23	56	2
7	Tuzamurane	Rilima	18	30	2
8	Coop Tubumwe	Rilima	46	152	2
9	Ejo Ni Heza	Rilima	30	30	1
Total			182	366	



Loan recovery efforts continued in close collaboration with Local Authorities, employing various strategies to reach debtors under the individual loan scheme. These strategies included making phone calls to debtors, summoning them to the local authorities' office, and conducting home or workplace visits. This collaborative approach aimed to ensure effective recovery while maintaining accountability and fostering trust among stakeholders.

2.3. Dropout control in 12YBE

In Rwanda, basic education consists of six years of primary education followed by six years of secondary education (high school). Both levels are

compulsory and fee-free in public and government-subsidized schools, though challenges have hindered the full implementation of this policy.

While parents are not required to pay school fees for primary and secondary education in public schools, they must cover school feeding costs and provide scholastic materials for their children's enrollment. Many families struggle to afford these expenses, especially those with multiple children. In such cases, parents may prioritize sending certain children—often boys—to school while keeping others, typically girls, at home. In some families, no children attend school at all. Poverty remains the primary reason behind school dropouts and low enrollment rates.

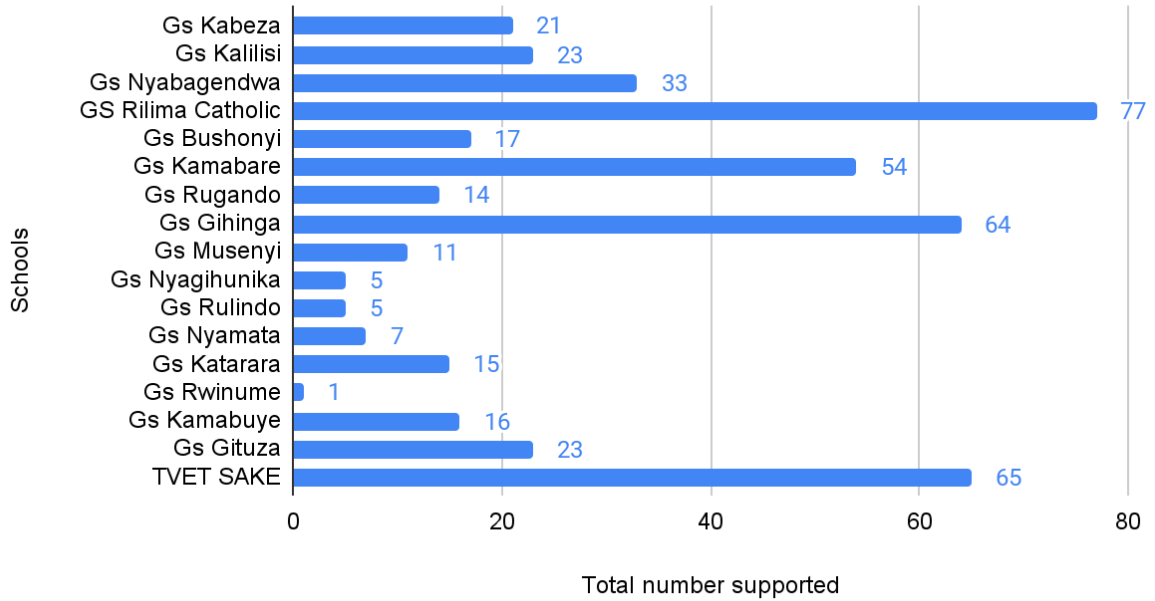
This year, FMO approached this issue by providing to more vulnerable students from poor families, school feeding fees and school materials, additionally, this year an organized holiday camp was conducted

2.3.1. School feeding Support

Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus supported 451 students from 17 public schools with school feeding fees, ensuring more children could remain in school.



Students supported vs. School



11 students relocated to five boarding schools this academic year have received equal support, with remaining costs to be covered by parents.

2.3.2. Scholastic materials support for reintegration

FMO has provided essential school materials to pre-primary, primary, and secondary students from poor families. A total of 30 students, primarily from the Household Strengthening Program (Zamuka), were supported with items including notebooks, pens, and uniforms. This initiative aims to alleviate financial burdens and ensure that these children have the necessary resources to continue their education.

2.3.3. Girls room

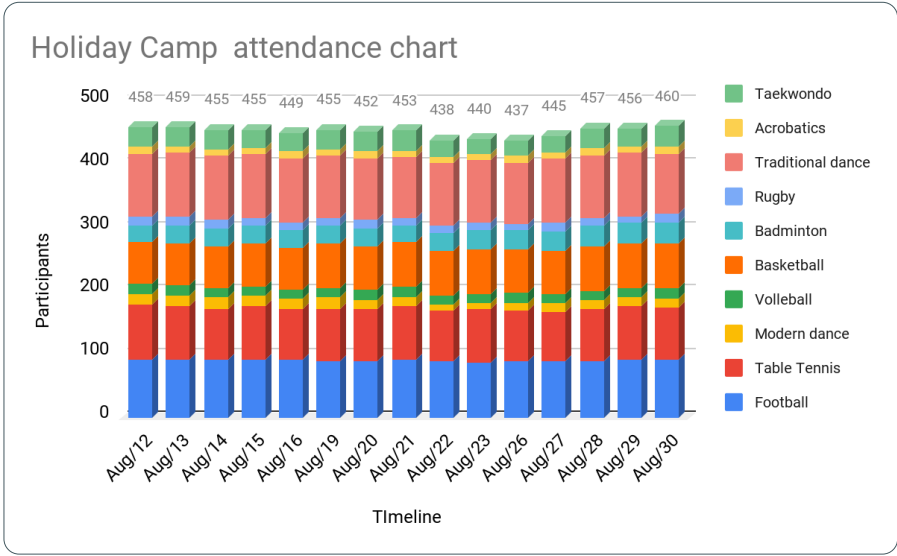
One of the contributing factors to school dropout among girls is the lack of access to sanitary materials during their menstrual periods. As part of its action plan, FMO supported 200 girls from vulnerable families, primarily those benefiting from the school feeding program. To address this challenge, one-time-use sanitary pads were provided to ensure the girls could maintain proper hygiene. Each beneficiary received a package of 5 pads.



2.3.4. Holiday Camp

Fondazione Marcegaglia organized a 2024 holiday camp for youth aged 9-16, engaging 472 participants from Kimaranzara and surrounding areas in a constructive program from August 12 to August 31. The camp offered activities led by 24 local coaches across ten sports and arts disciplines, as well as daily value lessons in time management, forgiveness, and hygiene. Sports involved football, traditional dance, basketball, badminton, rugby, Acrobatics, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Volleyball, and Modern dance. The camp effectively targeted personal growth and community building, aiming to prevent negative behaviors during unstructured holiday periods. Parents reported positive feedback on skill development, confidence, and teamwork improvements in their children. Given its success, plans are underway to continue the camp throughout the year with sessions on weekends and extended programming during school breaks.





2.4. Child protection

To ensure access to essential services that promote well-being and the development of families, FMO has committed to investing in early childhood development (ECD) and basic health care through its 5-year strategic plan (2023-2027). This initiative aims to provide all children under five years old in the locality with access to ECD services, protecting them from malnutrition and developmental challenges. This year FMO supported 500 Children

2.4.1. Community ECDs support Kimaranzara

As we embark on a transitional journey towards ECD Kimaranzara School financial auto-sufficiency, a top-up to parents' contribution was made. 119 kids have benefited from this ECD services including nutrition. 32 kids have graduated and been promoted to primary level.



Class	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	New	Transferred to other schools
TOP	32	34	8	0
Middle	26	42	12	4
BABY	34	43	43	0
TOTAL	92	119	63	4



Additionally, at ECD Kabahaya, FMO has continued its support by providing incentives to caregivers to sustain the Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiative in the Kabahaya area, which previously lacked access to ECD services. This year, 83 children have been cared for through this initiative, helping meet a crucial need for early childhood care and education in the community. Currently, the ECD center has transitioned to the management of AJECL, our active partner, ensuring continued growth and effective oversight of that parents' initiative.



2.4.2. Rilima Nutrition Center support



As per FMO's commitment to reduce malnutrition among children, we provided monthly nutritional packages, made of primarily milk and porridge, to identified malnourished children across four key intervention sectors: Shyara, Nyarugenge, Musenyi, and Rilima. These packages were tailored to meet critical nutritional needs and aimed to improve the health and well-being of young beneficiaries. Key distribution milestones included:

Number of kids benefited from monthly nutritive food package in 2024				
Months	Jan	March	May	Total
Special case				
Nyarugenge			6	6
Malnourished				
Nyarugenge	28	20	39	87
Shyara	5	5	8	18
Musenyi	29	30	68	127
Rilima	15	30	15	60
Total malnourished	77	85	130	292
Overall	77	85	136	298

Special cases include children who are not currently malnourished but are at risk of malnutrition due to factors such as the death of their mothers and other circumstances.



We held a major stakeholders' meeting with health center nutritionists, health workers, and volunteers to enhance our malnutrition control model. This session provided valuable insights into challenges like follow-up efficiency and resource allocation.

Physical verification visits were conducted to ensure compliance and monitor progress. Additionally, we introduced four new child protection volunteers to strengthen follow-up and community outreach.

Important Note: Due to the government's national malnutrition eradication initiative, which now provides nutritional packages to malnourished children, our organization has decided to temporarily halt our project. This pause enabled us to revise and realign our strategies to complement existing efforts better.

2.5. Community capacity building

2.5.1. University Scholarships

- Nursing and Midwifery Studies at Ruli Higher Institute of Health

This year, the FMO Scholarship program supported scholars in nursing and midwifery at Ruli Higher Institute of Health. We assisted applicants on the pending scholarship list in attending exams for government partial scholarships, resulting in 8

students (6 girls and 2 boys) successfully enrolling in the program. FMO provided additional partial scholarships to cover essential expenses like accommodation, meals, and study materials.

We also continued to support 17 nursing students already enrolled, facilitating three-month



internships for third-year scholars to gain hands-on experience, while students at other levels receive two-month internships. One nursing student graduated this year, attending the 7th graduation ceremony at the Ruli campus, where FMO staff and the student's parents celebrated. This event also fostered connections with 17 prospective nursing students and university leaders. Additionally, eight new students enrolled this year, emphasizing our commitment to expanding access to Health related courses.



- Civil Engineering at INES Ruhengeri

At INES Ruhengeri, FMO has provided ongoing financial and logistical support to one civil engineering scholar, ensuring the students can focus on their studies without financial concerns.

technology, education, and animal resources. By investing in these dedicated individuals, FMO aims to cultivate a community of leaders who can positively impact their fields and communities.

- ALU Scholarship Support

The FMO scholarship program provided financial assistance to three prospective female scholars, covering their tuition fees. Meetings were held to assess their academic performance and discuss scholarship extensions. We also identified a new male prospective applicant at ALU who faced unexpected family challenges and awarded him a scholarship to ensure her continued education.



- Other Universities

FMO extended its support this year to 4 motivated FMO volunteers who are pursuing various fields of study, including procurement, information

University	Studies	No. of Scholars
Ruli Higher Institute of Health (RHH)	General Nursing	20
	Midwifery	5
Institut D'enseignement Superieur (INES-RUHENGERI)	Civil Engineering	1
University of Kigali(Uok)	Supplies And Procurement Management	1
	Information Technology	1
University of Technology and Arts of Byumba (UTAB)	Education	1
	Agro-Business	1
University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies (UTB)	Travel And Tourism Management	1
African Leadership University (ALU)	Software Engineering	1
	Entrepreneurial Leadership	3
Total		35

2.5.2. Specialized training

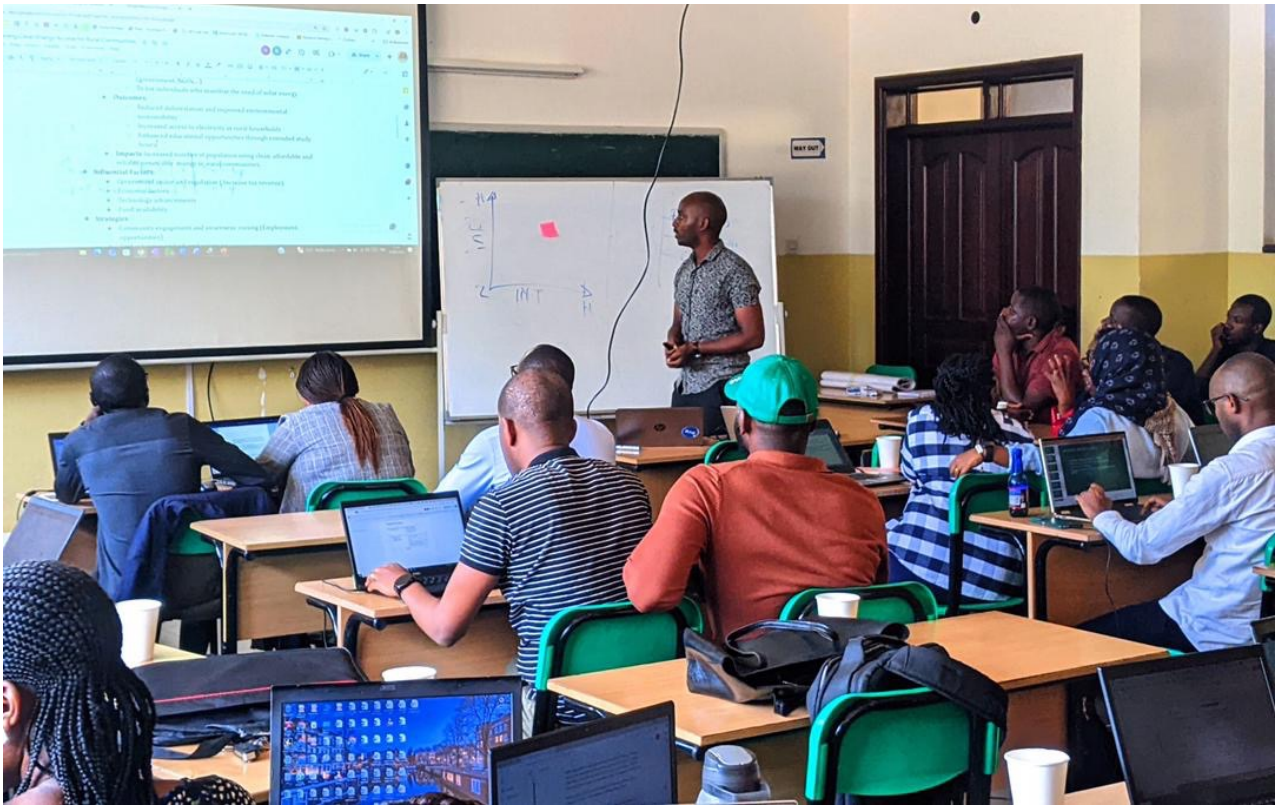
In late 2023, we enrolled 4 scholars in specialized certificate programs at various institutions, focusing on trades not available at M-VTC. This year, they completed three-month short courses and internships. Two scholars studied Culinary Arts at Action College and Languages School, one pursued Barista studies at the Integrated Barista Center, and another received training in heavy machinery at Forever TVET. All of them successfully concluded their studies in 2024.



2.5.3. Professional Internship

To incorporate new skills into MVTC training programs, various trainers have had the opportunity to learn directly from professionals, enabling them to pass on these skills to future cohorts. Courses completed include manicure and pedicure training for a hairdressing trainer, knitting for tailoring trainers, and steel pipe design with bending techniques for welding trainers. Additionally, other staff members, such as the accountant and M&E personnel, participated in training sessions to enhance their expertise in their respective roles.





2.6. Health services

2.6.1. SRH&R and Family planning

FMO organized a comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) training for 12 matrons from various schools participating in the school feeding program. The training aimed to equip the matrons, who are responsible for advising girls in their respective schools, with in-depth knowledge of sexual and reproductive health, birth control, and Gender-Based violence topics. Additionally, a follow-up assessment was conducted on the student clubs established in 2022, which revealed that most of the previously trained students had graduated, highlighting the need for fresh training sessions. However, some clubs remain active, continuing to serve as platforms for sharing SRHR knowledge. These clubs requested FMO to visit them in the coming year to provide further guidance and support to enhance their activities.



2.6.2. Basic health care

In response to the sector's identification of the most vulnerable families struggling to afford health insurance, FMO has stepped in to support by providing health insurance coverage for 337 individuals.

2.6.3. Urgent community support

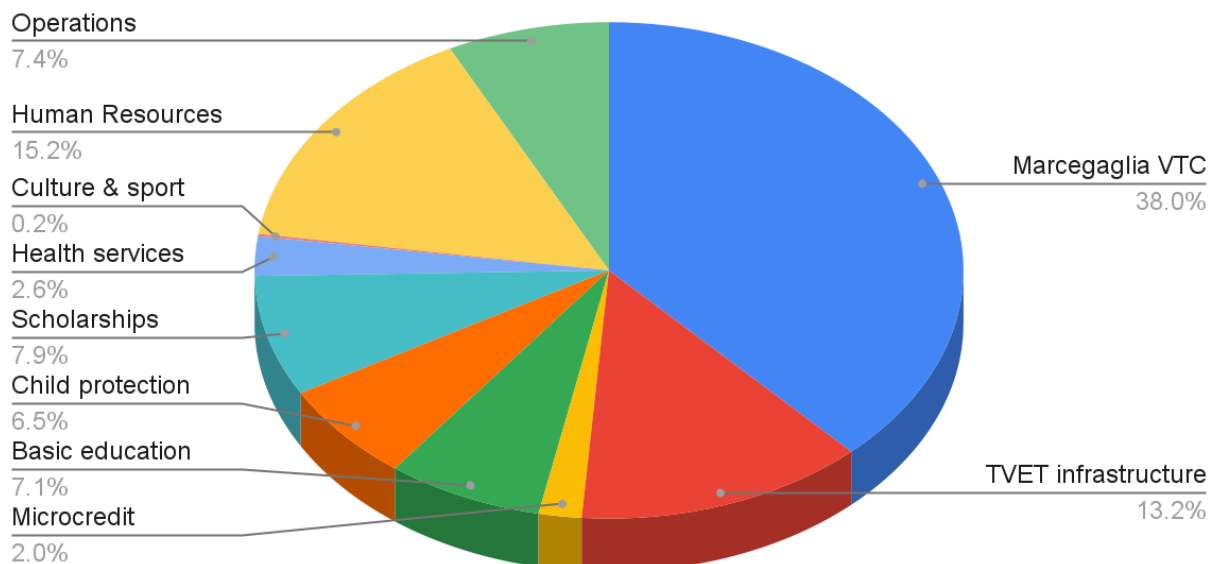
In anticipation of urgent community needs, including medical aid, food support, and contributions to social events organized by local authorities, FMO has proactively prepared contingency plans this year. This support encompasses emergency medical assistance for 11 individuals, food provisions and clothes for 30 families, and sponsorship of 2 social events while FMO has contributed to the Ejo Heza savings fund for 200 individuals.

Additionally, Committed to providing homes as a cornerstone for family development, the ZAMUKA Pilot Project by FMO, with support from MVTC trainees, has facilitated the construction of 2 houses. These homes, currently under construction as part of the trainees' hands-on learning, are projected to be completed by the end of the current training cohort.



3. INVESTMENT

Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus has spent the annual budget across projects as follows:



MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE RWANDA TEAM.



Dear Friends and Partners,

As we wrap up 2024, the team at Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus takes a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey we've undertaken together in Rwanda. Our collaborative efforts have led to significant achievements: from improving the lives of countless children through Early Childhood Development services to equipping youth with essential professional skills. We've also opened doors to business opportunities for community members, helping them move beyond subsistence farming, particularly in areas with limited land. Our partnership with the Government of Rwanda has been crucial in enhancing the socio-economic well-being of many families.

At the heart of our initiatives lies a commitment to sustainability, ensuring we cultivate strong and resilient communities. We are thrilled to present this annual report, which revisits the impactful work we've accomplished together this year and showcases the results of our joint efforts.

A special thank you goes to the Marcegaglia Family for their steadfast support and essential funding, along with our partners whose contributions have made this progress possible.

As we anticipate the new year, we are filled with optimism and resolve. We are confident that we will continue to reach even more families, children, and youth in need, furthering our mission and implementing our five-year strategic plan.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season brimming with peace, happiness, and community spirit.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey.

Best wishes for the upcoming year and happy holidays.

Warm regards,

*Rwagaju Desire
Country Program Director, Rwanda, Fondazione
Marcegaglia Onlus*



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