





A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader,

It is with a great sense of pride and gratitude that I present to you this 5-year progress report of Fondazione Marcegaglia's activities in Rwanda. Over the past five years, our local office has worked tirelessly, alongside trusted partners, to contribute to the development and empowerment of fragile communities in the Bugesera District. This report is not only a testament to the results achieved but also a reflection of the collective commitment that makes such progress possible.



In only five years, we have witnessed transformative change in multiple areas of intervention. Together, we have expanded access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) services, ensuring a stronger foundation for children's futures. We have fought against malnutrition, working hand-in-hand with families to improve health outcomes and create lasting change. In education, we have helped prevent school dropouts, enabling more children to stay in school and continue their journeys toward brighter futures.

We have also invested in wealth creation measures, empowering individuals and families to break free from cycles of poverty. By supporting access to vocational training and further education, we have opened pathways for young people and women to build skills, gain employment, and take control of their futures.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and vision of our local office, whose deep connection to the community has been the cornerstone of every initiative. We are also indebted to our partners and donors, whose collaboration and support have amplified the impact of our work.

As you read through this report, I hope you will share in the sense of pride for what has been accomplished. But while this document reflects the conclusion of a 5-year strategic plan, it is not the end of the road. Rather, it marks the beginning of a much longer journey—one in which Fondazione Marcegaglia will remain steadfast in its mission to empower communities and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we can continue to imagine and build a future filled with hope and possibility.

With gratitude,

Carolina Toso
President, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus

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INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, through its Ministry of Local Government, in its Social Protection Unity, have realized tremendous achievements in the past 5 years (2017-2021) despite the challenges presented by the global pandemic of Covid-19 as we all witnessed.

Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus, is celebratorily sharing the achieved milestone in the direct improvement of 2077 children, 5,111 youths and 14,714 households social wellbeing in Eastern province of Rwanda. Since 2017, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus through its country office in Bugesera, took on a load of 19 Activities grouped in 5 Projects within 2 main Development program with aim to Protect children, prevent drop-out in 12yrs basic education, capacity building for skilled workforce & Agri-Livestock intensification for food production.

Amidst covid 19 pandemic challenges, FMO-Rwanda Country Office realized the planned activities at the rate of 77%, whereas 17/22 activities were successfully implemented and reached their target beneficiaries and produced expected results, 1 activity budget has been relocated to another, 1 activity was not realizable due to Covid-19 prevention measures, and 3 planned activities stopped due to lack of promised funds.

The details in the table below;

Five years achievements summary		
No	Planned Activities	Realized activities
1	5 Community ECDs rehabilitation and Empowerment (rehabilitation of ECD center's buildings, provision of classroom equipment, provision of teaching materials (books and toys), provision of kitchen utensils and trimestrial kids porridge, caregivers and parents capacity building & children playgrounds Installation	5 Community ECDs were rehabilitated and equipped with classroom, kitchen equipment and professional teaching materials (ECD kalilisi- Catholique, ECD Kalilisi des amis, Ngenda & Gihinga), 713 kids are currently enrolled and being served in these 5 empowered ECDs
2	Upkeep of 120 kids of ECD Kimaranzara in Rilima	120 kids being served with daily ECD services (education, nutrition among others)

3	5 Community ECDs nutrition support (Provision of fortified porridge)	643 kids from 5 ECDs(Karera,Ngenda,Kalilisi des ami,Kalilisi Catholic and ECD Gihinga)have been provided fortified porridge
4	23 stunting control & village kitchen support (Provision of fortified food to children with stunting symptoms)	1,244 malnourished kids have benefited from Monthly nutritive food package delivered to them
5	School feeding(Day-meal provision to students from food insecure families)	1,558 students were supported with school feeding fees
6	School Materials for reintegrated students	264 dropped out students have been supported with scholastic materials to reintegrate
7	Sexual Reproductive Health & Right clubs to prevent unwanted pregnancies+Holiday camps to raise SR H&R awareness	4961 high school students,10 SRHR school based mentors from 10 schools and 6 youth representatives have been trained
8	Girls Room Equipments (pads+other hygienic facilities to prevent girls absence during menstrual periods)	10 girls rooms equipped in 10 schools of 12 Years Basic education
9	One Cow(Cows supply,cowshed construction, farming materials,insemination)	96 Cows distributed and farmers package & 86 cowsheds constructed
10	Small livestock(Three Goats & Pigs supply)	1248 goats distributed to 416 families in 1st&2nd ubudehe category
11	Beneficiaries training	96 Cows and 416 Goats beneficiaries trained

12	22500 Fruit Trees seedlings	50,500 fruit trees distributed to 13,445 households in need
13	20 Water Pump for single land irrigation	30 water pump & their accessories distributed to the farmers
14	Ongoing TVET scholarships	213 youths have been helped to join tertiary education through TVET and scholarship program
15	Ongoing Rilima Tailoring center	24 tainees graduated,28 are ongoing trainees
16	Toolkits provision to TVET graduate	81 toolkits distributed to 81 graduates
17	Microcredit for small business-funding	561 small businesses funded
18	Water storage equipments	18 small tanks (5000L) to households,2 big tanks(60,000L) for the community with a filtration system
19	Houses construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 houses were constructed from scratch and equipped • 88 houses were paved and plastered and equipped • 29 toilets were constructed • Cement and roofing sheets for 18 households were given.



EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Government of Rwanda and Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus guiding their collaboration, social protection unity of the ministry of local government emphasized the importance of creation of Children protection center to serve as center of excellence in newborn & enfants proper growth monitoring to prevent & treat malnutrition, violence and other causes of stunting in children under five years. The collaboration agreement also invited FMO to contribute to the reduction of dropout in 12 years basic education as Rwanda placed the highest importance on making sure every Rwandan should mandatorily complete the first 12 years of basic education. The interventions in this regard consist of removing/reducing all barriers being financial, psychological and familial which would lead to the drop-out in all 13 high schools around the district. This program has two Projects; Early Childhood Development Project (children under 5years old) and School Drop-out Control(6years-17years old students)

Early childhood development Project

Project overview

To support this program, in past 5 years FMO has initially allocated a budget of 54,473,378Rwf to rehabilitate and empower existing community Early childhood centers to meet ECD centers standards, to run a model ECD center established in the previous action plan i.e ECD Kimaranzara which hosts 120 children from vulnerable families of Rilima sector, Kimaranzara cell, and to control stunting and malnutrition among under 5 years kids from Rilima, Shyara and Nyarugenge sectors of Bugesera district.

5 years achievements

Project	Activities	Sectors	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2021	Overall in 5 years
Early childhood development	Rehabilitated and empowered ECDs(with infrastructure renovation, classroom equipment, didactic materials, kitchen utensils, trimestrial porridge, caregivers and parents capacity building)	Rilima	0	0	0	1	4	5

		Nyarugenge	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Shyara	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Model excellent ECD Construction and running(infra-structure construction, upkeep 120 kids)-ECD Kimanzara	Rilima	0	0	0	1	1	1
	Malnutrition prevention and stunting control(Number of kids supported in All sectors including new Musenyi)	Malnourished	0	0	459	436	349	1,244
		Village kitchen attended by 1412 kids	0	0	15	0	0	15

Rehabilitated and empowered ECDs

Through its early Childhood development project, FMO has achieved the rehabilitation and empowerment of 4 existing ECDs namely ECD Gihinga of Shyara sector, ECD Ngenda of Nyarugenge sector, ECD Kalilisi catholic and ECD Kalilisi des amis both of Rilima sector, all empowered with infrastructure renovation, didactic materials, playgrounds installation, kitchen utensils, caregivers and parents empowerment as well. Other 3 ECDs have been only supported with materials and capacity building of parents and caregivers, these are ECD Karera, ECD Rilima Catholic and ECD Mere Elizea.

Empowered ECDs	Infra-structures renovated	Play-ground installed	Books	Toys	Trained personnel	Chairs	Tables	Kitchen utensils and trimestrial porridge
ECD Gihinga	3 classrooms	3 structures Tourniquet, Tobogan, Balancoire with a fence	500 copies	26 sets	5	120	40	2 sauce-pans, 2 plastic water tank, 2 baskets, 5 jages, porridge

ECD Kalilisi des amis	3 classrooms, 1 teachers office, 1 kitchen, 1 toilet, water tank	3 structures Tourniquet, Tobogan, Balancoire	500 copies	26 sets	4	80	20	2 saucepans, 2 plastic water tank, 2 baskets, 5 jages, porridge
ECD Kalilisi Catholic	2 classrooms	3 structures Tourniquet, Tobogan, Balancoire	500 copies	26 sets	3	80	20	
ECD Karera	0	3 structures Tourniquet, Tobogan, Balancoire with a fence	500 copies	26 sets	6	283	75	2 saucepans, 2 plastic water tank, 2 baskets, 5 jages, porridge
ECD Rilima catholic	0	0	0	0	4	0	70	0
ECD Ngen-da	3 classrooms	3 structures Tourniquet, Tobogan, Balancoire with a fence	500 copies	26 sets	4	80	40	2 saucepans, 2 plastic water tank, 2 baskets, 5 jages, porridge
ECD Mere Elizea	Painting 4 rooms, and given sports equipment	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
ECD Riziyeri	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0

Caregivers and parents capacity building



As a continuous initiative of ECD empowerment through rehabilitation of ECD properties, provision of teaching materials (books and toys) and capacity building. Over the past 5 years caregivers, parents and community members in general 9 ECDs from Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara have been benefiting from training on different Early Childhood development topics .

Model Early childhood development center running-ECD Kimaranzara



In 2019, FMO has allocated a huge budget to construct an excellent model early Childhood development center to serve as the local ECD services hub, in 2020 the first cohort of 90 kids from neighboring vulnerable families have started to benefit from services free of charge. One year later, 40 kids were added to make a total of From then 120 kids all from Rilima sector, Kimaranzara cell. The 3 to 6 years old Kids benefit from all 5 ECD services at the center while

their parents benefit from weekly parenting sessions, FMO supports kids' daily porridge and meal, teaching and didactic materials and kids scholastic materials as well. The first 40 kids of the top class have graduated and been promoted to primary school while 40 new kids were enrolled for baby class.



Malnutrition prevention and stunting control

Over past 5 years, FMO have been participating in Bugesera district partners joint initiatives to eradicate stunting and malnutrition, for instance in 2019 FMO collaborated with the district



in a campaign called IKOTANIRO in which FMO helped the district to treat 439 malnourished kids who were hospitalized in their 15 respective health centers, in this campaign FMO supported with nutritive food package for both kids and their mothers for the period they have spent in hospitals. From then FMO continues to collaborate with Health centers and Community health workers in



prevention and treatment of stunting and malnutrition through provision of monthly nutritive food packages (Milk, eggs and porridge) to identified malnourished kids and supporting village kitchens and home based ECDs. A total of 1,244 malnourished kids from Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara have been supported through this project.

Challenges and lessons learnt

Challenges	Lessons learnt
Unexpected works identified while project implementation i.e only empowerment works planned but realize that rehabilitation of buildings is required	Exhaust planning details and budget accordingly
Parents mindset on early childhood development initiative which is still low, as in remote area some parents are still considering ECD level as it is not a level of education for kids and decide to not enroll kids just to wait until they are 7 years old to join primary level Low number of skilled people in ECD services who could assist in community mobilization	Enhance collaboration with all stakeholders to keep mobilization of community members about role of ECD in development of a kid Mobilize parents and involve them before empowerment of the community ECD of a given location(be given first a list of confirmed attending kids) Increase the number of ECD caregivers through long term internships to be given to dedicated high school graduate, to be executed to existing empowered ECDs
Identified kids with special health problems which can't be solved by existing malnutrition and stunting control package	Work with professional pediatricians for medical consultation and give specific recommendations

Future development

- Rehabilitate and empower more community ECDs to maximize access of ECD services in other locations with existing initiatives
- Support home based ECDs with both materials and skills as ECD Kimaranzara will continuously be serving as ECD services hub

- Avail many skilled caregivers through regular periodical internships
- Control malnutrition and stunting in kids under five years through empowerment of their families and home based ECDs.
- Mobilize parents' involvement through regular positive parenting training to be conducted in an organized way at each empowered ECD center and being monitored, supervised and reported by model ECD caregivers (ECD Kimaranzara).
- Empower ECD Kimaranzara parent committee with necessary school management skills to prepare them to run the center in future years, this goes together with promoting income generating activities for auto financing of the center.

Dropout control in 12 Years Basic Education



Basic education in Rwanda is made up of six years of primary education and six years of lower secondary education. Both levels of education are compulsory and fee-free in public and government-subsidized schools despite the challenges that have so far undermined its 100% implementation. Entry into secondary school is dependent on examination. Unfortunately, primary school students do not

continue to secondary school. For primary and secondary school, parents are not required to pay school fees, but they have to pay day school feeding fees and scholastic materials to enroll their children. However, most families can't afford to pay as some families might have many children which is not easy for parents to provide all materials children might need. In some families, parents select a given number to go to school, especially boys and decide to keep others at home (mainly girls). In other families, no children go to school. There are cases where students dropout of school due to different reasons but the root cause is the poverty in their families

Despite poverty as major cause of dropout for girls and boys, problems related to sexual reproductive health and right-SRHR are mainly affecting girls' dropout.

To control or tackle all those causes of dropout, FMO has been implementing the following projects in 10 high schools of Nyarugenge, Shyara and Rilima sectors.

- School feeding (day meal, pregnancy at school)
- School materials support for reintegration
- Schools 'girls room equipment & Sexual and reproductive health and right education

School feeding fee payment support

In the past 5 years ,FMO could have supported 1658 high school students from vulnerable families to benefit from day meals at school.



Years	Rilima	Nyarugenge	Shyara	Other	Total
2016 - 2017	50	0	0	0	50
2017 - 2018	332	0	0	0	332
2018 - 2019	528	0	0	0	528
2019 - 2020	186	100	50	0	336
2021	210	100	60	42	412
Total	1306	200	110	42	1658

No.	Sector	School
1	Rilima	Rilima Catholic
		GS Nyabagendwa
		GS Kabeza
		GS Kalilisi catholic
2	Nyarugenge	GS Kamabare
		Gs Rugando
3		Gs Bushonyi
4	Shyara	Gs Gihinga
		TVET Nyamirama
5	Rukumberi	Gs Rukumberi
6	Juru	Gs Katarara
7	Nyamata	Soeurs hospitalieres St Marthe Nyamata
8	Mayange	Gs Kamabuye

List of benefited schools

School girl's room equipments, Sexual and reproductive health and right education

To control causes of dropout among young girls, FMO has allocated budget to empower both girls and boys on sexual reproductive and right through established school based SRHR clubs in which boys and girls were given weekly topics to discuss and answer to related question, the weekly sessions were being monitored and guided by a professional SRHR Consultant who was helped by trained school based SRHR mentors (Matron, headboy and headgirl of each school). In addition to educative sessions given, through their respective schools, girls from vulnerable families which can't afford to get hygienic materials during menstrual periods have benefited to trimestrial girls' room equipment made of pads, soaps, body lotion, hygienic papers that have been distributed to 10 high schools of Rilima, Nyarugenge.



Performed activities

- 36 FMO SRHR mentors (school based matrons, students representatives, and youth representatives) were trained.
- 10 FMO SRHR clubs with 91 focus group were established and actively operational
- 2924 club members (Students) participated in weekly topics reading and weekly quizzes answering
- SRHR related suggestions boxes were delivered and hanged at each school
- 10 school girls' rooms were equipped.
- 8 weekly quizzes were answered by 91 focus group members, marked and recorded.
- Suggestion boxes were checked and the reported cases by students were addressed.

The table below describes benefited schools and number of students participate

School based SRHR Clubs 2021

No.	Srhr Club Name	Focus Group	Number of students
1	GS RILIMA CATHOLIQUE	S1A	35
		S1B	38
		S1C	33
		ASS	30
		S2B	27

		S2C	29
		S3A	37
		S3B	37
		S4 MPG	4
		S4 MEG	9
		S4 LFK	30
		S5 LFK	19
		S5 MEG	37
		S5 MPG	8
		S6 LFK	13
		S6 MEG	31
		S6 MPG	7
	Total number of participants		424
2	GS KAMABARE	S1A	57
		S1B	45
		S1C	33
		AS	52
		S2B	44
		S2C	48
		S2D	45
		S3A	35
		S3B	40
		S3C	39
		S4 MEG	17
		S4 MEC	8
		S5 MEG	7
		S5 MEC	5
		S6 MEG	14
		S6 MEC	9
	Total number of participants		498
3	GS RUGANDO	S1A	45
		S1	42
Total number of participants			87

4	GS BUSHONYI	S1A	33
		S1B	33
		S1C	39
	Total number of participants		105
5	GS GIHINGA	S1A	38
		S1B	30
		S1C	28
		S1D	40
		S1E	30
		S1F	36
		S2A	38
		S2B	41
		S2C	45
		S3A	40
		S3B	43
		S4 MPG	22
		S4 HEG	36
		S5 MPG	15
		S5 HEG	14
		S6 MPG	8
		S6 HEG	17
	Total number of participants		521
6	GS NZIRANZIZA	S1A	30
		S1B	21
		S1C	6
		S2A	58
	Total number of participants		115
7	GS KABEZA	S1A	34
		S1B	32
		S2	37
	Total number of participants		103
8	GS KALILISI	S1	29
		S2	24
Total number of participants			53

9	GS NYABAGENDWA	S1A	57
		S1B	46
		S1C	45
		S1D	50
		S2A	55
		S2B	48
		S2C	62
		S3A	47
		S3B	50
		S3C	45
		S4 HEG	33
		S4 MEG	17
	Total number of participants		555
10	GS RILIMA	S1A	29
		S1B	26
		S2A	37
		S2B	35
		S3	33
		S4 MCB	33
		S4 PCB(a)	29
		S4 PCB(b)	25
		S4 PCM	10
		S5 MCB	39
		S5 PCB(a)	34
		S5 PCB (b)	33
		S5 PCM	14
		S6 PCM	13
		S6 PCB	46
		S6 MCB	27
	Total number of participants		463
Total	10	91	2,924

Scholastic materials support for reintegration

In the concept of dropout control, over the past 5 years FMO has been supporting students from vulnerable families with scholastic materials to reintegrate. A total of 264 students have been helped with notebooks, pens, school bags, school uniforms among other scholastic materials through this program



Challenges and lessons learnt

Challenges	Lessons learnt
<p>Global Covid-19 pandemic which disturbed a lot the school feeding payment timeline and led to double payment as students stay longer at school than expected</p>	<p>Adapt to unexpected conditions</p>
<p>High demand as the government decided to mandatorily implement the school feeding program from nursery to high school yet before the program was only for high school students.</p>	<p>Solve the problem at family level by empowering the whole household through other FMO's development projects so that they can afford to pay school feeding fees for their children.</p>
<p>Challenges related to mindset about SRHR have been identified at different levels i.e at school, homes and at community. Teachers and matrons who are supposed to teach adolescents all about SRHR are not very open to talk about a sexual subject where they just brush the question off without answering whenever the student wants to know more</p> <p>Most of the students have parents with few or no knowledge about sexual reproductive health and the rights of their children</p> <p>Poverty in the families leading to prostitution and dropping out of school</p> <p>Cultural aspect: In the Rwandan society kids are being thought to be polite and not ask questions considered inappropriate and talking about sex openly is considered as being not being polite</p>	<p>From discussions with students, teachers and some parents, it was revealed that much has to be done to ensure the SRHR content is accessible to whoever is in need, especially at schools and at community level. The same approach should be emphasized but target not only youth at school but also uneducated youth at parents in their respective villages.</p> <p>Have design specific curriculum by ages, (11-15 years old, 16-35 years old and one for adults)</p> <p>Girls from vulnerable families who can't afford to buy hygienic materials used during periods should be identified at community level not at school then be supported individually but targeting to empower her family to enable the family to buy them next time.</p>

Future development

FMO commits to keep supporting the government of Rwanda to fight against any cause of dropout in 12 Years Basic education,we will therefore:

1. Keep supporting students from most vulnerable families with school feeding fee payment,this will be done while empowering beneficiary families through other projects to enable them to pay school feeding fees for their children.
2. Keep scholastic materials supported.
3. Keep supporting girls from most vulnerable families with hygienic materials
4. Scale up the dissemination and educational content of SRHR to all community members i.e at schools, at villages for uneducated youth and to different parent gatherings.

Education and child protection summary

No.	Description	Items distributed/activities performed	Benefited Household/youth
1	Rehabilitated and empowered community ECDs	5 ECDs	643 kids
2	Model ECD upkeep-ECD Kimaranzara	1ECD	120 kids
3	Caregivers and parent committee representatives trained	1 Training	34 care-givers & parents
4	Positive Parenting sessions conducted	64 sessions	7680 parents
5	Malnourished kids supported	12 months	1,244 children
6	School feeding fees paid	3 trimesters	1,658
7	Scholastic materials for reintegration	Annual materials support	264 children
8	School based Girls room package support	10 schools	1754 girls
9	SRHR School based mentors training	34 members	2924 students
10	Weekly SRHR topics discussions	10 weeks	2924 students

POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM

Poverty reduction summary of achievements

No	Description	Items	Benefited Household / youth
1	One Cow (One cow)	96 cowsheds & pregnant cows with farmers package	96 households
2	3 goats per family	1248 goats	416 households
3	Irrigation systems (small pumps)	30 diesel water pump & accessories	30 farmers (households)
4	Fruit trees	50,500 seedlings	13,445 households
5	Local TVET(women center)	52	52 Youth
6	Scholarship	213	213 Youth
7	Microcredit	561	561 business (_Households)
			14,548 households and 265 youth

LIVESTOCK

Girinka or One milky cow per poor family is one of the country leading initiative in both tackling the issues of malnutrition which is causing stunting in children under five years in Rwanda, and response to lack of industrial fertilizers since cows produces manure, reducing poverty through daily cattle farming and improving livelihoods through increased milk consumption and income generation.

For the last eight years, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus (FMO) has been supporting the government in this program by providing good cows breeds to families in need in three sectors of Bugesera District (Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara).

The cows are either pregnant or directly inseminated before handed to the beneficiary to be hosted in well constructed shelter equipped with compost to accommodate cow dung and farming materials like wheelbarrow and spades to prepare organic manure.

However ,to circumvent the issue of high density of population and insufficient cultivable land, goats rearing have been found as a very profitable livestock as an alternative to cows. Since 2014, FMO has been implementing the Three goats project to make sure families without cultivable land are part of the development journey in the community whereby FMO provides

3 female goats to selected families and required to give back three calved kids to the next neighbor on the beneficiary list provided by the local authority

The beneficiaries of the cows also received three goats to accompany the cow since this last one takes a long time to reproduce, so that meanwhile the beneficiary can have a potential source of income to prevent he/she from selling the cow.

So far, this has been the most successful program as it serves as a quick source of income to solve basic needs of the household, like sending children to school, health insurance, clothes and hygienic materials.

Performed activities

Beneficiaries identification

As recommended by the Girinka program, Cow Beneficiaries are selected and approved by the Girinka committee at different administrative levels as well as the Ubudehe committee for small livestock Beneficiaries. In this respect FMO, have received the List of beneficiaries from Sector authorities and visited by FMO staff and local volunteers, to check mainly, on current family status, probable inclusion of beneficiaries in other projects implemented by FMO, and availability of space for Cowshed construction.

Cowshed construction

Before direct provision of cows to beneficiaries, modern cowsheds with 2 compartments were built to insure a sanitary dwelling of the livestock. From 2018, due to the sector requests, cowsheds were also constructed in households receiving passover cows.

Beneficiaries training

To insure smooth run of livestock rearing activities, beneficiaries are equipped with :

- Basic husbandry practical skills including cattle's proper feeding, hygiene and sanitation, identification of common disease in cattle,
- Social & Economic content, so as to prepare readiness to pass-over newborns to their neighbors as well as sense of ownership to get more of provided livestock

All beneficiaries were trained in respective sectors by Sectors' Animal resource officers, Sector Social affairs and FMO Staff. In this Training cow beneficiaries had signed an agreement of ownership with the sector and team leaders were voted among beneficiaries (by cell) to ensure smooth follow up.

Livestock Distribution and sanitation package provision

As Girinka guidelines, distribution has been done in public with random selection of delivered cows, down is the distribution of cows among sectors of implementation. And sanitation packages were given to them composed of a wheelbarrow, a spade,

Insemination

As there were times , heifers provided were not pregnant, FMO hired private to follow up the provided cows and conducted insemination to heifers in time of maturity.

Beneficiaries reached

Livestock project beneficiaries have been reached as follows in different activities;

Table of Beneficiaries reached (goats and cows) with activities in different years

Sub-project	Sector	Description	16-2017	17-2018	18-2019	19-2020	2021	Total
One Cow (girinka)	Rilima	Direct cows	10	10	10	-	-	30
		Passover	4	6	4	9	-	23
		Cowsheds	10	10	14	9	-	43
		Sanitation package	10	10	10	-	-	30
	Nyarugenge	Direct cows	-	-	-	12	10	22
		Passover	-	-	-	1	-	1
		Cowsheds	-	-	-	13	10	23
		Sanitation package	-	-	-	10	10	20
	SHYARA	Direct cows	-	-	-	10	10	20
		Passover	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Cowsheds	-	-	-	10	10	20
		Sanitation package	-	-	-	10	10	20
3 goats per family	Rilima	Direct (families)	50	50	50	-	-	150
		Passover (families)	25	7	6	18	-	56
	Nyarugenge	Direct (families)	-	-	-	60	50	110
		Passover (families)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SHYARA	Direct (families)	-	-	-	50	50	100
		Passover (families)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Challenges

Despite the positive output of one cow & 3 goats project, the latter have shown challenges in its implementation. As noted during its implementation, the key challenges and proposed solutions are the following;

- From observation, After many attempts of insemination of some provided cows they have shown failure to conceive which were testified by some beneficiaries as a burden. As recommendation there should be provision of pregnant heifers to tackle the issue



- Beneficiaries were unable to pay for medicines for some diseases which are expensive
- Early selling of provided small livestock which will be limited by associating this project with other poverty reduction packages per family

GIRINKA PROGRAM FIVE YEARS IMPACT EVALUATION CONDUCTED

After 8 years of implementation of different activities, particularly, in Rilima sector, a research was conducted to evaluate five years impact of Girinka program, in the locality, in collaboration of FMO Staff and Virginia Tech students. The Research aimed to identify health and social-economic impact on beneficial household (which are mainly headed by single or widowed women), neighborhood and community at large. 100% of the interviewed beneficiaries found the cow profitable in different perspectives, however few 2% have shown the least benefits due to premature deaths of cows. Key impact aspects include; agricultural productivity, impact on nutrition, livelihood, Social cohesion, Gender Equity, Monetary income generation.

Summary Findings

Monetary income generation

1. One of the benefits shown by the beneficiaries were money generation, from selling surplus milk after feeding children, (milk was most beneficial to 69% farmers). Beneficiaries have earned

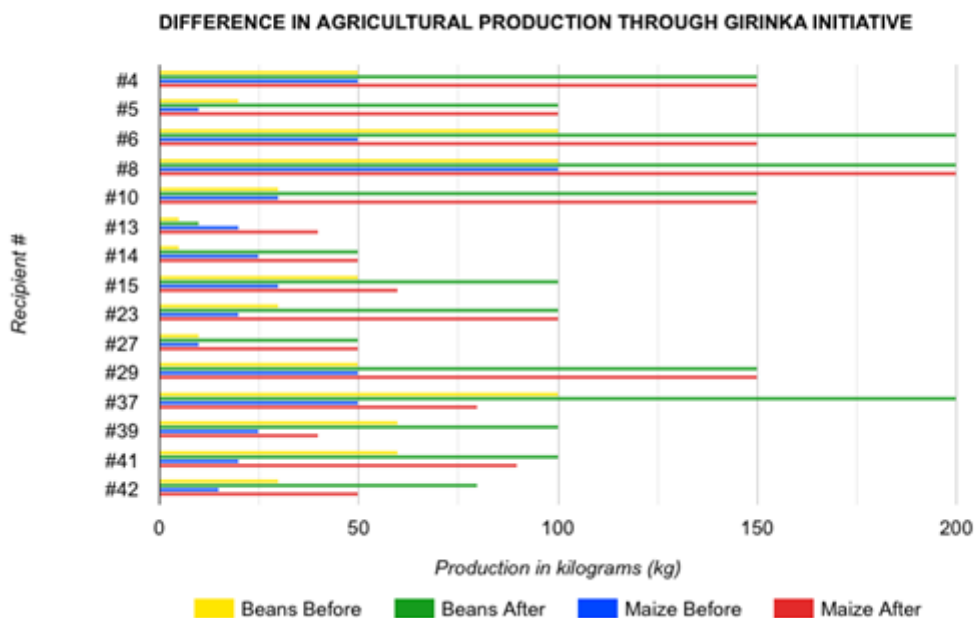
upwards of 57,600 Rwf for selling milk

2. Selling Manure to other farmers in the community
3. Boosting their agricultural harvest through the use of cows natural fertilizers
4. Selling cows offspring after passover. 49 interviewed beneficiaries 95 calves were produced which took an average of 10.8 months to birth of each after distribution (including the outlier data of when the cows were given as a calf).



Agricultural Productivity

This aspect was found most beneficial as 100% of respondents have said that the cow improved their agricultural harvest due application of manure produced by cows (Average of 2.66 trucks produced by FMO cow per year. They vary between 0.5-12 trucks) 65% of respondents have increased the harvest 2-5 times.



Before receiving the cow ,Only 7 beneficiaries used something other than cow manure and after, only 7 used something other than cow manure mainly for cow loss.

The chart below shows the difference before and after harvest of beans and maize. In addition, due to death,inability to take care of it , giving away ,etc. , sme beneficiaries witnessed the decrease of agricultural harvest following the decrease of manure

Nutrition

By providing cows, the Girinka Program supplied most beneficiaries with a surplus of milk compared to before.Around 90 percent of interviewed beneficiaries consumed milk from given before selling a portion

Malnutrition

Tackling malnutrition Being one a goal of Girinka program the findings have shown a great contribution in Preventing and curing stunting in children in beneficiaries families through consumption of milk and fertilization of kitchen gardens as well ability to purchase other diet because of income generated

Kitchen garden

Livelihood

Thanks to the money generated from the cow, beneficiaries were able to purchase materials for their homes and families, pay for expenses they otherwise would have needed government support on, made improvements to their homes and some even began new business ventures with their new form of income. As we spoke with more beneficiaries, we discovered broader impacts on individual livelihood that the project has offered. Families have been able to pay for school fees and medical insurance on their own, cultivate crops that have practically doubled in abundance since using the cow's manure as fertilizer, and elevate their status in the community as individuals others can look up to as role models for success and pride.

Social cohesion

One of the beautiful aspects of the Girinka project is the Passover program, where the beneficiary will pass on the first born calf to a new family, which not only keeps the program sustainable, but improves cohesion within the community. Rwandan culture places a heavy significance on cows, and it is traditionally the most prized belonging to a family, and is considered the best gift you can give and/or receive.

Gender Equity

In spite of the Girinka program's mission to empower women and promote gender equity, the majority of the responses of those who still had husbands maintained their position as secondary head of the house. Two third of interviewed women said that they believe they share ownership with their husbands and 1/3 said that their husbands have full ownership of the cow. 4/5 of men with wives ,interviewed said they think they have full ownership of the cow and 1/5 said his wife has ownership of the cow. This shows the trend of upholding traditional gender roles in the household, specifically when it comes to men making financial decisions and maintaining ownership of any assets.

CROP INTENSIFICATION

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS PROVISION

The Rwandan government has invested more in agriculture to ensure the intensification and modernization of agriculture to successfully avoid dependence on rain-fed agriculture in the driest part of the country. Additionally, this promotes a green environment as well as ensuring food security.

Through Nkunganire program,Bugesera district supports farmers to get pumps whereby the District contributes 50% the cost of the pumps.However there is a still a gap in the irrigated land through the program because of lack of means. In this respect FMO initiated irrigation related project to support farmers with 25% and remaining 25% is given as a loan payable in installments after seasonal harvest.

Performed activities

Beneficiaries selections

As per District Nkunganire program requirement, Eligibility for this program demands nkunganire approval letter given to the farmers doing agricultural activities on land close to water bodies whose area are from 0.5ha and above. In 5years, 30 Farmers have received pumps in Nyarugenge,Rilima and Shyara.

Pumps Distribution and usage training

In Collaboration with companies supplying the Pumps, Farmers have been visited to identify the proper pumps to serve better farmers land. Upon delivery, Beneficiaries are trained on the usage of the pumps and maintenance

No.	Year	Pumps provided			Total
		Rilima	Nyarugenge	Shyara	
1	2016 - 2017	0	0	0	0
2	2017 - 2018	0	0	0	0
3	2018 - 2019	7	0	0	7
4	2019 - 2020	10	1	4	15
5	2021	1	2	5	8
Total		18	3	9	30

N.B: Lately Nkunganire program stopped and importation / Supply of irrigation tools lagged in covid-19 pandemic which led to decrease of provided pumps recently.

FRUIT TREES PROVISION

If properly done,the cultivation of fruit trees is one strategy that may fight malnutrition on a sustainable basis as well as promoting a green environment. With improved varieties of fruits through the grafting process, the grafted trees present not only rapid growth but also resistance to diseases and bigger size to name a few.

As Bugesera is one of the districts in great need of trees, it has made different parties work in unison to achieve this goal.

From 2017 to date, FMO provides fruit trees to families and to be planted in homes located in Nyarugenge, Shyara and Rilima Sectors. A total of fruit trees (mangoes, avocados, papayas and oranges) with the collaboration of local volunteers and local leaders,have been distributed.

Performed activities

Identification of beneficiaries

With the help of local youth volunteers, the need of seedlings in households were identified in respective cells in 3 sectors

Delivery and distribution of seedlings

In two annual pluvial seasons, February and November, 50,500 Trees seedlings were brought to cell sites and distributed to families in need, with a brief training session on how the plantation is done before distribution by forest extension officer.

No.	Year	Seedlings provided			TOTAL
		Rilima	Nyarugenge	Shyara	
1	2016 - 2017	0	0	0	
2	2017 - 2018	13,000	0	0	13000
3	2018 - 2019	0	0	0	0
4	2019 - 2020	0	7500	7500	15000
5	2021	7792	8805	5903	22,500
TOTAL					50,500

Challenges

Here are some challenges met during activity implementation

- One of the challenges met during distribution of trees is shortage of fruit trees from local producers due to climatic conditions
- Lack of knowledge on trees plantation practice as well as their usefulness

Future Development

The proposed mitigation measures in future implementation are:

- Empower Local seedling producers with shednets to moderate the temperature of the seedlings
- Consider inclusion of one week tree plantation campaign during the distribution session

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & JOBS CREATION



As FMO is committed to bridging the gender gap and breaking down barriers wherever possible, Through scholarships, High school elites from poor families with unwavering commitment to making their community better are sent to higher education institutions to acquire more knowledge and Some of the high school graduates who shows interest in short period Technical Training are supported to study them in TVET schools in the country, however as response to big number of scholarships applications, Local training center for Tailoring, knitting, weaving and embroidery which initially received 25 young, single mothers in Rilima were established.This center receives women for half a day so that they can go home and continue to take care of their babies and do other activities. It is expected to expand the number of Trades to Welding,Hairdressing,Domestic electricity ,Carpentry.

Performed activities

The quantitative achievements from FMO investment include mainly the number of students who graduated and were given toolkits but also the ones that are still pursuing their education.



In 5 years the following activities were performed

Scholarships Donation and scholars upkeep

Across 5 years , High school graduates have been applying for scholarships granted by FMO, and selection made with help of respective sector authorities whereby 213 Students have been sent to pursue higher education in different institutions

Table of given Scholarships by Years

Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2021	Total
Scholarships provided	7	34	110	62	0	213

Students by respective institution:

UNIVERSITY/TVET CENTER	NO. OF GRADUATES	OPTIONS
AKILA	8	HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
APROHAD	1	SPECIAL TAILORING
AUCA	1	NURSING AND MIDWIFE
CERFOMI	5	HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
	4	TAILORING
	1	HAIRDRESSING
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY	3	EDUCATION
	1	INFORMATICS
EAST AFRICA UNIVERSITY	6	FILMMAKING & PRODUCTION
	2	GRAPHIC DESIGN
EMVTC REMERA	7	MECHANICS
GAHOGO TVET	3	HAIRDRESSING
GISHARI	3	PLUMBING
	1	WELDING
HOPE ACADEMY	1	CARPENTRY
	1	CONSTRUCTION
	15	CULINARY ART
	5	TAILORING
IBTC FILM SCHOOL	1	FILM MAKING
IIRC KICUKIRO	2	ELECTRONICS
	1	PLUMBING
KAVUMU TRAINING CENTER	2	MECHANICS
KIAC	1	ELECTRONIC AND REPAIRING
	3	FILM MAKING
	2	INDUSTRIAL ARTS
	2	WEB DESIGN

KIC	4	CONSTRUCTION
	28	MECHANIC
	1	ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
KIGALI TECH	2	CULINARY ART
MUHABURA IP	4	HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
MUSANZE POLYT	1	AGRICULTURE
VTC-NYABAGENDWA	3	TAILORING
NYUNDO ART COLLEGE	1	INDUSTRIAL ARTS
RULI HIGHER INSTITUTE OF NURSING	4	NURSING AND MIDWIFE
SINA GERARD TVET SCHOOL	3	HAIRDRESSING
	5	TAILORING
UTB GISENYI	1	AIRPORT GROUND OPERATIONS
	11	HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT AND CULINARY ART
	7	FOOD PRODUCTION
	1	HOTEL OPERATIONS
UTB - KIGALI	1	AIRPORT OPERATION
	5	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
	9	HOSPITALITY
	1	IATA
	1	MANAGEMENT
	3	TOURISM
	13	TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS
	2	TRAVEL AND AVIATION
VTC BUTAMWA	10	HAIR DRESSING
	6	TAILORING
	4	HOTEL OPERATIONS
TOTAL	213	

Local Women center upkeep and tailoring training to 2 cohorts

At the start of 2020, a new local training center was created with the aim of increasing the number of TVET graduates at lower cost with other benefits. By december 2021 First cohort of 24 women graduated in Tailoring and the second cohort is graduating in february 2022 .upon graduation, of them are given free toolkits with a startup capital as a loan(microcredit) to help them start their business

Toolkits provision to graduates

In Order to create means of employment to fresh Graduates,toolkits have been given to 81 graduates



Challenges and lessons learnt

- Covid-19 global pandemic disturbed a lot the academic calendar a lot and had a negative impact on the timeline and graduation date of all scholars.
- Budget constraints due to some continuous fees structure changes by schools to respond to covid-19 consequences

Recommendations from scholars

- The program beneficiaries up stretched their gratitude towards FMO for it has enabled them to add on their knowledge but they think it would be great if the organization try to have more youth enabled because this is going to help youth and their community in general.
- In addition, it is crystal clear that Fondazione does a great job by allocating funds in youth education, but it would be great if they expand the length of training and internships to enable students to get more practical skills.
- Another suggestion raised was for the organization to offer more training on sustainable development because it could be an asset that will help youth in building their capacity.

Future development

To keep sponsoring tertiary education of girls and boys from Vulnerable families by prioritizing those joining Nursing and midwifery and other medical related courses to support the Government to increase the number of workforce in this domain which is still very low.

- Establish Community based TVET centers with trades like hairdressing,tailoring, welding and plumbing.
- To only enroll a small number of scholars to other special trades which are not being taught in established community based TVET centers.
- To provide toolkits to graduates and follow up their journey towards job creation

MICROCREDIT

One of the best ways to encourage economic growth in poor areas is to provide affordable small loans to farmers and small-business owners, called microcredit or micro-loans. These programs can inject capital into communities that lack the collateral required by conventional banks.

The Country has encouraged this policy through various bodies such as; National Employment Program (NEP),business development fund, VUP among others with the aim of job creation.

FMO has been funding micro-businesses through FMO-Terimbere fund since 2016 which is managed by local integral representatives appointed by the sectors' authorities and FMO Staff. From 2016,561 businesses,in different areas,were funded by FMO as of december 2021.

Performed Activities

Reception and evaluation of applications

Business plans from the community are received every 2 months, evaluated and site visited by FMO-Terimbere committee composed by local volunteers and FMO staff, to ensure the eligibility of the business submitted and further advisory to declined application

Training and funding of approved projects

After final approval of business to be funded , In loan distribution events,beneficiaries are trained on proper loan usage to maximize the intended outcome of it. Small group leaders are elected by the beneficiaries among themselves to ensure a smooth follow up

Follow up of businesses and paybacks

A close follow up is carried out especially to new businesses to maximize their potential through visitations and phone calls.One of the key roles of these loans is for the beneficiaries to pay something on a regular basis as their business goes on, a regular alert for payback is made.

Sponsored Microcredit given across 5 years

No.	Year	Microcredit provided			TOTAL
		Rilima	Nyarugenge	Shyara	
1	2016 - 2017	15	0	0	15
2	2017 - 2018	10	0	0	10
3	2018 - 2019	58	0	0	58
4	2019 - 2020	63	55	42	160
5	2021	124	113	81	318
Total		274	168	123	561

Additional numbers

In 2017, two women cooperatives doing agricultural activities were freely donated 500,000 Frw each to enhance their operations, unfortunately the cooperatives were unable to maintain their coherence and fell apart the following year.

Challenges

Here are some challenges met during activity implementation

Loan recovery were hard due to different factors including negligence, redirecting the loan purpose,failure of the project ,Conflicts among loan applicant groups, and recently effects of Covid -19 pandemic among others

Future Development

- Keep providing microcredit to eligible individuals and groups in need.
- Enhance the trainings given to the loan receivers before giving them the loan

URGENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Overview

During the implementation of annual action plans, FMO used to receive various special support requests from vulnerable community members, or local government institutions. The special support requests received are mainly the urgent needs which do not fall under any project in the action plan being implemented, the request is analyzed and FMO responds accordingly with its operation budget. Most received requests are house construction or rehabilitation, health insurances, food & medical support, youth clubs 'equipment among others.

In five Years, we have been responding positively to urgent needs of the community members and have used the budget 10,337,650 Rwf to support those families from Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara sectors.

Water sanitation and Hygiene

Water harvesting

Bugesera being one of the driest regions in Rwanda, Water scarcity was the issue in the locality. FMO have contributed in WASH by providing small tanks to households, initially with the purpose of storing water to feed provided cows. In addition the two 60,000 L big tanks were constructed (connected to lac filtered water) to help the community find water nearby.

Water storage means provided in Numbers

No.	Year	Activities rendered /equipment provided in Rilima		
		Home Plastic water tanks	Community tanks construction (60,000l)	Water Filtration system
1	2016 - 2017	10	2	1
2	2017 - 2018	8		
Total				

House Construction and maintenance

Houses in Bad conditions or lack of houses is one crucial human security issue met to date in households in Rwanda . FMO has contributed in Nyarugenge ,Shyara and Rilima.

Sector	Year	House construction For homeless families, furniture and domestic materials	Housing pavement and or plastering	Toilets construction	Construction materials support
Rilima	16 - 2017	4	62		
	17 - 2018	3	-	-	-
	18 - 2019	3	-	5	-
	19 - 2020	-	-	24	-
	2021	3			
Nyarugenge	19-2020	-	26	-	-
Shyara	19-2020	-	-	-	Sheets and cement for 18 houses construction
Total		13	88	29	18

Others Activities

The table below shows the list of community special support provided:

No.	Special support provided	Number of beneficiaries									
		Rilima					Nyarugenge		Shyara		
		16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	2021	19-20	2021	19-20	2021	
1	Health Insurance										
3	JDAF Contribution										
Total amount											

Challenges and lessons learnt

- Long list of special support request
- No allocated budget

Future development

In close collaboration with Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara sectors, FMO will continue to support community members in urgent need but the focus will be made in making sure that most vulnerable families are allocated in specific development projects that are being implemented.

Below is the summary of support distributed

Activity Name	Community support
Description	This activity aims at providing different urgent support to poor families in need especially those from most vulnerable households who lives in Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara
Project Sponsor	Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus-FMO
Date	December 2021
Used budget	10,33,650 RWF
Support distributed	3 Houses rehabilitated, Health insurances for 711 people, food for 5 families, & 1 Medical support.
Target beneficiaries	Poor people from most vulnerable families
Total beneficiaries	720 people



A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past five years (2017-2021) of our journey at Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus, we are filled with a profound sense of accomplishment and gratitude. Together, we have made significant strides in rebuilding a fragile community in Rwanda, a region still healing from the scars of genocide.

Through the unwavering support of our partners, generous donations, and dedicated funding, we have implemented transformative initiatives that have touched countless lives. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our commitment to improving the well-being of the community has never wavered. We are proud to report that we have positively impacted the lives of 2,271 children through Early Childhood Development services, empowered 3,189 youth with essential professional skills, and strengthened the socio-economic status of 19,316 families.

This success would not have been possible without the dedication of our incredible team, the collaborative spirit of the community, and the support of the Government of Rwanda. Their commitment has been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward and ensuring sustainable impact.

At the heart of our efforts is a focus on sustainability, laying the groundwork for strong, resilient communities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Marcegaglia Family and our invaluable partners for their trust and support.

As we look ahead to the next five years, we are energized by the potential to reach even more families, children, and youth in need. Together, we will continue our efforts to make the world a better place, fostering hope and resilience in every community we serve.

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

Sincerely,

Rwagaju Desire
Rwanda Country Program Director, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus





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