



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction | 03 |
| Education And Child Protection | 05 |
| Early Childhood Development Project | 05 |
| Annual Achievements | 05 |
| Rehabilitated And Empowered Ecds | 05 |
| Caregivers And Parents Capacity Building | 07 |
| Model Early Childhood Development Center Running-Ecd Kimaranzara | 08 |
| Malnutrition Prevention And Stunting Control | 08 |
| Dropout Control In 12 Years Basic Education | 10 |
| School Feeding Fee Payment Support | 11 |
| Schools 'Girls Room Equipment & Sexual And Reproductive Health and Right Education | 15 |
| Scholastic Materials Support | 16 |
| Education and Child Protection Summary | 16 |
| Poverty Reduction Program | 17 |
| Poverty Reduction Summary of Achievements | 17 |
| Livestock | 17 |
| Girinka Program Five Years Impact Evaluation Conducted | 20 |
| Crop Intensification | 22 |
| Irrigation Systems Provision | 22 |
| Fruit Trees Provision | 24 |
| Workforce Development & Jobs Creation | 26 |
| University Scholarship And Tvet | 26 |
| Microcredit | 30 |
| Performed Activities | 30 |
| Invested Resources & Prioritization | 33 |

INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, through its Ministry of Local Government, in its Social Protection Unity, have realised tremendous achievements in 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 701 children, 1,3023 youths and 17,403 households social wellbeing in Eastern province of Rwanda. Since January 2021, Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus through its country office in in Bugesera, took on a load of 22 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 of 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;

| FMO-Rwanda Country Office Annual Action plan implementation summary 2021 | | |
|---|--|--|
| No | Planned Activities | Realised activities |
| 1 | 4Community 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 | 4 Community ECDs were rehabilitated and equipped with classroom, kitchen equipment and professional teaching materials (ECD kalilisi-Catholique, ECD Kalilisi des amis ,Ngenda &Gihinga), 400 kids are currently enrolled and being served in these 4 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 | 181 kids from 5 ECDs(Karera, Ngenda,Kalilisi des ami, Kalilisi Catholic and ECD Gihinga) have been provided fortified porridge |
| 4 | 40 stunting control & village kitchen support (Provision of fortified food to children with stunting symptoms) | 161 malnourished kids have benefited from Monthly nutritive food package delivered to them |
| 5 | School feeding (Day-meal provision to students from food insecure families) | 493 students were supported with school feeding fees |
| 6 | School Materials for reintegrated students | The budget was relocated to support the school feeding program as result of huge demand presented by parents right after three months of lockdown. |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 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) | 20 Cows distributed and farmers package &20 cowsheds constructed |
| 10 | Small livestock (Three Goats & Pigs supply) | 300 goats distributed to 100 families in 1st&2nd ubudehe category |
| 11 | Beneficiaries training | 20 Cows and 100 Goats beneficiaries trained |
| 12 | 22500 Fruit Trees seedlings | 22500 fruit trees distributed to 3917 households in need |
| 13 | 20 Water Pump for single land irrigation | 8 water pump & their accessories distributed to the farmers |
| 14 | 1 Small Scale Hillside Irrigation for consolidated land (10 hectare) | Not realized due to undisbursed funds |
| 15 | Ongoing TVET scholarships | 72 scholars have been supported and 43graduated while 29 still ongoing |
| 16 | Ongoing Rilima Tailoring center | 24 tainees graduated, 28 are ongoing trainees |
| 17 | Rilima hairdressing workshop Equipment | Not realized due to undisbursed funds |
| 18 | Toolkits provision to TVET graduate | 35 toolkits distributed to 35 graduate |
| 19 | Rilima TVET center construction (planned women's center) | Not realized due to undisbursed funds |
| 20 | 182 Financial Literacy & entrepreneurship training & mentorship (business development & Management training) | Not realized due covid-19 control measures |
| 21 | Microcredit for small business-funding | 325 small businesses funded |

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 10 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)

1.1. Early childhood development Project

1.1.1. Project overview

To support this program, in its 2021 action plan FMO has initially allocated a budget of 54,473,378Rwf to rehabilitate and empower 4 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.

1.1.2. Annual achievements

a. 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.



The table below summarizes the activities performed at each ECD center:

| N° | Sector | Name of rehabilitated & empowered ECD | Activities performed/package distributed | Number of beneficiaries/ Kids and parents |
|----|------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Shyara | ECD Gihinga | <p>Rehabilitation of 3 classrooms</p> <p>Playground installation</p> <p>Classroom equipment(80 kids'chairs,20 kids'tables,2 caregivers'tables, and 4 caregivers'chairs)</p> <p>Teaching materials(500 copies of books and 26 set of toys)</p> <p>Kitchen utensils and trimestrial kids porridge(281kgs of fortified porridge, 2 big saucepans,2 plastic water tank,2 baskets,5 jugs)</p> <p>Capacity building(3 caregivers and 3 parents representatives have been trained on ECD services and positive parenting).</p> | 120 |
| | Nyarugenge | ECD Ngenda | <p>Rehabilitation of 2 classrooms</p> <p>Playground installation</p> <p>Classroom equipment(50 kids chairs,20 kids tables,2 caregivers tables, and 4 caregivers chairs)</p> <p>Teaching materials(500 copies of books and 26 set of toys)</p> <p>Kitchen utensils and trimestrial kids porridge(160kgs of fortified porridge, 2 big saucepans,2 plastic water tank,2 baskets,5 jugs)</p> <p>Capacity building(2 caregivers and 3 parents representatives have been trained on ECD services and positive parenting).</p> | 80 |



| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--|-----|
| Rilima | ECD Kalilisi Catholic | <p>Rehabilitation of 2 classrooms</p> <p>Playground installation</p> <p>Classroom equipment(40 kids chairs,20 kids tables,2 caregivers tables, and 4 caregivers chairs)</p> <p>Teaching materials(500 copies of books and 26 set of toys)</p> <p>Kitchen utensils and trimestrial kids porridge(160kgs of fortified porridge, 2 big saucepans,2 plastic water tank,2 baskets,5 jugs)</p> <p>Capacity building(2 caregivers and 3 parents representatives have been trained on ECD services and positive parenting).</p> | 80 |
| | ECD Kalilisi des amis | <p>ECD Kalilisi des Amis is an Early Childhood Development Center owned by the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda (Eglise des Amis) located in Kabeza cell, Rilima sector of Bugesera district, in previous action plan(2019-2020) the budget couldn't allow us to complete all rehabilitation activities even though two classrooms for baby and middle kids and kids' playground were covered, the remained tasks have to be completed in 2021 action plan to enable the center to provide proper ECD Services to 120 kids of 3 to 6 years.</p> <p>The following construction activities were performed from scratch:</p> <p>Construction of one remained classroom for top class kids</p> <p>Construction of teachers and administrative office</p> <p>Construction of kitchen</p> <p>Construction of toilet of kids and caregivers</p> | 120 |

b. 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. It is with this regard that FMO in it's 2021 action plan allocated some of its budget for caregivers and parents capacity building.

The table below describes the training conducted:

| N° of ECDs participated | Name of ECDs participated | Training topic covered | Number of trained personnel | Duration of training | Trainer | Budget |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------|
| 9 | ECD Kimaranzara, ECD Mere Elizea, ECD Rilima Catholic, ECD Karera, ECD Kalilisi catholic, ECD Kalilisi des amis, ECD Riziyeri ECD Ngenda, ECD Gihinga | General ECD services ECD materials development using local available resources Positive parenting Classroom management | 34 | 5days | Tiptop Ltd | |

c. Model Early childhood development center running-ECD Kimaranzara

- In its 2021 action plan , FMO keeps upkeep 120 kids from the vulnerable families of 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. This year, 40 kids of the top class have graduated and been promoted to primary school while 40 new kids were enrolled for baby class.



d. Malnutrition prevention and stunting control

- In collaboration with Health centers and Community Health workers, every month a growth monitoring measurement was taken and identified malnourished kids have been supported with nutritive food packages made of milk, porridge and eggs. A total of 181 malnourished kids and 8 kids with special health problems from Rilima ,Nyarugenge and Shyara have been supported through this project.



The table below illustrates the number of identified and supported malnourished kids per month.

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| 19 | 18 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 20 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 181 |

1.2. Challenges and lessons learnt

| Challenges | Lessons learnt |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unexpected works identified while project implementation i.e only empowerment works planned but realize that rehabilitation of buildings is required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhaust planning details and budget accordingly |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified kids with special health problems which can't be solved by existing malnutrition and stunting control package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with professional paediatricians for medical consultation and give specific recommendations |

II.1.4 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.

1.3.II. 2.1. 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 is implementing the following projects in 10 high schools of Nyarugenge, Shyara and Rilima sectors.

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

I. School feeding fee payment support

In its 2021 action plan, FMO could have supported 373 high school students from vulnerable families to benefit from day meals at school.

| No. | Sector | School | Number of beneficiaries |
|-----|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Rilima | Rilima Catholic | 124 |
| | | GS Nyabagendwa | 64 |
| | | GS Kabeza | 20 |
| | | GS Kalilisi catholic | 20 |
| 2 | Nyarugenge | GS Kamabare | 20 |
| | | Gs Rugando | 20 |
| 3 | | Gs Bushonyi | 20 |



| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|------------|
| 4 | Shyara | Gs Gihinga | 60 |
| | | TVET Nyamirama | 20 |
| 5 | Rukumberi | Gs Rukumberi | 30 |
| 6 | Juru | Gs Katarara | 4 |
| | Nyamata | Soeurs hospitalieres St Marthe Nyamata | 7 |
| | Mayange | Gs Kamabuye | 10 |
| Total | | | 493 |

2. 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 |
| | | S2A | 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 |
| | | S2A | 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 |
| 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

The budget was relocated to support the school feeding program as result of huge demand presented by parents right after three months of lockdown.

Challenges and lessons learnt

| Challenges | Lessons learnt |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adapt to unexpected conditions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Most of the students have parents with few or no knowledge about sexual reproductive health and the rights of their children ▪ Poverty in the families leading to prostitution and dropping out of school ▪ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Have design specific curriculum by ages,(11-15 years old, 16-35 years old and one for adults) ▪ 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. |

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 support.
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 | 4 ECDs | 400 kids |
| 2 | Model ECD upkeep-ECD Kimaranzara | 1 ECD | 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 | 181 children |
| 6 | School feeding fees paid | 3 trimesters | 493 |
| 7 | School based Girls room package support | 10 schools | 1754 girls |
| 8 | SRHR School based mentors training | 34 members | 2924 students |
| 9 | Weekly SRHR topics discussions | 10 weeks | 2924 students |

POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM

POVERTY REDUCTION SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

| No. | Description | Items distributed | Benefited Household /youth |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | One Cow (One cow) | cowsheds & pregnant cows | with farmers package) |
| 2 | 3 goats per family | 300 goats | 100 households |
| 3 | Irrigation systems (small pumps) | 8 diesel water pump & accessories | 8 farmers (households) |
| 4 | Fruit trees | 22500 seedlings | 3917 households |
| 5 | TVET(women center) | 52 | 52 Youth |
| 6 | Scholarship | 79 | 79 |
| 7 | Microcredit | 325 | 325 Households |
| | | | 4370 household and 131 youth |

A. 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 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.

i. Cowshed construction

Before providing cows to beneficiaries, modern cowsheds with 2 compartments were built to insure a sanitary dwelling of the livestock ,20 cowsheds in total were built .

ii. 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

In 2021, 120 beneficiaries were trained in Nyarugenge and Shyara 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.

iii. 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.

| N | Sectors | Cows with sanitation package | Goats |
|---|------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Shyara | 10 | 150 to 50 families |
| 2 | Nyarugenge | 10 | 150 to 50 families |

iv. Insemination

A private Veterinary have been hired to follow up the provided cows and conduct insemination to heifers in time of maturity. This year 19 heifers have been inseminated

Beneficiaries reached

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

| No. | Activities | Number of beneficiaries planned | Number of Beneficiaries reached |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Beneficiaries identification | 120 | 120 |
| 2 | Cowshed construction | 20 | 20 |
| 3 | Beneficiaries training | 120 | 120 |
| 4 | Cows delivery | 20 | 20 |
| 5 | Goats delivery | 100 | 100 |
| 6 | Package delivery | 20 | 20 |
| 7 | Cow insemination | 20 | 19 |

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 are;

- 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**

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
- Selling Manure to other farmers in the community
- Boosting their agricultural harvest through the use of cows natural fertilizers

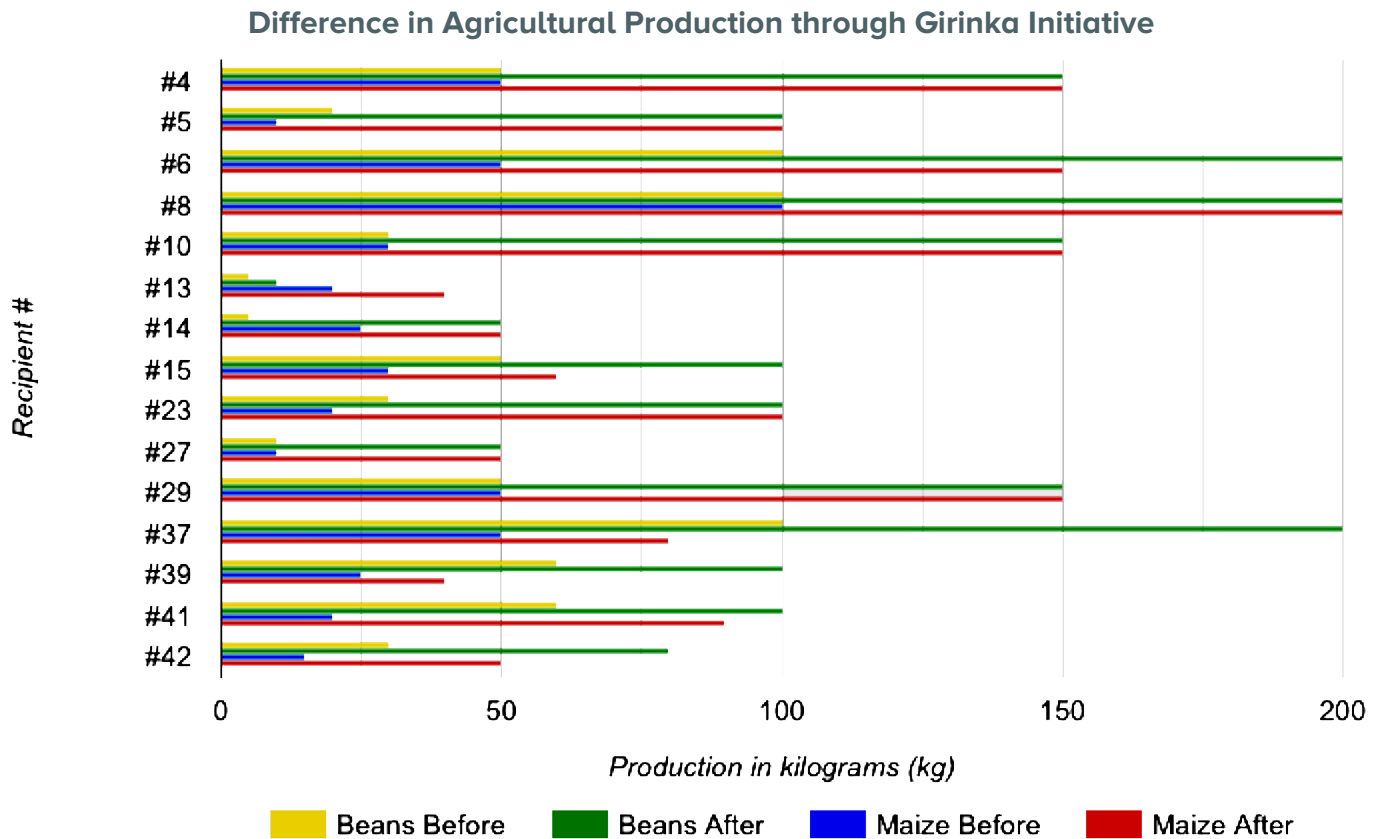
Selling cows offspring after passover. 49 interviewed beneficiaries 95 calves were produced which took an average of 10.8 months to birth of each after distribution (including the outlier data of when the cows were given as a calf).



- **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 gardens

- Home upkeep

- **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.

B. 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 0.5 ha and above.This year(2021) ,8 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. | Sectors | Pumps planned | Pumps provided | Comment |
|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| 1. | Shyara | 8 | 5 | Nkunganire program stopped and importation/Supply of irrigation tools lagged in covid-19 pandemic which led to decrease of provided pumps |
| 2. | Nyarugenge | 4 | 2 | |
| 3. | Rilima | 8 | 1 | |
| Total | | 20 | 8 | |

• 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 aims to grow 210,000 healthy trees from 2018-2024, it has made different parties work in unison to achieve this goal.

In 2021, FMO provided fruit trees to families and were planted in homes located in Nyarugenge, Shyamba and Rilima Sectors. A total of 22500 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 pluvial seasons , February and november, 8678 and 13822 Trees seedlings respectively 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. | Sectors | Trees planned | Trees provided | Comment |
|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| | Rilima | 2,500 | 7792 | Increase in number was due to disease in fruit trees |
| | Nyarugenge | 10,000 | 8805 | recently met |
| | Shyara | 10,000 | 5903 | there was a need for replacement of previously provided trees |
| Total | | 22,500 | 22 | 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

C. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & JOBS CREATION

- **UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP AND TVET**

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 a training center for Tailoring, knitting, weaving and embroidery which initially received and training 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.

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 2021 the following activities were performed

- **Follow up of ongoing scholarships from different universities and TVET centers**

In 2021, no new students were received but 79 ongoing students in institutions as of January 2021. 51 students among them have graduated and 28 are still ongoing .



The table below shows the number of graduates, their respective universities or TVET centers and options graduated in and duration of study of the program.

| No. | University/TVET Center | No. of graduates | Options | Duration of study |
|-----|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | UTB Rubavu | 4 | Hospitality Management | 1 year |
| 2 | TVET Hope academy | 14 | Culinary arts | 1 year |
| | | 5 | Tailoring | 1 year |
| | | 1 | Carpentry | 1 year |
| | | 1 | Masonry | 1 year |
| 3 | TEVET -Kigali Reading Academy | 4 | Culinary arts | 1 year |



| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 4 | Sina Gerard TVET School | 2 | Hair dressing | 1 year |
| 5 | Kigali International Arts College | 7 | Filmmaking and photography | 6 months |
| 6 | Club Tech TVET School | 2 | Culinary arts | 1 year |
| 7 | Gahogo TVET School | 3 | Hair dressing | 1 year |
| | | 1 | Industrial arts | 1 year |
| 8 | EMVTC Remera | 7 | Automobile mechanics | 1 year |
| 9 | Forever TVET School | 2 | Heavy Machinery | 6 months |
| 10 | Muhabura polytechnics | 4 | Hospitality management | 1 year |
| 11 | Ruli school of nursing | 1 | Nursing studies | 2 Years |
| Total | | 51 | | |

- **Women center upkeep and tailoring training to 2 cohorts**

At the start of the year , the newly created center , continued with first tailoring training cohort which were concluded in june with the graduation of 24 trainees and a new and 2nd cohort started with 28 trainees and still ongoing till late january 2022

- **Toolkits provision to graduates**

In Order to create means of employment to fresh Graduates , toolkits have been given to 35 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. In 2021, 311 businesses,in different areas, were funded by FMO as of November.

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 applications.

• 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 call. 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.

Summary of Business funded in 3 sectors in 2021

| No. | Sectors | Business funded |
|-----|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Rilima | 124 |
| 2 | Nyarugenge | 108 |
| 3 | Shyara | 79 |
| | Total | 311 |

• Urgent Community Support

1. Overview

During the implementation of its action plan along the year, 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.**

This year 2021, 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.

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

| No. | Special support provided | Number of beneficiaries | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------|------------|--|--------|-----|--|
| | | Rilima | Nyarugenge | | Shyara | | |
| 1 | House For homeless families, furniture and domestic materials | 3 | 0 | | | 0 | |
| 2 | Health Insurance | 511 | 100 | | | 100 | |
| 3 | Food for food insecure families & Medical support | 6 | 0 | | | 0 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 4 | Community water supply in Akintwari Village, Kimaranzara cell of Rilima sector | | 3 | 0 | | | 0 |
| 5 | JDAF Contribution | | 1 | | | | |
| Total amount | | | | | | | |

2. Challenges and lessons learnt

- Long list of special support request
- No allocated budget

3. Future development

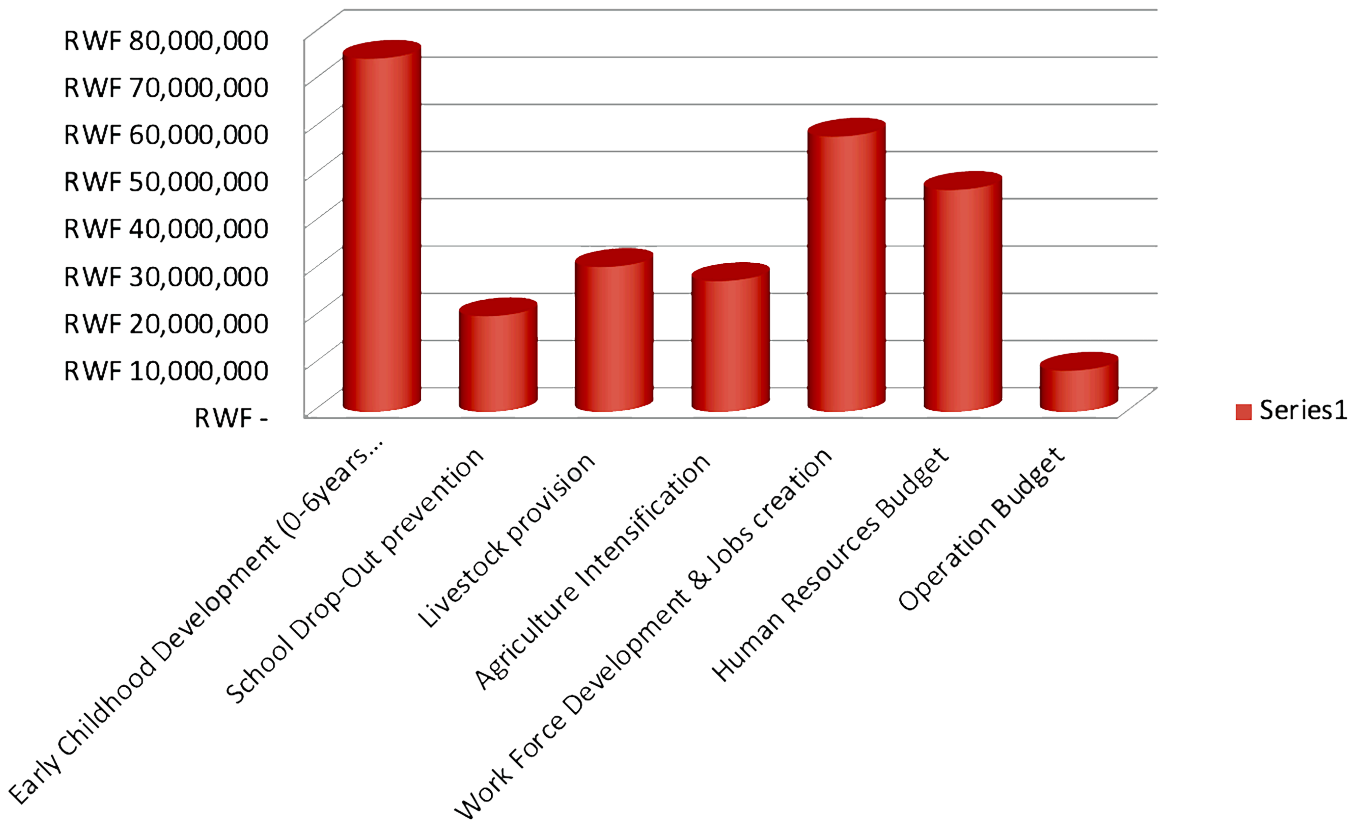
- In close collaboration with Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara sectors, FMO will continue to support community members in urgent need but the focus will be made in making sure that most vulnerable families are allocated in specific development projects that are being implemented.

Below is the summary of support distributed

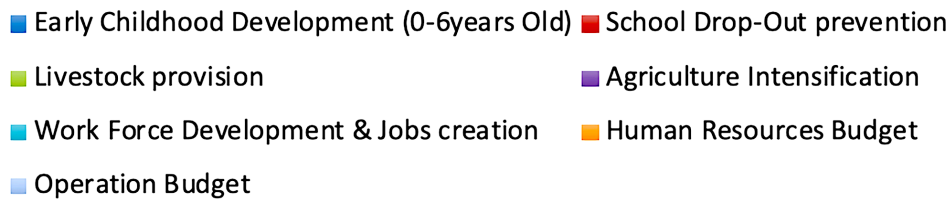
| Activity Name | Community support |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Description | This activity aims at providing different urgent support to poor families in need especially those from most vulnerable households who lives in Rilima, Nyarugenge and Shyara |
| Project Sponsor | Fondazione Marcegaglia Onlus-FMO |
| Date | December 2021 |
| Used budget | 10,337,650 RWF |
| Support distributed | 3 Houses rehabilitated, Health insurances for 711 people, food for 5 families, &1Medical support. |
| Target beneficiaries | Poor people from most vulnerable families |
| Total beneficiaries | 720 people |

• Invested resources & prioritization

Invested Resources



Budget allocation





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