



SAFER TOMORROW FOR THE CHILDREN OF EAST AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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Acronyms

AP	Area Programme
ARP	Alternative Rites of Passage
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEFM	Child, Early and Forced Marriage
CPA	Child Protection Advocacy
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
FBAK	Finnish Baby Aid Kit
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FLWD	Female Living with Disability
FMNR	Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Approach
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)
MLWD	Male Living with Disability
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PLWD	People Living with Disabilities
PM+	Problem Management Plus
REWU	Rwanda Extractive Workers Union
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSMS	Smart Solar Media System
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WV	World Vision
WVFIN	World Vision Finland
WVI	World Vision International

1. SUMMARY

The overall objective of the World Vision Finland (from here onwards WVFIN) Programme “Safer Tomorrow for Children of East Africa” 2022-2025 is to strengthen the child rights as well as protection of the most vulnerable children and youth in East Africa. Three thematic result areas are child protection, youth employment and empowerment, and resilience building including economic, social and climate resilience. The Programme was launched in 2022 in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda Somalia, and Uganda. Five out of these six countries are Least Developed Countries.

Steady progress in most of the outcome indicators was observed. All annual target values of outcome 1 related to child protection were met, but reaching outcome 2 targets, regarding youth employment, proved to be challenging. This deviation can be partially explained through the post-COVID-19 pandemic poor levels of employment in many East African countries, but also because the youth will require more work experience for instance through internships after the skills trainings provided by the projects. Outcome 3 targets to enhance the resilience and improved capacity of families and communities to act for social accountability of families and communities were achieved even though the adverse weather conditions and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt in countries of operation. Detailed information and analysis of annual results is presented in chapter 3 of this report.

The Programme direct participants in 2022 were 105 688 persons, and indirect participants 202 182 persons. The number of programme participants is in line with the annual targets determined through the project and Programme’s baseline information. The breakdown of participants was disaggregated by gender, age, and disability as presented in the Table 1. below.

Table 1. Disaggregated data on programme participants.

Category	Number	% of participants
Programme Direct Participants 2022		
Men	24 681	23 %
Women	30 253	29 %
Boys	23 752	22 %
Girls	27 002	26 %
Males PLWD	888	1 %
Females PLWD	937	1 %
Boys PLWD	614	1 %
Girls PLWD	492	1 %
PLWD total	2 931	3 %
Total	105 688	

Category	Number	% of participants
Programme Indirect Participants 2022		
Men	45 860	23 %
Women	51 133	25 %
Boys	52 384	26 %
Girls	52 805	26 %
Males PLWD	1 303	1 %
Females PLWD	1 478	1 %
Boys PLWD	1 624	1 %
Girls PLWD	1 660	1 %
PLWD total	6 065	3 %
Total	202 182	

Positive results were observed especially in mainstreaming disability inclusion as a cross-cutting theme in all the projects. Awareness of the rights of people with disability grew in programme areas, and inclusion of people living with disability increased in project activities. Non-discrimination policies were applied in the project activities.

Special attention was paid to gender equality by ensuring the participation of all genders in implementation and representation in relevant contexts.

Through communication and advocacy WVFİN highlighted pressing development topics, but also ones that focused to the objectives of this Programme, by delivering stories and information in various media. Communication was mainly on youth employment, female genital mutilation, global hunger, girls' rights/child protection in Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine. The annual targets were primarily met and partially surpassed. It was observed that besides reporting the programme results, the demand for more thoroughly analysis of the importance of development cooperation is great. Advocacy was directed particularly to the Parliament of Finland to pass a criminal law amendment concerning the female genital mutilation in Finland. The results were not positive, and advocacy effort will be directed to the next Parliament in 2023. WVFİN advocated the most vulnerable children's rights through several statements in various seminars, printed press as well as social and other media.

Private sector collaboration continued as Finnish Baby Aid Kit (FBAK) training and delivery was introduced in Somalia late 2022 and preparation to test Smart Solar Media System in Uganda, and later in Rwanda, started during the operational year. This private sector collaboration contributes to better child and maternal health and better achievement of other Programme and project goals by providing innovative technical solutions in project management.

In 2022, WVFİN developed MEAL-tools to ensure quality assurance and accountability, but also better practices for results-based management for the programme period. Also, results of the baseline studies conducted in projects complemented the overall Programme target setting. The reassessment of the targets will be made on annual basis, if necessary.

Multiple global and national crisis hit operation countries, but their effect on the programme implementation remained low. Only some moderate budgetary revisions were made, for instance in Somalia, where WVFİN gave humanitarian aid to drought victims and adapted annual project plan accordingly.

Total spending of the Programme followed original budget of 3.9 million euros, 81% share the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland funding and 19% self-financing. Direct project costs were 80%, communication 6%, planning evaluation and resource development 8% and general administrative costs 7% flat rate. Largest share of thematical spending was on Child Protection and participation 46%. More detailed finance data, see section 6.4. Financial Management.

The WVFIN key figures and programme work in 2022 are summarised in Figure 1. below.

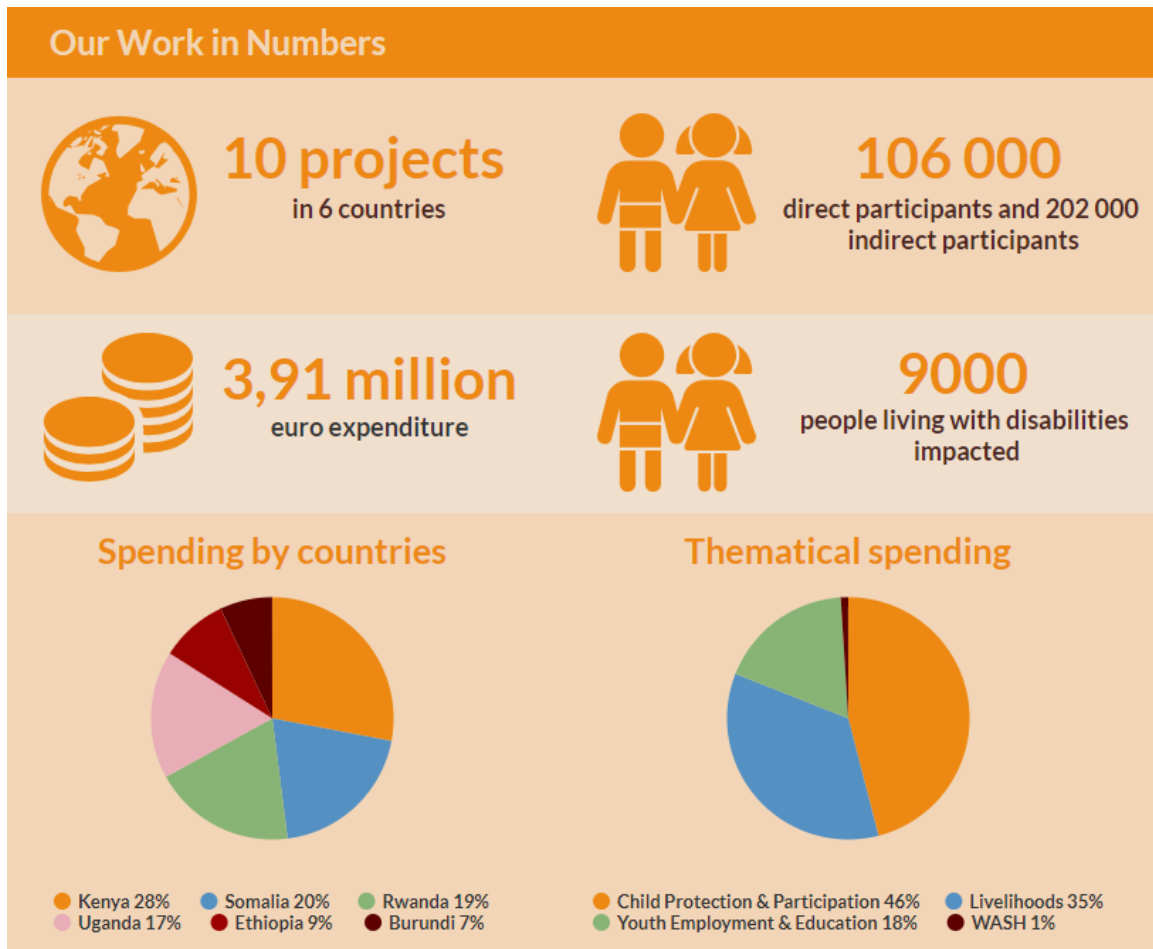


Figure 1. The programme work in numbers

2. THE PROGRAMME

2.1. SAFER TOMORROW FOR THE CHILDREN OF EAST AFRICA

The main goal of the “Safer Tomorrow for Children of East Africa” Programme 2022-2025 (from here onwards the Programme) is to contribute to the fulfilment of child rights and protection of the most vulnerable children and youth in East Africa. The Programme has three thematic result areas that are 1. child protection 2. youth employment and empowerment and 3. resilience building in terms of strengthening economic, social and climate resilience of families and communities. Furthermore, the Programme has strong focus on strengthening civil society and promoting the rights of people with disabilities and women. A close cooperation with formal and informal duty bearers such as traditional and religious leaders is considered a critical element in the programme implementation and for the attainment of programme results. In addition, WVFIN applies the triple nexus approach (humanitarian – development – peace) and the conflict sensitivity/do no harm principles especially in the context of refugees and host communities.

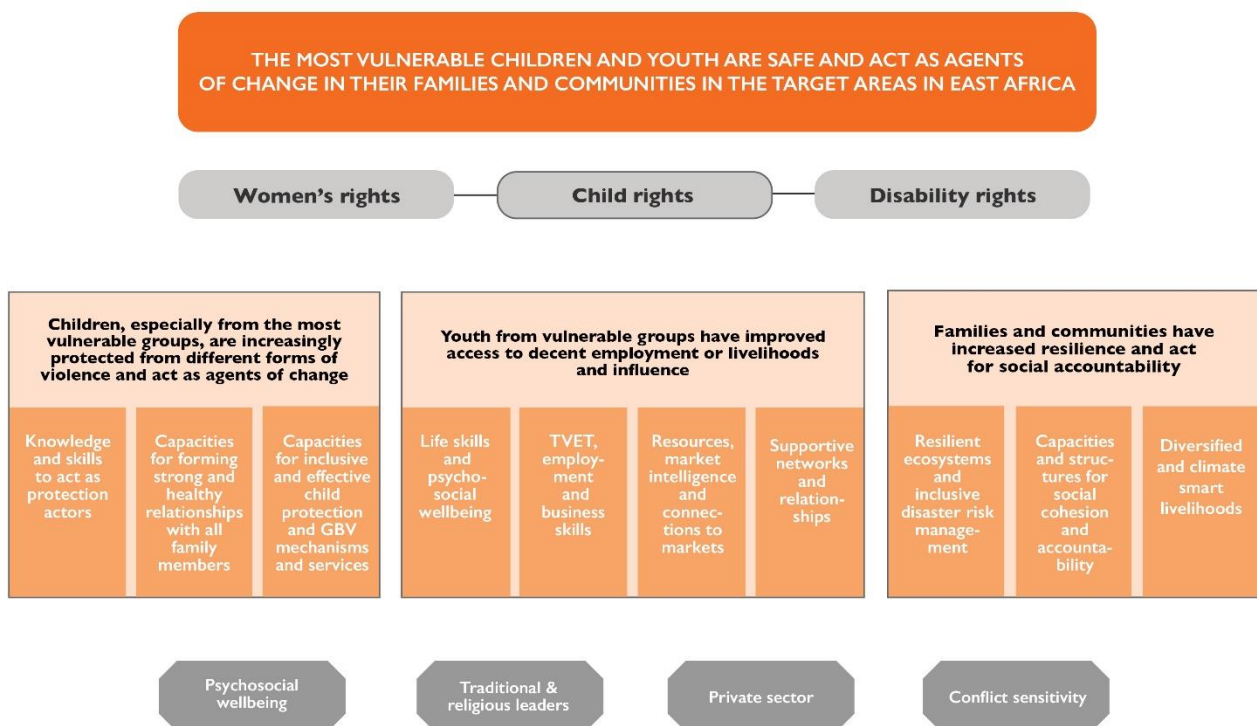


Figure 2. The Programme’s theory of change

The theory of change indicates the outcome contribution to the overall goal of this Programme. With implemented activities the Programme strives to strengthen safe environments for children to grow and youth to thrive. The theory of change further assumes that children empowered with awareness of their rights can protect themselves, and educate their peers, as well as contribute with help of duty-bearers to safer communities. The assumptions are that the youth with financially and socially fulfilling lives give their input to

common safety in communities, including the well-being of most vulnerable children. Lastly, resilient families and communities with increased social accountability are better equipped to nurture, to take care of and protect most vulnerable children from many hazards in their living environments, such as various man-made or natural disasters or indirect effects of harmful coping mechanisms.

While all three outcomes are necessary for achieving the impact, the outcomes and assumptions connected to them are also interlinked. Child protection and youth employment are interlinked since the violence experienced by children is likely to have long-term negative impact on children's well-being and behaviour including difficulties in learning, gaining employment, and interacting socially. Therefore, child protection is the foundation for ensuring youth employment and empowerment. On the other hand, youth with sufficient income can sustain themselves and provide for their family. Youth with good self-esteem and decent employment are more likely to have protective, positive, and caring relationship with their own children and with other children in their families and communities.

Communities and families with increased resilience to shocks and capacities for social accountability are in better position to protect their children from all forms of violence. Furthermore, improved child protection capacity allows communities to enhance their advocacy skills, strong family relationships and social protection structures which in return strengthens their resilience and social accountability.

The interlinkage between resilience and youth employment is obvious: resilient families and communities provide an enabling environment for youth to access employment and livelihood. In addition, communities with increased capacities for social accountability can promote and protect youth's human rights in society. Employed or salary-earning youth are, on their part, building the family and resilience in the community. It can be argued that youth empowerment and stable structures contribute to increased social accountability and peace.

WVFIN's programme approach is human rights based (HRBA), enhancing the capacities of rights holders and duty bearers. An active civil society is crucial for promoting development, ensuring sustainability and ownership of the results.

World Vision's work has its foundation in Human Rights, especially the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and recognises not only that all rights come with responsibilities but that the attainment of a right is always the duty of several actors or duty bearers. The implementation of the Programme is guided by the human rights principles: Indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability, and transparency.

The level of human rights consideration of the programme is assessed to be human rights progressive. The projects in Ethiopia and Somalia are considered to be human rights transformative. Thematically child protection, the core component of World Vision's work globally, has the strongest human rights level, while activities address the root causes of violence and focus on capacity development at different levels – from children and families to schools and child protection offices. Efforts are made to build trust among communities towards government institutions and to strengthen the capacity of the institutions. These measures enhance accountability for respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights and making sustainable changes to laws and local policies in relation to child protection violations such as harmful traditional practices, e.g. FGM.

2.2. PROGRAMME ALIGNMENTS

In 2022, this Programme contributed to the goals of Finland's development policy especially by improving the status and rights of women and girls, rights of persons with disabilities to live without discrimination, stigma, and violence but also to access to decent work and provide opportunities for decent livelihoods and income for the most vulnerable people, such as youth in various contexts. Targets on climate change and sustainable use of natural resources were addressed specifically in Ethiopia, where the Programme strengthened sustainable

management, use and protection of renewable natural resources and ecosystems especially forests. By aiming at resilient communities, WVF's Programme gave input to Finland's development target of reducing the vulnerability of people and communities to extreme weather events and natural disasters.

The Programme has a strong alignment with the overall principles of Agenda 2030. The principles of universality, equality and leaving no one behind are well embedded, as the Programme targets the most vulnerable people in operating countries. More than half of the 17 SDGs and their targets address the situation of children and young people, who are in the core focus of World Vision's work. Three result areas of the Programme link to SDGs as follows: Child Protection (SDG 3,4), Youth Employment (SDG 4,8) and Empowerment, and Resilience, Livelihoods and Social Accountability (SDG13, 15, 16). And the overall Programme aligns with SDGs 1, 5, 10.

WVFIN's Programme is well in line with and contributes to the goals of Finland's Country Programmes 2021-2024 for Kenya and Somalia and compliments the Country Programme in Ethiopia. In Kenya, the Alale anti-FGM project promoted the rights of girls and women by focusing on protecting girls from FGM and targeting both rights holders and duty bearers including building their capacities and supporting local level coordination. Therefore, WVFIN's work is aligned with and contributes to Finland's Country Programme's Impact 1: "Women participate meaningfully in decision-making and all women and girls are free from violence". WVFIN work also contributes to all four pillars of Kenya's second 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) National Action Plan which Finland has been supporting. WVFIN has also started the planning of a joint evaluation with the Finnish NGO International Solidarity Foundation of the anti-FGM work done by both in Kenya. WVFIN's Programme is also well aligned with the second impact of Finland's Country Programme in Kenya: "Young women and men with improved technical and vocational skills gain decent employment" as the Roysambu Youth Livelihood project in Nairobi provided more than 200 youths access to vocational training in 2022.

In Somalia, the WVFIN's anti-FGM and child protection and environment projects contributed to Finland's Country Programme's Impact 2: "The sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls have been enhanced" and Outcome 2.2 on inclusive violence prevention and protection and Outcome 2.3 on ending harmful traditional practises that normalize SGBV and FGM. In 2022, WVFIN for example supported Puntland's Ministry of Women, Development, and Family Affairs to carry out FGM sensitization campaign reaching approximately 3000 people and collaborated with the Ministry in organizing awareness sessions on child protection/SGBV reaching more than 5000 persons. Furthermore, 1000 persons received violence prevention and respond services with WVFIN's support.

In Ethiopia, the WVFIN's Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project complimented Finland's Country Programme Impact 1: "Sustainable economic growth and improved livelihoods for people in rural areas" by promoting rural economic development through development of agricultural value chains in forestry and farming.

2.3. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT: EAST AFRICA

The East Africa region is highly prone to natural as well as man-made disasters including with trans-boundary dimensions such as movement of people, and all programme countries i.e., Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda (see the map below) have their own political challenges affecting their economic and social development. The challenging and sometimes difficult context has an impact on the implementation of WVFIN's Programme as well, though in 2022, the impact was limited. In view of the context, the Programme applies the triple nexus approach in some of the projects.

In many of the programme countries, development and economic growth have been quite strong in recent years but this has been affected by COVID-19 and global inflation. However, the benefits of economic growth have not been equally divided, and inequality has in many cases increased. By supporting community-level advocacy

including monitoring of resource allocation in devolved levels of governance World Vision is promoting more equitable societies and development and improving the environment for effective child protection.



Figure 3. Countries of operation.

The context where the Programme is implemented is in general fragile, and even the more stable programme countries have pockets of fragility. In 2022, the security situation was weakest in Somalia and Ethiopia, while these two countries and Kenya suffered most from the drought, described as one of the worst in decades. All countries in the region were affected by the rising commodity prices including fuel, food, and agricultural inputs. However, programme implementation was not seriously affected by the situation (see Risk Management 5.2.).

The project areas in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi host refugees or returnees, and in Somalia internally displaced persons (IDP). In 2022, there was increased internal displacement in Somalia due to the drought also affecting the project locations, while no major refugee influx was experienced in Uganda, Rwanda, or Burundi. However, they continued receiving new refugees while at the same time reduced humanitarian funding to East Africa impacted the ability of organizations to help and support refugees. Adjumani district in Uganda hosts most refugees in the project areas refugees making half of its total population (approx. 400 000). The district is among the poorest in country, and while host communities have a positive attitude towards refugees, friction between these groups of people sometimes emerge over land use, access to employment and government services, and environmental degradation, for example. In Adjumani and in all project areas, WV is applying conflict sensitivity and do no harm principles. Working with refugees, returnees or IDPs requires more coordination and cooperation with the Governments, international agencies such as UNHCR and other NGOs. In all project areas, WV participates in relevant coordination structures,

The Programme is implemented in a context where the cooperation with local and/or central authorities (political and technical) is required and is a prerequisite for an effective project implementation and impact. At the same time, the governmental and administrative structures are often weak which sometimes can cause delays and increase the risk of corruption, for example. Weak structures and poor governance, and in the case of Somalia, the absence of a functioning national government for over two decades, have an impact on the communities and their resilience as they might encourage adopting negative coping mechanisms such as illegal wood cutting for charcoal production which causes increased deforestation. Resource allocation is also affected by weakness and poor governance. World Vision seeks to promote good governance in all project areas by supporting the civil society and social accountability through Citizen Voice and Action model. Simultaneously,

World Vision works to strengthen and improve the capacity of duty-bearers. In some cases, baseline and monitoring data collected by World Vision supports the development planning and services provision of local governments and other authorities,

Civicus (<https://monitor.civicus.org/globalfindings/africa/>) rates the civic space in five programme countries as repressed excluding Kenya which is ranked obstructed. If compared to other programme countries, in Kenya there is a vibrant civil society and free media that can promote good governance, though number of limitations exist. In 2022, there were elections only in Kenya. While there was political unrest, elections were mostly peaceful and resulted in a peaceful transition of power. At local level, election had limited impact in project activities. Burundi's civic space ranking by Civicus has moved recently from closed to repressed following the new president coming into power in 2020 which led to pardoning of journalist and CSO-representatives. In Ethiopia, intimidation and targeting of journalists and media outlets increased because of the conflict in Tigray. The conflict, however, had limited adverse effects to the implementation of the FMNR project.

The severe challenges that the civil society faces in programme countries have not affected World Vision at national level or the implementation of the projects in WVFIN's projects. In general, the themes that World Vision works with are not sensitive in the same ways as those of human rights NGOs, for example, although supporting and working with refugees have sensitive and political aspects as well. Also, some of SRHR issues are sensitive in most programme countries.

2.4. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

The cross-cutting themes of this Programme contribute to the core WV global tasks which is eradication of all forms of discrimination but also building up resilient and peaceful communities. By emphasizing the rights of the most vulnerable groups WVFIN adheres to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UN Convention for the Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Programme is also in coherence with the Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement on climate. Mainstreaming cross-cutting themes into all Programme work it is expected that interlinkages between cross-cutting themes and different project components enhance the effectiveness of all interventions. In 2022, mainstreaming cross-cutting themes resulted in networking with relevant organisations and growing general awareness of the themes.

Non-discrimination

This Programme is based on inclusion and full and equitable participation of all, especially the most vulnerable including women and people living with disabilities in society and development through the cross-cutting theme of disability. By highlighting the rights of the most vulnerable groups of people, WVFIN implements its core principles and values of non-discrimination, equal participation, and human dignity to all. Non-discrimination is non-negotiable approach and mode of operation for global WV, too.

Within the global WV, WVFIN continued to be one of the pioneers to mainstream the rights of People with Disabilities in all the projects and programmes, even beyond the ones funded by the MFA of Finland. Besides PLWD, it was ensured that all genders, different age groups, people from various ethnicity and religious backgrounds as well as social standings were represented and participated in projects. As previous years, special attention was given to most vulnerable population in project areas to guarantee equitable access to resources and services as well as identification of their own needs.

Mainstreaming took big steps in 2022, as WVFIN systematically required annual reporting from the partners in how the rights of PLWD and other vulnerable groups were promoted in annual project implementation further than programme components. The reports showed clear improvement in quality but also quantity of activities taken by the partners with new Programme period. This allows previously "unheard" or "unseen" populations to

be reckoned and the breaches of their human rights visible. Also, they will have a chance to act upon their needs and by doing so, strengthening the sustainability and relevance of this programme results.

Gender

Most projects made gender assessments as part of baseline studies for the projects. The process of gender assessment was important learning experience as the dynamics of gender, but also disability, became visible. Gender assessments served as awareness raising opportunities for the communities, and good dialogue of power structures was reported. Besides awareness raising, the assessments tested the relevance of project activities and equality messages to be delivered in next four years implementation period. Assessment results showed that gender inequality is highly prevalent and distribution of power between women, men and people with disabilities are imbalanced in the Programme areas.

WV follows national policies on gender equality, where they are available: for instance, in Rwanda Umurava project has set two goals for gender equality a) participation or engagement in societal affairs and systems of power that determine development b) decision making to make decision free of coercion at individual, family, community and societal levels.

In 2022 main methods for improving gender equality were awareness raising, capacity building and empowerment as well as structuring the targeted participant quotas. WVFIND implements so called twin track approach i.e., gender mainstreaming and designing specific gender equality components in projects. With this twin-track approach WV successfully established village groups with more balanced representations for instance school fee committees, management boards or forest management committees. For example, in Alale, Kenya this has brought about already signs of cultural change of women being empowered to run small businesses and men taking up tasks like fetching water culturally assigned to women and children. Introducing balanced power distribution between men and women gender by securing equal or growing trend in representation of both genders enhances respect and recognizing leadership among women, too. By making power structures more even World Vision is striving towards transformation to overcome cultural, societal, traditional beliefs and stereotypes as well as transgressing social norms. Added value can be seen also in the way how gender was integrated into advocacy agenda in Uganda by introducing Citizens Voice & Action project model to demand for gender inclusive social services.

Besides the distribution of power, World Vision provided special services to improve especially status of women as recognised by gender analysis: for instance, in Ethiopia, the project aims to enhance sustainable land management and improve communities' resilience the project provided women empowerment and family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention women, authorities and local level women associations. As a result, the percentage of women using contraceptives increased by 30%, which gives an impression that the level of women's physical autonomy progressed. Furthermore, this trend improves child and maternal health by enabling time pregnancies and preventing STDs.

In 2022 programme-level direct beneficiaries were 53% women and girls, and 47% men and boys (see table 1), which indicates that gender balance is mainstreamed in all the projects under this Programme. Also, the activities and project management structures strive to transform gender stereotypes by making space for all genders, and their views to have more equal and better-informed overall development in countries of collaboration.

Disability inclusion

All projects included in the Programme have paid attention to inclusion during the first implementation year. More than half of the projects have carried out already a Disability Assessment to understand better the number of people with different kinds of disabilities in the implementation area and the life situation of them. The assessments have predominantly used World Vision's new Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Approach GESI

(2020) which integrates intersectionality. The projects which did not carry out an assessment in 2022 had completed it earlier or will perform it during 2023. Two-thirds of the projects have already carried out community and/or partner and stakeholder awareness raising on PLWD rights and on inclusion. For example, in the Child Protection and Environmental Safety project in Somalia, awareness raising sessions reached 1 200 community participants including PLWD, to promote understanding the rights of PLWD, the different barriers that PLWD face and ways to eliminate them, and to discourage social stigma. In the FMNR Project in Ethiopia, a two-day training on community empowering on PLWD was carried out. In Umurava Rwanda, community awareness was carried out at village and cell levels, targeting 1 862 people, to promote understanding on how to work together with PLWD, to recognize and remove social and workplace barriers and to create more inclusive environment without discrimination.

The different projects' actions for the support of PLWD have varied according to the project sector(s). The Adjumani project in Uganda has addressed disability related poverty by supporting 120 caregivers of children living with disability with income generating activities. In the Buliza Youth Employment Project Rwanda, 10% of the youth involved in the project activities have been youth with disabilities. Likewise, the Roysambu Youth Livelihood project in Kenya strived to ensure that disability inclusion is mainstreamed in the project, as well as supported 70 parents with children with disabilities with psycho-social support and individual counselling. In Alale Kenya, followed by a disability assessment, 672 PLWD were registered into the government's system for Government benefits.

Integral for inclusion is the global principle of "Nothing about us without us!", recognizing PLWD as active citizens and socially responsible persons playing an active and equal role in their community and development action concerning them. Reports from two thirds of the projects reflect determined effort and action towards this, like in Umurava Rwanda where the project has facilitated PLWD voice to be heard in community meetings and in the FMNR project in Ethiopia where PLWD are now participating in leadership in local structures and cooperative structures. However, attention needs still to be paid to ensure that the Programme works with PLWD and not for them, and that this is reflected in reporting. Reports from five projects reflect active collaboration with a local Disabled Persons' Organisations. Collaboration has included for example carrying out awareness raising and advocacy together and promoting children's and youth's rights for education and employment. Attention needs still to be paid to ensure that as many projects as possible collaborate with Disabled Persons' Organisations in a meaningful manner and that this is reflected in reporting.

The total number of direct PLWD beneficiaries was 2 931 (F 937, M 888, girls 492, boys 614) which is 3% of the Programme's direct beneficiaries. The total number of indirect PLWD beneficiaries was 6 065 (F 1478, M 1 303, girls 1 660, boys 1 624) which also is 3% of the Programme's indirect beneficiaries.

Environment and climate change

The key threatening factors are environmental degradation and climate variability and change. This programme has twin track approach to climate change through Outcome 3 on resilience, livelihoods, and social accountability, but also as a mainstreamed theme in all the activities taken in the programme. By mainstreaming WVFIN seek to minimize negative impacts that can deteriorate the rights and well-being of children, their families, and communities. Children and other vulnerable groups were at risk as year 2022 marked a period of great droughts with low crop yields and loss of livestock in East-Africa.

Mainstreaming activities included public awareness raising (for instance through radio talk shows and spot messages in Uganda) of dangers of deforestation, bush burning, but also how to mitigate and prepare for other possible hazards caused by extreme weather conditions due to the climate change. Several projects organized Disaster Risk Reduction Committees to prepare risk reduction and mitigation plans to tackle environmental or climate related threats in each respective area. Besides committees, also youth for instance in Burundi and Kenya were integrated into environment and climate change trainings as well as clearing up the damage incurred by erratic rains. With practical exercise youth learned why it is important to think and act climate smart. Also,

discussions on climate smart agriculture were held and further training on land conserving farming methods were organized.

In Ethiopia, the project facilitated discussions involving all stakeholders starting from local to national level for convincing and developing approaches that allow World Vision to effectively employ fast and sustainable rehabilitation of degraded forest land and to improve ecosystem services, including biodiversity. To strengthen organizational solidarity at community level to sustain forest protection and restoration, Forest Development Union was established in one of the three project areas. Union focused on monitoring and mobilizing local resources and communities for sustainable livelihoods development through improving environmental and communities' resilience. As a result, Kindo Koyisha project provides experience sharing services to other local and international non-governmental organizations on how to rehabilitate degraded forest land at community level.

Conflict sensitivity

This Programme is implemented in geographical areas, such as Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi where World Vision employs nexus-approach in communities comprising of host and migrant (refugee) communities. Besides potential crises between host and migrant populations, political, ethnic, or social relations can yield unrest and clashes in any of the countries of implementation. Peaceful co-existence and interaction between populations determines whether development interventions succeed or not, thus conflict sensitivity is a crucial cross-cutting theme in ensuring sustainable results for this Programme.

In 2022, conflict sensitivity was promoted by conducting conflict sensitivity analysis, sensitizing communities, facilitating community peace dialogues including host and refugee communities,) and by sharing information with local authorities of expected project outcomes and methods of implementation. By enhancing transparency of interventions and ensuring extensive community participation WV minimized negative impacts such as suspicions and lack of balance between various stakeholders' viewpoints, which in return strengthens do no harm -approach in project implementation. In some locations, such as Somalia, WV introduced complaint mechanism for hearing concerns of communities throughout the project span to avoid any forms of conflicts within a community.

Conflict sensitivity holds particular significance in Adjumani (Uganda), Umurava (Rwanda) and Ejo Heza (Burundi) projects that work with host communities and refugee populations. In Adjumani, given the complexities and dynamics of the situation, mapping conflict dividers and connectors emerged as a crucial step in promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. During the mapping process, stakeholders in the project identified, for example, the formation of mixed farmer groups consisting of host community members and refugees as a potential solution. Forming of these mixed groups fostered peaceful coexistence and ensured equitable access to resources, particularly land, for the refugee population.

3. PROGRAMME RESULTS

3.1. OVERALL PROGRESS

This chapter describes the programme results gained in 2022 and analyses how the development on outcome level is anticipated to influence the overall impact i.e., that the most vulnerable children and youth are safe and act as agents of change in their families and communities in East Africa through the programme interventions during 2022-2025.

The analysis in this chapter is based on quantitative and qualitative results monitoring on outcome and output levels, and the analysis is carried out in each project on an annual basis. The progress is analysed through gathered data which is measured against the baseline values and set annual targets. All collected and analysed data is disaggregated by age, sex, and disability, and special emphasis is given to persons with disabilities in monitoring, reporting and data analyses. The impact level monitoring will be conducted in the end of the programme period.

WVFIN's "Safer Tomorrow for the Children of East Africa" Programme consists of two long term Area Programmes (AP) and eight special thematical projects. Additionally, collaboration with companies to support the programme impact took place with unearmarked funds in 2022. For example, together with Logonet Oy the thematical Finnish Baby Aid Kit (FBAK) project with focus on increasing mother child health care in Somalia started in 2022 and continues in 2023.

Projects:

- Kenya: Ngoswet Area Programme 2022-2025 (total duration 2014 -2030)
- Rwanda: Umurava Area Programme 2022-2025 (total duration: 2019- 2030)
- Burundi: Ejo Heza 2022-2025
- Ethiopia: Assisted Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for Sustainable Land Management and Livelihood Project 2022-2025, second phase
- Kenya: Roysambu Youth Livelihood Project 2022-2025, second phase
- Kenya: Alale Anti-FGM and reproductive health project 2022-2025
- Rwanda: Buliza Youth Empowerment Partnership Project 2022-2025, second phase
- Somalia: Acceleration of FGM/C Abandonment Project 2022-2025, second phase
- Somalia: Child Protection and Environmental Safety Project, 2022-2025
- Somalia: Finnish Baby Aid Kit (FBAK) 2022-2023
- Uganda: Adjumani Child Protection, Livelihood and Environment Project, 2022-2025

The Programme's progress in 2022 was measured by seven outcome indicators. Quantitative and qualitative data was gathered to analyse and reflect on the gained results and progress towards the expected impact. The data indicates that five out of the seven indicators are progressing well. Especially the result area focusing on child protection can be considered to impact the most as all the result area's indicators demonstrate good progress. Even though the results within the second result area were not achieved, based on the progress on the output level and qualitative data gathered, it can be expected that the favourable results will be visible on the outcome level within the following years. Results gathered in the third outcome area indicate steady progress in terms of families and communities who have increased resilience and act for social accountability in an enabling environment.

All in all, the Programme is progressing in a favourable and expected direction, although it is too early to draw final conclusions. All result areas are interlinked and affect each other, and at the same time, the world is very fragile and uncertain. Unpredicted events and shocks may take place whenever, which may affect the work. However, the focus on qualitative and effective work continues. Collaboration with partners and stakeholders,

advocacy work and strong local ownership will continue in the following years within a strong and efficient international network.

3.2. OUTCOME 1: CHILD PROTECTION

3.2.1. Introduction

The primary objective of the result area is that children, especially from the most vulnerable groups, are increasingly protected from different forms of violence and act as agents of change in their families and communities. Programme's theory of change assumes that violence and exploitation that children experience can undermine all other development outcomes. It is critical to improve child protection as these experiences can have long-term consequences on children's well-being and behaviour, including, for instance, difficulties in learning, gaining employment and interacting socially. Further, addressing traditional ways of thinking and beliefs in communities is essential as they significantly impact child protection and increase the risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and of Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM).

World Vision's approach to child protection assumes that children themselves, families and caregivers, and faith and traditional leaders and communities are key actors, while local-level collaboration between duty bearers (including teachers and faith leaders) and informal actors like child protection advocacy groups and community-based organisations is a crucial element in strengthening child protection. Sustained improvement of child protection requires changes at various levels, underlining the importance of capacity building, coordination, collaboration, and cooperation between different stakeholders, including rights holders and duty bearers. While strengthening the protective environment around children is key, it is essential to empower them to know their rights and become change agents in their families, communities and among their peers. At the same time, a critical element in child protection is to transform attitudes, norms and behaviour of parents and caregivers directly through positive parenting approaches. It is assumed that transformed parents and caregivers will support their children's holistic growth and development and create safe environments for all children.

In 2022, activities contributing to outcome 1 were implemented in 8 out of 10 projects in all but one (Ethiopia) of the six target countries of the Programme. The context and child protection activities and their relative role within the projects vary a lot: in Umurava (Rwanda) and Ngoswet (Kenya) Area Programmes (APs), child protection is one of the main objectives, and a large number of children are reached as WV is monitoring the wellbeing of thousands of children registered in the sponsorship programme and doing case management, while in some other projects, child protection might be more like a cross-cutting theme. In Adjumani (Uganda), the main part of the work in child protection is done among refugees, including in Child Friendly Spaces established in refugee settlements. WV also supports case management following UNHCR's Best Interests Procedure guidelines that aim to situate the best interests of refugee children within a comprehensive child protection system. The Programme works with refugees also in Burundi and Rwanda (Umurava). In the two anti-FGM projects in Kenya and Somalia, all project activities are geared towards ending FGM, which is one of the most serious violations of children's human rights.

The two Area Programmes include a sponsorship component with about 4 000 so-called registered and/or sponsored children in each AP whose well-being is regularly monitored by World Vision's local community-based partner organisation. As a result, a comprehensive community-based child protection system is being established in these two project areas. A sponsorship component means several different activities, for example, community training to raise awareness among parents/caregivers, partners, local, traditional, and religious leaders and volunteers about their role in monitoring children. In APs, there are also regular community meetings and engagements aiming at reflecting on how the monitoring of children should be coordinated so that issues

affecting their well-being can be well identified and mitigated. All the work done in these two APs to improve the protection of children is not necessarily captured by the programme indicators.

3.2.2. Progress in 2022

Table 2. Progress of the Outcome 1.

OUTCOME 1: Children especially from the most vulnerable groups are increasingly protected from different forms of violence and act as agents of change in their families and communities.						
Outcome Indicator		Baseline	2025 Target	2022 Target	2022 Result	Project Contribution
OCI 1.1.	% of children who know of the presence of child protection services and mechanisms.	39%	66%	51%	64%	Burundi: Ejo Heza Kenya: Alale, Ngoswet Somalia: CP & Env, anti-FGM/C Uganda: Adjumani
OCI 1.2.	% of parents and other caregivers who demonstrate knowledge on positive parenting practices	59%	71%	59%	61%	Burundi: Ejo Heza Kenya: Alale, Ngoswet Somalia: CP & Env, anti-FGM/C Uganda: Adjumani
OCI 1.3.	% of parents and caregivers who approve FGM	11%	5%	9%	7%	Kenya: Alale Somalia: anti-FGM/C
OCI 1.4.	# initiatives by community groups	0	15	14	16	Burundi: Ejo Heza Kenya: Ngoswet, Roysambu Uganda: Adjumani

The progress towards achievement of outcome 1 is measured by four outcome level indicators. In 2022, all the annual outcome targets were met, and the progress towards the end of programme targets looks very good. One of the indicators was developed to measure change in the two anti-FGM projects only, and due to the sensitive nature of the issue it is somewhat challenging and problematic (see below). Otherwise, the indicators measure the three core elements of World Vision's approach to child protection: 1. children's knowledge and children as actors, 2. the role of parents, caregivers, and families, and 3. community-based children protection through groups and initiatives. The important work done with duty bearers, especially with authorities, is not measured at the outcome level.

Three outputs contribute to outcome 1, with eight indicators in total. Most of the annual output targets were met, indicating good progress at the output level. Some of the key outputs contributing to the achievement of the targeted outcomes were, for example, the training of about 6 500 children and 1 200 duty-bearers in child rights and protection, the provision of Child Friendly Spaces for more than 2 000 children in refugee settlements and supporting 46 community groups working to promote rights and protection of children. While it seems valid to assume that the training of children on rights and protection directly and immediately contributes to respective outcome results, positive parenting, for example, is not necessarily adopted quickly or practised despite having the knowledge. Community and other groups and their initiatives have the potential to reach larger audiences and advocate child protection issues with authorities, but changes may not take place quickly, especially during the first implementation year. While duty-bearer training is assumed to be valid and effective, much depends on allocation of resources for child protection which is beyond the Programme's control.

Children's awareness of child protection

Improving the knowledge of children of their rights and protection is a key objective in many projects and the indicator measuring knowledge related to these shows good progress (64%) having almost reached the 2025 target of 66%. For example, in Adjumani, the share of children who had information on child protection services and mechanisms more than doubled from the baseline (33%) to about 70%. In Ngoswet AP, which is in the second phase, the indicator stands also around 70% reflecting all the work done to educate and inform registered and sponsored children on their rights and protection through school-based activities, for example.

Many activities and actions (awareness raising, training, campaigns) contributing to this outcome are usually school based, i.e., members of child protection, life skills, peace clubs and so forth, are trained by teachers who have been capacitated by World Vision. Having gained skills on detecting, protecting, and reporting child protection issues, club members then train other children in schools and communities. Sometimes WV supports the establishment of clubs, in some cases, they already exist. In 2022, the Programme supported training about 6 500 children in child protection, almost 1 000 more than initially targeted. About half of these children were living in two project areas that are quite different: in remote Alale in West Pokot County of Kenya, where very few similar interventions have taken place before, World Vision trained more than 1 500 children. In Adjumani, Northern Uganda, where many organizations have been promoting child protection in previous years, WV trained over 2 000 children (including 139 children living with disabilities) in child protection, improving the probably existing knowledge: according to the monitoring data, 99% of these children demonstrated some knowledge of the available child protection mechanisms within their community and could mention one mechanism (such as the local councils, police, and World Vision staff) where to report a case of child abuse within the community. However, only 38% of these children knew the exact nature of the service they should receive through these mechanisms.

The findings from the new child protection-focused project in Somalia indicated already good progress on the share of children and youth who know what to do in case of abuse, neglect, or other forms of violence as already, on average, 83% (already above the overall target) of the different respondent categories interviewed were aware of their protection and what action to take. While most of the boys and girls indicated that they were aware of protection services and mechanisms, a significant share of girls was still unaware of them. At the same time, the knowledge of male youth seems to have dropped from what was found out during the baseline, probably because the project's trainings were targeted at female youth, while most children and youth living with disabilities were aware of child and youth protection services and mechanisms compared to their counterparts without disabilities. In Ngoswet, out of the 830 children trained, 528 were girls, and consequently, the monitoring data shows that a bigger share of girls were aware of child protection than boys. These findings demonstrate that the training really matters and highlight the importance of disaggregation of monitoring data and a gender balanced approach.

Children as agents of change

World Vision aims to increase children's knowledge and provide them with skills and platforms for promoting and advocating child rights and protection among other children, communities, and duty-bearers. In 2022, about 5 800 children participated in various activities advocating child rights and protection, such as clubs, committees, events and celebrations. In Umurava, Rwanda, about 2 400 children and youth participated in 39 child protection and rights advocacy groups at school and community levels where they were trained, and child protection issues were discussed. Participants in these groups were facilitated by WV, including through the partnership with Rwanda Extractive Workers Union (REWU) to cascade acquired skills in protecting themselves and their peers from abuse, exploitation, and other forms of violence to an estimated 18 465 fellow children with the support of school authorities, local leaders, and WV's child protection volunteers.

Children living in refugee camps and settlements are more exposed to multiple child protection issues, such as separation from parents leading to lack of care, child labour, sexual harassment and abuse, early

pregnancy/marriage, and alcoholism/drugs. Therefore, the projects in the Programme that work in refugee camps or settlements have taken special measures to minimise these risks, for example, by establishing community structures /committees for child protection and training them on their roles and responsibilities, human and child rights, reporting, and case management. Similarly, children's clubs have been established both in host communities and camps. For example, in Burundi, eight children's groups with 358 members sensitized more than 1 600 community members (both adults and children) on child rights and protection through songs and sketches. In Somalia, World Vision trained 1 250 children in child protection, and about 1 500 children participated in child clubs.

Positive parenting

With the right attitudes and behaviour, parents and caregivers can create a safe environment for children to grow and develop. By training parents and caregivers on positive parenting methods and approaches, but also paying attention to their own mental well-being, the Programme addresses key elements of child development and protection. Activities related to positive parenting were implemented in about half of the projects and in 2022, there was already good progress as the annual target of 59% was achieved and slightly exceeded by 2%. However, the approaches to promote positive parenting varied a lot between projects, making the analyses of actual progress slightly challenging. Also, the definition of the indicator seems to be not quite clear.

The annual target for the number of parents trained on positive parenting was 640, while the end of the programme target is 2 400. However, in 2022 more than 7 000 parents were trained. Of these, about 5 500 were in Adjumani, where it was decided to use model parent/training of trainers approach in which 116 model parents were first trained and then tasked to reach other 15 parents monthly on a minimum. For sustainability purposes, using a model parent approach was key in the first year as the model parents have now been clustered in their villages and blocks in host and refugee communities respectively, and will continue to address parenting challenges and conduct positive parenting sessions with the parents in the clusters allocated to them. Another thing to note in Adjumani was the very high share (92%) of the parents who demonstrated knowledge of positive parenting practices. This can be explained by the fact that in previous years, several other projects and UN agencies like UNICEF have been emphasizing positive parenting using UNICEF's 22 Key Care Family Practices. As a result, the baseline and year one values were high, given that the indicator definition focused on the measurement of knowledge. However, awareness is not the same as practising. Therefore, adjustment of the indicator definition to only consider households that routinely practice positive parenting practices could be considered.

Child Friendly Spaces and mental health

Mental health of parents, caregivers and children has been recognized as a crucial element for child protection and social and economic development. Therefore, the Programme includes activities promoting mental wellbeing, such as psychosocial support and trauma healing. In 2022, the Programme provided psychosocial and positive mental health support to 2 700 persons, much less than originally targeted (5 200). This is due to the underachievement in Adjumani, where it was envisioned that World Vision could run at least five Child Friendly Spaces in refugee settlements where children access psychosocial support but operated only two. In any case, a safe and conducive environment, particularly important for refugee children, was provided for 2 000 children from both the refugee and host communities. At the Child Friendly Spaces, children of different age categories accessed psychosocial support services rendered through World Vision's own Peace Road Curriculum. In addition, 450 adults (including 46 PLWD) participated in Problem Management Plus (PM+) groups where adults who are exposed to various forms of adversities (depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic stress) are provided emotional and psychological support to ensure that they acquire a good mental health state.

In Somalia, 209 people received psychosocial support or trauma healing, including 25 Community Education Committees' caregivers and parents who were trained by World Vision on helping and giving psychological support to survivors of any form of GBV and supporting the community on how to deal with trauma and cope with stress associated with GBV. The training also equipped the participants with relevant knowledge and techniques to apply during awareness-raising activities, especially when communicating with community members with low literacy skills, supporting people during and in the aftermath of disaster and traumatic events, and how to reduce risks associated with children's safety and emotional well-being.

Anti-FGM work

Reduction and eradication of female genital mutilation, which also relates to other harmful practices such as child marriage (which also concerns boys) is the main objective of two projects in the Programme (Alale/Kenya, Puntland/Somalia). The indicator seeks to measure the progress in the project areas as regards to approval of FGM by parents and caregivers. Still, due to the sensitive nature of the matter, neither the baseline nor monitoring data probably do not truly reflect the actual attitudes or thinking of respondents or the situation in communities: they were not comfortable sharing their opinions. However, the results data of 2022 reflects better the actual situation than the baseline, and a comparison of 2022 with 2023 results will provide a better picture of how the work has affected the opinion on FGM.

Similarly, the aggregated programme level data do not capture the differences between Kenya and Somalia. In Somalia, the baseline was, on average, 12%, while in Kenya only 3%. The progress monitoring data shows a significant reduction in Somalia, while in Kenya, the share of parents approving the FGM increased, demonstrating the methodological challenges related to the FGM work. At the same time, the fact that the anti-FGM work in Puntland is in its second project phase is also reflected in the results. The communities in the project area trust the work and WV as an implementer, and the results are visible in the outcome monitoring in 2022. The monitoring report clearly indicates that percentage of parents and caregivers who approve FGM has decreased in 2022: men who supported reduced to 3% from a baseline of 6% while women who supported the continuation of FGM reduced to 8% from a baseline of 11%.

The Alale project in West-Pokot County of Kenya is the first ever WV project in the area, which probably explains the very low number of the baseline figures as participants did not trust enough the implementor at the beginning of 2022. Slowly and steadily, the trust increased throughout 2022 as the communities were engaged in the activities, and the authorities supported the FGM work and paid more attention to infrastructure development as well.

The issue of FGM is very complex and, therefore, is being addressed in various ways at various levels. The strategies used in Kenya and Somalia are quite similar, though the context is different. While Alale is a new project area, the strategies used have been tested also in the Sook area in West Pokot County, where World Vision previously implemented an anti-FGM project. These strategies include sensitization of children (girls and boys) and parents, organizing Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP), construction of safe houses (in schools), strengthening coordination networks and providing incentives to practitioners/cutters who are ready to give up their work and thereby lose their source of income.

Alale being a new project, a lot of effort was done to establish relations with the authorities and government structures for accountability and sustainability but also for practical purposes. Area Advisory Councils at the different levels (county, sub county, ward, location) were established or strengthened as these are one of the key structures in Kenya's child protection system, playing a crucial role, for example, in case management, and thereby also in anti-FGM work. The system is especially critical in handling child abuse and other cases happening deep in the remote villages ensuring that perpetrators face the law and that children at-risk are rescued and taken to a safer place (including safe houses). World Vision is a key member of the West Pokot Child Protection Network, which is an umbrella for all child protection actors in the County. Most government support to child protection comes through this network, and key decisions are done during this network's meetings. Child

protection cases happening within the county are solved through the network since all the frontline child protection structures are represented in the network including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Police, the Judiciary, local administration, the rescue centres, NGOs, CBOs and the political core.

Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) has been found to be one of the most effective ways to advocate for ending FGM practices and increasing children's knowledge. In the first implementation year of the Alale project, 236 children (141 girls, 95 boys) drawn from all the locations of Alale were taken through the ARP curriculum made up of units such as education, children's act, referral systems and life skills. More than 400 parents turned up during their sons' and daughters' ARP graduation and ARP knowledge was also shared to with parents through the ongoing so-called community change classes and other community forums, including radio talks. In 2022, World Vision constructed one safe house in Alale, providing improved opportunities for girls, including girls at-risk to remain in school and avoid FGM or marriage.

FGM in West Pokot has a cross-border dimension as the Pokot people also live in the Pokot District of the eastern Karamoja region in Uganda. Sometimes girls are taken to the other side of the border for the FGM operation or perpetrators flee to Uganda. Therefore, World Vision has also strengthened the Cross Border Anti FGM Network in a bid to address cross-border FGM issues within Alale and create a strong surveillance system that acts with speed when issues arise.

In Somalia's Puntland, the anti-FGM project is in its second phase, which is reflected on the one hand in the outcome indicator that is showing improvement (see above), and on the other hand, in the environment in which the project is implemented. According to progress monitoring, the proportion of community members (men and women) who confirm that there is an enabling environment for preventing and eliminating FGM increased from a baseline of 64% to 69% for men and from a baseline of 60% to 68% for women.

Various activities have contributed to the development of a conducive environment in Puntland including the sensitization in communities and partnership with the authorities. In 2022, World Vision for example facilitated training of Child Protection and Gender Based Violence committee members, health workers and teachers, totalling 38 participants (F 22, M 16), to strengthen their knowledge of FGM prevention mechanisms such as educating young girls, conducting mass awareness against FGM, improving reporting and documenting FGM prevalence in their areas, FGM consequences (long and short term) and FGM related policies and progress on the FGM act. With enhanced and improved knowledge, skills and capacity committees and participants were able to sensitize their communities in an effective and efficient way, reaching a total 2 031 community members (F 592, M 384, girls 524, boys 511) and 20 PLWDs (F 9, M 11).

Further, in Somalia, World Vision also continued close cooperation with authorities, and for instance, supported the Ministry of Justice of Puntland to hold dialogue meetings with religious leaders, senior leadership from the culumas (sheikhs), and respected members and village chairpersons from project target areas reaching 40 people (F 15, M 25) to ensure their commitment to support government efforts in the transformation of social norms and approval of the FGM bill. The Ministry of Women, Development, and Family Affairs was supported in carrying out a 14-day long FGM sensitization campaign reaching 2 792 people (F 857, M 608, girls 740, boys 547) and 40 PLWD (F 13, M 16, girls 4, boys 7).

To encourage FGM practitioners/cutters to abandon the practice, World Vision provided business training to 20 female FGM practitioners selected from the 12 project target villages aimed at allowing them to acquire knowledge and skills on alternative livelihoods and better ways of earning a living instead of practising FGM. They were also supported with start-up capital of \$600 to create small business or other sources of income. Regular monitoring has confirmed that all the 20 practitioners have indeed abandoned the harmful practice because of the financial assistance provided to them.

Communities and child protection

One of the cornerstones of World Vision's approach to child protection is the strengthening of the capacities of various community stakeholders and local authorities to run inclusive and effective child protection mechanisms and services. The objective is to ensure that project target areas are covered by functioning child protection units consisting of different types of duty-bearers that are held accountable by community-based groups/civil society. In 2022, the Programme made good progress achieving the numeric outcome target of 14 initiatives by community groups such as Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) and Child Protection Advocacy (CPA) groups and child and youth advocacy groups.

During the 2022-2025 programme period, World Vision aims to support with various ways 124 CVA, CPA and other community groups. In 2022, 46 groups were supported as planned. Sometimes these groups exist already, sometimes World Vision facilitates their establishment. Some groups have a clear focus, such as child rights and protection or disability, while CVA groups also advocate other issues selected based on situation analyses. In the refugee context, advocacy by groups is still new, making World Vision's support in Adjumani truly valuable. In 2022, the Adjumani project focused on a community-centred approach that aims at impacting change in the community by the community. As such, the project supported five community initiatives, including Male Care groups and child and youth Peace Clubs, empowering the community to stand up and demand accountability from service providers through the CVA model. Child Protection Advocacy and children clubs played a great role in sensitization of refugees and host communities on child rights also in Burundi, where four of the eight child protection clubs already trained were actively involved in sensitization initiatives.

'We appreciate World Vision for using a model that encourages child participation. We have noticed change in some families and girls and women now feel appreciated and valued. Child protection and fighting gender disparities is a collective responsibility.' Petros Donggiek, a Refugee Welfare Committee chairperson from Adjumani Child Protection, Livelihood and Environment Project in Uganda.

Child protection system and training of duty-bearers

While the target of 92 functional Child protection units was not met with 72 units, the target of 376 duty bearers trained in child protection was significantly exceeded: in total, 1 238 duty bearers were trained, and thereby, even the end of programme target exceeded. This was because the Adjumani project decided to extend the training from those who are directly charged with child protection responsibilities in their communities such as community child protection committee members to parasocial workers, faith leaders and local councils' leaders, teachers, police officers and community leaders. In total, 902 duty-bearers instead of the initial target of 200, were trained on child protection. The duty bearers gained knowledge and skills on child protection, gender equality, diversity inclusion and the rights of children including children living with disabilities, and how social accountability can be promoted by using the Citizen Voice and Action approach. In Burundi, the capacity building training of community structures in charge of child protection and prevention of GBV reached 150 people (F 60, M 90, including 5 PLWD), while in Alale, Kenya, 75 and in Somalia 69 duty bearers were trained (doubling the original target).

In Somalia, there are now 12 functional child protection units in the target areas. World Vision supported establishing child protection and GBV committees and, in 2022, trained 100 members (F 59, M 31) and 10 PLWD (F 5, M 5) on child protection risks and how they can be addressed collectively, including by reporting cases to existing community structures and government. The committees and World Vision collaborated with the Ministry of Women, Development, and Family Affairs in organizing awareness sessions on child protection/GBV in target villages, reaching a total number of 5 339 community members (F 2 175, M 962, girls 1 095, boys, 1 044, including 63 PLWD).

A functioning child protection system based on the collaboration of various duty bearers and actors, including community groups, will be able to prevent and respond to violence against children and gender-based violence.

In 2022, the Programme aimed at supporting the provision of violence prevention and response services to about 2 000 persons, which was almost reached (1 730). In Somalia, where the protection and eradication of GBV, including FGM, is the main objective of the two projects, the target of 1 000 persons was reached. World Vision supported and collaborated with the respective ministry to provide counselling and psychosocial support on child protection and GBV and referral of GBV survivors. For example, 100 girls and women who had experienced different forms of GBV were referred to the nearest health centres.

3.2.3. Lessons learnt and adaptation

While all the annual outcome targets were met in 2022, and the progress towards end of programme targets looks good, it is good to remember, for example, that the projects contributing to the outcome are being implemented in quite different contexts and some of the projects are new, while others are new phases of old projects. The aggregated indicators do not necessarily reflect the accurate situation or progress in individual projects. As an example of this, in the new project in Adjumani, the indicators measuring the knowledge of children and parents on child rights and positive parenting are very high and significantly higher than in other projects because these issues have been promoted by other organizations in refugee settlements and host communities for many years. Hence, the work did not start from scratch. At the same time, maintaining the knowledge at a high level requires continuous effort.

Child rights and protection are at the core of World Vision's work, and consequently, most projects in the Programme contribute to the result area. While contexts and strategies differ, there are many similarities and basic elements are the same in different projects. All outcome and most of the output indicator targets were reached in the first implementation year, meaning that the work is on track and most assumptions are valid. There were few outputs in which the targets were clearly not met or were exceeded. This was usually because of project-level decisions to change or adapt implementation strategies. This means that some adaptations are needed at the programme level.

As an example of good practice, child protection was incorporated also in the Youth Employment project implemented in Roysambu and Mathare informal settlements/slums in Nairobi, where all 210 participants were trained in child protection issues, including referral pathways. As some of the project participants have gone through violations such as rape, neglect and abandonment or are teen mothers, the training was invaluable in helping the youth prevent such incidences from happening to them or their peers in future. Furthermore, World Vision worked to improve child protection systems in the project area by training 120 members of six Local Area Advisory Councils to strengthen child protection initiatives as a preparation measure, especially during the election period.

The result area 1 is perhaps better protected from some of the risks that are relevant for the other two result areas, like the weather conditions and changes in the economic situation (though these naturally affect the safety of children). On the other hand, child protection very much involves changing mindsets and traditional beliefs, which are difficult and take time to change. However, the analyses of the first year's results show that this change has started.

3.3. OUTCOME 2: YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY

3.3.1. Introduction

The primary objective of this result area is economic and social empowerment of youth (defined as young people aged 15 - 24 years) by providing them access to vocational and skills training as the theory of change of the Programme assumes that when youth have sufficient income and can sustain themselves and provide for their family they are more likely to have protective, positive, and caring relationship with their own children and with other children in their families and communities. Furthermore, with income, savings, and assets they are more resilient and can cope with and recover from stress and shocks. Strong identity and life skills will reduce the risk of exploitation and help youth to become more likely active members of their community and society including participating in decision making, holding duty bearers accountable and upholding rights of others. Therefore, supporting livelihood development of youth is an important element in building safe, just, and resilient and cohesive communities and peaceful societies. This is particularly important in refugee and urban contexts to prevent youth from being used to destabilising communities, for example. There is evidence that participation in youth employment projects increases risk aversion among female participants, and girls at-risk can be helped to avoid CEFM or FGM by providing them with alternatives, e.g., access to skills training and employment.

The theory of change for this outcome assumes that when youth have necessary life skills, increased psychosocial well-being, and supportive social relationships, they are capable and committed to learning new technical and vocational skills for more permanent employment. Since activities target the most vulnerable youth who often lack sufficient basic education, opportunities to develop basic practical skills (functional literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, digital literacy) and work readiness and life skills (entrepreneurship, working in teams, professionalism, problem-solving and communication skills etc.) are necessary.

WVFIN's youth employment activities are implemented in five of ten projects. Two of the projects are purely focusing on youth and increasing youth employability and livelihoods. The projects are implemented in informal settlements in urban areas (the Roysambu project in Nairobi, Kenya), poor rural areas (the Buliza project and Umurava Area Programme in Rwanda) and refugee settlements (the Ejo Heza project in Burundi and the Adjumani project in Uganda). 2022 outcome monitoring was not possible to conduct within the Umurava Area Programme in Rwanda, and therefore data is available for four projects only.

The baselines conducted in 2022 reveal that youth employment activities are very much in demand in operation areas. For example, in Rwanda, in the Buliza project's location in the northern province, 69% of the targeted youth are without unemployed and 60% of the youth who have a job work in the agricultural sector. 67% of the employed youth earn between 0,4 USD and 0,8 USD per day. Further, the study indicated also that only 7% of PLWD participate in income-generating activities. The baseline survey conducted by the Roysambu youth employment project revealed that the share of the youth in the community that were not studying, employed, or not in training was as high as 43%. These statistics indicate the gaps in youth employability that the project is addressing in two of the biggest informal settlements/slums of Nairobi (Roysambu and Mathare).

3.3.2. Progress in 2022

Table 3. Progress of the Outcome 2.

OUTCOME 2: Youth from vulnerable groups have improved access to decent employment or livelihood and influence						
Outcome Indicator		Baseline	2025 Target	2022 Target	2022 Result	Project Contribution
OCI 2.1.	% of youth who are employed or self-employed	0%	75%	63%	43%	Burundi: Ejo Heza Kenya: Roysambu Rwanda: Buliza Uganda: Adjumani

To measure the progress of this result area is how many percentages of the youth engaged in the development programme’s trainings and other employability increasing activities becomes employed or self-employed. The baseline value for this indicator was set to 0%, and it is expected that 75% of the youth involved will have an own business or be employed by the end of the Programme in 2025. The ideal situation would be full employment of the youth in operational areas.

The target value for the outcome level indicator for 2022 was set to 63%. The outcome monitoring revealed, however, that only 43% got employed or self-employed because of programme interventions. The result indicates that the progress is not going in a favourable direction. This trend is partly supported by output level data as 3/7 output indicators did not achieve the set target figures for 2022. Nevertheless, 4/7 output indicators achieved the set targets for 2022, and some of the indicators even show very positive progress.

In Kenya, 50% of the youth involved in the Roysambu youth empowerment project got employed or self-employed. In Rwanda, in the youth empowerment project, all 200 youth (100%) got a job or started and own business. In Uganda, the youth involved in the Adjumani project the figure was 19%, which decreased the overall result. In Burundi, the focus of the project in 2022 was not on youth employment, but still, 3% of the youth engaged in the project found a job or started an income-generating activity within the refugee settlements or the host communities.

When analysing the results, one must keep in mind some aspects that affected the implementation in 2022. First, the first quarter of the year was still affected by the COVID-19 restrictions. Schools and TVET institutions were closed, business run on a low scale etc. as the rest of the year were characterised by the aftermath of the pandemic. Unforeseen unemployment rates, the number of school dropouts were high and change in the industrial scene were a fact. Secondly, the year was the first implementation year of the four-year-long programme period. It is simply too early to draw any conclusions about the progress. It is quite typical for the first implementation year of this type of employment projects to not reach the outcome targets, as the targeted youth first must receive the skills training (including life skills training enhancing their employability) and undergo practicum before their employment. Not all of this is usually to be achieved within one year as not all youth start their technical training. Some of the youth take life skills training before attending school. Thirdly, there was some delay in implementation as preparatory work for initiating the projects had to be finished before the actual implementation could start. Staff needed to be recruited, cooperation agreements with institutions and training facilities identified and cooperation agreements signed. Close collaboration with authorities was necessary for identifying the youth most in need to be included into the group of participants. Advocacy towards the authorities and communities was also taking place alongside. All these factors, naturally, affected this results area in 2022.

The outcome indicator target for 2022 could have been more modest, but it’s believed that 2023 results will compensate the underachievement of 2022. But considering the forementioned circumstances and challenges it must be stated that even though the targets were not reached, a great deal of good work has been done. This

gives a strong indication that the Programme is moving towards the right direction and there is, based on the output results, evidence that youth have gained skills and earned income and social support. In the end, this is expected to make themselves, their families, and communities safe for the most vulnerable children.

The gathered annual output level results support the development of the outcome result as well in a favourable direction. On output level within this result area, altogether 4 704 youth (F 2 846, M 1 627, FLWD 159, MLWD 72) benefitted from the programme activities through different kinds of skills trainings, TVET engagements, mentoring sessions and improved business skills and connections to markets.

Life skills and psychosocial wellbeing to support employability

In 2022, all together 887 (F 559, M 298, FLWD 18, MLWD 12) project youth gained improved life skills and psychosocial wellbeing through project activities thereby becoming more receptive to new knowledge and skills. In Uganda in the Adjumani project, addressing psychosocial wellbeing was used as one of the key approaches to improve livelihood, including that of the youth. The project identified and supported 207 (F 164, M 43) including 10 (F 6, M 4) PLWD adults and young adults with mental health issues who participated in five sessions with the aim of mental recovery resulting increased productivity and active participation within members' various livelihood groups. In Nairobi slums in the Roysambu project, 210 (F 129, M 74, FLWD 2, MLWD 4) youth participated in career counselling to select career paths through which they received technical training, and life skills and psycho-social first aid training enhancing for example their attitude and mindset change and helping them discovering personal strengths, assets, and inherent capacities to steer their development. Support like this was essential as many of the project participants had difficult childhood experiences and troubled young adult life affecting their attendance to school and leading to dropout, substance abuse, crime, and early pregnancies. In short, life skills and psycho-social support are keys in initiating the mindset change aiming at positive youth development. The project also used a mentorship model approach to support career development path and thus trained 25 (F 18, M 8) peer mentors/counsellors charged with youth monitoring.

In Rwanda, the Buliza youth empowerment project targeted 993 youth (F 665, M 328) including youth with disabilities (F 23 and M 7) in capacity-building trainings, life skills, and psychosocial support sessions, among other activities. The life skills trainings have evidenced that they are very important, especially for vulnerable youth. The trainings helped them to build their self-confidence and provided new ways of thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, the trainings increased their social skills and the ability to recognize the impact of their own actions and behaviours. They became aware that their own attitudes and actions have an impact on people around them and may significantly affect their life.

Increased vocational and business skills

Altogether 388 youth (F 239, M 137, FLWD 5, MLWD 7) were graduated from TVET institutions by the support of the programme. 200 youth (F 141, M 59, PLWD 2) from Rwanda attended vocational skills trainings. Among these students 100 youth graduated in tailoring, 26 auto-mechanics, 21 welding, 36 hairdressing, and 17 in masonry. All these 200 students (outcome target achieved 100% on project level) started then their own businesses such as tailoring shops, hairdressing salons, mechanics, welders, and masons offering services to communities in the four sectors of the Rulindo District. The youth received after the graduation monitoring and mentoring support both from the project staff but also from business partners and other stakeholders and community members. This enabled a good start for the youth in their businesses.

In Kenya, 168 youth (F 88, M 74, FLWD 2, MLWD 4) active in the youth project graduated (most acquired the same skills as participants in Rwanda), while some of the youth were still enrolled in institutions. The project collaborated with three government and seven private training institutions. Interestingly, the project additionally trained 44 youth (F 30, M 14) on digital workspace in collaboration with Roysambu Youth Office (of the Nairobi County) followed by mentorship sessions for six weeks to equip them with skills on how to effectively

work online. This was in line with the Kenyan government's programme implemented through the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology which is geared towards enhancing youth employment through online jobs in which youth can register for the online job platforms and bid for opportunities online based on their skill sets.

In Somalia, the anti-FGM project supported 20 female youth with technical skills (tailoring) training with the aim of building their capacity to gain technical skills for livelihood survival and creating employment opportunities for poor households and by moving highly vulnerable households into sustainable livelihoods and towards economic stability. Additionally, the project supported 20 FGM practitioners with start-up capitals to create small business or source of income for female cutters in target villages for them to abandon the harmful practices subjected to women, particularly to young schoolgirls. As a result, all 20 female FGM practitioners started small business with start-up capital. The project team conducted regular monitoring and confirmed that the practitioners had abandoned the harmful practices due to the financial assistance provided to them.

'I am very much grateful to the organization who really supported us with a life changing skill. I am optimistic about the future about getting dependable source of income as a result of the tailoring training that I have undergone.' Miski, from Kabal village. Somalia anti-FGM-project.

Market intelligence and good connections to markets for youth

The annual results indicate further that the Programme succeeded very well in supporting youth in gaining access to markets and grow their businesses. All together 1 327 (F 729, M 432, FLWD 112, MLWD 57) youth benefitted from these activities.

To increase accessibility to financial resources, the Roysambu project trained all the 210 youth on financial literacy and digital savings platforms. Of these, 49 youth were supported in saving money for business start-up or expansion. They had training on how to develop business plans and they were provided with cash for expansion. Monitoring of these businesses will continue for a period of 6 months. The project also formed 10 Village Savings and Loans Associations groups with a membership of 267 (F 107, M 160) and trained them using WV's savings for transformation model. After training, field officers monitor groups' progress and groups loan their members for business support. These groups were basically either composed of young women and parents with children with disabilities, or organized motorcycle riders (boda boda riders) and groups engaging in waste management. The project doubled its target of 176 youth entrepreneurs who have accessed finance to improve and/or grow their businesses.

In Rwanda, the Buliza project provided support to youth income-generating activity initiatives and small businesses mainly covering agricultural activities and small animals to increase production and productivity. The project supported youth and enabled them to start 20 small businesses to generate income for productive assets through cash transfer. In the Umurava area programme, 201 Saving for Transformation groups with 4 848 members (F 2 975, M 1873), including 49 women living with disabilities and 42 men living with disabilities were strengthened on financial inclusion and contributed to the welfare of 14 846 children.

In Uganda, the Adjumani project supported youth entrepreneurs through cash grants. This included targeting youth living with disabilities who made up more than half of the 200 recipients of the grants. Furthermore, over half of them were female. The business grant was awarded by the business grant committee comprised of the Government's district and sub-county technical staff, representatives from the Office of Prime Minister and World Vision staff and the selection was done based on a set of selection criteria such as profitability of the business enterprise, sustainability, environmental soundness of the business enterprise and community empowerment. Each business guarantee received \$120. According to the outcome monitoring results, 70 of the youth entrepreneurs were able to increase the value of their products or services.

Additionally, over 1 500 youth (F 994, M 507, FLWD 5, MLWD 5) in the Programme were part of youth livelihood groups, which is more than double the target for 2022. What is of utmost significance is that over 50% of the targeted youth felt that they have sufficient means to influence their life and their communities including the fulfilment of relevant human rights. It was reported also that especially people living with disabilities (60%) had increased their knowledge.

All in all, there is a strong indication that all the before mentioned activities will contribute to a better life of youth from vulnerable groups, and they will have improved access to decent employment or livelihood and influence their own life but also serve a change of actors and role models in their communities.

3.3.3. Lessons learnt and adaptation

Interventions targeting economic and social empowerment of vulnerable youth are more challenging, and even more expensive per participants, than livelihoods support such as agricultural support or savings groups in rural areas, for example. Specific strategies are needed, while at the same time good results are not always easy to achieve. To improve and increase youth employability and livelihoods, it is essential pay attention to the context: what works in urban setting, might not do so or be feasible in rural context. In informal settlements of Nairobi, projects participants need specialized support, and for example traditional savings and loan groups do not work among those communities.

In refugee settlements, one of the most effective ways people can rebuild their lives with dignity and peace is through work and earning independently a living. Experiences from the refugee camps in Burundi indicate that some refugees have skills and knowledge to build their future on and be resilient while others need trainings and support to start income-generating activities. This can also profit the host communities and is a good example of the nexus approach taking place. However, it must be kept in mind that refugees in some cases might be somewhat reluctant to commit to long-term development as they expect to be admitted in resettlement programmes. These aspects need to be considered in implementation. Collaboration with the local administration, camp management in refugee settlements, and business communities are vital also in the future to increase the prospects for the sustainability of the programme.

Some of the projects faced challenges in inclusion of persons living with disabilities and ensuring gender balance in the activities, and this will require more attention in the coming years. However, in Rwanda, 10% of the youth participating were people with disabilities.

The aftermath of COVID-19 also affected this result area. School closures were still in place, businesses were closed and there is evidence that youth either became a little unmotivated to study, or they had to do informal work to cope in very difficult situation. In Nairobi's informal settlement Mathare, it was reported that the dwellers had to balance between looking for casual jobs and attending trainings. Some of the youths are street-oriented and school becomes a challenge for them, and others must work and study at the same time. This again led to creativity and adaptation in order to find new ways of operating. The situation led to negotiations with schools on flexible school time such as 4-5 hours a day.

All in all, even though the results were not reached sufficiently, there are signs that the progress will be positive in the future. New ways of working and finding solutions to unforeseen challenges have been tried out and nicely taking place in 2022.

3.4. OUTCOME 3: RESILIENCE, LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

3.4.1. Introduction

The primary objective of the third outcome is to enhance the resilience and social accountability of families and communities. In the context of the Programme, resilience is defined as the ability to endure, adapt, and recover from various stresses, encompassing psychological, social, and ecological dimensions. At the same time, social accountability promotes transparency, participation, and responsiveness in governance to protect vulnerable groups. All programme efforts prioritise inclusivity, particularly the rights of children, women, and individuals with disabilities. Strengthening resilience and social accountability also enables better care and protection for vulnerable children, shielding them from disasters' direct and indirect consequences and harmful coping mechanisms.

To fortify resilient ecosystems and foster inclusive disaster risk management, the Programme advocates for protecting and restoring forest and grassland ecosystems and environmental assets that safeguard communities against disasters. This is achieved through the implementation of regenerative agriculture and land restoration techniques. The Programme enhances capacities and structures for social cohesion and accountability through community-based approaches. Community-led methods are utilised to assess risks, develop strategies, strengthen early warning systems, and empower communities to hold responsible individuals accountable. These approaches facilitate the prevention, response, adaptation, and building of resilience to risks and impacts, including incorporating peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity components. Diversified and climate-smart livelihoods are promoted through sustainable natural resource management, ecosystem protection, and regenerative agriculture. Alternative livelihood opportunities are endorsed to improve communities' food security and contribute to climate change mitigation.

Six out of ten projects will contribute to this outcome during the programme cycle. During the first implementation year in 2022, only three out of ten projects contributed to the outcome. However, more projects will contribute to this indicator in the following years. For example, in the Burundi and Somalia projects, the activities of the first implementation year were mainly focused on child protection, while the activities related to resilience and social accountability will start in 2023.

The activities and their relative role in the project context vary a lot: in Ethiopia, the project focuses on enhancing ecosystem restoration through sustainable agriculture and forestry techniques, while in Somalia, it focuses on child protection and improving food security through ecosystem restoration. In Adjumani, Uganda, the activities are concentrated on child protection, the environment, and livelihoods among the host and refugee community members.

3.4.2. Progress in 2022

Table 4. Progress of the Outcome 3.

OUTCOME 3: Families and communities have increased resilience and act for social accountability in an enabling environment.						
Outcome Indicator		Baseline	2025 Target	2022 Target	2022 Result	Project Contribution
OCI 3.1.	% of households that have not needed to use unsustainable coping mechanisms.	48%	67%	53%	60%	Ethiopia: FMNR Somalia: CP & Env Uganda: Adjumani
OCI 3.2.	% of households who apply improved and sustainable agriculture or forestry techniques	54%	80%	50%	50%	Ethiopia: FMNR Somalia: CP & Env Uganda: Adjumani

During the reporting period, the outcome targets were achieved. The percentage of households that did not resort to unsustainable coping mechanisms increased from 48% to 60%, surpassing the annual target of 53%. The projects that reported this outcome indicator were in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Uganda (Adjumani). The percentage of households practising improved and sustainable agriculture or forestry techniques met the annual target of 50%. The decrease from the baseline result is explained by the fact that only three projects (Ethiopia, Somalia, and Adjumani, Uganda) contributed to this indicator in 2022, while all the Programme's ten projects contributed to the baseline.

Family and community resilience

All three projects that provided information for the reporting year showed a positive trend. In Ethiopia, the need not to use unsustainable coping methods increased from 64% to 79%, exceeding the annual target of the reporting year (72%). In Somalia, the need not to use unsustainable coping methods increased from 23 % (baseline) to 34% and exceeded its annual target (29%) despite a challenging context. The positive result stems from the fact that during the reporting year, there was a decrease in the practice of charcoal-making as a coping strategy compared to the baseline, and other negative coping strategies also showed a slight decline. Similarly, in Adjumani, Uganda, the need not to use unsustainable coping mechanisms increased from 60% to 66%, exceeding the annual target of 65%. This progress is encouraging as the project area has suffered from unfavourable weather conditions and the high inflation caused by global developments.

The most common negative coping strategies in the Programme area include charcoal making and fuelwood collection, taking girls out of school, early marriage, child labour, harvesting immature crops, reducing the number of daily meals, and engaging in domestic work for money. To mitigate the need to use these unsustainable coping mechanisms, the Programme trained 3 059 people of which 59% were women, on diversified and climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry development, woodlot establishment, alternative forage development, and new saving and livelihood methods such as sustainable rearing of goats and chickens and management of modern beehives.

For example, in Ethiopia, various livelihood strategies were designed for the local communities to create alternative sources of income free from degrading the environment and to mitigate pressure on natural forests. Through the integrated project, communities shifted their livelihood from charcoal and fuel wood selling to other optional businesses such as agroforestry, poultry management, goat production, and improved forage utilisation of goats and chickens. Consequently, the number of households engaged in different climate-smart activities has been increasing while strengthening their solidarity in cooperative management activities and halting the depletion of natural resources for livelihood activities. Due to the project intervention, the number of households whose livelihoods relied on charcoal and fuel woods businesses was significantly diminished from 731 (2021) to 29 (2022) in Kindo Koyisha and from 307 (2021) to 119 (2022) in Offa since the implementation

of the projects. Training on agroforestry development, woodlot establishment, and alternative forage development significantly assisted the regenerating areas in different aspects. It improved the resilience and incomes of the households. The households who have taken the training started establishing their own woodlots and preparing alternative forage for their livestock to help their animals during dry periods and improve feeds for maximum production. This further assists the forest cooperatives in regenerating protection areas and controlling erosion and silt load affecting the downstream dwellers, decreasing the risk of flood incidences.

Programme participants were capacitated on saving and financial linkages with household coaching, mentoring, and empowerment. Consequently, saving group members could get low-interest loans from their groups, enabling them to start running their businesses. During the reporting year, a total of 15 359 people, including 421 FLWD and 457 MLWD, joined savings groups. For example, in Umurava, Rwanda, in partnership with different partners and stakeholders and by implementing interconnected project models, most vulnerable families were gradually facilitated to shift from poverty to self-resilience. This was done through so-called Ultra-Poor Graduation interventions such as mindset change, technical training, savings for transformation, financial linkages with household coaching, mentoring, and empowerment to enable 2 407 households registered under UPG to move from extreme poverty to self-sufficiency. As a result, 4 848 people were engaged in saving groups. From the saved amount, group members could solve their daily needs and run different small businesses, which facilitated them to provide well for their 10 227 children, including 79 children with disabilities.

Finally, capacitation on new agriculture techniques and loans from the saving groups improved the possibility of finding more sustainable livelihood methods. For example, in Kenya, Alale, ten Saving for Transformation groups (S4T) were established in all five locations. Each group has a membership of 15-25 members. They meet every week and save \$1,30 - \$6 per week. This saving continues for one year before they share their savings, and each will get as much as they saved plus any dividend incurred. Members could access three times their savings as loans and engage in income-generating activities, support household needs and pay fees for their children in high schools and universities. With women forming the majority of the S4T members, these saving groups contributed to women's economic empowerment in a significant way.

'It has only been four months since we started saving in our group, but those four months have been very fruitful; I took 15,000 loan and supported my child in school through fee payments amounting to 10,000 and 5,000 to support my business of selling kitchen items in Alale centre. I don't have to borrow money from my husband anymore. I just need to save in the group and request a loan to support myself and my family.' Selina, from Alale Anti-FGM and reproductive health project.

To increase families' and communities' resilience and accountability, the Programme aims to protect families and communities through resilient ecosystems and inclusive disaster risk management. To achieve this, the Programme promoted new agroforestry practices, including FMNR and sustainable land management. People received training in environmental conservation/protection, biodiversity, wild animal management, alternative forage, and restoration or rehabilitation of forests, grasslands, and watersheds.

Two of the three projects that provided information for the reporting year show a positive trend. Despite the severe drought in Ethiopia in 2022 affecting the Shashemene project area located in Oromia region, the project reached its target (44%) as the percentage of households using sustainable agriculture or forestry techniques increased significantly from 25% to 71%.

In Adjumani, Uganda, the use of sustainable techniques rose slightly from 60% to 63%, even though the annual target (65%) was not met in 2022. However, in Somalia, the progress was not seen as the households reported practising less climate-smart and environmentally sound practices than during the baseline a few months earlier. Consequently, sustainable agriculture and forestry techniques decreased from 36% to 15% in Somalia, falling behind the annual target of 30%. This setback is because the project focused on child protection during the first

implementation year, while climate resilience-related training is to follow. Furthermore, the challenging context with a severe drought and food insecurity led to a situation where mulching or inter-cropping was not likely to happen. Nevertheless, during the reporting year, the project participants successfully constructed 980 check dams and 340 soil dams in Somalia to facilitate water retention in the soils and, hence, vegetation regeneration. The structures will reduce the velocity of surface runoffs and subsequently combat soil erosion. The village leaders identified the areas affected by gully erosion. World Vision provided on-the-job training to the communities and project committees on controlling the massive gullies that affect the rangeland. World Vision also arranged a practical demonstration of how to control it and, if not, how it would affect the environment.

To reach the programme outcome results, during the reporting year, 1 273 persons were trained in environmental conservation and/or restoration. At the same time, 28 natural resource user committees and producer groups were supported. For example, in Ethiopia, the project is operating based on the FMNR cooperative approach for organised and well-integrated community efforts to ensure the sustainability of forest protection and enhance community resilience. 16 FMNR cooperatives had already been legally recognised during the previous project period and been granted land user certificates and cooperative certificates to restore over 8 000 ha of degraded forest land.

The Programme promoted the preparation of disability-inclusive local-level disaster management plans and trained 2 411 people in disaster risk management in 2022. For example, in Adjumani, Uganda, the project supported the development of one disaster management plan and established two Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committees. Members were trained on disaster risk management, and early warning signs and supported in developing disaster risk plans to mitigate hazards. Through community meetings, the committees disseminated the plans for individual/community actions regarding disaster management in their communities. In total, 2 027 people were reached, exceeding the target of 1 390.

The Programme also promoted energy saving or clean energy technologies. In Ethiopia, the Programme strived to improve the well-being of vulnerable women by training 151 women (including PLWDs) on energy-efficient cook stove utilisation to save the time, money, and labour they had been wasting on the utilisation of open fire stoves. After the capacity training on the advantages of utilising improved cook stoves, all women bought improved stoves with government-subsidized prizes. Accordingly, the FMNR cooperatives actively mobilised members to utilise improved stoves and distributed stoves for women by creating access to improved energy-efficient cook stoves and other related technologies.

To increase communities' capacities and structures for social cohesion and accountability, in 2022, the Programme capacitated 31 civil society organizations to influence development. This was through the Citizen Voice and Action training in Uganda (Adjumani) Kenya, (Ngoswet) and Rwanda (Umurava). In Kenya, Ngoswet, during the reporting period, the project facilitated a refresher training for the Ngoswet Citizen Voice and Action group to capacitate the CVA groups to advocate for the most vulnerable. As a result, the group was able to train the ward development committee on the proper allocation of resources. The training was timely as the ward development committee was a key stakeholder in developing the County Integrated Development Plan for Elgeyo Marakwet County.

During the reporting year, duty-bearers were trained in disability inclusion to implement Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) compliant laws, policies, and practices. In Burundi, the Ejo Heza project organised training workshops for the public or elected authorities in disability inclusion to implement rules, policies, and procedures compliant with the CRPD. The project conducted workshops and refresher training with stakeholders and community leaders to encourage participants to consider the rights of PLWDs to access clean water, education, healthcare, social protection, counselling, and financial assistance. Similarly, conflict sensitivity was strengthened by analysing conflict sensitivity, including implementing the Do No Harm Principle. In Adjumani, Uganda, steps to enhance conflict sensitivity in project implementation were taken by training the project staff to understand the dimensions of conflict sensitivity to implement the project to avoid exacerbating vulnerabilities and to uncover new entry points for advancing social cohesion, improving resilience,

and sustaining peace. Local capacities for peace were mapped as the critical approach to building the capacity of the project stakeholders to strengthen community connectors and minimise dividers.

3.4.3. Lessons learnt and adaptation

Several positive effects were observed in Ethiopia, including a significant change in the negative attitudes of community members towards forest protection. This change in attitude led to realising the social, economic, and environmental benefits of forest conservation. The project successfully established strong linkages among stakeholders and fostered a sense of ownership among community members by granting user rights certificates. These instruments facilitated the smooth and effective implementation of field activities at the community level. As a result of these efforts, environmental and operational risks were effectively managed despite the severe challenges that the country was facing, and natural regeneration in the project's operational areas is progressing well.

In Ethiopia, it was recognised as strategically important to prioritise the inclusion of women and persons with disabilities right from the project's inception to make it a standard practice throughout its implementation. The project made significant progress in this regard, with impressive levels of inclusion observed among the cooperatives, such as the participation of women (40%) and PLWD (7%). However, there is still a need to address the deep-rooted barriers that hinder these groups' full and genuine inclusion. To address these challenges and ensure greater inclusivity, a gender and disability analysis will be conducted in Offa in 2023 by external experts. This analysis will build upon the earlier baseline assessments, providing valuable insights and recommendations for promoting gender equality and disability inclusion within the project.

The impact of climate change was severely felt in Kenya, and the Ngoswet area was not spared from its effects. The region experienced prolonged periods of drought, resulting in failed rains and, subsequently, failed crops. This, in turn, led to a severe lack of food in households, exacerbating food insecurity. The inflation of food prices in local markets further aggravated the situation, making it even more challenging for communities to access affordable and sufficient food. The adverse consequences of climate change directly impacted the Ngoswet project, necessitating a shift in priorities and resource allocation. Funds originally designated for other project activities had to be redirected to respond to the immediate needs caused by the food crisis. As a result, a portion of the project's budget was utilised for cash transfers to the most vulnerable households enabling them to obtain essential food supplies and alleviate some of the hardships caused by the climate-induced agricultural losses.

Socially vulnerable groups often bear the brunt of the climate change impacts more severely than others. In the case of Adjumani, Uganda, the refugee community faced heightened vulnerability due to climate-related conditions. This disparity in vulnerability was demonstrated through the coping strategy index, which indicated that a more significant proportion of people within the host community could employ positive coping methods to adapt to climate challenges compared to those within the refugee community. The Adjumani project recognises this disparity and actively works with refugee and host communities per the Government of Uganda's policy. Addressing both communities' unique needs and challenges requires heightened coordination and collaboration as the project strives to promote resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable development within the context of forced displacement and climate change impacts.

It is essential to consider the timing of political campaigns in election years as they may have negative impacts in project implementation. In Ngoswet, Kenya, the project faced challenges in community engagement and participation as political rallies and campaigns took precedence in many communities, diverting the attention and involvement of community members. As a result, the implementation rate of the project was slightly affected.

3.5. PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

WVFIN’s model for collaborating and co-creating with the private sector businesses was loosely integrated into programme work in 2015, and in the current Programme period, WVFIN continues engagement with the private sector as well as other relevant organisations and institutions including academia when opportunities arise to find and create sustainable and more effective ways of achieving development impact. In 2022, WVFIN implemented a collaboration project related to the Finnish Baby Aid Kit - a Finnish innovation to increase access and utilisation of maternal and newborn services - in Somalia. The implementation of the project in Somalia only started in November 2022. The Collaboration with Logonet has started in South Sudan as well.

Collaboration also continued with a Finnish company Tespack that has developed a solar-powered audio-visual system contained in a backpack, the Smart Solar Media System (SSMS). The partnership in Kenya was funded first by Fingo Powerbank, and in 2022 in Uganda by Finnpartnership (actual implementation in 2023). Also in Rwanda, World Vision has started a collaboration with Tespack. Tespack’s SSMS that combines hardware (solar panels, projector, loudspeakers) and software will allow World Visions staff and partners in off-grid locations to utilise audiovisuals i.e., videos and other visual content that can be highly beneficial and needed as part of organising teaching and training sessions. This will make WV’s engagement with beneficiary groups, communities, and stakeholders more efficient and effective thereby contributing to better achievement of programme and project goals and eventually greater development impacts.

In 2022, WVFIN participated SDG Booster workshop focusing on Kenya organized by Finnpartnership and Fingo. This led to further discussions with a few companies and other institutions, however, no project or funding proposals were developed. WVFIN also participated in other events organized by Fingo Powerbank, including the informal private sector collaboration network by Fingo members.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

The goal of communication and advocacy work in Finland during the programme period 2022–2025 is to:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of current issues in global development focusing on child rights.
2. Increase awareness and understanding of WVFIN priority themes.
3. Make the results of WVFIN development cooperation visible to the public and increase understanding of WVFIN’s role in solving global development challenges focusing on child rights.

Progress in 2022

Table 5. Progress in Communication and Advocacy 2022.

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY					
Outcome Indicator		Baseline	2025 Target	2022 Target	2022 Result
OCI 4.1.	% of Finns who think that development cooperation and development policy is important.	68% (2021 survey)	68%	68%	66%
OCI 4.2.	% of WVFin supporters who report that their understanding of challenges children face in the global south has increased	90%	100%	92%	91%

The operational year 2022 started with the pandemic still limiting some communications activities, and soon after the war in Ukraine understandably began to dominate media space. WVFIN continued to strengthen content cooperation with WVI and partner countries' WV communication teams, its own spokespersons as well as with other partners and arenas with larger audiences. Throughout the year WVFIN served journalists by providing information related to development cooperation and humanitarian aid, pitching stories and experts to media, and assisting those interested in global development themes and/or visiting projects in developing countries.

WVFIN delivered stories and information on its social media channels (mainly Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn), electronic newsletter (over 35 000 recipients per issue) and World Vision magazine (two issues). A total of 45 web news articles and 11 press releases were published and, after a long pause caused by the pandemic, two content gathering and media trips to Rwanda and Kenya were organised. The first one resulted in seven short video inserts focusing on child protection and economic empowerment. The second one focused on the hunger crisis in Kenya and resulted in a feature story that was published in 17 regional and local newspapers. The media trips have been a useful tool 1) to expand the network of journalists interested in global topics and 2) to expand media professionals' knowledge of global development.

The media work resulted in coverage related to e.g., youth employment, FGM, global hunger, girls' rights/child protection (Afghanistan) and the war in Ukraine. In total WVFIN's work generated 912 media hits (including all mentions here) in 2022 with a potential reach of 80,3 million. WVFIN's staff or spokespersons were interviewed in multiple media channels such as Huomenta Suomi, yle.fi, Ilta-Sanomat, Helsingin Sanomat, Svenska Yle (television and radio), Ylen Ykkösaamu, MTV3.fi and MeNaiset. Several opinion pieces by programme advisors were published among others in Helsingin Sanomat, Turun Sanomat and Hufvudstadsbladet. Also, two Instagram live talks with two of WVFIN's spokespersons were organised. Both events gathered thousands of viewers.

The main themes in 2022 were child protection, youth employment and disability rights. Within child protection, the focus was on FGM. In addition to these, there was a focus on children in crisis, among others in relation to the war in Ukraine and global hunger. A steady flow of material in WVFIN's own social media channels, mainly Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn were produced focusing on the main themes and creating topics for discussion. Despite the flood of content in the online space, the FGM campaign in February called "Tästä ei voi vaieta" was successful, potentially reaching of over 610 000 people on social media.

The number of followers in WVFIN's social media channels grew only by 0,4% (24 260 followers at the end of 2022). The target annual growth was 5 %. This is mostly because of Facebook where the number of WVFIN's followers is by far the largest but in small decline. The younger audience does not prefer Facebook, so it is slightly harder to find new followers. Thus, more emphasis is put on Instagram and LinkedIn where the follower numbers did surpass the target of 5% annual growth. These two are the channels WVFIN will be focusing on next year while also looking into new possible channel opportunities such as TikTok. As social media platforms are quite volatile regarding algorithms and popularity, target-setting for several years is a bit challenging. However, they do provide insight into the reach of our communications.

Similarly, the number of unique user sessions on the WVFIN website dropped from 136 851 per year to 91 780 per year. The target annual growth was 7%. This drop was mainly due to the website redesign that was finalised at the beginning of 2022. It resulted in a clear drop in unique user sessions. On the other hand, the number of newsletter subscribers grew by 7% clearly surpassing the annual growth target of 3% (35 673 subscribers at the end of the year). WVFIN has invested in producing more focused, good-quality content and inviting in new subscribers in various ways.

WVFIN's supporter survey revealed that the percentage of supporters who report that their understanding of the challenges children face in developing countries slightly increased, being now 91,4% (90,4% in 2021). This is slightly less than the target (annual growth of 2%) but considering the already noteworthy baseline figure, the room for growth remains small. The number of World Vision supporters who are informed of the results of WVFIN's development cooperation declined slightly but stayed rather close to the baseline figure, being now

78% (84,6% in 2021). 66 % of Finns (MFA survey 2022) consider development cooperation and development policy important. The public support stayed almost at the same level as in 2021 (68%).

Even though there was not any major decline in any of the indicators, there is a need to think about how WVFIND can communicate more clearly not only about the results of development cooperation but also about the importance and the “why,” i.e., how development reduces poverty and contributes to overall peace and security.

WVFIND continued advocacy by addressing the Finnish MPs with their intention to make a law amendment concerning FGM in Finland. The aim was to have a special law to criminalise the practice, but the law was not passed as it was argued that such a law would be discriminatory towards male counterparts. Advocacy for this goal will continue for years to come. WVFIND advocated the most vulnerable children’s rights also through several statements in various seminars, printed press, as well as social and other media. Besides in Finland, advocacy in the rights of most vulnerable groups in operating countries continued especially applying the CVA-method, and training new communities on this method.

5. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

5.1. MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

WVFIND developed monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) tools and practices in 2022 to ensure quality assurance and accountability of this new Programme. The results frameworks of the ten individual projects were finalised and harmonised so that consistent and comparable disaggregated data will easily feed into the programme’s overall results framework. These practices have set a good basis for results-based management and supports the reporting for the four-year programme period. Outcome and output level targets were set, and the annual results and progress will be compared against these targets. Reassessments of targets will be done on an annual basis, if necessary. The impact level results are collected and analysed only in 2025 and will be analysed against the baseline values.

The programme’s results framework is comprehensive, and it enables proper analysis on all result levels. All collected and presented data is disaggregated by age, sex, and disability. The chosen method also emphasises the importance of leaving no one behind and, accordingly, persons with disabilities are given particular importance in monitoring and results analysis.

As a global organisation, World Vision has its own standardised MEAL processes and tools, but these are not entirely adopted on this programme as WVFIND’s target settings conform to those of the Government of Finland. However, some of the used indicators are WV standardised, and thus WVFIND programming is also contributing to WV country, regional and international impact processes and results. The projects of this programme also align and contribute to WV’s country strategies for greater and more coherent impact.

Out of 10 projects baseline studies were conducted in nine. In Kenya, the Ngoswet project had its baseline completed in 2021, and the results were used to define the baseline for the program period of 2022-2025. Two baseline assessments in Rwanda were conducted as late as December 2022, as the Government of Rwanda performed the 5th Rwanda Population and Housing Census data collection between June and September 2022 preventing thus projects from collecting household-level data at the same time. The project baseline studies were mainly conducted by external consultants, but also internal MEAL teams were used.

Additionally, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) assessments were conducted in 5 out of the 10 projects. The remaining projects are to conduct their assessments in 2023. Some of the GESI assessments were conducted in conjunction with the baseline study while others were conducted as a separate activity. The Washington Groups Short Set of Questions were used in the surveys and interviews. The GESI assessments identify different

needs, priorities, and vulnerabilities of women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and other vulnerable groups. These assessments enable to understand how gender roles and responsibilities, access, and decision-making power vary among different groups, as well as assist in identifying the root causes (social relations, institutions, and structures) that uphold harmful gender and social norms and practices. Finally, the assessments contribute to meeting the different needs as well as to mitigate any unexpected negative impacts.

For example, in Alale, Kenya, the study revealed valuable information for the project on the current norms and circumstances but also made recommendations to ensure gender and disability-inclusive programming. Previously, disability issues had not been focused on a community level, and the outcome of the study was considered empowering. Over 600 people living with disability were registered, and conversations and actions on disability inclusion started both in the communities but also among authorities on the county level. World Vision Kenya and its partners agreed to collaborate with the National Council of PLWDs and to conduct a census of PLWDs in each project location. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders will strengthen the HRBA and disability-inclusive development by influencing duty bearers, such as county-level authorities to allocate more resources to support PLWDs systematically. World Vision Kenya uses the local media as a means of promoting disability mainstreaming.

In the Ejo Heza project in Burundi, the study encouraged participation and inclusion of PLWD especially in community decision-making while in Uganda the recommendation was to empower women to demand information, equality, and equity through workshops, training programs and other capacity building initiatives.

Conflict sensitivity (Do no harm) assessments were conducted in seven projects. The purpose of the conflict sensitivity assessments was to identify the main risks that are potentially harmful, and to avoid them in all engagements and focus on the enabling factors instead. The main conclusion drawn from the assessments was the necessity of applying a conflict sensitivity approach within the contexts of refugee settlements and host communities. An all-inclusive and holistic approach provides a platform where all the participants, whether refugee or host community members, have balanced representation and an opportunity to express their respective needs and worries, but also engage in a dialogue between themselves, authorities, and other stakeholders.

Outcome-level data collection activities were carried out in eight out of ten projects towards the end of the year. In Rwanda, outcome-level data was not collected as the baseline assessments were carried out only in November-December 2022. Output level data was collected in all projects as per original plan.

Most of the projects used the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) method when gathering outcome-level data, while the other projects used standard sampling strategies with a 95% confidence interval. The Lot Quality Assurance Sampling method is widely used within the World Vision partnership as it enhances local decision-making, provides real-time indication of progress, and links the results to the intended outputs. However, because of the rather small sample size this method compiles, the method limits somewhat the comparability of baseline data with the gathered outcome level data. Therefore, the project-level results identify the foremost ongoing progress trends.

The analysis of the gathered data enables to reassess the annual targets for each indicator and implementation plans for the next year. Only in one project, Adjumani, larger adjustments to the target setting were necessary. Otherwise, the variations were explainable, and implementation went mainly as planned. One indicator was found challenging: % of parents or caregivers who approve FGM practices. As the anti-FGM project in Alale, West Pokot, is a new one, but also the first intervention by WV Kenya in the area the respondents were hesitant to answer the question. The trust had not yet been built after only a couple of months of presence, and therefore the respondents were not willing to tell the truth if FGM is prevalent in the area or not. This was also something that the baseline study found out. However, the prevalence of FGM is remarkably higher than anticipated, and attitudes among caregivers towards FGM practices are more positive than the baseline figures indicate.

The new tools developed in 2022 encompassed semi-annual and annual reporting documents, risk matrix and results matrix for both project and programme levels. These tools were tested for the first time as part of the

annual reporting. Almost all national WV offices have additionally systemised MEAL procedures and contact points, making the work smoother. Programme progress is also monitored through regular meetings and monitoring trips throughout the year to strengthen the results-based management.

An online Impact Seminar was organised late 2022. All implementing partners attended a three-hour long learning and sharing session where WVFIND introduced the new Programme, joint key objectives and thematic focus areas. The partners again shared their project's initial ideas and main annual objectives. Capacity building and south-south collaboration took place when best practices were shared. For example, the Somalia team wanted to learn more about the successful disability assessment conducted in Alale, Kenya. The seminar was closed by a joint conclusion that all staff members of the MFA-funded projects are to attend the global WV disability inclusion training Travelling Together by the end of 2023 to enhance disability inclusion in the programming.

During the reporting period, WVFIND staff started making regular monitoring trips after COVID-19 pandemic years. Although online and new IT solutions may have eased communication, the significance of face-to-face meetings cannot be underestimated. These trips were important in 2022 because of launching the new programme period. During the monitoring trips stakeholders and beneficiaries were met, and new collaborations and networks were started. The work got a deeper meaning not only for WVFIND but also for the project participants. It was found important that we interact and share stories with each other.

5.2. RISK MANAGEMENT

WVFIND's risk management practices are based on ethical rules, child protection and safeguarding policies, and adherence to anti-corruption guidelines. There are three WV Partnerships' policies that are crucial for risk management: The Code of Conduct Policy, the Adult and Child Safeguarding Policy, and the Anti-corruption Policy. WV staff worldwide are required to annually pass a set of courses and attend refresher courses on ethical rules and safeguarding activities. Furthermore, the WVI partnership has a "whistle-blower" policy that includes mechanism to report evidence of any misconduct, including corruption and harmful practices such as sexual abuse or harassment, and to encourage reporting the cases.

Risks are assessed and monitored also on the country level. Strategy Support Teams (SSTs) consisting of representatives of WV offices in the global north supporting country and the senior management team of the national offices are also an important forums for risk management of the area programmes. SSTs meet quarterly to discuss and assess progress in strategy implementation and issues affecting that. Also, as part of WV international practices, WVFIND executes organisational risk assessments with updates to the WVFIND Executive Board and WVI biannually.

Each project of the programme analysed the potential risks and prepared prevention and mitigation plans. These are updated at least annually, and, if necessary, several times per year. The project-level risks are the foundation of the programme-level risk assessment and are supplemented by identified programme-level risks. The programme-level risk matrix was updated in November 2022 to include newly identified programme-level risks (marked in red in the risk matrix, Annex 3). The total risk level of the programme is assessed to be medium. It is, however, worth mentioning that some of the identified risks are critical ones. WVFIND continues to develop good monitoring practices and uphold good communication with all WV administrative levels to ensure potential risks are identified in good time and/or prevented or mitigated properly.

In 2022 it was observed that countries and people faced multiple shocks simultaneously. Climate extremes, conflicts and macroeconomic challenges made day-to-day life very harsh. Additionally, the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on food and energy prices pushed millions towards starvation in the programme operation countries. Several projects reported that commodity prices hiked, there were shortages of necessities, such as fuel and fertilisers, and that people started to move around seeking food and water. Political unrest made many East

African regions unsafe, and some occasions affected the actual project implementation. However, the national WV offices provided support to the project staff to overcome problems challenging their own lives and project implementation, too. In the end, the project plans were not greatly affected by the un/foreseen risks in 2022.

The most important materialised programme-level risks in 2022 were related to political unrest, economic instability and rise of prices, drought, and hunger crisis. Also, COVID-19 pandemic still affected but the materialized risks did not deviate the programme implementation, and only minor revisions in project budgets were necessary.

Political unrest

In 2022 this risk materialized especially in Ethiopia, where violent outbursts continued in certain geographical areas. WV Ethiopia provided regular assessments and reports and made scenarios to limit adverse effects to the programme implementation. However, the conflict was mostly manifested in Northern areas and had only limited impact on FMNR project implementation in Southern areas (Offa and Kindo Koyisha/ Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region) and South-Eastern Oromia (Shashemene, West Arsi). However, there were still certain restrictions on purchasing and cash transfers that caused some practical challenges to the implementation of trainings.

Drought

Risk for climate induced natural disasters in the programme countries continued to be high in 2022. Effects were already seen in 2021 but the probability of this risk grew larger in 2022. It manifested itself in most severe way in Eastern Africa region. Due to three consecutive failed rainy seasons, tens of millions of people in eastern Africa faced some of the worst food security risks in 35 years. The main drivers of vulnerability were droughts, dry spells and floods, pests and diseases that negatively affected agricultural production, availability of labour or production of food and poor access to basic services. Water scarcity caused loss of cattle and deterioration of livelihood strategies.

Hunger crisis

Food insecurity and an escalating threat of famine in Somalia, Ethiopia (affecting the Shashemene area of the FMNR project) but also in Kenya, were witnessed in 2022. WVFIND took active measures to enhance food security in the most severely affected project areas by including also delivering of life-saving humanitarian assistance and further strengthening efforts to build resilience in the project communities. In Somalia, project beneficiaries moved around in search of food and water, and the implementation proved challenging on certain occasions. In Ngoswet, Kenya, World Vision re-allocated 20 000 euros for multi-proposed cash transfer to the most vulnerable household after the National Drought Management Authority had predicted that rains would fail in Kenya in the 4th quarter of the year as well. In Shashemene area in Ethiopia 10 000 Euros were reallocated for emergency food aid, including also seeds and cuttings, to the most vulnerable households to overcome the urgent food crisis already affecting the area.

Economic instability and rise of prices.

The fluctuating global economic trends affected not only national economies but also locally implementing partners' and right-holders' financial status. Due to increased price levels some minor adjustments in project budgets were necessary. However, the overall direct impact on the programming was moderate with one

exception: in Somalia intensive efforts were made to motivate people to stay in their communities and to participate in project activities. When the daily struggle is about finding food or water it is not likely that people can easily engage in project activities.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The full impacts of COVID-19 pandemic are still unfolded. School closures took still place in early 2022 and led to decreased motivation among children and youth and escalated the number of school dropouts. Active measures to ensure school attendance were taken. For example, in Rwanda the youth project made agreements with local hostels to accommodate the students so that the youth were motivated to study while not using their time and money for commuting from remote areas. This action taken was found effective for the youth participation into trainings and schools but also achieving the project results.

5.3. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The year 2022 marked the ending of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in Finland. This was reflected in WVFIN's operational mode so that the organisation engaged in hybrid working in first half of the year. Office staff worked 2 days at a week in the Helsinki office and rest of the week in location of choice. Hybrid working was found feasible and functional, and it also maintained a work-life balance and strengthened the collective spirit of the work community.

The programme team grew by one person as a Finance Coordinator was recruited in the first half of the year. The full capacity of the team responsible for the Programme was 7 persons: 3 Programme Advisors, Grants Advisor, Financial Coordinator, the Head of Humanitarian Aid and Grants, and the International Programme Director. WVFIN had a total staff of 33 employees in man-years in 2022.

The programme team actively built capacity with several trainings and workshops, which included MEAL and HEAT (Hostile Environment Awareness Training). WWI provided global competence building via mandatory compliance trainings on conflict of interest/ethics at work, IT-security, harassment prevention and child safeguarding for all WV employees, and WVFIN personnel completed those courses as well. Furthermore, WVI launched online training on disability inclusion, Travelling Together, and all WVFIN programme team members completed it and promoted it to the implementing partners worldwide. Furthermore, WVFIN team managers were trained on the model of early caring and team engagement conversations. There was also media training organised for the staff. Finally, at the end of the year, an Environment and climate change working group was formed from volunteered employees.

Staff well-being was monitored systematically by various surveys. It was further supported by recreational staff events and several focus discussions, for instance, about hybrid working and coping mechanisms in quickly changing working environments.

5.4. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Programme and project budgets were revised according to the funding decision by the MFA early 2022. One project in Ethiopia was excluded from the project portfolio to meet the new lower level of funding. The launch of new projects took place, and in some countries, the implementation was prolonged because of staff recruitment and other administrative matters. In Burundi, for example, a lot of preparatory work and skilled staff recruitment took longer than anticipated because of the fragile context and different locations the project operates. In the Buliza project in Rwanda, some planned activities did not take place because of the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. In Somalia, the Finnish Baby Aid Kit Project faced some challenges due to the delay in freight transportation. The kits arrived in Somalia only by the end of 2022 and therefore it was necessary to postpone the implementation to 2023.

Also, in some projects small part of the funding had to be redirected to humanitarian aid. These challenges led to budget adjustments and transfers were made to the upcoming fiscal year as well, including carry forward of 130 000 euros from the 2022 programme budget to 2023. All the adjustments and transfers were approved by the MFA. These aforementioned circumstances resulted in a budget carry forward for the year 2023, even though the total carry forward was relatively small. Otherwise, the Programme realized financially quite as planned.

The total spending of the Programme in 2022 was 3 912 544 euros of which 3 170 000 euros (81 % of total funding) was funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and 742 544 euros (19 % of total funding) was self-financing collected from private donors. MFA development cooperation funding share of WVFIN's total income was approximately 28% in 2022. In 2021, the corresponding figure was 25%, and in 2020, 26%. WVFIN applied for funding from other sources for the project areas implemented with MFA development cooperation support and seeks synergies with other programs, stakeholders and actors. Related to this, the project "Finnish Baby Aid Kit" (FBAK) in Somalia, in partnership with the Finnish company Logonet Oy started in 2022. All in all, besides the MFA development cooperation funding, the total funding of WVFIN in 2022 consisted of projects financed with the MFA Humanitarian Unit (KEO-70), different UN agencies (FAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNOCHA), and private funding.

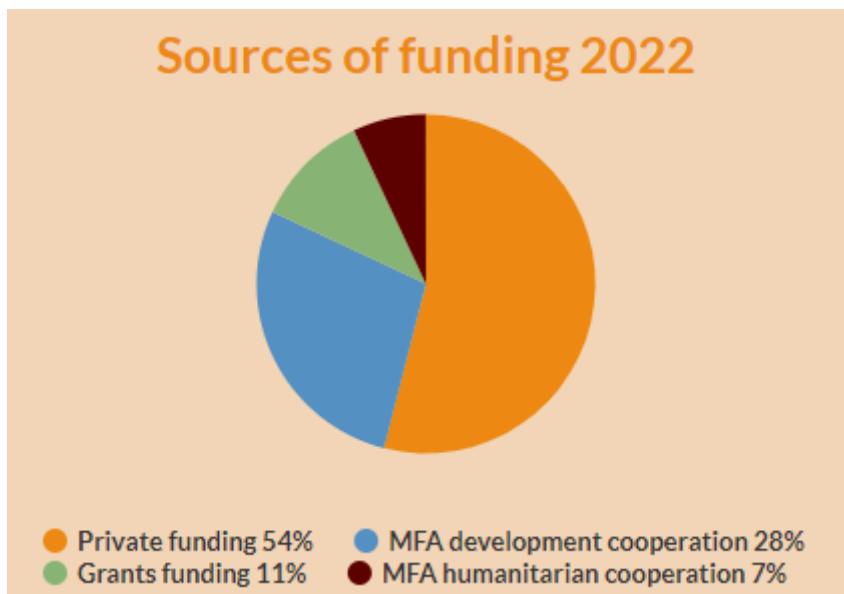


Figure 4. Sources of WVFIN total funding 2022.

The direct project costs were 80% of the total programme costs in 2022. The remaining budget was allocated to communication expenses (6%), planning, evaluation, and resource development (8%), and to general administrative costs (7% flat rate).

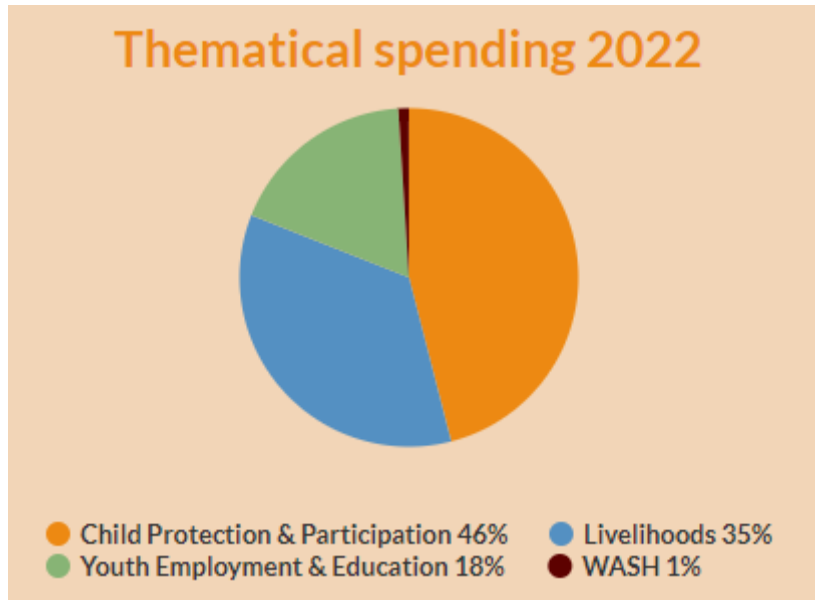


Figure 5. Programme thematical spending 2022.

As the Figure 5 shows, in 2022 the share of the Programme costs was as follows: Child Protection & Participation 46% (of total spending), Livelihoods 35%, Youth Employment & Education 13% and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene 1%. WVFIN mainstreamed Disability Inclusion into all sectors. This was a chosen strategy to enhance the effectiveness in promotion of the rights of PLWD. Livelihoods also compasses climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

The programme expenditures were divided between six countries through two AP's and eight thematical projects. Most of the programme expenditures occurred in Kenya, Somalia, and Rwanda, as shown in Figure 6. Five out of six implementation countries are considered belonging to the Least Developed Countries namely Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda. In 2022, 72% of the total programme budget was used in these countries, while in Kenya, categorised as lower-middle income, WVFIN's projects took place in the poorest areas of the country.

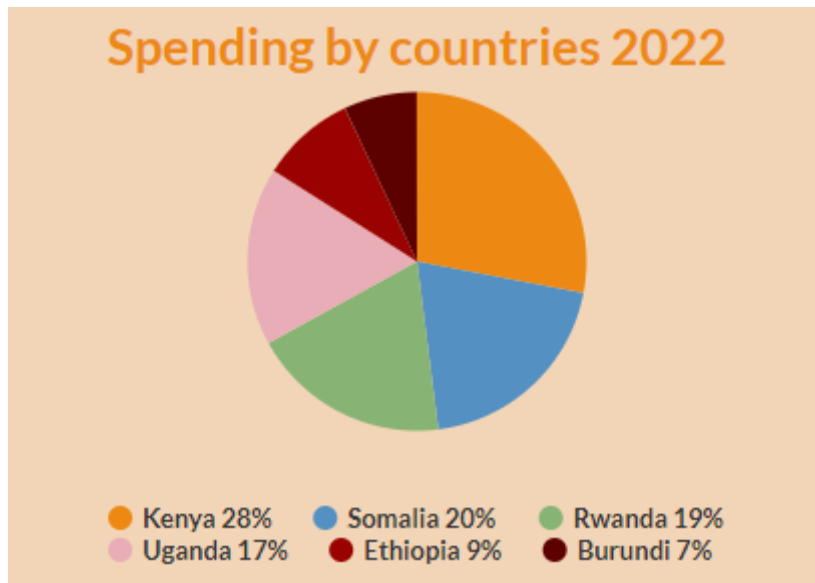


Figure 6. Spending by countries 2022.

The management and administration of the WV network is professional and reliable. The development of the organisation's internal management system continued to better meet the challenges of a changing operating environment, and a Financial Coordinator was employed in 2022 to make the use and monitoring of funds even more efficient. The executive management of WVFIND meets once a week and the Board of Directors 4-5 times a year, and one key function to the Board of Directors is to monitor and as per financial prospects make timely decisions to minimize risks and envisage potential opportunities. The Board includes thematic committees which are Fundraising & Marketing, Governance and Audit & Risk Management and Ministry. The Committees meet prior to each Board meeting or more frequently, should the circumstances require. The administration is regularly monitored and audited annually, both internally (by the WV International Audit Group) and by external auditors. The Programme is annually audited by external auditors in Finland, and the individual projects are annually audited by local external auditors.

WV uses the PBAS system and the finance processes on the international level are functioning effectively. Project expenses and budget progress are monitored biannually by WVFIND and monthly by the national WV offices. Online meetings are held with the project teams on a regular basis to ensure quality, timely and sufficient reporting. During the monitoring visits, financial aspects are also monitored.

WVFIND Finance and Administration Team members are part of the WV Partnership Finance Team. The team meets annually to share best practices and work for future targets. The person responsible for WVFIND's Programme finance attends the Global Field Finance Team meetings arranged by WVI regularly.

List of Annexes

- ANNEX 1. SDG Alignment WVFİN 2022-2025
- ANNEX 2. Results Matrix
- ANNEX 3. Revised Risk Matrix
- ANNEX 4. WVFİN Aggregate Indicators 2022
- ANNEX 5. WVFİN Financial Report 2022
- ANNEX 6. WVFİN Audit Report 2022