

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARV	Ant retrovirus
BOD	Board of Directors
CACC	Constituency AIDS Control Committees
GOK	Government of Kenya
HBC	Homa Bay County
KSH	Kenya Shilling
KRC	Koguma Rehabilitation Centre
MOE	Ministry of Environment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UNAIDS	United Nations Agency for AIDS
USD	United States Dollar
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
VFP	Victory Foundation Programme

1.0 ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Victory Foundation Programme (VFP) is an initiative founded in 2006 to respond to ever rising psycho social and educational needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in rural areas and slums of Kenya. We have a special bias towards the rehabilitation of street children as a special category of OVCs through the design and implementation of innovative and participatory programs to mitigate against the negative effects of orphan-hood in an environmentally sustainable manner while working in close collaboration with like minded individuals and agencies to address the root causes of OVCs in society. We have a legal status and institutional structures appropriate for the achievement of our stated vision. Most of the projects we have implemented in the past target the woman and the OVCs. We have a wide experience working with these social groups hence; we understand their needs and challenges.

VFP considers itself an ***authority for change*** and in mobilizing ***the community groups for social actions***. The founders of the organization have extensive experience in health, economic and education empowerment themes acquired from working with different socially and economically marginalized communities all over Sub Saharan region. We have youth and women partnership networks in Nairobi and Western Kenya which not only makes it easy to implement programmes, but which also ensures community ownership and sustainability of our interventions.

VFP has been engaging in a series of economic and social enterprise activities targeting young men, women and OVCs in Koguma Sub County across the sectors of micro financing, identification, selection and nurturing OVCs. Our social enterprise strategy is aimed at responding to the core reasons behind the rise of OVC population in Homa-Bay County.

Currently, VFP is mobilizing young mothers into 10 youth groups of at least 20 members each which are then encouraged to save a small amount of money each week in order to receive a loan to begin in turn a small gainful employment and to find a way out of poverty. We also provide Psychological support and counseling to HIV affected young poor and semi illiterate single mothers, irregular feeding program for 70 orphans and Poor informal schooling for over 100 OVCs at Koguma Rehabilitation Centre.

Since inception, VFP has tried to deliver to the expectations of the target community and our philanthropists. Towards this end, we have always had a strong and functioning BOD with representation from the various interest groups within the community. The BOD is the policy making organ in the organization and it is ensured that those elected to hold office are people of high personal integrity, a sense of community service and whose educational and work experience is relevant to our stated mission. A member serves on the BOD for a period of three years renewable once and service is purely voluntary. The current BOD has 9 members with a combined experience of 92 years working with community social programs. To maximize effectiveness and efficiency, the EC has three sub-committees responsible for Finance and Fundraising, Strategy and recruitment. Each project has an independent Project Advisory Committee, instituted before any community project is commenced. It is this committee which oversees the general administration of the project including advising on personnel recruitment processes for the specific community project.

VFP is a respected organization both by GOK donors and collaborators. We are collaborating very well with government departments at the local level like CACCs, Ministry of Children and Gender, MOE, and the Department of Provincial Administration

Our key partners include GOK and local and some international philanthropists.

2.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Homa - Bay is one of the 8 counties in the former Nyanza province. In character with most of the country, its landscape is littered with swathes of endemic poverty, ignorance and disease. According to the 2009¹ population census in Kenya, HBC has a population of just over 400,000 residents of whom 49% are under 20 years 37% under 15 years with the rest classified as 20 and above. Against a national average of 52, HBC has 77.49 of its residents classified as absolutely poor. The main reasons for the high levels of poverty in the county are given as; poor fishing and agricultural methods, exploitation of farmers by middlemen, high incidence of HIV/AIDS related deaths², inaccessibility to credit facilities due to high interest rates and negative cultural practices like wife inheritance that impede agricultural production at family level. Such high poverty levels have bred other social challenges like having more than 40% of the households being headed by females as men have either died from the effects of AIDS or young girls having been led by circumstances of poverty to have children with old, dying or poor men. The current infant and under five mortality rates stand at 137 and 213 deaths per 1000³ births respectively with HIV and effects of poverty leading as the main cause for the high mortality levels. The high school drop outs which sometimes reach 50%⁴ at primary level only aggravate the fragile economic situation.

Unlike with most of the country where HIV transmission rates have almost stabilized at 6.4%⁵, HB continues to register a prevalence of more than 14%⁶, a rate which sometimes climbs very high like in the case of 2005 when the county registered a prevalence of 24%⁷. The main factors that promote the rapid spread of the disease in the district are widow inheritance, negative cultural believes, loose lifestyles among the fishermen, pre-marital sex and night disco dances and inaccessibility/ lack of affordable drugs to HIV/AIDS

Apart from GOK, some of the more prominent NGOs working to address the challenges of OVCs have been Medicines San Frontiers with an upgrade and equipping of some facilities and providing some equipment and the APHIA 11 Program. However, the challenge posed by orphans and the resulting street children have to be addressed by many actors consistently.

Because of the interdependence between the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, poverty, OVCs and street children,, successful interventions will have to be multi faceted. They have to incorporate BCCI and institutional upgrades with economic empowerment programs especially the ones targeting the most vulnerable segments of the community like young orphans and street children to have the desired effect of changing behavior in a sustainable manner.

- 1) *Ministry of Planning, Development & Vision 2010.Resultst of GOK National Household & Population Census,2009,MinistryWebsite*
- 2) *2,6, 7: UNAIDS/WHO, Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, July 2010, UNAIDS/WHO, Report on Global AIDS Epidemic, July 2008*
- 3) *3-4:County Statistics Office, Homa Bay,2009*

3.0 Goal: To create a sustainable source of livelihoods for OVCs at Kogumo Rehabilitation Centre, Homa Bay County, Kenya

4.0 Objectives:

1. Construct goat milk rearing sheds, watering pans, feeding troughs, resting sites and milking places for 50 milk goats by December 2012.
2. To construct 50 pig sites for 50 pigs by December 2012
3. To fence, plough, plant and nurture 1 acres of vegetables by November 2012
4. To purchase 50 milk goats and 50 pigs by December 2012

5 Strategies:

In response to the ever rising incidence of orphans resulting from HIV/AIDS and the inevitable social consequences of the street children, their menace, crime, drug taking and peddling among other social ills in Homa-Bay County, VFP, in 2009, started the Koguma rehabilitation centre to take in orphans and street children. Orphans and street children, whom we all refer to as OVCs are identified through our network of volunteers and referrals from agencies. VFP provides care, psycho-social support, education, skills development, vocational development in a 'homely' setting to over 100 OVCs.

VFP has more than 2400 applications from guardians, agencies, care givers and individuals to take in the OVCs for necessary support.

VFP plans to be a self-sustaining 'a' school-home' to more than 1200 OVCs by 2014. We therefore plan to start goat milk rearing program, pig rearing program and vegetable farming to supply the nutritional needs of the OVCs under our care with the surplus being sold to help maintain the recurrent expenses at the centre.

5.1 Background of Koguma Rehabilitation Centre

Koguma rehabilitation Centre is located in Koguma Village, Rachuonyo District in Homa-Bay County.

KRC was started from the realization that in the rural areas and slums of Kenya, education remains the only realistic way of wriggling oneself out of poverty

KRC started with students learning under the trees since the building was not completed. This was not conducive to study because of diversions like noises and traffic and dust from the dusty road by the centre. The teachers would dictate the notes to the learners since there were no appropriate places to place a blackboard. This was difficult for the learner but the situation called for perseverance.

As the days went by and the centre grew, more OVCs who were really in need of education and could not find it elsewhere were referred to join by agencies, care givers and our volunteers. We were now a full 'home-school' living in an environment conducive to study. Different teachers from different backgrounds to volunteer teach at the centre with time, the school curriculum was enhanced.

Right now, we have 107 OVCs/75 girls, 32 boys, 5 devoted, hardworking teachers who are networked very well together with the volunteers to educate the OVCs spiritually, morally, emotionally, physically and psychologically. In addition to learning in the classroom, extra activities have been added. The staff members have come up with different clubs where students participate. The clubs include movement, drama, music, scouting, environmental and dancing clubs. Different teachers conduct these clubs and they nurture OVCs abilities and talents and help them develop respect for others.

5.2 Target beneficiaries

This project will benefit OVCs in Homa Bay County but also take in from other parts of the country with a strong focus in slums of Kisumu and Nairobi.

5.3 Project Justification

The OVC rehabilitation project, which has a strong bias on the rehabilitation of vulnerable children, is based on the belief that young people are the best resource for promoting their development, and that they must be both architects and agents in meeting the challenges and solving the problems faced within their environment and in Homa - Bay County in particular. The project will identify, select, recruit and take in OVCs from the streets, in slums and from referral agencies, to empower them by placing them in a variety of enabling conditions and provide them with the necessary tools, education, mentorship and training to develop them to become fully integrated, responsible and economically productive individuals. This will be done by providing the OVCs with a homely environment where education, skill development and training, sport training, and spiritual nourishment are provided by a team of educated, dedicated, passionate and selfless tutors, counselors and other necessary staff.

Previously OVCs came to school every morning and returned home in the evening. Inherent difficulties among care givers necessitated the starting up of the centre to act as both home and school for the children. Care givers are usually very sensitive to OVC needs like regular intake of prescribed medicines for those on ARV treatment or their need for 'parental guidance among others.

Need for counseling: The children at KRC have gruesome and harrowing narratives that recount their lives in the streets, how they managed to escape from early marriages and female genital mutilation, how they endured years of mistreatment, sodomisation, rape, forced early marriages to older street persons along with questions about their future, etc. Our trained counselors there to listen and help the children sort out these experiences so these events do not become obstacles to their psychological development.

Our meetings with leading community gate keepers are aimed at heightening social awareness and solidarity with the poor. A highlight of the activities is the quarterly 'OVC' talent show where OVCs exhibit different talents in theatre skills, sports, sculpture, weaving etc to members of the local community and other invited groups from all over the country. During the one day talent show, participants are encouraged to come dressed casually and mostly barefoot with no demonstration of class to simulate a connection with the OVCs. Funds raised during this occasion are donated to KRC.

While care givers should be sensitized to understand the uniqueness of children with HIV/AIDS such sensitization remains low and will most have little impact in communities ravaged by variety of problems requiring to be addressed simultaneously. Children infected with HIV need early diagnosis for early quality treatment and care. Such care will be lacking in counties like Homa-Bay in Kenya where nearly 50% of the total number of children below 12 years are either single or double (total) orphans.

This project aims to strengthen the protection framework for OVCs in Homa-Bay and simultaneously ensure adequate delivery of essential psycho-social assistance by addressing the following existing problems.

- Establishment of clear legal referral mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration between VFP and referring agencies individuals and quick response mechanisms.
- Ensure special arrangements for protection and care for separated or unaccompanied children ensuring respect for individual rights and that the best interests of the child are met.

- Community awareness-raising among key stakeholders on the rights and obligations of the OVC community in Nyanza Province

6. The project activities include:

- Construction of milk goat and pigs sheds
- Purchase of milk goats
- Purchase of pigs
- Fencing of the centre farm
- Purchase of seeds
- Planting
- Weeding
- Sale of farm products
- Continuous recruitment of volunteers
- Counseling of OVCs from the street communities
- Collaboration with more established health institutions for referrals for major health problems not adequately addressed at the clinic
- Meeting with community elders and opinion shapers to discuss root causes of the OVC problem
- Forum sessions for community awareness raising campaigns and community collaborations.

7.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- i) 50 piggeries
- ii) 50 milk goat pens
- iii) A five acre with assorted vegetable
- iv) A comprehensive care centre established and furnished as a center of excellence education, skills development with 'parental' care for OVCs
- v) At least 250 HIV positive children and women within the project provided with monthly nutritional supplements annually
- vi) At least 15 workers in the health facilities trained in comprehensive HIV care and treatment and ART
- vii) Ten community women groups trained to manage income generating projects and have access to micro financing for individual and group members to reduce poverty and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

8.0 ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- (a) Koguma Rehabilitation Centre an OVC rescue and support centre with over 100 OVCs
- (b) Training of more than 500 non-resident orphans in basic and advanced Computer skills
- (c) Formed and sustained more than 150 community groups targeting young semi literate single mothers and facilitating them with group guaranteed micro loans to start small scale businesses for economic self dependence

9.0 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Building materials:
 - Bricks
 - Cement
 - Nails

	Scaffolding Timber	
(b)	Desks Computers & accessories Chairs Tables	Furniture
(c)	50 milk goats 50 pigs	Animals
(d)	Fencing Ploughing Seeds	Farm
(e)	Centre Director Volunteers Labor Extension Officer	Human Resources

9.1 Community Contribution

The Community at Koguma Village has contributed ten acres on land on which the centre is located. In addition to this, the community members volunteering to provide labor and other services at the centre are paid at half the normal rate applicable for similar work and tasks in Homa-Bay County. At current price, the ten acre piece of land is valued at about USD 23,000 and the daily wage for a manual laborer at 2.5 USD to mean a volunteer gives 1.25 USD per 8-10 hour day providing labor at KRC.

10.0 MANAGEMENT

In overall, the daily implementation of the activities will be overseen by the Centre Director in full compliance to the policies laid out by the Board and in adherence to donor conditions. He will give 100% of his time to the project. He will be assisted by the administrator and the project advisory committee.

11.0 EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

This exercise will be carried out periodically to establish how well the project has performed especially in terms of optimal use of the resources, and what had been accomplished. Evaluations will constitute a supervisor information base for future effective service delivery. Evaluations will be conducted at several levels and intervals:

11.1 Formative Evaluation (F.E) - will be carried out at implementation level and will be essential in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the project and their corrective measures.

11.2 Periodic Evaluation (P.E) - will be carried out at shorter intervals three to six months, to assess adaptability of the target group in the Center, which could be used to maintain or change our strategy

11.3 Summative Evaluation (S.E) - will be used to evaluate the project's overall impact on the target beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries. Evaluations will be carried out at the end of every budget year. In all evaluations the target beneficiaries will actively be involved in the process to incorporate their

suggestions for future development and implementation. The project will conduct a follow-up for rehabilitated OVCs and assess the degree of success in each case independently.

11.4 Donor Evaluation (D.E) - The donor agency will be free to evaluate the project at any stage of its development.

12.0 MONITORING

Monitoring process will enhance knowledge of the extent of success or failure in project activities. The following constitutes the monitoring indicators: -

- (a) Amount of goat milk produced
- (b) Number of pigs reaching maturation age
- (c) Amount of vegetables being produced
- (d) Amount of savings being recorded as a result of the intervention
- (e) Total monthly income from produce sales
- (f) Observable health of the OVCs
- (h) Number of new OVCs taken in at the centre for support

13.0 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

VFP considers sustainability to be a key component in project planning and implementation strategy. Consequently, we involve the members of the target community in Planning, Implementation and Evaluation of the project to create a sense of community ownership. In addition, we have planned for an endowment fund to be set up for past beneficiaries of KRC to contribute to when they start earning incomes.

14.0 Project Budget

The entire budget is estimated to cost Ksh. **4.21 million (USD 49, 510)** with the community contributing Ksh. **500,000 (USD6010)**.

VFP plans to get **(USD 43, 500)** from donors during the Global Giving open challenge.