

VMM Safeguarding Programme – Summary



1.1 VMM Overview

Founded as a lay Christian development organisation in 1969, VMM has placed over 2,600 specialist personnel, such as doctors, nurses, surgeons, anaesthetists, engineers, agriculturists, accountants, builders and mechanics and many more diverse skill sets throughout Africa on a range of projects. VMM's operational modality is working in partnership with local organisations both church and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). VMM has a history of promoting human rights in the areas of education, health and community development i.e. through supporting projects that deliver essential services.

1.2 Project Context

VMM's operational modality is working in partnership with local organisations both public, private and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The aim of the VMM safeguarding programme has been to build the capacity of partner organisations to safeguard children and vulnerable persons that they come into contact with through their operations, either directly or indirectly.

VMM's Child Safeguarding and Vulnerable Adults Programme (Safeguarding Programme) has been implemented in the following countries: Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. The programme has been extended to include child safeguarding training for VMM partner staff in South Sudan, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, as well as VMM staff and lay missionaries in Ireland and the UK. This programme titled, Enhancing Implementation of Child & Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding by VMMs Partners in Africa Project has been running for six years since 2011.

1.3. Safeguarding Programme – Main Components

- **Training** – VMM supports selected designated persons, teachers and care givers of children and vulnerable adults to access professional skills in safeguarding. This is achieved by taking online courses on disability, diversity and inclusivity from the Kimmage Development Studies Centre [KODE programme](#) and the [Education for All](#) course from Cape Town University.
- **Child Participation** – This component involves the animation of Child Rights and Responsibilities Clubs (CRRC's) in primary schools. In Kenya plans are underway to include street children and one school for children with hearing impairment in this of programme CRRC's. A guide for Child Rights and Responsibilities and a Positive Discipline Manual for teachers are due to be published.
- **Youth empowerment** – Working with young people to train them on the prevention of sexual assault/abuse. Replicating with Ujamaa Africa in Kenya a youth empowerment project already implemented with Ujamaa Pamodzi in Malawi, in relation to their work with girls (No means No) and boys (Impower).
- **Promotion of Positive discipline** – this programme targets teachers and trainee teachers to train them on the use positive discipline for school children rather than using corporal punishment. A VMM full time mentor and two facilitators are reaching out to 20 schools in Uganda and have initiated activities in the other countries. The Positive Discipline mentor is involved in syllabus development and input from ECD teachers and Counselling students at Uganda Martyrs University Fort Portal.
- **Awareness creation** – preparing and airing radio programmes and debates on safeguarding and protection. This project is already in action in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi.