



World Vision

*Stories of*  
***Change***

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*Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)*

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# Central Rift Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Scale-Up Project (CRIFSUP)

## *Stories of Change*

*Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)*

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Published by World Vision Kenya, 2026

## WORLD VISION

World Vision is an international Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

We work alongside families and with local, national, and global partners, to enable children take an active role with their families in building lives free of need and full of promise.

We speak the truth against injustice, and continuously challenge ourselves and others to do our utmost for those we serve. World Vision has been working in Kenya since 1974, with our basic development model being the Area Programme (AP), which addresses context-specific development challenges affecting children and communities within a geographically defined community




## CRIFSUP

World Vision is implementing the Central Rift Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Scale-Up Project (CRIFSUP) that aims to strengthen food security and livelihood resilience for smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya by 2026 through FMNR and other restoration techniques.

CRIFSUP is being implemented in 4 counties: Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nakuru and West Pokot.

The project is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

CRIFSUP has three outcomes:

-  Increase the area of land under restoration through FMNR
-  Strengthen diversified livelihood options for smallholder farmers and pastoralists
-  Enable an inclusive policy environment and structures that support the uptake of FMNR

## FMNR

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a sustainable land restoration technique that depends on active management of bushlands, tree stumps and/or seeds that have self-germinated from the soil, allowing them to grow into productive trees.

The FMNR approach provides a lowcost, low-risk method for restoration of degraded landscapes while supplying farmers with valuable economic, social and environmental benefits.

In FMNR, farmers take charge of pruning, fencing and managing their farmlands to encourage regeneration of tree stumps while preventing destruction by livestock or human activities.



**2021-2026**

Phase 2 of the CRIFSUP Project was implemented over a five-year period, from July 2021 to June 2026, across four counties



# FOREWORD

This publication captures the inspiring journeys of individuals and communities whose lives have been transformed through the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approach and complementary interventions implemented under the Central Rift Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Scale-Up Project (CRIFSUP).

Since its inception, the project has worked with smallholder farmers, schools, research institutions, local leaders and government agencies to strengthen resilience to climate-related shocks and environmental degradation across Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nakuru and West Pokot counties.

Central to this transformation are 1,000 lead farmers who were trained and empowered as champions of change within their communities. Through peer-to-peer learning, demonstration farms and community engagement, they have promoted the adoption of FMNR, contributing to the regeneration of indigenous trees, restoration of degraded landscapes and improved household wellbeing.

The project's success has been further strengthened by complementary interventions, including Savings for Transformation (S4T), Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) and other community empowerment approaches. Together, these initiatives have helped communities build resilience, strengthen livelihoods and create sustainable pathways for the future.

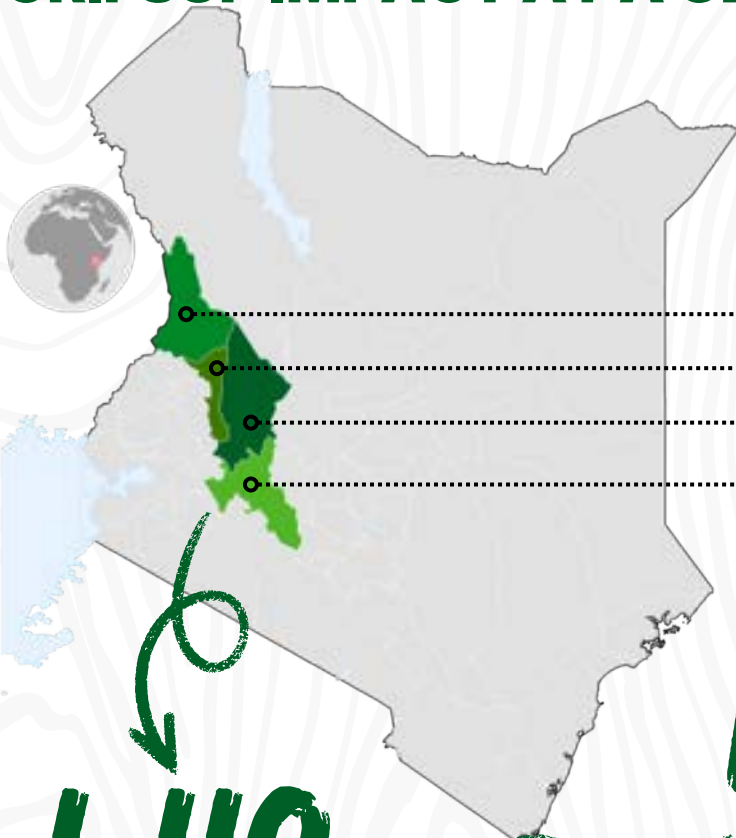
In partnership with Moi University and the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), the project has also contributed to the growing body of evidence on FMNR through the development and publication of eight research manuscripts, providing valuable insights and supporting efforts to scale up the approach and influence policy and practice.

Collectively, these efforts have contributed to the restoration of more than 10,000 hectares of land and improved the livelihoods of over 10,000 households. The stories featured in this publication are a testament to the power of community-led restoration and the lasting impact that can be achieved when people are empowered to drive change.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all farmers, partners and stakeholders who have been part of this journey and hope these stories inspire continued investment in FMNR and sustainable land restoration across Kenya and beyond.

**Daniel Makana**  
Project Manager, CRIFSUP  
World Vision Kenya

# CRIFSUP IMPACT AT A GLANCE



**4** COUNTIES, **8** SITES OF CRIFSUP IMPLEMENTATION

- ◆ West Pokot County (*Chepareria*)
- ◆ Elgeyo Marakwet County (*Soin, Ng'oswet, Tunyo*)
- ◆ Baringo County (*Marigat, Churo, Mogotio*)
- ◆ Nakuru County (*Salgaa*)

**1,110**

Lead farmers trained on FMNR

**10,055**

Replicate farmers trained on FMNR by Lead Farmers

**12,184**

Hectares of land under restoration through FMNR



86



Schools involved in FMNR practices through school environmental clubs, each comprising 20 students

7,976



school-going-children engaged in various environmental and FMNR activities such as celebration of environmental fun day

120



Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups onboarded to the DreamSave application, with members saving an average of KES 22,715 per person per cycle

12



Tree nurseries established, supported and linked to KEFRI and KFS to enhance supply of seedlings/ seedbanks for indigenous species

80



Out-of-school youth trained in artisanal skills including beekeeping, poultry farming and kitchen gardening, with 85% now generating household income from these activities





**6,713.69**

Hectares of land under restoration through FMNR in Elgeyo Marakwet County



**GLADYS CHEBOIYWO**  
ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

**T**wo hours. That is how long Gladys Cheboiywo and her family used to walk in search of firewood.

"After walking for that long, you would come back home already tired," she recalls. "There was no energy left to do anything else on the farm."

Today, that exhausting routine is part of the past. On her farm in Cheptiot village, Elgeyo Marakwet County, the 47-year-old mother of three has witnessed a remarkable transformation that has improved her family's livelihood, strengthened her children's wellbeing, and inspired other farmers in her community.

Gladys is a farmer who grows crops and keeps livestock, while also participating in a women's group that runs an income-generating activity renting tents. She was selected by her community during a baraza to serve as a lead farmer, helping promote FMNR.

However, before learning about FMNR, farming was never as successful as it is today.

"I never expected FMNR to bring the massive transformation it has brought," Gladys says.

Although there were trees on her land, they were not properly managed and offered little benefit. Grass rarely grew, leaving livestock without enough pasture, and the family often had to spend money buying animal feed and firewood.

Everything began to change when Gladys participated in training provided by World Vision through the Central Rift Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Scale-Up Project (CRIFSUP), funded by the Australian Government. During the training, she learned that FMNR was not complicated but rather a simple technique that relied on managing the trees already growing on the farm.

"After training by World Vision, I realised that FMNR was a simple technique where we could use our locally available resources," she explains

Using the knowledge she gained, Gladys began carefully selecting beneficial tree species and thinning excess shrubs to allow the strongest trees to grow. Soon, the land started to recover.

"After thinning and pruning, indigenous grass started growing in the spaces that were left," she says. "Now our cattle can get sufficient grass to feed on, unlike before when the farm was impassable. We even get surplus pasture to store."

After being trained on holistic pasture management, Gladys constructed larger pasture stores where she now keeps enough fodder to last up to three years.



Instead of cutting down entire trees for fuelwood, Gladys now prunes branches and allows them to dry for cooking. Firewood is readily available, giving her more time to focus on other farm activities. With improved soil health and better farming practices learned through training, Gladys soon began to see a significant increase in crop production.

“I used to harvest 20 bags of maize, but now I get at least 50 bags from the same portion of land,” she says proudly.

Her farm now produces a wide variety of crops, including maize, beans, groundnuts, millet, sorghum, cassava, bananas, vegetables and coffee. She has also planted fruit trees such as pixies, mangoes, guavas, oranges, and pawpaws, which provide both food and income.

The benefits extend beyond crops. Gladys keeps 27 cows, 12 sheep and more than 80 hens, producing milk, eggs and livestock for sale. She has also gained knowledge on identifying early signs of illness in her animals, allowing for timely veterinary care and reducing livestock losses. Her children are also experiencing the change.

“In terms of nutrition, my children are healthier because they now get fruits, vegetables, eggs and cereals,” she explains. “They also have more time to study since we no longer send them to collect firewood.”



Today, Gladys has dedicated 20 acres of her 40-acre farm to FMNR and is actively sharing her knowledge with others. She has already trained 10 neighbouring farmers, seven of whom are now practising the technique.

Gladys' 20-acre portion is among the more than 12,100 hectares of land currently under restoration through FMNR across the four counties of Baringo, Nakuru, West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet, where the CRIFSUP project is being implemented.

After the training, we came back and trained our neighbours,” she says, “Now we are experiencing the benefits together and no one is left behind.”

Seeing others succeed gives her immense satisfaction. Gladys now saves more than KES 10,000 every month that she previously spent on buying firewood and pasture.


She also generates over KES 100,000 annually from selling farm produce, including crops, livestock, milk and honey.

Together with her husband, she carefully budgets the income, using it mainly to pay school fees for their children, meet household needs and invest in their farm.

“When I harvest my fruits,” Gladys says with a smile, “I know my neighbour is also harvesting theirs because I taught them the techniques I learnt.”

She adds: “I am grateful for all the benefits FMNR has brought to our lives, especially the knowledge we gained about better farming practices that have increased our harvests. Through the training, I also learnt that I can reach out to an Agricultural Extension Officer whenever I need support.”

For Gladys, the changes brought by FMNR go beyond improved harvests or income.

“They mean a better future for my children, family and our community,” she says. 



An exchange rate of KES 129.40 for USD 1.00 can be used to obtain an approximate local currency equivalent



*Average tree density (trees/hectare) on communal land across CRIFSUP implementation sites*

**698**



**MARK LOKOTONG'O**  
WEST POKOT COUNTY

The community in Senetwo Sublocation, Chepareria, West Pokot County has witnessed remarkable improvements in their environmental and farming practices since the introduction of the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approach by World Vision. The sublocation that was once characterized by rampant charcoal burning leading to extensive deforestation and land degradation is now enjoying the benefits that come with increased tree cover as a result of environmental conservation.

"We are grateful to God for World Vision," says Mark Lokotong'o, the Assistant Chief of Senetwo Sublocation. "They have greatly benefitted our community by introducing FMNR, which has allowed us to regenerate our forests naturally.

The method teaches farmers that beneath the surface, there are live stumps that can be revitalized. By enclosing and protecting these areas from livestock, trees naturally regenerate, and the forest gradually regrows on its own."

World Vision through the Central Rift Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Scale-Up Project (CRIFSUP) trained over 1,000 smallholder farmers and pastoralists (lead farmers) across four counties (Nakuru, Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot) in Kenya on FMNR and other restoration techniques.

This initiative funded by the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) mandates the lead farmers to each train ten other farmers (replicate farmers) in their village ensuring the widespread uptake of FMNR.

Mark is one of the replicate farmers trained by Samson, a lead farmer and Person living with Disability (PWD), whose remarkable work in tree regeneration has inspired him.

"Samson is a symbol of hope in this community, challenging farmers to do more. His dedication to FMNR is even more impressive considering his circumstances," Mark notes.

According to Mark, FMNR, a simple tree regeneration technique, is a personal journey that has brought tangible results. "I have practiced FMNR on my land and am proud of the progress made. Before, my wife had to travel far to fetch firewood, which often led to conflict in our household, but this has since reduced. My wife now simply walks to our farm, where we've pruned trees as a family and gathers firewood, spending minimal time in the process," he explains.



The introduction of FMNR has also led to a shift in the way the community in Senetwo manages livestock. Previously, they let livestock, particularly goats roam freely but now they are kept within a designated area to prevent them from destroying crops and regenerating trees.

Thanks to improved tree cover and soil regeneration, Mark points out that rivers that were once dry have started to flow again. "Once the rivers dried up, we had to go with our livestock as far as the Ugandan border in search of water," he recalls.

The benefits of FMNR have extended far beyond the environment. The village elder often had to mediate disputes over firewood, but now conflicts have significantly reduced in the area since everyone can access firewood on their farms.

Additionally, there has been an increase in agricultural productivity due to increased soil fertility and reduced soil erosion. "The gulleys that were once deep and dangerous have been filled in, thanks to the trees and grass that now cover the land. We are also building terraces to prevent further soil loss," Mark states, adding that they have had increased crop yields on their farm.

As a passionate advocate for FMNR, Mark desires the approach to be adopted widely, especially in arid and semi-arid areas: "The government should invest more in FMNR, as it has proven to be a sustainable solution, particularly in regions where land degradation is a major challenge."

Mark is filled with gratitude when he ponders the progress his community has made.

"We were once pastoralists, focusing mainly on livestock, but now we have expanded our farming to include crops," he adds with a smile. I no longer see vegetable farming as only a woman's role. I also go to the vegetable farm myself to sow, weed and harvest."

Encouraging his community to adopt a more self-sufficient mindset he says, " Don't spend money buying whatever you can produce on your farm. Grow your own vegetables, maize, rear cattle for milk. Let your money be spent on items you can't grow like sugar or tea leaves."

This mindset has enabled his family to save money and improve their overall well-being.

Mark views himself as an integral part of the Senetwo farming community, leading them by example rather than authority. "I'm not just an Assistant Chief; I am part of these farmers. I live among them and they see me practicing what I preach. This motivates them to double their efforts in restoring and protecting our environment," he explains.

Mark's influence in his sublocation highlights the vital role of administrative and opinion leaders in guiding communities toward an improved quality of life through essential support and knowledge transfer. 🌱





162

Persons Living with Disability trained on FMNR  
(among lead farmers and replicate farmers)



**EMINING SPECIAL SCHOOL  
FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**  
BARINGO COUNTY

Students at Emining Special School for the Visually Impaired in Baringo County have gone above and beyond to show that disability is not an impediment. It all comes out in their enthusiasm, commitment, and love for putting the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) method into practice. When asked why they love their school, the majority of 4K club members answered simply, "Because of FMNR." The pupils feel valued and distinguished because their school was among those chosen in the area to work with World Vision in the implementation of FMNR.

"We are grateful that World Vision has selected us as a partner school to implement FMNR. We do not take this for granted. More often than not, children with special needs are overlooked," says Carolyn Jerono, the Headteacher, Emining Special School for the Visually Impaired.

A 2.8-acre plot of land has been set aside and fenced by the school specifically for the FMNR approach.

Emining Special School for the Visually Impaired has a total of 53 students, consisting of 19 girls and 34 boys. All of the students have some form of visual impairment, which is categorized as partially sighted, low vision, or total blindness.

The causes of their vision impairments vary, with factors such as genetics, accidents, or illnesses like meningitis contributing. Only 6 students were born with vision impairments, while the rest acquired them over time. The age range of the student body at the school spans from 6 to 20 years old.

There are twenty members of the 4K club at the primary school. Children who are partially sighted or have low vision are paired with children who are completely blind to help one another during club activities, academic pursuits, and daily school routines.

Selly Chepyator, the 4K Club patron, trains the children using a variety of methods, such as hands-on exercises, singing, poetry, and using touch to make sure everyone understands, regardless of the nature of visual impairment.

"We use children's manuals given to us by World Vision to teach pupils about five key thematic areas related to FMNR and environmental protection. To ensure students thoroughly grasp the concepts, we incorporate theoretical and practical activities into the lessons," Selly says.

"The 4K club patrons were taken through a training on FMNR and provided with FMNR children's manuals used to train students during club sessions. We regularly visit the schools to monitor the gradual progress made," says Triza Kigen, Project Officer and Agricultural Specialist at CRIFSUP, World Vision Kenya.



Nancy Cheruiyot, the school matron, claims to have seen significant changes in the children's health, social welfare, school environment, and income since inception of the FMNR approach in 2023.

She states, "We can now afford a balanced diet because of FMNR. There are fewer cases of diseases now than there were previously."

Originally intended to be cleared and used for farming, the FMNR farmland that was once abandoned is now a source of holistic benefits for the school. The school has been able to save money that was previously spent on purchasing firewood, since they prune trees in their FMNR farmland. They occasionally had to chop down entire trees to obtain fuelwood. Their goat, which is milked daily and yields one litre of milk that is used to make tea for breakfast, is also fed on the leaves of regenerated trees.

Additionally, their kitchen garden is a source of vegetables which the children enjoy eating. They at times sell the surplus vegetables and use the money to buy meat and fruits. With availability of various sources of nutrients, the students are able to enjoy a balanced diet that builds their strength and health.

"These children are now bright and happy," remarks Zipporah Rono, Senior Teacher and Assistant Environmental Patron at Eminging Special School for the Visually Impaired.

"Many of them get sick in the first few weeks of school, but after a month or so, they rarely visit the hospital, indicating that proper diet has a major role in improving health. Right now, due to the abundant and consistent supply of vegetables grown on the school grounds, pupils are able to eat well, go to bed early, and take their medications on time."

According to the Headteacher, the majority of these children come from extremely low-income families, and some of them occasionally choose to remain in school where they are assured of receiving food and having a social life. "Only 5% of parents can manage to pay the entire KES 5,200 in school fees each term, which is the amount that is expected of them. Since we are unable to send the students back home due to arrears, we make do with what is available," explains Carolyne.

"In addition to the FMNR training, World Vision has provided us with two 5,000-liter water tanks," Carolyne continues, "They have proven crucial in helping to store water needed for irrigating the kitchen garden and other uses within the school compound."

One person who has immensely benefitted from these water tanks is Nancy who used to go a kilometer to and from the river with a 20-liter jerrycan of water on more than five occasions a day.

This water was to be used for bathing the kids, cooking, laundry, and daily consumption. Nancy now has more time and energy as the matron to attend to the needs of the pupils.





Zipporah explains, "We only started a 4K Club in the school after being trained on FMNR. The pupils now have higher self-esteem as a result of these activities. They believe they are capable of making an impact. Particularly when they sell their farm produce."

In the month of April 2024, the school sold 95 Kilograms of vegetables at KES 25 per kilo. With participation of the students and teachers, they agreed to purchase hens and bread with the proceeds.

Zipporah shares an experience of the transferrable skills the students are gaining. She says, "A parent called me once to express gratitude for training the daughter on kitchen gardening. The student went home and planted vegetables in sacks. They will no longer need to buy vegetables. The young girl made an impact in her family. Myself, having learnt from World Vision, I also practice FMNR at home." Zipporah adds,

"Thanks to Australian Aid, we have managed to change the perception of the students toward themselves and that of the community towards our school. Community members now feel challenged and inspired by the amazing work the children do on their FMNR farmland and kitchen garden."

Zipporah and Selly who also teach these students other subjects in the school say that their performance has improved since they are more confident to learn and try out new things.

Zipporah recalls a moment that meant a great deal to the students saying, "Children with Disability are normally segregated. In 2023, World Vision provided the students t-shirts and facilitated them to participate in the World Environment Day celebrations. This highly motivated the pupils who felt like they can be part of the community where they engaged with students from other schools."

The students proactively take it upon themselves to ensure that every individual takes

care of the environment and report any destruction caused to the matron. The students have also attested to pruning trees when they go back home.

Notwithstanding the difficulties that still arise due to limited resources, the ten teachers and support staff in the school view caring for these kids as a calling that they pursue wholeheartedly.

"I sincerely want to appreciate Australian Aid for the good work being done through the donation to World Vision. World Vision is able to reach the needy persons in the society, including children with special needs like the students here. May God bless them for boosting the self-esteem and giving hope to the learners who actually didn't have hope in life," Carolyne states. 🌱



**200**

Average tree density (trees/hectare) on farmland across CRIFSUP implementation sites



**ISAAC CHELAL**  
NAKURU COUNTY

**U**nder the shade of a tree sits Isaac Chelal whose English eloquence is unmistakable as he vividly narrates the story of how the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) approach began when Tony Rinaudo found a regenerating stump in a deserted area with no vegetation in Niger. The 66-year-old farmer does not miss out a detail.

Isaac and his wife Lina Cheruto hail from Metkei Village in Nakuru County where he has set aside and enclosed one-acre of his land for FMNR. He did this in 2022 after being trained on the FMNR approach by World Vision through the CRIFSUP Project.

Isaac used to allow his livestock to freely graze on the farm. However, he claims that following the training, he realized how crucial it was to enclose and divide

his land into cropland and forestland to ensure livelihood resilience and sustainability.

To diversify their sources of income as well as nutrition, Isaac grows sorghum, maize, vegetables among other crops.

In addition to rearing chicken, he grows Boma Rhodes grass on his three-quarters of an acre, which he intends to store for future use as pasture or sell depending on demand. Isaac reveals a tip they learned as children to make sure they had enough food to sustain them for a year following each harvest.

"I apply budgeting in food," he explains, "Every member of my household is required to preserve a minimum of two and a half bags of the produce after harvesting. The two sacks are to make sure my family has food for the entire year, and the other half is to aid others in need or during an emergency."

"FMNR is the cheapest way to restore our lands. It needs no water, is suitable for arid and semi-arid areas, does not need any expertise or technology and all you need to do is to take care of your land," Isaac says.

His extensive knowledge and dedication to the FMNR practice has seen him train and motivate a remarkable 25 farmers in his village who are now actively practicing FMNR.

"I am glad to have trained so many people who are implementing FMNR. That gives me hope that my village will transform. People will no longer steal firewood from others' homesteads because they'll get their own from FMNR," Isaac says. The leafy well-managed trees in the homestead not only serve as a haven for chirping birds

but also as wind breakers, a source of herbal medicine, prevent soil erosion and a source of shade for Isaac's family, friends and livestock when it is scorching hot.


Lina claims that the most significant benefit of FMNR for her family has been reduced soil erosion and improved availability to firewood.

“When soil and crops are carried away by floods, there is no food,” she says, “We used to spend around 7 hours gathering firewood in the forest. You return home exhausted, unable to perform any further tasks, despite the fact that the bunch collected will only last three days before you have to return to the forest. Even children were unable to study after collecting firewood.”

Lina says she now has more time to handle other household chores because firewood is readily available once the trees are pruned. Lina also has an improved energy-saving cookstove that conserves heat, uses less firewood and emits less smoke. Furthermore, the family may now save KES 400 that they occasionally spent on purchasing a bunch of firewood that was used up in seven days.

“Training communities on FMNR and the use of improved energy-saving cookstoves and other technologies ensures that there is less pressure on the trees regenerated in their farms. This is because the improved stoves require significantly less firewood compared to traditional modes of cooking. Additionally, there is reduced exposure to respiratory complications as the stoves emit relatively less smoke,” explains Mary Wambui, Project Officer and Environmental Specialist at CRIFSUP, World Vision Kenya.

“FMNR is about sustainability for future generations. When there are trees, there is increased soil fertility, improved soil structure, as well as high-yielding crops and livestock,” Isaac states with conviction. Isaac is among several farmers in Nakuru County who have developed a positive mindset towards conserving the environment. This mindset change enables farmers to live in harmony with nature, caring for it and enabling them reap holistic benefits thus building their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

World Vision Kenya remains committed to restoring over 4 million hectares of degraded land in Kenya to address climate vulnerabilities that have a detrimental impact on children's and families' livelihoods. 





Hectares of land under restoration through  
FMNR in West Pokot County

**707.98**

**J**ulius Alimakori, a lead farmer from Ywalateke in West Pokot County, has steadily transformed his life—and his community—through climate-resilient farming. As the sole provider for his children and dependents, Julius once struggled with poverty, hunger, and unpredictable harvests. His story mirrors that of nearly 21 million children globally impacted by climate-induced poverty.

Residing in a drought-prone region, Julius relied on maize farming, leaving his land idle and vulnerable to erosion. His annual income of KES 5,000 from maize sales barely sustained his family.

Today, with support from World Vision's CRIFSUP Project, Julius has embraced FMNR and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), creating a diversified, resilient farming system.

“I used to sell livestock to pay school fees,” Julius recalls. “Now, I earn steadily and haven't bought vegetables in two years. World Vision's training made me drought-resilient.”

Julius's 5-acre FMNR plot, once degraded, now produces firewood, fodder, and nutrient-rich grass. His adoption of CSA techniques has boosted his monthly income to KES 8,000, ensuring food security and steady earnings.

A pivotal moment came during an exchange visit to Baringo County, where he met Nancy, an FMNR champion.



**JULIUS ALIMAKORI**  
WEST POKOT COUNTY




Inspired by her farm pond, Julius attempted to build his own but faced challenges with water drainage. World Vision stepped in, constructing a 250,000-litre farm pond equipped with a silt trap, solar-powered pump, 5,000-litre tank, and drip irrigation system.

The system captures surface runoff, prevents erosion, and provides year-round water access. Julius now grows drought-resistant crops like sweet potatoes, cassava, oranges, avocados, and indigenous vegetables. "These crops thrive even in dry seasons," he says.

Julius' farm extends beyond crops. He rears dairy cows fed on nutrient-rich fodder like brachiaria and calliandra.

Milk production has surged from 3 to 10 litres daily, earning him KES 800 per day. Neighbours flock to his farm to buy vegetables, seedlings, and fruit trees—including 600 maradol papaya seedlings sold for KES 18,000 in 2024. "My farm is a resource for the community," Julius explains. "I sell seedlings and advise farmers on sustainable practices."

Julius urges farmers in arid regions to adopt water harvesting and CSA: "Protect the environment, and food security follows." He exemplifies how knowledge and mindset shifts can transform livelihoods.

"The project first empowered our minds," Julius emphasises. "With shared vision, sustainability becomes achievable." 





**95%**

*Proportion of women from the project implementation sites who have increased access to forest products (timber, fuelwood, fodder, non-timber forest products), up from 15% at project inception*



**SALINA KOGEI**  
BARINGO COUNTY

"We thought trees destroyed farms and interfered with the growth of crops," she recalls. "So we cleared them. Only later did we learn the importance of conserving indigenous species after being trained by World Vision."

The decision to cut the trees came at a heavy cost. The land became bare, dry and unproductive. The scorching sun made it impossible to sit outdoors, shade disappeared and farming became a struggle.

That changed in 2022 when Salina received training on FMNR from World Vision. Her perspective shifted completely. With her husband's permission, she immediately set aside three of her five acres for tree regeneration.

Through simple yet powerful practices like pruning, thinning and protecting tree stumps, she began to witness trees that were once cut, regenerate. "All it takes is effort," she says. "Once you have the knowledge, you must put it into practice."

Where deep gullies once existed, she has now built terraces using rocks from her farm to hold soil and water in place. Indigenous trees and grass have regenerated, bringing life back to her homestead. "It was once like a desert, but now we have shade, cool air and even birds nesting in our trees," she says with pride.

The once hostile environment is now welcoming, not only for her family but for the crops and livestock that thrive where nothing could grow before. Before FMNR, her family sometimes went to bed hungry. Today, her flourishing kitchen garden ensures they always have enough food. She grows pawpaws, sweet potatoes, cassava, maize, mangoes, vegetables and tree tomatoes.

"We have never bought vegetables again since the training," Salina says. "Now we eat well and even sell the surplus."

**S**itting under the cool shade of a tree at her homestead in Kasio village, Baringo County, Salina Kogei radiates gratitude. Birds chirp from nests woven in branches that were once cut down, and a gentle breeze sweeps across the land that only a few years ago resembled a desert. For the 46-year-old wife and mother of seven, the transformation of her farm is nothing short of remarkable. It is a story of redemption, resilience and renewed hope made possible through FMNR.

When Salina and her family settled on their land in 2001, it was covered with mature acacia trees. Unaware of their value, they cleared them to make room for crops and to burn charcoal for income. For years, selling charcoal was their only means of survival, though it barely met their basic needs.



This shift has improved her family's nutrition, providing milk, fruits and eggs, a sharp contrast to the days when hunger was constant.

Some of Salina's most painful memories are tied to her livestock. She recalls walking for hours in search of grass or losing cattle to accidents, drought and disease. In 2011, she lost three cows after they fell while grazing from the steep valleys and 5 others due to drought. Later, 14 more died after eating suspected aflatoxin-contaminated fodder bought from the roadside.

Today, her story is different. Her farm now produces abundant fodder for her 12 healthy cows, including Sudan grass that she once nearly uprooted thinking it was a weed. She harvests and stores grass, feeding her livestock using a cut-and-carry method to protect regenerating plants.

“Since I started FMNR, I have never needed to buy grass again,” she says with relief. Her cows are healthier, seldom get sick and provide reliable milk for her family.

Beyond farming, Salina's journey extends to financial empowerment. As a member of the Kasio Savings for Transformation (S4T) group, she saves regularly and accesses loans. In her first cycle, she received KES 38,000, the largest sum she had ever held and KES 43,000 in the second.

“Holding that money for the first time felt like a dream,” she says. “I used it to pay school fees for my children. It made me proud and motivated me to do more.”

The S4T group's savings have helped members invest in education, water tanks, small businesses and household needs. Recently, with World Vision's support, they acquired a hay-grinding machine that they plan to rent out for additional income.

Salina's transformation now inspires others. She has trained ten replicate farmers, six of whom are actively practicing FMNR and the rest keen to conserve their environment. She often says that once one gains knowledge, the rest depends on one's effort and determination to put it into practice.

She is still amazed that what once felt impossible, like seeing napier grass thrive on her farm, is now her everyday reality.

From enduring hunger, long treks for firewood and devastating livestock losses, Salina now enjoys shade, clean air, fertile soil, nutritious food and financial stability.

She has traded the soot of charcoal for the flourishing green of restored land that provides abundance.

“I am grateful to World Vision for how far they have walked with us,” she reflects. “FMNR has given us pasture, fertile soils, firewood and most of all, peace of mind. Now, when I sit under this tree, I just admire the good work I've done on my farm.” 🌿





*Hectares of land under restoration through  
FMNR in Nakuru County*

**371.85**

Idleness is a thing of the past for one 36-year-old farmer, Sally Chebii who comes from Lengenet in Nakuru County, Kenya. When her four children —Brian, George, Shirleen, and Kiprono —are not in school, she spends a lot of time with them on the farm while her husband, Ben, is at work in the city.

Sally is a Lead Farmer who has set aside 2 acres of her land to practice Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), a simple tree regeneration approach that she says has offered her financial freedom among other benefits.



**SALLY CHEBII**  
NAKURU COUNTY

“Before, I was completely dependent on my husband, eagerly waiting for his pay day in order to get money for food, children’s school fees and other necessities. At times it stressed me out and brought conflict between us,” says Sally.

With a beam of satisfaction she adds, “I am no longer stressed and I am proud of myself. I can sell hens, eggs, vegetables or milk if I need some money. I can easily provide basic necessities for the children without having to call their dad who is miles away. We now boost each other financially.”

Immediately after the training in 2022, Sally went home and enclosed 1-acre of land, where she thinned and pruned the once-impassable thorny thicket. On seeing how neat and smart the farm turned out to be, she felt motivated and before the year ended, added one more acre to practice FMNR.

In addition to training her family, Sally has also trained 11 community members who are actively practicing FMNR.

Sally says her husband fully supports the work she does on the farm as this has lessened the economic burden. They have increased their household income and incur less expenses due to the farm produce.

Learning about FMNR reignited Sally’s passion for farming and keeps her occupied as she spends most of her time pruning or tending to her crops and livestock in the farm.

“The environment has become so beautiful. The fresh air in the FMNR farmland makes you feel relaxed. Even grass that was not on the land before started growing. I now get firewood, fencing material, herbal medicine and pasture for my livestock all-year-round,” Sally claims.

Due to the severe drought that Kenya experienced in 2019, Sally was forced to sell three of her cows for the pitiful sum of KES 500 each. The cows were emaciated and would not have lived to see the next rainy season due to lack of pasture and water.

Sally declares, “I now have enough pasture for my cattle, so even if drought struck today, I am confident they will survive. I store the surplus indigenous grass from my farm in preparation for the dry season.”

Three of her five cows are dairy cows, which she milks twice a day to yield eighteen litres. Sally makes at least KES 630 a day selling twelve litres of milk in the morning at KES 40 per litre and three litres in the evening at KES 50 per litre. The remaining 3 litres is left for consumption at home and at times she



Sally grows a variety of crops such as potatoes, maize, sweet potatoes, onions, millet sorghum, black nightshade, kales and spinach. These crops are not only for household consumption but also a source of revenue for her. She makes at least KES 3,000 a month from selling vegetables alone.

Furthermore, Sally has so far sold seven litres of honey for KES 7,000 harvested from the five beehives she received from World Vision in April 2023. With increased access to finances and diversified sources of nutrition, Sally is assured of providing enough nutritious food for her family.

After being trained about World Vision's Savings for Transformation (S4T) model, Sally and other community members formed a savings group that enables them to save money in small amounts, take loans, get emergency funds and

uses it to make traditional fermented milk known as Mursik in the Kalenjini community.

Due to the rising cost of living, a bale of pasture now costs KES 200 instead of the previous KES 70.

"Thankfully, since pasture and firewood are easily accessible in my homestead, I no longer have to spend the money on purchasing these items. Instead of buying, I now sell firewood to those who need it," Sally says.

Sally has 100 hens. She charges KES 650 for a cock, KES 20 for eggs that are ready to hatch, and KES 15 for eggs sold to stores. She sells three-day-old chicks for KES 90 and KES 300 for older ones.

She utilized the money she had saved over time to purchase an incubator, that she now uses to hatch or brood her chicks unlike before where she used to pay for these services.



make profits after a year of saving. Sally received KES 12,000 from the group's first share-out which she used to buy two sheep.

During the one year, Sally was also able to take and repay two loans worth KES 8,000 and KES 10,000 that she used to buy barbed wire and pay school fees respectively. To empower women in her community, she has also formed another S4T group consisting of 25 women.

Sally likens the period before learning about FMNR to living in darkness, stating, "I am grateful to World Vision for training us on FMNR, financial literacy, drought-tolerant

crops, soil and water conservation and taking us on exchange visits that have been eye-opening. I was not doing any of these things before."

Sally was under-utilizing her farm and had never considered having Income Generating Activities (IGAs) from her farm produce until after attending training.

She also purchased a 5,000-litre water tank that she now uses to collect rain water for household consumption.

Sally explains, "I used to store rain water in small containers and once the water was depleted, I could pay someone KES 500 to fill five 20-litre jerrycans with water from the river. This could last only a week."

"I have witnessed great transformation in Sally's life, primarily by her using the resources at her disposal that are at times overlooked by many. We not only train communities on restoring degraded landscapes, but also on identifying unutilized resources and diversifying their sources of income, which is essential for fostering livelihood resilience and sustainability," explains Mary Wambui, Project Officer and Environmental Specialist at CRIFSUP, World Vision Kenya. 🌱





Hectares of land under restoration through  
FMNR in Baringo County

**4390.72**



**MUSA CHEMJOR**  
BARINGO COUNTY

**F**or years, Musa Chemjor's family got by one day at a time, never certain what tomorrow would bring. Whatever he earned from selling livestock or casual farm work would be spent by nightfall. There was a time I could not even save a single shilling," he recalls. "I would borrow from neighbours after spending everything. It was embarrassing and strained our relationships."

That was before World Vision introduced the FMNR and Savings for Transformation (S4T) groups in Barktuny village, Baringo County. The training opened Musa's eyes to a new way of managing money, one built on

discipline, trust and collective progress. "World Vision taught us that small, consistent savings can change things for a family," he says.

Thanks to FMNR, Musa now leases his land and sells surplus crops from his farm, generating an income he can both spend on household needs and save through the S4T group.

He also notes a positive change in the community— reduced alcoholism.

"People are now more focused on their farms, looking for ways to earn from their produce and save through S4T groups, rather than spending on alcohol," he explains.

Musa joined the Tirngongwonin S4T group and started saving modestly. Over time, he learned how to plan, borrow wisely and invest in his farm. "In our first cycle, I saved enough to receive KES 24,000 during the share-out. That was the first time in my life I held such an amount," he says proudly, "I used part of it to buy a cow and the rest to improve my farm." In the second cycle, he earned KES 28,000, which helped him fence his land.

With his savings and access to small loans, Musa no longer worries about emergencies or school fees. "Before, my child could stay home because I didn't have money.

Now, I can pay school fees on time, I even transferred my child to a private school. There is a sense of security for the future because I'm saving," he shares.

The impact has rippled through the community. Group members have started small businesses, purchased livestock, and improved their homes. "There was an old man in our group who was moved to tears when he realized he had saved 10,000 shillings and earned 6,000 in interest," Musa recalls, "He said he had never imagined receiving such money freely in his life."

“It is inspiring to see members take loans of up to 100,000 KES and repay them efficiently,” he adds.

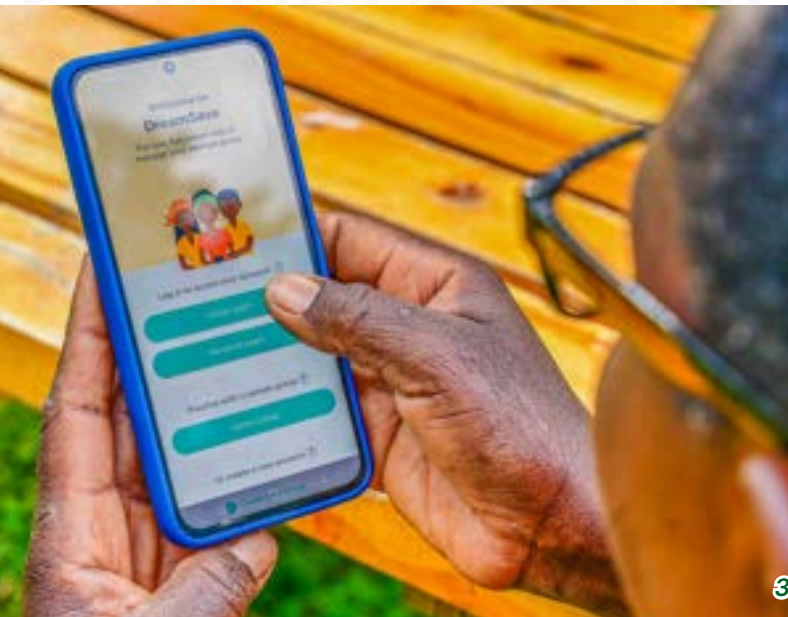
For Musa, S4T has not only improved his finances, it has changed his mindset. "I used to live in poverty, thinking there was nothing I could do. Now I have a saving culture and I'm confident about

the future," he says. "We are moving from surviving to living, from worry to stability."

Musa shares a humorous personal note, "Thanks to S4T, I got a wife." He claims it is because his spouse came to know a version of him that was more responsible and able to sustainably provide for the family.

Looking ahead, Musa plans to expand his farming and save enough to buy a car. "World Vision showed us that the impossible can become possible," he says, "Through saving and hard work, I've learned that our future is truly in our own hands."

Musa's story mirrors the wider transformation taking place across Kenya. Through the S4T groups, now strengthened by the DreamSave application, which enhances financial management, transparency and accountability, members like Musa are transforming their minds, hearts and pockets. Together, they are building a future defined by resilience and financial independence. 🌱





**94%**

Households within CRIFSUP project sites reporting good social cohesion, in comparison to 85% recorded at baseline evaluation



**SELLY KIPSANG**  
BARINGO COUNTY

In the heart of Baringo County, Oterit Kures Village, lives 52-year-old Selly Kipsang, a resilient woman whose jovial nature masks all the adversity she has overcome over the years. If we could put a face to the term perseverance, that would be Selly's.

From battling debt to recovering from personal and financial losses, Selly's story is one that gives hope to the hopeless.

The mother of three has experienced the heartbreak of seeing her firstborn daughter severely burned by hot water at a young age, an event that spiraled into years of hospital visits and mounting bills.

Selly and her husband spent countless nights on an empty stomach and dealt with the devastating loss of livestock and the burden of loans for healthcare and school fees.

When her husband fell ill and required surgery, Selly stepped in as the breadwinner, managing to keep her family going against all odds.

For years, Selly relied on maize farming, but unpredictable weather patterns and poor yields made it a challenging and unprofitable endeavor. She allowed livestock to roam freely across her farmland, but during dry seasons, they struggled due to a lack of pasture.

Selly spent hours cutting trees for fuelwood, all while constantly worrying about how to provide for her cattle.

Selly recalls a time when a severe drought ravaged their livestock. "It was during the dry season, and we had no grass for our 15 cows. We lost all of them except two, which we later sold to pay school fees," she recounts.

With the introduction of FMNR by World Vision in her village in 2022, Selly gained a sense of revival and transformed her farm into a productive parcel, which initially had very little to offer. Alongside her husband, she adopted sustainable farming practices that minimized waste and improved soil fertility.

Selly now has a fenced two-acre plot covered with indigenous grass and pruned trees that provide shade for her seven cows.

She now enjoys a steady supply of firewood and pasture, and unlike before, she has not lost a single cow since adopting FMNR.

Through the training offered, Selly not only improved her farming practices but also strengthened her relationship with her husband.

Selly now enjoys a more peaceful life, where they work together to ensure their family's well-being.

"My husband and I were constantly in conflict. I was always stressed thinking of where to get food, firewood and pasture especially during the dry season," Selly recalls.

Selly's farm now produces a variety of crops, including sweet potatoes, cassava, pumpkins, pawpaws, and beans, which provide both income and a healthy, balanced nutrition for her family.

Additionally, she has learned to store surplus grass and use holistic pasture management techniques to prevent wastage. Selly is also an active member of an S4T group where she can save and grow her money as well as take low-interest loans for personal and business developments.

"The S4T groups have been beneficial to our community. At least we have somewhere to run to when we have emergencies or pressing needs such as illness or school fees. We can access money from the group's social fund, something we never had before," Selly explains.

With an increased household income, Selly can now afford to purchase other necessities beyond what she produces on her farm. She is also able to pay off some of the institutional debts that have lingered for years. "I believe that I will clear all my debts and get back on track to develop my homestead further," Selly says with a grin, "The valuable Knowledge I have gained from World Vision has changed my life."

Selly hopes to increase her acreage of land under FMNR and make improvements that will secure her family's future. Upon clearing her loan repayment, she plans to install gutters and a larger water tank to harvest more water for use in her homestead and her crops. 🌱





*% of women and men across CRIFSUP implementation areas with supportive attitudes towards women's economic participation, a 23% increase from project inception*

**75%**



**ELIZABETH CHEBOI &  
PHILIP CHESANG**  
ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

In the hilly Orapsang' village of Elgeyo Marakwet county, a remarkable transformation has taken place. The once-strained marriage of Elizabeth Cheboi and Philip Chesang now stands as a beacon of peace, purpose, and prosperity.

"Before, there was a lot of quarrelling," recalls Abraham Kiplagat, Elizabeth and Philip's son. "My father used to make decisions alone."

Elizabeth's days were overwhelmed with responsibilities. As a replicate farmer implementing the FMNR approach, she simultaneously managed a small business, ran the household, raised three children, and shouldered the burden of paying school fees. All while feeling desperately alone.

Philip, unemployed and struggling with alcoholism, remained distant and disengaged from their family's development. "I would leave home early in the morning and return in the afternoon, having wasted valuable time," Philip admits of his past. His habits drained both time and resources from their struggling family. Sometimes, the family even went to bed hungry.

Everything changed in 2023 when the couple attended the Gender Inclusive Financial Literacy Training (GIFT) offered by World Vision's Central Rift Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Scale-Up Project (CRIFSUP).

"We learnt about budget planning, the roles of women and men," Elizabeth shares. "Before, I had so many responsibilities, whilst my husband had very few. After the training, we sat down and decided to work together."

The training provided more than financial management skills—it offered a new understanding of gender roles, partnership, and shared responsibility within the home.

"Philip began helping with tasks traditionally considered "women's work" in their community—milking cows, cooking, caring for the children, and managing livestock.

"Traditionally, women were expected to care for children, fetch water and firewood, cook, clean the home and wash clothes. Men had fewer roles that mostly included herding and protecting the homestead, after which they were free to go out socialising," Philip explains. "Now, I can take care of any of these tasks when my wife is busy or unwell. It's about working together."

These changes didn't go unnoticed in the community. "Many accused me of using charms on my husband because he was taking up chores designated for women," Elizabeth recalls with a smile. But Philip remained steadfast. "I ignore them because I know the benefits my family is getting."


Where conflict once ruled, harmony now flourishes. The couple's balanced workload has created a stable, loving environment where their children thrive. Together, they budget, plan, and save for their children's education whilst investing in livestock and developing greater visions for their household.



"What brings me the greatest joy," Abraham adds, "is the unity at home. It brings joy, success, and prosperity to the family."

Elizabeth's message to other families reflects their journey: "Love and peace in the home are more important than anything else. With constant conflict, there is no progress. But with love, homes can succeed in all their work."

Thanks to funding from the Australian Government, over 100 couples across Baringo, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, and West Pokot Counties have received GIFT training.

Elizabeth and Philip's journey serves as an inspiring example of how collaboration between couples can build stronger partnerships, improve household livelihoods and nurture the well-being of their children—creating a legacy of unity that extends far beyond their home. 

Their first joint investments after the training included a goat (which has since multiplied) and a dairy cow that provides daily income through milk sales. Their farm now produces enough food not only for their family but also to share with neighbours.

Today, Elizabeth and Philip embrace transparency and teamwork. Their son Abraham has witnessed the change firsthand: "Now, they plan together and at times consult us children."

“We now have food in abundance,” Philip says proudly. “Before, we could sleep hungry. Now, no visitor leaves without eating.”

The transformation was deeply personal for Philip, who quit drinking and smoking after the training. “I realised I was going at a loss,” he reflects. “Now I use that time for farming and caring for my family.”





80

*Out-of-school youth supported to acquire artisanal skills including beekeeping, animal production and sustainable agriculture.*



**NATHAN KIPYEGO**  
ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

In Kapterit village, Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya, we witness the inspiring journey of Nathan Kipyego, a father and former casual laborer, whose transformation began not with wealth or privilege, but with a seed of opportunity and the determination to thrive. Today, he is a changemaker, rewriting his story and uplifting his community along the way.

“For years, I survived on casual jobs,” Nathan recalls. “No steady income, no clear direction. Every day was a struggle.” Nathan knew what it meant to work hard, but without access to sustainable opportunities, hard work rarely translated into meaningful progress.

In May 2023, Nathan, was selected to attend a beekeeping artisanal training at Baraka College through support from World Vision’s CRIFSUP Project. What seemed like a simple skills training opened up a whole new world for him.

“I learned how to make Kenya Top Bar Hives (KTBH) and Langstroth hives, how to manage an apiary, harvest honey and even time management, something I hadn’t given much thought before,” Nathan says. “That training planted a seed in me.”

Though he didn’t jump into action right away, Nathan spent the following months reflecting, planning, and preparing for his next steps. By December 2023, he was ready.

Together with a few others, Nathan formed a small group focused on beehive production and apiary services. They didn’t just construct beehives, they became beekeepers themselves. Today, Nathan owns 17 hives and has helped establish a flexible, community-focused business model.

“Clients can bring their materials and pay a modest fee of KES 1,000 per hive for labor, or we can provide a full-service package at KES 5,000. For lead farmers like myself, we offer a subsidized rate of KES 4,000,” Nathan explains.

“Beekeeping work has transformed my life in ways I never imagined,” Nathan proudly shares, “I no longer depend on casual jobs. I can feed my family, pay my son’s school fees and save for the future.”

Nathan’s vision stretches beyond his own home. His group now offers training and support to other beekeepers, especially local youth looking for direction and income.

“We want to grow. We dream of setting up a workshop and investing in a woodwork machine,” he explains.

“Right now, we spend too much on timber preparation and transport. With our own machine, we’ll save time, money, produce more and expand the business faster.”

That dream is already taking root. Nathan has engaged the County Government and secured land for the future workshop. What started as a personal transformation is becoming a community movement.

Beekeeping has deepened Nathan’s connection to the land. As a youth lead farmer practicing FMNR, he is committed to conserving trees and protecting bees.

The trees provide a conducive cool climate favorable for apiculture while the bees play a key role, helping pollinate crops and guarding regenerating trees. It’s a win-win: income for families and restoration for nature.

“Thanks to World Vision’s training, I even shifted from conventional long-term crops to short-term, high-yield options,” he says, “Despite the harsh dry season, I still harvested three sacks of beans — something I never thought possible.”



*i* With funding from the Australian Government, Nathan’s youth group received an electric woodworking machine in 2025, enabling them to produce beehives more quickly and efficiently than when the work was done entirely by hand.



*%Households reporting increased income compared to 15% recorded at baseline evaluation across the project implementation sites*

**68%**

**W**hen Sophia Korir first learned about making briquettes from farm by-products, it felt like a revelation. The very trees that she once burned for charcoal and her once-barren farmland could now be preserved, while still providing her with a sustainable source of income and clean energy.

“Before, we used to cut down big trees to burn charcoal,” Sophia recalls, “Now we make briquettes from pruned branches after being trained by World Vision about sustainable charcoal production. We preserve our trees and still get the fuel we need.”

In 2024, Sophia’s group began producing briquettes manually from FMNR by-products such as twigs, branches and leaves collected after pruning trees. The materials are burned to make ash, which is then mixed with cow dung or flour to form energy-efficient briquettes.

**SOPHIA KORIR**  
ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY



“The leaves that we don’t use for briquettes we usually leave them on the farm to decompose and enrich the soil,” Sophia says. “Nothing goes to waste.”

Although their production is still in small-scale, the group has been able to earn up to KES 50,000 from local sales. With a goal of purchasing a briquette-making machine that will boost efficiency and expand supply, the group saves their profits in a Savings for Transformation (S4T) group where their money can earn interest.

According to Fiska Kemboi, Elgeyo Marakwet County’s Environmental Officer, this shift from charcoal burning to briquette production is a game-changer, redefining how rural communities relate to their environment.


“We now have groups making briquettes instead of burning charcoal,” Fiska says, “This helps conserve our trees while creating new income streams. It’s an alternative source of energy that is lifting our communities.”

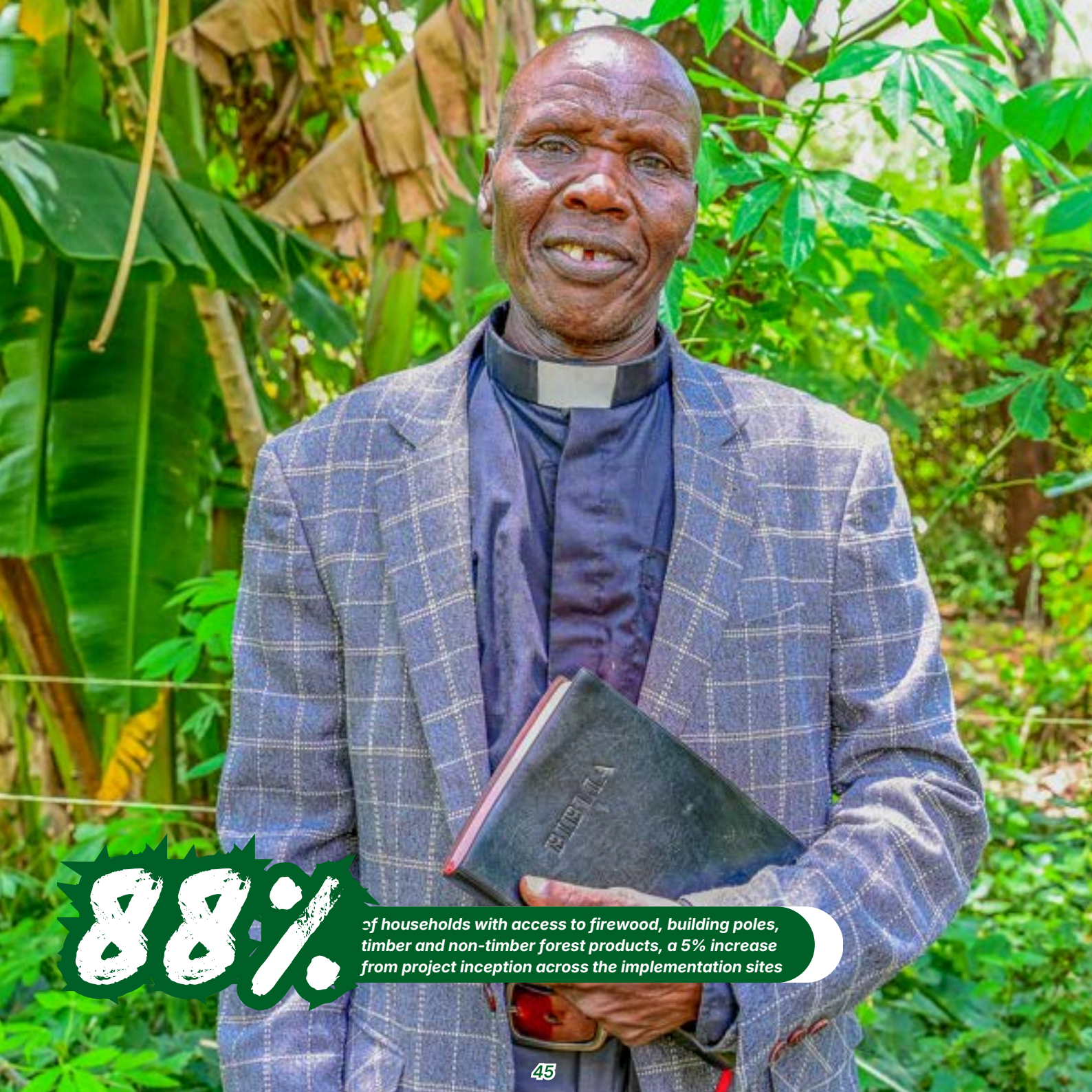
For a region prone to landslides, bushfires, and forest encroachment, every briquette sold represents a step towards safety, restored land, and a more resilient environment.

Fiska notes that the success of briquettes is built on strong community foundations initiated by World Vision like S4T and Gender Inclusive Financial Literacy Training (GIFT), which reduce household conflict and promotes joint decision-making.



“We have seen a shift in mindset,” Fiska adds, “Families are now working together, saving together and building cleaner, greener futures together,”

Sophia has a clear vision for a transformed Orapsang Village, one with more trees and thriving livelihoods. With her passion for FMNR and environmental conservation, she is not only protecting her land but also spreading the knowledge to inspire action among other community members. 



**88%**

of households with access to firewood, building poles, timber and non-timber forest products, a 5% increase from project inception across the implementation sites



**PASTOR WILSON KILIMO**  
ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

In the village of Koitilial, Arror location, Elgeyo Marakwet County, lives Pastor Wilson Kilimo, a small-scale farmer, spiritual leader, and passionate environmentalist. His farm that was once considered barren and unsuitable for agriculture, is now a thriving model of regeneration and abundance, all thanks to the practice of FMNR which he began in 2021.

“People laughed when I bought this land,” Pastor Wilson recalls. “Since the 1960s, no one believed anything could grow here. But through FMNR, I’ve transformed it into a food basket.”

On his eighth-of-an-acre plot, Wilson now grows a wide variety of crops including bananas, cassava, sugarcane, red cayenne peppers, variety of mangoes, vegetables, and sweet potatoes. These not only feed his family but earn him income that helps pay school fees for his children.

From an initial investment of KES 5,000 that he used to prepare and transform his land, the farm has yielded over KES 500,000 in profit.

“I no longer buy food,” Wilson proudly shares, “We have enough here and breakfast now comes from cassava or sweet potatoes grown on the farm instead of buying bread.” Every month, Wilson earns at least KES 30,000 from selling his farm produce.

FMNR has brought more than just food to Wilson’s homestead. He speaks passionately about the birds that have returned to his trees, playing vital roles in seed dispersal, crop diversity and biodiversity. “They are my alarm clock,” he says with a smile, “Every morning at 6 a.m., one pecks at my window. Thanks to them, I have crops like tomatoes, black nightshade and even neem tree.”

Through trainings by World Vision’s CRIFSUP Project, Pastor Wilson embraced not only FMNR but also Empowered Worldview, learning

about climate-smart agriculture, disaster preparedness, and economic resilience. He now mentors others and has trained over 15 replicate farmers in his community, of whom seven are actively practicing FMNR.

One of them is Evans Kiplagat, his neighbor and church congregant.

“We met in church where he first taught us about FMNR,” says Evans. “He later came to my homestead and helped me start practicing FMNR. Now, I have over 30 indigenous trees and 40 mango trees. We no longer cut down trees aimlessly and burn charcoal. Now, I use pruned branches for firewood and sell honey from beehives placed on the indigenous trees.”





Another farmer, Shavine Cherop, reflects on the profound change FMNR has brought to her land and family.

“Before, our land was rocky and infertile. We used to walk three hours uphill to find firewood. Now, we prune and dry branches from our trees at home. We have enough food from the farm such as bananas and cassava that are healthy for my two children. I also sell the surplus to earn income for my household. As women, we feel empowered.”


The transformation stretches beyond individual farms. Maximilla Kanda, CRIFSUP Project Officer, World Vision, highlights how the FMNR practice is reshaping the region, “This area was

degraded. Now, after FMNR, there's increased tree cover, better air quality and improved yields. We've trained farmers on FMNR, soil and water conservation, Integrated Pest Management, savings groups and more, all aimed at building more resilient communities.”

The County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet, through officers like Justus Kemboi, Agricultural Officer, Aror Ward has joined hands with World Vision to scale FMNR's impact.

“FMNR has reduced insecurity by shifting focus from cattle rearing to food production. Malnutrition in children dropped from 26% to 5% thanks to kitchen gardens introduced through FMNR. We want every homestead to have at least 10 trees and are working to make the entire Aror Ward green by 2030,” says Justus

Pastor Wilson is already contributing to that vision. In addition to his eighth-of-an-acre plot, he has set aside 5 acres of land for regeneration, fitted with 12 beehives, further diversifying his income through honey production. This is restored hope for the community in Aror; for regeneration and for improved living standards.

Referring to a quote from the Bible in Genesis 1:26, Pastor Wilson reflects, “God created man in His own image, a man who would manage His creation. Trees, plants, animals and all that is around us. Man was brought to protect and care for this environment.” 



6,104

Females (among lead farmers and replicate farmers) trained on FMNR

**W**hen you arrive at Rose Kiptoo's home in Cherebes village, it is hard to imagine that just a few years ago, this same land was bare, rocky and struggling to sustain life. Today, it is filled with thriving crops, trees, livestock and a steady sense of purpose. At 43, Rose is a farmer, a mother of three and a woman who speaks with clarity and confidence about every step of her journey. But this transformation did not come easily.

"Before, our land was bare and rocky with no vegetation," she recalls. "We never thought anything could grow on this land." Like many families in the area, Rose and her husband, Boaz, depended on unstable sources of income. At one point, between 2019 and 2021, charcoal burning became their main source of livelihood.

"We used to burn charcoal. We could cut down trees or buy trees from others to burn," she says. "We could sell a sack at 300 shillings, but this was a hustle because by the time you sold it, you would have been involved in a chase with the authorities, as this was illegal."

Even with all this effort, life remained difficult. The family mostly bought food, unaware that their own land could sustain them. "We didn't have the knowledge of growing crops like cassava, sweet potatoes or beans. We believed they couldn't grow on our farm," Rose explains.

Accessing firewood was another daily burden. Sometimes, it meant walking up to 16 kilometers or even risking shame. "I recall a time I was caught stealing firewood and warned to never do it again," she says with a light laugh.

Everything began to shift in 2022 after Rose and her husband were introduced to the FMNR approach. Selected as a lead farmer, Rose not only received training but also passed on the knowledge to her husband.

"Immediately after the training, I came to implement what I was taught," she says.

With limited water and challenging soil, Rose started small but remained determined. "I decided to plant mangoes and pawpaws. It was difficult to get water, but I was committed. I could fetch a little water from time to time to ensure the trees survived."

Together with Boaz, they fenced their land to protect it from destruction by livestock and began restoring it step by step. They set aside space for pasture, introduced crops and adopted practices such as intercropping and terracing.

Boaz reflects on the shift, not just in farming, but in mindset, after attending the Gender Inclusive Financial Literacy Training (GIFT): "Before being trained, I could make decisions on farming without even involving my wife, but after the training we learnt that it is beneficial to share ideas. We are now more organized with our finances and investments."



**ROSE KIPTOO**  
ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY





What started as small, deliberate actions soon grew into remarkable change. Pawpaws, which mature quickly, became their first steady source of income, now having over 1,200 pawpaw trees. "I started selling them at the local market, getting at least KES 600 in a week," Rose recalls. Over time, this grew exponentially. "In 2025, I made over KES 800,000 over a period of seven months from selling pawpaws alone."

The farm expanded in both scale and diversity. They harvested 120 bags of maize in 2024, earning significant income, and continued with strong yields the following year. Groundnuts brought in KES 260,000, while tomatoes generated over KES 500,000 in just one year.

"With every coin earned, we invested it in one of our projects," Rose says.

Their livestock also flourished. "We collect 13 litres from two dairy cattle and sell 10 litres daily," she explains. Today, the family owns 13 cows, 50 goats, and 100 hens, alongside a thriving poultry business supplying chicks weekly.

At least I now have money, unlike before," Boaz adds. "I no longer struggle to pay school fees for my children."

The environmental transformation is just as striking. Indigenous trees now regenerate across their land, providing shade, improving soil fertility and restoring water availability. "Before, rivers started drying up, but now we are getting water after people started conserving trees in the hills as well as here in the valley," Rose explains.


They no longer struggle for firewood, relying instead on pruned branches from their own farm. "A bunch of firewood that I could consume within two days, I now use for one week," she says, referring to her energy-saving cookstove that uses significantly less firewood.

Beyond income and environment, the changes have reshaped their family life. Their daughter Michelle has felt the impact deeply.

"Practicing FMNR has saved me more time that I used to spend going to fetch firewood," she says. "I get more time to study. My performance has improved."

She also treasures moments that were once impossible. "Now we can even get time to rest and spend leisure time as a family. I love that we can spend time with my mum having girl talk conversations."

From an initial three acres, the family has expanded to 12 acres, setting aside two acres solely for FMNR while integrating FMNR and crop farming on the rest, with plans for even more growth. The couple was even able to upgrade to a permanent house and are currently constructing rental houses, funded entirely through farm income.

"We were committed to this goal, and we stuck to it," Rose says. Looking back, she sees the journey as more than just economic progress, it is about dignity, knowledge and transformation. 



This work was made possible through the support of Australian Aid and the dedication of World Vision staff, partners, and local leaders who worked alongside communities to restore their land and livelihoods. Above all, we recognize the farmers, families, schools and communities whose resilience, determination and commitment to change continue to transform both landscapes and lives.

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