

**RARE
VRIENDEN**

2025

ANNUAL

REPORT

Official
ANBI
Status

**Together
for Change**

Every story shared is a life
touched. This year, your
support made all the
difference.



**Rare Vrienden Foundation -
Kilifi, Kenya**





Rare Vrienden Foundation 2025 | Annual report

I. General Information

Address:	Oudegracht 21, 1381 CG Weesp, The Netherlands
Board Members:	Eric Smaling (Chairman) Jonathan Mativo (Manager of the CBO Friends of River Rare.) Tineke van Bergen (Treasurer) Andre de Jager (Secretary)
Date of Incorporation:	25-01-2024
Chamber of Commerce (KvK) No.:	92757391
RSIN (Tax) No.:	866162689
Email:	info@rarevrienden.org
Website:	www.rarevrienden.org



Objectives

The Foundation's core principles are to contribute to poverty reduction and development opportunities for women and girls in the coastal region of Kenya, with a possible expansion to elsewhere in East Africa. Specifically, the Foundation focuses on two goals:

1. Financing secondary education for girls from poor families.
2. Financing small-scale, irrigated agricultural projects to provide women in the region with sustainable work and income.

N.B. Objectives reflect 2024–2025 and will be updated soon to reflect our expanded approach.

ANBI

The foundation holds official ANBI status (Public Benefit Organization) in the Netherlands. This ensures that donations are tax-deductible according to Dutch tax regulations.

Remuneration Policy

In compliance with ANBI requirements, all board members serve on a strictly voluntary basis and receive no salary, attendance fees, or reimbursement for personal expenses.

II. Results 2025

In 2025 Rare Friends Foundation (Rare Vrienden) contributed to the following projects:

1. Scholarship Program
2. Women Empowerment in Vocational Skills
3. Nyari Digitization
4. Culinary Program
5. Sosoni Irrigation Farming Project
6. Poultry Program
7. Coconut & Value Chain- Yococo

1. The Rare Vrienden Scholarship Program

In 2025, we strategically expanded our scholarship program to reach more bright but vulnerable girls from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds — girls who, without intervention, were at serious risk of dropping out of school, early pregnancy, exploitation, or being trapped in cycles of poverty with little chance of recovery.

By adding 13 new scholars to the program, we are now supporting 7 girls at the high school level to protect and strengthen their foundational education, alongside 6 students enrolled in Universities and Technical Colleges.

This dual-focus approach ensures that we are not only keeping young girls in school during their most vulnerable years, but also helping older scholars gain the specialized degrees, technical certifications, and practical skills needed to enter the professional workforce, become financially independent, and eventually lead and uplift their communities.



Academic Level	New Enrollments (2025)	Intended Output
High School	7 Students	Ensuring secondary completion and reducing school drop-outs.
University & Technical	6 Students	Professional degree attainment and specialized career readiness.
Total New Intake	13 Vulnerable Girls	Expanding the pipeline from basic education to professional life.

2. Women Empowerment in Vocational Skills

In 2025, the GalFundi(*Women in Construction*) initiative expanded its vocational reach by launching a specialized tiling program exclusively for young women, aimed at breaking gender barriers in the construction industry.

This hands-on training focused on precision, practical techniques, and professional site conduct for 20 participants. The program achieved a high success rate, with 15 women completing the full curriculum.

The transition to the workforce has been immediate and impactful, with 10 graduates already actively engaged in paid tiling projects, proving the market viability of women in specialized construction trades.



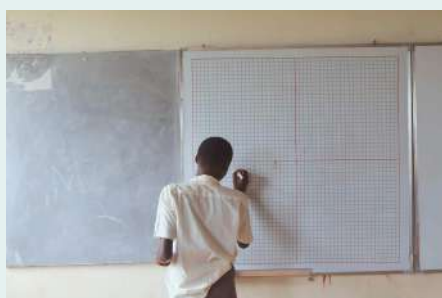
Metric	Total	Outcome Breakdown
Total Enrolled	20	Target group of young women entering construction trades.
Graduation Success	15	75% completion rate for rigorous technical training.
Direct employment	10	66% of graduates secured paid work in active projects.
Phase 1 Completion	100%	Successfully added Tiling to Aluminium and Painting modules.

3. The Nyari Initiative: Digitization & Educational Enhancement (Phase I)

In 2025, the Nyari Digitization and Improved Learning Initiative (Phase I) made its first concrete step toward narrowing the digital divide in local classrooms. We equipped every classroom with high-quality whiteboards and introduced a central digital hub consisting of a projector, laptop, and dedicated solar power system, enabling a shift from purely lecture-based teaching to more interactive learning.

Alongside the infrastructure upgrade, we strengthened core learning support by providing textbooks and revision materials to improve exam readiness, and delivering basic IT skills training to both teachers and students to build foundational digital literacy.

To address equity gaps directly, we also provided full school uniforms for 10 girls, ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent consistent school attendance or academic progress.



Type of Support	Description	Output Achieved
Classroom Modernization	All Classes Whiteboarded	Replaced chalkboards with high-visibility whiteboards.
Digital Suite	1 Laptop + Projector	Enabled multimedia lessons for the entire school body.
Sustainable Power	1 Solar Power System	Guaranteed 24/7 energy for digital tools, independent of the grid.
Academic Depth	Revision + Supplementary Books	Increased student-to-textbook ratio for critical exam preparation.
Girls Education	10 Full School Uniforms	100% retention rate for targeted vulnerable students this term.

4. Culinary Arts: Cooking Skills Training

In 2025, we launched a vocational program targeting 22 youth (17 boys and 5 girls) to bridge the gap between skill-building and employment.

The curriculum provided comprehensive training in professional cooking, etiquette, plating, juicing, and customer service.

Out of the cohort, 15 students successfully graduated, with immediate post-training outcomes already showing strong market demand: one graduate has secured permanent employment as a professional chef, while a few others are actively engaged in part-time work within the hospitality sector.



Metric	Total	Outcome Breakdown
Total Enrolled	22	17 Boys, 5 Girls
Graduation Success	15	11 Boys and 4 Girls completed the full course.
Full-Time Placement	1	1 Graduate hired as a permanent cook.
Active Employment	8	6 Boys and 2 Girls engaged in part-time roles.

5. Sosoni Women's Irrigation Farming Group

In 2025, the Binti Kilimo (*Women in Farming*) initiative launched a climate-smart agribusiness project in Sosoni, along Rare River, empowering 10 women farmers to pivot from traditional crops to high-yield watermelon cultivation.

This strategic shift was a direct response to unpredictable weather patterns that had made traditional maize farming unreliable. By focusing on land preparation, irrigation, and pest control, the project successfully demonstrated that watermelon is a resilient, climate-aligned alternative for the region.

Beyond the harvest, the project provided vital market linkages, ensuring that increased productivity translated directly into improved household income and food security for the participants.



Metric	Total	Outcome Breakdown
Active Farmers	10 women	10 female-led households transitioned to resilient agribusiness.
Crop Resilience	100 % Pivot	Successfully replaced failing traditional crops with high-yield watermelons.
Skills Mastery	Technical Training	100% of participants trained in irrigation and land management.
Status	Scaling Phase	Project is currently looking ways to expand through continuous support and follow-ups.

6. Women Empowerment Through Poultry Raising

This initiative focuses on transforming 10 local households through sustainable agribusiness.

- **The Framework:** Each woman received comprehensive infrastructure (housing) and a three-batch startup kit (30 chicks total) to ensure a continuous production cycle.
- **Adaptation & Oversight:** To address early biological challenges and mortality rates, the foundation implemented a rigorous M&E framework. This addition has provided participants with real-time feedback and veterinary guidance.
- **Current Status:** The project is now entering a stabilization phase. With improved bio-security measures in place, these entrepreneurs are successfully managing their flocks and building the foundations for long-term financial security.



Component	Target	Intended Output
Direct Beneficiary	10 Local Women	10 female-led households now equipped with permanent agribusiness assets.
Infrastructure	10 Poultry Houses	High-quality, predator-proof housing built to ensure animal safety.
Resource Input	300+ Chicks	Distributed in 3 cycles + replacements to manage risk and teach growth stages.
Technical Oversight	1 M&E Officer	100% of farms now receive professional monitoring and data-driven support.

7. Coconut & Value Chain- Yococo Yogurt

Led by two visionary Master's students from Pwani University, Yococo is our most ambitious youth and women's empowerment project to date, focusing on transforming local coconut resources into high-value yogurt products.

Currently in Phase II, the project is dedicated to technical optimization, specifically improving product formulation and extending shelf life to meet international quality standards. Once these technical milestones are achieved, Phase III will initiate formal registration with KEBS (Government body that ensures quality and safety), unlocking a sustainable value chain where local women will both supply the raw coconut materials and drive the local distribution network as we aim to reach Base-of-the-Pyramid consumer in the markets around Kilifi. While it remains our most challenging initiative, Yococo represents the future of localized industrialization and large-scale economic impact.



Project Phase	Focus Area	Impact Goal
Current Status	Phase II: Product Optimization	Refining shelf life and quality to ensure market competitiveness.
Technical Lead	2 Masters Students	Leveraging academic expertise for community-based industrialization.
Future Outlook	Phase III: KEBS Certification	Formalizing the product for large-scale retail and distribution.
Empowerment Model	Full Value Chain	Sourcing from local women producers and creating a "hawker" retail network.

2025 Partnership Spotlight

Strategic Partnership: School Refurbishment Initiative



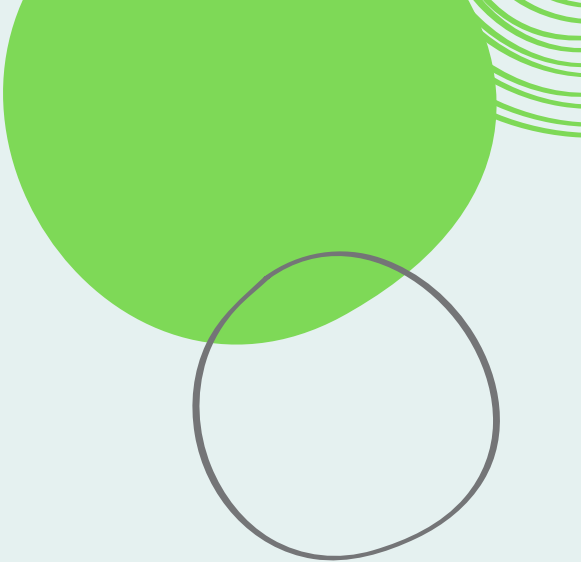
Collaborator: IMARIKA Foundation

Location: Vipingo, Kilifi County

In 2025, the Rare Vrienden Foundation successfully completed a joint community service program in partnership with the IMARIKA Foundation. This initiative brought together a diverse cohort of both boys and girls, providing them with a platform for teamwork, civic responsibility, and practical skills development.

The highlight of the program was the collaborative effort to repaint and refurbish a local school in Vipingo. This project did more than just improve the learning environment for hundreds of students; it fostered a sense of ownership and pride within the youth participants who led the work.

The venture was a resounding success, demonstrating the power of local partnerships to create immediate, visible impact. The Rare Vrienden Foundation highly encourages and looks forward to similar strategic collaborations in the future to further our shared goals of community upliftment.



III. Conclusion: A Year of Foundational Growth

In 2025, the Rare Vrienden Foundation successfully transitioned from providing immediate assistance to building sustainable, community-owned ecosystems. By aligning our initiatives with the specific needs of Kilifi—whether through climate-smart watermelon farming, breaking gender barriers in construction, or leveraging academic expertise for the Yococo coconut value chain—we have proven that targeted investment leads to measurable independence.

This year's progress is reflected in the 13 scholars now pursuing their academic dreams, the 20+ youth who have transitioned from training to active employment, and the 10 women entrepreneurs who have stabilized their livelihoods through resilient agribusiness.

At the core of every initiative is a long-term vision: equipping young people with practical skills, confidence, and the foundational tools needed to sustain themselves independently. Beyond income generation, these programs are designed to strengthen self-esteem, restore dignity, and empower participants to take up meaningful roles within their communities.

As we move into 2026, we remain committed to Phase II and III developments across our project portfolio. We thank our partners and donors for their continued trust; together, we are not just funding projects, but actively cultivating a future of self-reliance, professional excellence, and community-driven growth.

IV. Looking Ahead: Strategic Goals for 2026

As we conclude a year of foundational success, our focus shifts toward scaling impact and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our projects. In 2026, we aim to transition from establishment to optimization, ensuring that every initiative reaches its full potential for community transformation.

Project	Strategic Objectives
Nyari Digitization	Establishing a fully functional computer lab and increasing solar capacity to support expanded digital learning.
Women Poultry Project	Scaling production to enter the local commercial market for eggs and cockerels.
Scholarship Program	Expanding the cohort to include more high school and university scholars.
Culinary Arts- Cooking	Launching a new training group while providing advanced skill refinement for our current graduates.
GalFundi (Construction Trades)	Diversifying vocational training with the introduction of a new Carpentry Project.
Sosoni Farm Project	Implementing year-round land utilization strategies to overcome climate volatility.
Yococo Yogurt Value Chain	Completing Phases II and III to transition fully into large-scale production and KEBS-certified retail.



V. Financial Overview & Revenue

The 2025 fiscal year was a period of notable growth. We transitioned from a starting reserve of **€2,700** to a year-end balance of **€22,200**, driven by **€73,000** in total income against **€54,000** in expenditures. Funding was sourced entirely from personal donations and one major donation by a sister foundation. They were all linked to the high school/ university sponsoring program or through less or unearmarked donations, two of which surpassed **€5000**.

Three sponsors signed 'periodic donation' forms, securing donations for a 5-year period, whereas some others send monthly donations. A Painting course in Vipingo was co-funded by Imarika Sacco Foundation.

Educational support

In 2025, we supported 23 high school girls and 8 university students. Academic excellence was a highlight, with two graduates achieving final grades of A- and B. Annual costs per student are maintained at **€350** for day school, **€650** for boarding school, and **€950** for university.

Project Investments and Infrastructure

Beyond sponsorships, the Foundation prioritized sustainable infrastructure and vocational growth. Key investments included:

- **Infrastructure:** A solar water pump for the Sosoni vegetable program and solar panels, laptops, and projectors to upgrade Nyari Highschool.
- **Programs:** Startup funding for Poultry and Coconut-to-Yoghurt initiatives, cooking training for 20 boys, and new video equipment for Rare Vrienden communications.

Operational Efficiency

We maintain a lean administrative model where Foundation members and the local manager in Kilifi serve as unpaid volunteers. To scale our impact, we hired three Kenyan professionals (ages 20s–30s) to handle monitoring, evaluation, and communications. Total annual staffing costs were approximately **€3,000**, while transaction and website fees were kept to **€800**.





VI. Statement of Board Approval

The Board of the Rare Vrienden Foundation hereby formally approves the 2025 Annual Report. This document accurately reflects our financial standing, project milestones, and the progress made toward our mission of empowering women and youth in Kilifi. We remain dedicated to the transparent and sustainable development of the communities we serve and look forward to the continued expansion of our impact in 2026.

VII. Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move into 2026, Rare Vrienden Foundation remains committed to expanding opportunities for vulnerable children, youth, and women through education, vocational training, food security, and community empowerment. With the continued support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and local communities, we look forward to deepening our impact and building more sustainable futures together.



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[Friends of River Rare](#)

