The Social Capital Impact Assessment

The Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets (PRISM) Project in Rwanda

ASIGMA

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Affirmation: This report consists of work that was undertaken to evaluate the contribution of the VBHCD model to the overall achievement of the objectives of the PRISM project. The primary quantitative and qualitative data collected during the assessment remain the property of Heifer International Rwanda and the PRISM project implementing partners.

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Executive Summary

Overview of the PRISM Project

The PRISM project is a five-year project (2021-2026) whose overall objective is to reduce poverty by empowering poor rural men, women, and youth to actively participate in the transformation of Rwanda's livestock sector. The aim is to increase competitiveness and profitability of the small livestock sector by enabling smallholder producers to provide quality products to domestic and regional markets, thereby improving their livelihoods, food security, resilience and the overall sustainability and climate resilience of the value chain.

PRISM is implemented by the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), with funds from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and ENABEL. Heifer International serves as both a co-financier and an implementing partner, alongside VSF Belgium.

Heifer International Rwanda is responsible for implementing the social mobilization and graduation of vulnerable households' sub-component. Under this component, the project supported over 35,920 poor and food-insecure rural households in achieving a sustainable living income through the VBHCD model.

The project is implemented across 15 districts in three provinces: Burera, Gakenke, Gicumbi, Musanze, and Rulindo in the Northern Province; Gisagara, Huye, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, and Ruhango in the Southern Province; and Karongi, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Nyamasheke, and Rutsiro in the Western Province.

Furthermore, the project targets small ruminants (goat and sheep), backyard pig and backyard chicken value chains, which correspond to its priority target groups.

The Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) Model

This is a community-led development approach grounded in societal values and principles. The model focuses on achieving total community transformation by strengthening social capital, which encompasses the institutions, relationships, and norms that influence the quality and quantity of social interactions.

Through this model, Heifer fosters a resilient and interconnected community network, further advancing the PRISM project's mission to create lasting socio-economic transformation.

Purpose of the Social Impacts Assessment

The purpose of the social impacts assessment was to evaluate the contribution of the VBHCD model to the overall achievement of the objectives of the PRISM project. Specifically, the assessment aimed to analyze the impact of the VBHCD model on project effectiveness, community development, livelihood development, entrepreneurship, income generation, as well as document best practices and lessons learned.

Approach of the Assignment

A mixed-methods approach involving both quantitative and qualitative techniques was adopted while executing the Social Capital Impacts Assessment for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets (PRISM) Project in Rwanda.

Study Design

A non-experimental before-and-after design was employed to execute the assignment. This design facilitated the assessment of changes in social capital indicators over time without manipulating any variables. Baseline data were compared with study findings to determine changes attributed to the PRISM project interventions.

Target Population

The study targeted both direct and indirect beneficiaries of the PRISM project areas of implementation in the 15 districts across the three provinces.

Direct beneficiaries included women, youth, and men who actively participated in PRISM-supported interventions, such as members of self-help groups (SHGs), individuals trained and recipients of inputs among others.

On the other hand, indirect beneficiaries comprised community members within the districts of project implementation who did not directly engage with the project but benefitted from the broader level community-impacts.

Data Collection Methods

The study utilized both primary and secondary data collection methods. Primary data included a household survey, which successfully reached 1,786 respondents (99.2% response rate), complemented by Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, and Consultative Meetings for qualitative insights. Secondary data were collected through a review of relevant project documents and national statistical sources.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically.

Key Findings of the Assessment

Formation of Self-Help Groups

By June 2025, a total of 1242 SHGs comprising smallholder farmers had been established across the 15 project implementation districts. This was 6% higher than the overall target of 1,170 SHGs.

These SHGs comprised 35,920 members, including 15,726 males (43.78%) and 20,194 females (56.22%), which is 53% higher than the overall project target of 23,400 households.

Training of Group Members

Following the formation of SHGs, the participants were taken through a series of training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones and Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP) processes. These training sessions were aimed at developing positive attitudes and behaviors that foster unity, harmony, social cohesion, and peaceful co-existence within communities.

Participation in Heifer's 12 Cornerstones Training

By June 2025, a total of 31,889 project beneficiaries comprising 56% females, 46% males, 26% female headed households, and 24% youths.

Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP) Sessions

A total of 24,040 individuals from SHGs actively participated in the sessions, with 58% females, 42% males, 28% female headed households, and 24% youths as of June 2025.

Technical Training in Livestock Husbandry Management

As of June 2025, a total of 33,348 beneficiaries across the 15 Districts participated in the technical training in livestock husbandry management, including 56% females, 44% males, 28% female headed households, and 23% youths.

Training in Human Nutrition and Kitchen Garden Establishment

A total of 26,034 individuals were equipped with knowledge in nutrition and household food security practices. Of these, 56% were females, 44% males, 22% youths, and 29% female-headed households as per the PRISM 2025 progress report.

The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Training

A total of 6732 individuals were trained in gender equality. Of these, 57% were females, 43% males, 36% female-headed households, and 22% youths (n=1481).

Distribution of Inputs

The PRISM project distributed various inputs such as animals, fodder seeds/planting materials, animal shelter construction materials, feeds, veterinary drugs, vegetable seeds, avocado seedlings, water tanks and solar systems for lighting.

Livestock

According to the PRISM progress report of financial year 2025 (June 2025), a total of 222,456 livestock had been distributed. These include 196,490 chicken, 8,466 pigs, 13,824 goats, and 3,676 sheep.

Animal Shelter Construction

To ensure proper care of the animals received, the farmers were provided with materials to support the construction of standard low-cost shelter structures.

By June 2025, from the original groups, a total of 6,750 beneficiaries had been supported for the chicken value chain, 3077 for pigs, and 8,750 for goats and sheep.

Climate Smart Innovations

For climate change adaptation and mitigation, fodder trees and shrub species, rainwater harvesting tanks, avocado seedlings and vegetable seed were distributed to the beneficiaries.

Fodder

A total of 8,750 farmers were supported with fodder resources. Of these, 57% were female and 43% were male. Youth made up 25% of the beneficiaries, while 30% were female-headed households.

Vegetable Seeds and Avocado Seedlings

By June 2025, a total of 25,781 farmers had received vegetable seeds. Of these, 57% were female and 43% were male. Youth accounted for 23% of the beneficiaries while 27% were female-headed households.

In addition to vegetable seeds, avocado seedlings were provided to promote both climate-smart agriculture and improved nutrition. As of June 2025, a total of 15,259 farmers had received avocado seedlings. Of these, 56, were female and 44% were male. Youth made up 19% of the beneficiaries while

23% were female-headed households (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Rainwater Harvesting Tanks

To address water stress linked to livestock keeping, the project supported vulnerable households, including the sick, persons with disabilities, and female-headed families, with 1,000-liter rainwater harvesting tanks.

By June 2025, 1,889 farmers had benefited (58% female, 42% male), including 25% female-headed households and 19% youth. Beyond easing labor and water burdens, the tanks enhanced resilience to drought and contributed to climate change mitigation by reducing reliance on energy-intensive water sources.

Solar Kits

To support climate change mitigation and improve household well-being, the project distributed home solar kits to off-grid households.

The intervention replaced fuel-based lighting with clean solar energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, lowering reliance on fossil fuels, and providing reliable lighting that enhanced children's study time and overall household quality of life.

By June 2025, 2,268 farmers had benefited, including 58% women, 42% men, 20% youth, and 30% female-headed households.

Participant Support Services

The survey revealed that all participants (100%) received support, which included training, livestock, materials for constructing animal shelters, agroforestry seedlings, vegetable and avocado seedlings, as well as equipment such as solar kits and water tanks.

Training and Capacity Building

All surveyed beneficiaries (100%) received training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones, human and animal nutrition, technical aspects of livestock husbandry, and Participatory Self-Review and Planning (PSRP) sessions.

To advance gender equality, 71.1% of beneficiaries also received training on the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology. Overall, 93.5% of participants reported the training as very useful, and 97.8% applied the knowledge and skills gained.

Taking Up Leadership Roles

Across the districts, over 50% of participants held at least one leadership position within their groups. Leadership roles included Chairperson (20.3%), Secretary (10.9%), Treasurer (9.4%), Committee Member (12.0%), and Audit Committee Member (3.2%).

Participation was high among both men (67.4%) and women (57.5%), reflecting notable progress in gender empowerment and equitable leadership within beneficiary communities.

Group Empowerment

Participants reported that the PRISM project empowered their groups by enhancing collective decision-making, strengthening skills in saving and managing group finances, and establishing market linkages for group products and services. Overall, the VBHCD model achieved 100% empowerment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across all provinces in these key areas.

Decision Making in a Household

The VBHCD model significantly transformed household decision-making among beneficiaries. Joint decision-making between spouses increased from 42.9% to 77.3%, while husband-only decision-making declined from 38.4% to 4.3%, demonstrating a strong shift toward shared household leadership.

Social Cohesion and Conflict

Community cohesion and conflict management improved significantly following the PRISM project. The overall perception of social cohesion rose from 15.6% to 56.9%, while households reporting no or very low conflict increased from 73.0% to 93.5% across the 15 districts. Reports of severe conflict declined sharply from 27.0% to 6.6%, reflecting a clear shift toward more peaceful and harmonious community dynamics.

Livelihood Development

Household Livestock Production

The assessment revealed that livestock production is a key livelihood source among rural households, with over 80.7% of the surveyed households actively engaged, contributing significantly to income and food security.

The 1,486 sampled beneficiaries received a total of 9,770 animals, averaging about seven per household, and passed on 20,323 livestock under the PoG, E-PoG, and Ee-PoG initiatives. Additionally, households accumulated 17,651 new animals through births and purchases across goats, sheep, pigs, and backyard chickens value chains.

Livelihood diversification was observed across value chains. Among chicken farmers, 52.8% also reared goats and 16.8% kept sheep. Pig farmers showed

lower diversification, with 10% also keeping goats and 2.6% sheep.

Livestock survival to maturity was generally high, with an overall survival rate of 77.6%. Chickens and goats had the highest survival rates (80.4% and 80.1%, respectively), pigs had 77.6%, and sheep had the lowest at 66%. This demonstrates effective livestock management, with potential for further improvement in feeding, healthcare, and housing.

Furthermore, households sold or slaughtered, on average, 7 goats, 6 sheep, 5 pigs, and 40 chickens per year. The average weight of livestock sold was 28.1 kg for goats, 24.3 kg for sheep, 45.8 kg for pigs, and 2.9 kg for chickens, reflecting tangible income and food security benefits from livestock rearing.

Participants' Rating of the VBHCD Model's Contribution to Livelihood Development

Participants assessed the VBHCD model's contribution to livelihood development by rating key aspects: production, productivity, and market participation, as "Very Good" or "Good." Overall, 90% of participants rated the model as positively contributing to livelihood development.

Access to Livestock Management Services and Infrastructure

The survey revealed that all respondents (100%) accessed at least one livestock management service, demonstrating that the VBHCD Model expanded opportunities for veterinary care, market access, and financial support. Specifically, 100% of farmers accessed market and financial services such as savings groups and loans, while 72.3% accessed veterinary services. Districts such as Gicumbi and Rulindo performed well across all services, whereas Huye, Karongi, and Ngororero showed limited access, highlighting areas for targeted interventions.

Regarding livestock infrastructure, all farmers (100%) had livestock pens, 69.8% had feeders or waterers, 57.2% had fencing, and 51.8% had feed storage facilities, reflecting substantial improvements in basic infrastructure. The lower ownership of feed storage and fencing indicates the need for continued support to strengthen sustainable livestock management.

The Contribution of PRISM to Climate Resilience

Over 95% of participants reported that PRISM interventions enhanced climate resilience through climate-smart farming. Key practices adopted included the use of livestock products to produce organic manure (84.1%), promotion of compost pits (81.6%), and tree planting for shade and vegetation restoration (78.9%). Other interventions included rainwater harvesting (76.5%), distribution of avocado seedlings (70.7%), provision of water tanks (58.7%), and distribution of tree seedlings to support agroforestry (59.9%).

Value Addition and Market Access

The survey revealed that 65% of PRISM participants engage in some form of value addition. Common practices included pork frying and roasting along roads and in pork joints (20.5%), boiling and selling eggs (17.5%), pork preservation through smoking (34.8%), and supplying bakeries and other clients with eggs (49.1%). Strengthening value addition in the next phase of PRISM could further increase farmers' incomes.

Market access for livestock value chains; goats, sheep, pigs, and chickens, was initially limited, as participants had little engagement in these chains before PRISM. Following the project, farm gates and nearby markets became the most common selling points. For pigs, 100% of farmers in Rulindo, 96% in Gicumbi, and 86% in Nyabihu sold at the farm gate, while nearby markets were used by 60.9% in Nyamasheke, 49.4% in Huye, and 35.5% in Nyaruguru. Urban markets, Kigali, and cross-border trade remain largely untapped, with only 3% of farmers reporting cross-border sales.

For chickens and eggs, farm gates and nearby markets were also predominant. In Gisagara, all farmers sold at both farm gates and nearby markets, while in Nyamasheke, 81% sold at farm gates and 71% at nearby markets. Similar to pigs, urban centers and cross-border trade represent opportunities for expanding market access.

Livelihood Sources Before and After PRISM

Before PRISM, all beneficiaries (100%) primarily relied on crop farming as their main source of livelihood. Other livelihood sources among indirect beneficiaries included cattle rearing (4.1%), small-scale trade and retail (2.1%), handicrafts such as basket weaving and pottery (0.8%), and fishing and beekeeping (0.06%).

Following the implementation of PRISM and the introduction of small livestock value chains, participants' livelihoods diversified. While crop farming remains the primary source of income for over 74% of respondents, livestock production has become an important supplementary source: backyard pig rearing (60%), poultry (50.5%), followed by goats, sheep, and handicrafts. This demonstrates that PRISM has enhanced household income opportunities and livelihood resilience through diversified small livestock interventions.

Awareness and Adoption of Modern Enterprise Management Practices

The study discovered that while participants received training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones, technical

livestock husbandry, and human and animal nutrition, awareness of modern enterprise management practices remains limited, with less than half of participants familiar with record keeping (38.7%), budgeting and financial planning (40.3%), marketing and customer relations (22.6%), and inventory management (21%).

Adoption rates reflected these gaps: 38.6% for record keeping, 36.6% for budgeting and financial planning, 17.6% for marketing, and 17.3% for inventory management. Uptake was higher in districts such as Burera (82.5% record keeping, 79.4% budgeting), Nyaruguru (76.8% record keeping, 68.7% budgeting, 60.6% marketing), and Musanze (61.4% record keeping, 52.5% budgeting), but minimal in Ngororero (2% record keeping, 14% budgeting) and Nyamagabe (7.6% record keeping, 3.3% budgeting).

Among participants who adopted these practices, the majority attributed their adoption to PRISM and the VBHCD model, with attribution rates of 93.8% in the Northern Province, 88.8% in the Southern Province, and 93.3% in the Western Province, representing an overall attribution rate of 92.4%. These findings suggest that integrating modern enterprise management practices, such as record keeping, budgeting, marketing, and inventory management, into values-based training modules could further enhance adoption.

Change in Investment Mindset

The survey sought participants' opinions on whether the VBHCD model had influenced their attitudes toward investment. Results showed that 74.5% of respondents believed the VBHCD model had significantly shaped their attitudes toward investment. In contrast, only 2.1% reported no noticeable change.

Entrepreneurship and Income Generating Activities

The survey revealed that 61.3% of participants expressed willingness to invest in new ventures, reflecting a generally positive inclination toward risk-taking and entrepreneurship. However, 21.4% were not willing and 17.3% were unsure, indicating the presence of risk-averse individuals. Districts such as Nyaruguru (87.9%), Nyamasheke (83.0%), and Rutsiro (82.2%) showed the highest willingness to take risks.

Despite this willingness, only 37.5% of participants reported having undertaken a risky venture for higher returns.

The most reported new income generating activity in the past 12 months was traditional crop production (68.8%), suggesting limited diversification into non-agricultural enterprises.

Participants reported moderate innovation levels, with 60.8% introducing 1–2 new products or services, while only 7.6% launched three or more, highlighting a need for mentorship, market exposure, and support for creative thinking.

Regarding modern enterprise management, 41% of participants adopted modern technologies, primarily mobile money (39.2%) and improved animal breeds (13.5%), though digital marketing remains underutilized (2.1%).

Practices for Starting a Business

In assessing whether participants follow a standard process when starting a business. The findings of the survey revealed that 79.8% of participants reported consulting with others before starting a business. These findings reflect social networks and shared decision making.

In addition, 37.7% reported they would take potential risks when the gains are likely to be high, which reflects a moderate level of calculated risk-taking. However, 26.1% admitted to avoiding risks altogether indicating that some participants remain cautious and hesitant when venturing into entrepreneurship.

Farmer Enterprise Membership

It was discovered that 100% of the direct participants samples for the assessment belonged to at least a farmer enterprise. This is due to the fact that all participants belong to an SGH which is also considered a farmer enterprise.

Leadership in Group Enterprises

The analysis revealed that of all the respondents that were interviewed, 44% reported having never held any leadership position in a group enterprise. Holding a leadership role is dependent on the existence of SHG, length and number of terms each leader can serve as well as internal regulations.

Participation in Decision Making

The survey revealed that 42.6% of respondents reported sometimes participating in group decision-making, while only 25% said they often participate. It was also noted that 32.4% had never been involved in decision-making, indicating limited engagement in key group processes.

Initiative in Identifying and Exploiting Business Opportunities

The survey revealed that 46.5% of the respondents had never taken the initiative in identifying or exploiting business opportunities, while 41.5% had done so 1–2 times, and only 12.0% had done so more than twice. This means that entrepreneurship skills and innovations is still wanting and as a result, for the

PRISM and VBHCD implementation teams, this highlights the need to strengthen entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and motivation, especially targeting women and youth, to boost confidence, initiative, and innovation in exploring viable business opportunities within the livestock value chain.

Proactive Response to New Opportunities

The findings of the survey revealed that 47.0% of respondents react to new opportunities after consulting others, while 40.9% respond immediately, and 12.1% rarely act on such opportunities. This indicates a generally positive level of proactiveness, with the majority showing readiness to engage, either independently or after seeking guidance.

Entrepreneurial Growth

To assess the rate of entrepreneurial growth participants were asked whether they had started any income generating activities in the past 12 months, the findings of the survey revealed that 38.4% of the study participants had started up some income generating activities.

Rate of Interaction Between Market Actors

The findings of the assessment revealed that 65.7% of the participants were involved in the small livestock value chains. This implies that over 65% of livestock farmers (direct and indirect) are actively engaging with market actors, which is a positive indicator of market awareness and linkages that can enhance access to opportunities, improve pricing decisions, and strengthen business relationships.

Entrepreneurship Growth-Based Market Demand Analysis

The findings of the survey showed that only 38.4% of the participants have started some income-generating activities based on market demand analysis. This implies that the majority of participants are engaging in entrepreneurship without fully considering existing market needs and trends, which may limit the viability and profitability of their ventures, and the PRISM implementation team should strengthen market-oriented capacity building by training participants in basic market research, demand analysis, and customer-focused business planning to ensure that new enterprises are aligned with real market opportunities.

Involvement in Income Generating Activities at Group Level

The analysis revealed that 51.0% of respondents across all provinces reported participating in group-level income-generating activities, while 49.0% did not. This implies that even though groups are formed under the VBHCD model, income-generating activities operated as a group are not yet fully embraced or implemented by nearly half of the participants.

For the PRISM and VBHCD implementation team, the findings point to a gap between group formation and actual economic collaboration. It suggests the need to strengthen the functionality and productivity of these groups by supporting them with appropriate training, resources, and business development services that encourage joint ventures and shared income opportunities. Strengthening group-based IGAs would not only enhance sustainability but also deepen the economic impact of the VBHCD model.

Group-Based Income Generating Activities

The analysis reveals that crop farming (27.9%) is the most common group-based income-generating activity across all provinces, reflecting the central role of farming in rural livelihoods. This is followed by chicken selling (16.2%), egg selling (14.9%), and pig fattening (10.6%), indicating strong group engagement in small livestock ventures. Moderately practiced activities include animal feed shops (6.8%) and plant seed selling (1.0%), suggesting some level of diversification into input-related businesses. Specialized enterprises included chicken brooding (1.0%).

Individual Level Income Generating Activities

The data shows that livestock sales are the most common individual-level income-generating activity (IGA), reported by 64.3% of respondents across all provinces. This is followed by produce processing (e.g., drying, milling) at 8.4%, and value addition activities such as packaging and branding at 5.7%. These findings indicate that while livestock sales are the primary source of income for most individuals, there is limited engagement in higher-value IGAs, hence the need to support livelihood diversification and promotion of value additions for improved incomes.

Prospects of Forward Linkages

The findings show that only 10.8% of respondents across the three provinces identified prospects for forward linkages in livestock production, while majority (89.2%) of participants did not perceive such opportunities, suggesting low awareness or limited access to markets and value addition activities. Provincially, the Western province had the highest proportion (16.6%) recognizing forward linkage prospects, compared to just 5.5% in the North and 4.0% in the South.

Forward Linkage Businesses

Among those who saw forward linkage opportunities manure sales also ranked high (95.1%), particularly in the Western province (95.9%). Other forward

linkages, such as meat processing (26.2%) and skins and hides businesses (4.9%), were less frequently reported, pointing to limited engagement or development in these areas.

These insights suggest that the PRISM team could capitalize on the strong interest in manure businesses to enhance the sustainability and profitability of livestock enterprises, while also raising awareness and building capacity around underdeveloped but viable areas like meat processing and by-product utilization.

Prospects of Backward Linkages

Participants involved in livestock production were asked whether there is potential for backward linkages in the areas where they produce their livestock. The findings of the survey revealed only 11.2% of respondents across the three provinces reported being aware of the potential backward linkages in livestock production.

Backward Linkage IGAs

The most cited backward linkage activity across all provinces was hay and silage making and selling, mentioned by 96.8% of these respondents, indicating strong recognition of the importance of fodder preservation in supporting livestock productivity. Animal feed production and sales followed at 58.7%, especially prominent in the Northern (90.0%) and Western (78.9%) provinces. Livestock housing construction was also notable, reported by 47.6% of respondents, with high mentions in Northern (60.0%) and Southern (58.8%). Note that the district level statistics are so small and don't provide significant meaning and implications.

Household Income

Average Household Income

According to the study findings, the average household income of participants increased after the implementation of PRISM. The annual average household income rose from RWF 236,304.78 in the year 2022 to RWF 613,001.35 in the year 2024, with a mean difference of RWF 334, 542, an equivalent of 51.7% percentage increase in household incomes

Household Income from Livestock and Other Income Generating Activities

Participants were asked whether their incomes have increased in the past 12 months, From the analysis, over 80% of the participants reported that their incomes had increased in the past 12 months.

The participants that reported an increase in incomes from livestock and other sources were further asked to estimate the percentage increase in incomes. The majority (46.6%) indicated that their incomes had increased by between 25–50%, while 38.3% reported an increase of less than 25%. Only 15.1% estimated that their income had increased by more than 50%. These findings point to the fact that whereas income improvements were reported, majority of the participants experienced moderate gains.

Sources of Household Income

The analysis of income sources reveals that the majority of respondents (62.1%) reported having two sources of income, followed by 25.7% with three sources, while 8.6% had only one, and a small portion (3.6%) had more than three. This indicates that most households are diversifying their income streams to some extent. Regarding specific sources of income, crop farming (93.4%) and livestock rearing (91.2%) were the most commonly reported, highlighting their central role in rural livelihoods.

Other income-generating activities were reported at much lower levels, including small-scale trade and retail (12.6%), and casual labor (10.0%). Activities like agro-processing (4.9%), handicrafts (3.4%), and transport services (1.4%) were less common, while sources such as beekeeping, fishing, tourism, and remittances each accounted for less than 1%.

Acquisition of New Assets

The survey assessed the percentage of households that acquired additional assets because of participation in income-generating activities promoted by the VBHCD model under PRISM. Over 80% of the sampled participants reported acquiring additional assets because of participating in PRISM.

The most acquired additional assets by households were new and high-quality telephones (34.7%), the ability to pay school fees in better private schools (35.8%), and additional land (50.3%), reflecting improvements in communication, education, and land ownership. Other notable acquisitions include additional mattresses (28.8%), access to electricity (15.9%), and new radios (16.2%).

Food Security and Nutrition

Most participants perceived food as available (79.7%), nutritious (78.2%), and utilizable (74.4%), but affordability remained a key concern, with only 62.4% having a positive perception and 15.2% expressing negative views.

Household Food Sufficiency

A significant portion of respondents (37.3%) had sufficient food for 10-12 months, indicating relatively stable food availability. However, 19% reported only 1-3 months of food sufficiency, highlighting that while food insecurity exists, most households experienced moderate to high levels of food availability throughout the year.

Households Food Shortages

The majority of the households (59.8%) of experienced food shortages at some point in the past year, with the highest shortages occurring between April and November, coinciding with the lean pre-harvest months. This emphasizes the need for interventions addressing seasonal fluctuations and strengthening household resilience to food shocks.

Nutritional Adequacy and Dietary Composition

Over 87% of participants reported having diets that met nutritional requirements. However, 12.6% of households were lacking essential nutrients, with micronutrients like minerals being the least reported in diets.

Carbohydrates (82.8%) and proteins (71.7%) were most commonly included in household diets, followed by dietary fiber (65.0%). The inclusion of vitamins (60.7%) and fats and oils (58.7%) was moderate, while minerals were the least reported, at only 40.2%. This highlights the need for continued nutritional education and access to diverse, micronutrient-rich foods.

Meals Per Day

Before the PRISM interventions, 54.4% of participants consumed only one meal per day, and 3.2% consumed three. After the VBHCD model was implemented, the proportion of households consuming three meals per day increased to 38.8%, while those consuming one meal reduced to 5.3% signaling significant improvements in food security and nutrition.

Project Spillovers

Knowledge Sharing to Non-Target Beneficiaries

The survey found that 34% of indirect beneficiaries reported acquiring skills or knowledge from PRISM interventions. The most common skills shared were related to innovation (56.9%), risk-taking (54.9%), and improved livestock management (54.9%). However, more strategic skills, like leadership and business opportunity identification, were shared at lower rates.

Knowledge Sharing by Direct Beneficiaries

A strong culture of knowledge sharing was evident, with 94.8% of direct beneficiaries reporting that they shared information with others. While most shared with small groups (45.4% shared with 1–3 people), knowledge sharing was widespread across provinces, particularly in the Southern and Western regions, where sharing was most common within smaller circles. This highlights the potential for expanding knowledge dissemination through structured community forums and incentives for champions.

Indirect Beneficiaries Implementing PRISM Practices

A significant 79.3% of direct beneficiaries were aware of indirect beneficiaries adopting PRISM practices, with the most common being improved livestock management (71.5%), feeding practices (70.1%), and housing improvements (62.8%). This reflects the tangible impact of the project on non-target beneficiaries, although a further 20% were either unaware or unsure, suggesting the need for improved documentation and visibility of these practices.

Support and Guidance for Community Members

A strong peer support system was reported, with 86.9% of direct beneficiaries guiding others in applying PRISM practices. This demonstrates a collaborative culture within the community, reinforcing learning and fostering broader adoption of improved agricultural practices.

Community Attitude Shifts

The project has contributed to positive changes in community norms, including increased participation of women (86.2%) and youth (54.5%) in agricultural enterprises, as well as greater respect for female and youth farmers (68.4%). Additionally, 45.1% of respondents noted increased innovation in the community, signaling a shift towards more inclusive and innovative agricultural practices.

The Contribution of the VBHCD Model to Graduation of Vulnerable Households

The VBHCD model under PRISM has laid the foundation for the graduation of small livestock farmers. As of June 2025, over 35,000 households were validated as beneficiaries, with 25,000 (71.4%) having received livestock.

Graduation under PRISM is defined as the point at which a household has effectively utilized a comprehensive support package to achieve sustainable livelihood improvements. This package typically includes training in improved agricultural practices and business skills, provision of livestock or other productive assets, and access to finance (savings, credit, insurance), leading to enhanced food security, nutrition, living conditions, and resilience to shocks. Households are at different stages of this journey.

The VBHCD model has been pivotal in preparing households for graduation, achieving strong results across empowerment dimensions;

Socially, the model achieved 86% empowerment through SHGs, facilitator training, and multistakeholder platforms, with over 80% of

participants reporting stronger cohesion, reduced conflict, and improved collective decision-making.

Technically, it scored 83%, exceeding training targets in areas such as the VBHCD 12 Cornerstones, GALS, nutrition, and PSRP, though contingency planning remains a gap.

Economically, the model scored 87%, with households more than doubling average annual incomes, expanding access to savings and credit, increasing women and youth participation, acquiring assets, and actively engaging in markets.

Best Practices and Areas of Communication

The success of the VBHCD model can be attributed to several best practices, including the use of integrated training packages, multi-layered support mechanisms, and participatory methodologies. These strategies were particularly effective in targeting poor and food-insecure households, ensuring that interventions were both impactful and inclusive.

To further enhance the model's effectiveness, key communication efforts should focus on sharing success stories and testimonies that highlight positive outcomes. Promoting the scalability of the VBHCD model, along with innovations and spillovers, will strengthen the communication strategy. Additionally, emphasizing areas for future collaboration with potential partners and funders will support the model's continued growth and sustainability.

Factors Influencing Success and Constraints of the VBHCD Model

The success of the VBHCD model was influenced by several key factors, including strong partnerships with seasoned organizations, the involvement of community facilitators and Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs (CAVEs) in livestock production, and effective community mobilization through platforms like the Joint Action Development Forum. These factors contributed significantly to the model's ability to promote self-reliance and strengthen local ownership.

However, certain constraints have affected implementation, such as unexpected weather changes, market volatility, and livestock disease outbreaks. Additionally, fluctuating prices of essential inputs like animal feeds and transport posed challenges for farmers, especially those with unstable incomes.

Opportunities for Scaling Up

There is significant potential for scaling up aspects of the VBHCD model, including expanding the structured graduation pathway for vulnerable groups and enhancing market access for smallholder farmers.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

1. Strong project implementation and management team.
2. Effective coordination and organizational structure.
3. Use of technology in project implementation and monitoring.
4. Alignment with Heifer International's framework, ensuring consistency and impact.

Weaknesses

1. Inadequate communication about VBHCD successes.
2. Limited involvement of other development partners and donors.

Threats

1. Climate change and disease outbreaks.
2. Inflationary tendencies.
3. Competing demands for food between humans and livestock.

Opportunities

1. Market availability especially for eggs and pork.
2. Existence of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.
3. Support from the Government of Rwanda.

Cost Benefit Analysis

For every RWF 1 invested in the PRISM project, RWF 2.17 was generated in household income, indicating positive economic returns across all outcomes.

Lessons Learned

1. Mindset change is crucial for transforming both individual and community livelihoods.
2. Engaging local community actors accelerates the adoption of development interventions.
3. Sustaining group participation post-mobilization is essential for program success.
4. The "Passing on the Gift" model strengthens community relationships and fosters sustainable support systems.

Conclusion

The VBHCD model under PRISM has demonstrated potential to transform rural livelihood through the values-based, socially cohesive and market-oriented approach. These interventions have significantly improved household incomes, social cohesion, food security and leadership participation across all categories of people including women, youths and

female-headed households. Despite some operational challenges, the VBHCD model offers a replicable and scalable pathway for empowering vulnerable households and strengthening community resilience.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the use of appropriate transport means.
2. Establish adaptive procurement and budgeting processes.
3. Establish mechanisms for community livestock protection.
4. Enhance and diversify income generating activities.
5. Integrating sustainable land management practices and weather responsive planning.

Abbreviations

BCR	Benefit-Cost Ratio
BNR	Banque Nationale du Rwanda
CAVEs	Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs
CFs	Community Facilitators
E-PoG	Exponential Passing on the Gifts.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MIC	Middle-Income Country
NPV	Net Present Value
OG	Original Group
PoG	Passing on the Gifts
PRISM	Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets
REU	Rwanda Economic Update
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
SWOT	Strength Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats
VBHCD	Values-Based Holistic Community Development

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1 Introduction

1.1 Brief Country Context

Rwanda's real GDP grew by 8.9% in 2024, surpassing the previous year's growth rate of 8.2%. The latest edition of the Rwanda Economic Update (REU), launched on the 1st of April 2025 by the World Bank, highlights that Rwanda has exhibited strong resilience amidst global uncertainties, driven by robust private consumption, significant investment and strong performances in services, industry, and a recovering agriculture sector.

This led to significant improvements in the labour market, with the creation of over half a million new jobs on a year-on-year basis. Employment growth in Rwanda reflects strong job creation and a recovery of structural transformation, as the services sector regained its position as the largest employer in 2024, a status it last held in 2019.

Rwanda is increasingly recognized as a global exemplar in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in meeting the global challenges of climate change. Rwanda's economy has been amongst the fastest growing among the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) region.

Rwanda's Vision 2050 outlines an ambitious agenda to improve standards of living, targeting middle-income country (MIC) status by 2035. Parallel targets to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, and to further reduce poverty which is currently at 27.4% (National Institute of the Statistics of Rwanda, 2025) are evidence of a deep political commitment to the twin goals of poverty reduction and shared prosperity. Except for a period between 2000/01 and 2005/06 when the Gini coefficient rose slightly, rapid growth has not been associated with an increase in equality.

At the same time, the country has embarked on several flagship projects to promote a highly skilled service economy, notably around conferences, hospitality, and information and communication technology (ICT) (Statistical Report from the National Institute of the Statistics of Rwanda, 2024).

1.2 Rwanda's Agricultural Sector

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of Rwanda's economy, employing 40% of the workforce and contributing 27% to the GDP (World Bank, 2025). It is one of the most strategic sectors in Rwanda's development, accounting for a significant share of the foreign exchange earnings through the exports of products, including coffee, tea, livestock products, cereals & grains, hides & skins, pyrethrum, and horticulture. Furthermore, 83.1% of Rwanda's agricultural production comes from smallholder farmers (World Bank, 2025).

1.3 PRISM Project Overview

The Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets (PRISM) is a five-year project (23rd March 2021 to 22nd March 2026) whose overall objective is to reduce poverty by empowering poor rural men, women, and youth to actively participate in the transformation of Rwanda's livestock sector.

The project specifically aims to increase competitiveness and profitability of the small livestock sector by enabling smallholder producers to provide quality products to domestic and regional markets, thereby improving their livelihoods, food security, resilience and the overall sustainability and climate resilience of the value chain.

PRISM is a collaborative endeavor implemented by the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and ENABEL. Heifer International serves as both a co-financier and an implementing partner, alongside VSF Belgium. The project encompasses two complementary interventions, each supported by IFAD and ENABEL. These interventions are strategically aligned and executed under a shared implementation framework, allowing each partner to leverage their comparative strengths and resources.

1.4 Heifer International's Role on the PRISM Project

Heifer International implements and co-finances IFAD-supported interventions, with a focus on smallholder livestock farmers and vulnerable households across 15 districts in three provinces: Burera, Gakenke, Gicumbi, Musanze, and Rulindo in the Northern Province; Gisagara, Huye, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, and Ruhango in the Southern Province; and Karongi, Ngororero, Nyabihu, Nyamasheke, and Rutsiro in the Western Province.

As part of its role, Heifer International is responsible for implementing the social mobilization and graduation of vulnerable households' sub-component. Under this component, the project aims to support 23,400 poor and food-insecure rural households in achieving a sustainable living income through the graduation pathway (VBHCD model).

The model promotes community development through an integrated and holistic approach that enhances household production and productivity while linking beneficiaries to markets.

The PRISM project targets the small ruminants (goat and sheep), backyard pig and backyard chicken value chains, that correspond to its priority target groups.

1.5 The Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) Approach

Heifer International is implementing the PRISM project using its Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) model, a community-led development approach grounded in societal values and principles. This model focuses on achieving total community transformation by strengthening social capital, which encompasses the institutions, relationships, and norms that influence the quality and quantity of social interactions. Through this approach, the project seeks to end hunger and poverty while promoting environmental stewardship.

The model also empowers communities to harness their collective strengths and shared values to overcome what often feels like the hopelessness of poverty. It is based on the facilitation of partnerships, social mobilization and group formation, capacity building, institutional strengthening, and sustainable market-based financing. The VBHCD model is implemented through four (4) key steps as shown below:

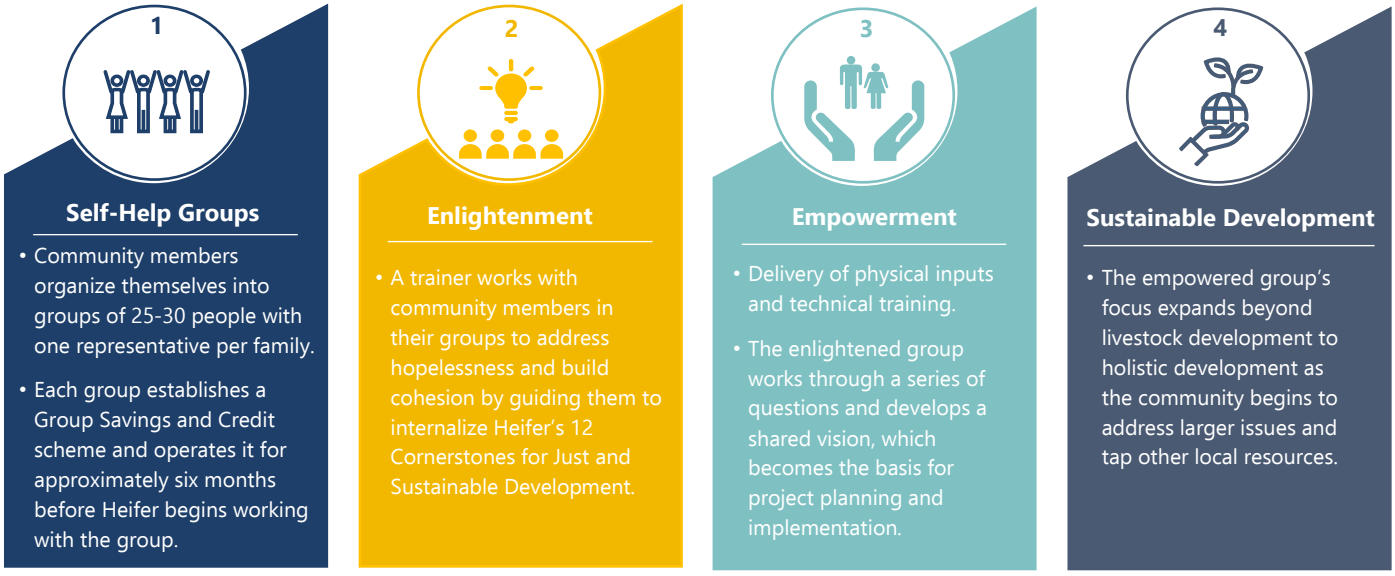


Figure 1: Implementation Steps of the VBHCD Model

Heifer International, through the VBHCD models, seeks to promote and support collective action and farmer owned cooperatives by facilitating participant's access to finance and investment, prioritizing women empowerment and inclusion across all supported activities, creating decent employment opportunities for youth and developing and strengthening local institutions that benefit project participants. The key components of the VBHCD model are outlined below.

Focused Areas of Intervention	▪ Train and monitor participants in successfully farming as a business to realize farmer-owned enterprises and cooperatives. ▪ Train and monitor participants in climate-smart successful management of crops, livestock and enterprises. ▪ Increase application of technology for better crops, livestock and business management. ▪ Coach enterprises to better manage local and national advocacy.

Package of the VBHCD Model	▪ Strong community structures that enable resource pooling, collective decision-making, needs identification and prioritization, activity planning, and effective implementation, through empowered groups such as cooperatives, producer associations, and other community-based organizations. ▪ Positive changes at a cognitive level, including strong social capital and positive attitude among community members. ▪ Ensuring that resources required for pass-on, especially livestock and fodder saplings/seeds, are made available at the right time and place. ▪ Conservation of resources (including environment) for sustainability.
Heifer International's Standards Created to Ensure Social Capital Development and to be Mainstreamed in Every Project	▪ Forming and selecting groups. ▪ Reinforcing values, transforming minds and empowerment (Personal Leadership Development and Cornerstones Training, PSRP (Participatory Self-Review and Planning), Gender Equity Training/Activities). ▪ Technical training and physical inputs' distribution.
Other Activities	▪ Enabling environment. ▪ Market development and fortification of business relationships to achieve. ▪ A successful pro-poor wealth creating value chain.

1.5.2 Passing on the Gifts (PoG) Concept

The Pass on the Gifts (PoG) concept is a central component of Heifer's 12 Cornerstones and reinforces the foundational principles of the Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) model. To promote the sustainability of the model beyond the PRISM project, each farming family that receives an animal from Heifer International is required to pass on the first female offspring to another family in need and other resources like animal shelter construction materials.

Project participants are categorized into three groups: the Original Group (OG), who are the initial recipients; the Pass on Group (PoG), who receive gifts from the OG; and the Exponential Pass on Group (ePoG), who benefit from subsequent rounds of passing on.

To ensure accountability and commitment, families in the Original Group sign a formal agreement with Heifer International, pledging to pass on both the animal and the associated knowledge and skills. The passed-on items must be of equal or higher quality and quantity than those initially received. This strengthens social cohesion and goodwill within communities by encouraging shared responsibility, trust, and mutual support.

1.5.3 VBCHD Model Graduation Pathway

To ensure sustainable graduation from poverty, the project empowered beneficiaries socially, technically, and economically through the implementation of the Value-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) model. This approach was guided by the Living Income Benchmark (LIB) of USD 3,571 per household per annum, aiming to overcome poverty, improve food security and nutrition, and increase household incomes. The illustration below shows the causal pathway of the VBHCD model in achieving poverty reduction.

Causal Pathway of the VBHCD Model

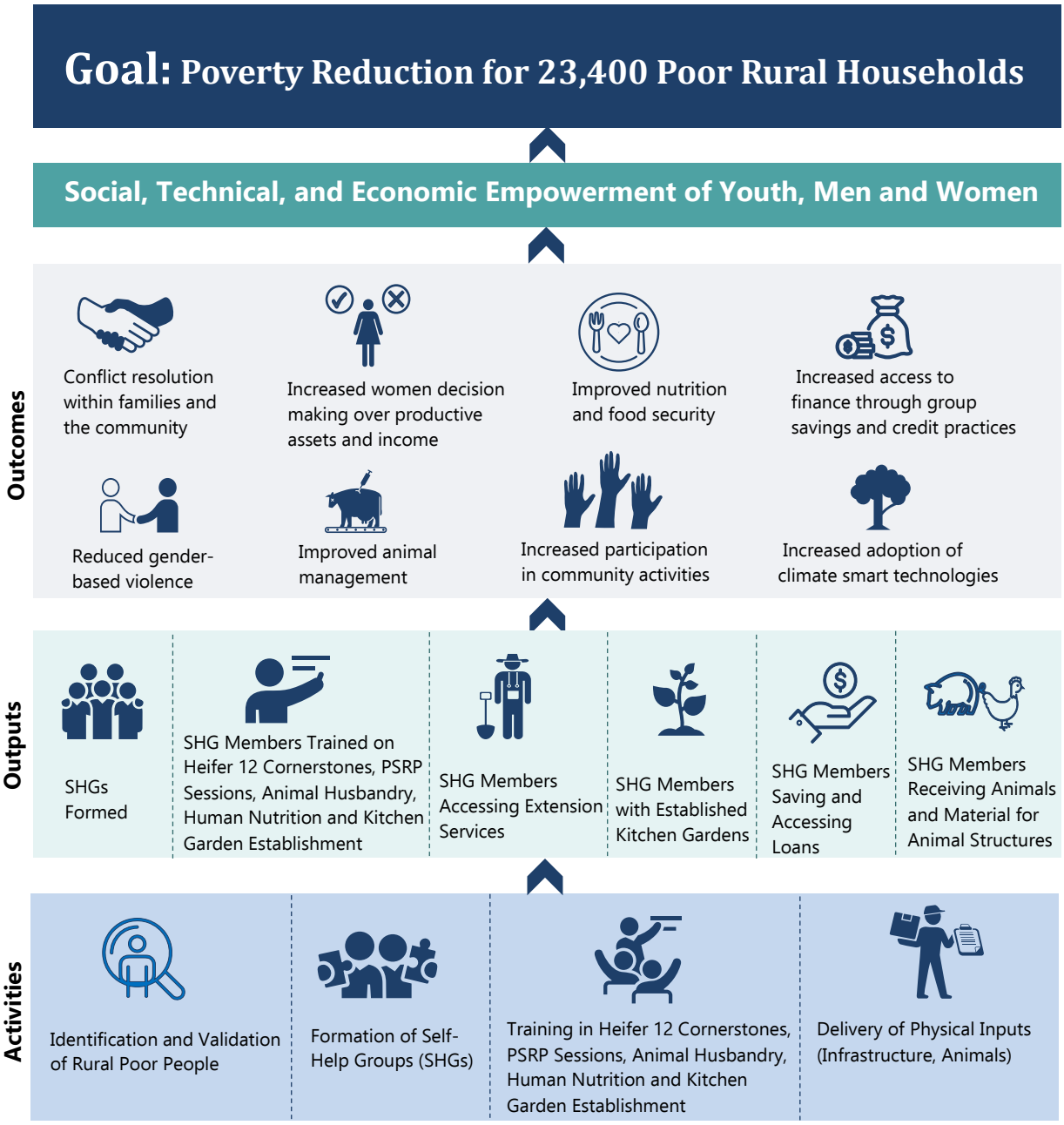


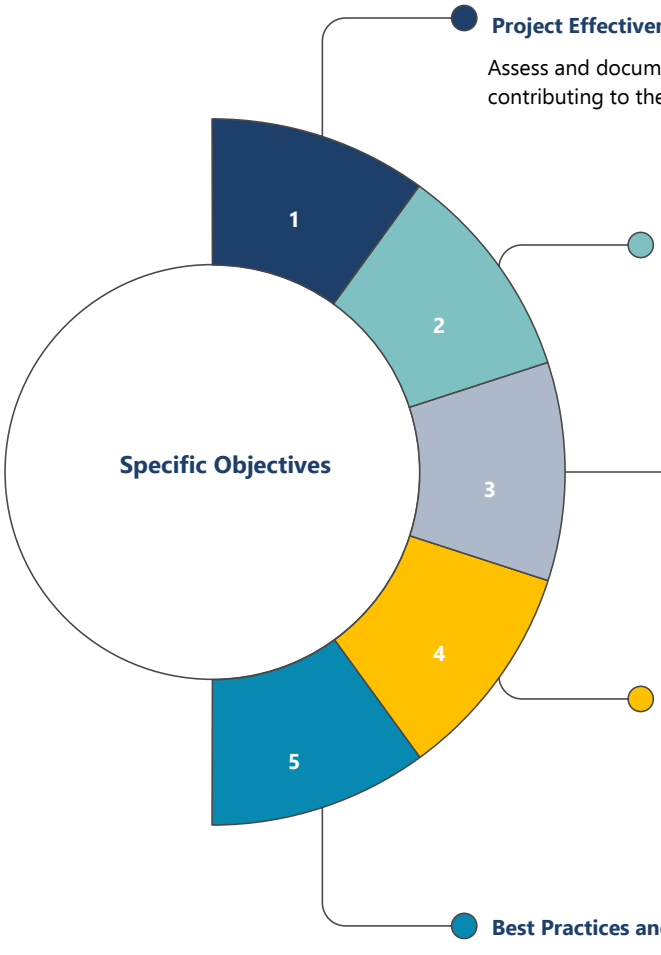
Figure 2: Casual Pathway of the VBHCD Model

1.6 Purpose of the Social Impacts Assessment

The purpose of the social impacts assessment was to evaluate the contribution of the VBHCD model to the overall achievement of the objectives of the PRISM project. Specifically, the assessment aimed to analyze the impact of the VBHCD model on project effectiveness, community development, livelihood development, entrepreneurship, income generation, as well as document best practices and lessons learned.

1.7 Specific Objectives of the Social Impacts Assessment

The assessment analyzed the following five objectives using both quantitative and qualitative approaches:



Project Effectiveness

Assess and document how the VBHCD implementation model is contributing to the achievement of the project objectives

Measure Community-Level Impacts

Examine the impact of the VBHCD approach on targeted communities, focusing on; a) **Beneficiary participation:** Levels of engagement in project activities. b) **Knowledge Adoption:** The extent to which beneficiaries have adopted knowledge gained from project activities.; c) **Document Project Spillovers:** Collect and document project spillovers to non-direct project beneficiaries within the community

Livelihood Development

Assess improvements in community livelihoods through project interventions.

Entrepreneurship and Income Generation

a) Evaluate Impact of VBHCD on entrepreneurship and income generation activities.
b) Examine the impact of the VBHCD model on market linkages and beneficiaries' access to finance.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Identification of best practices for future project guidance.

1.8 Scope of Work

The assessment involved a series of activities to execute the assignment. The key tasks carried out are outlined below:

(a) Reviewed project documentation to understand the objectives, outputs, and activities undertaken. The documents included the baseline report, annual GIM reports, mid-term review, annual and quarterly progress reports, and output data.
(b) Designed the assessment methodology and developed data collection tools including questionnaires, key informant guides, and focus group discussion guides.
(c) Tested the data collection tools and determined the appropriate sampling techniques and sample size to ensure representative results.
(d) Analysed factors influencing the success or failure of the adoption of the VBHCD approach.
(e) Conducted the cost-benefit analysis of the VBHCD approach.
(f) Assessed and documented the project opportunities for scaling up innovative and tested approaches.
(g) Analysed factors and constraints that influenced project implementation, both internal (technical, managerial, organizational, institutional) and external (political, economic, social, technological, legal and policy), including external factors unforeseen during design. The impacts were also determined and the lessons learned documented.
(h) Conducted a SWOT analysis of the current implementation of the VBHCD approach through PRISM and recommended areas for improvement.

2 Approach and Methodology to the Assessment

2.1 Approach to the Assignment

A mixed methods approach involving both quantitative and qualitative techniques was adopted while executing the Social Capital Impacts Assessment for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets (PRISM) Project in Rwanda. The process followed was structured into four phases as shown below.

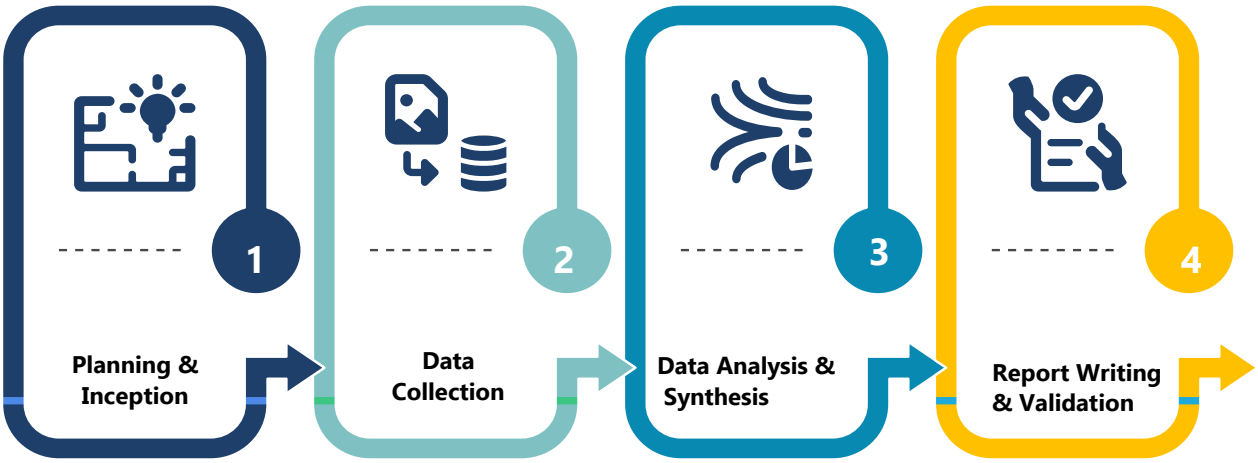


Figure 3: Process Flow of the Assignment Execution

2.2 Study Design

A non-experimental before-and-after design was employed to execute the assignment. This design facilitated the assessment of changes in social capital indicators over time without manipulating any variables. Baseline data was compared with study findings to determine shifts attributable to the PRISM project interventions. In cases where baseline data was incomplete, national statistics on food security, livelihood, incomes, and productivity were used as reference points. This approach accounted for external factors and supported effective documentation of the contribution of the VBHCD model and the PRISM project toward improving the well-being of the targeted communities.

2.3 Study Area

The study covered 15 districts across three provinces in Rwanda, aligning with PRISM project implementation areas.

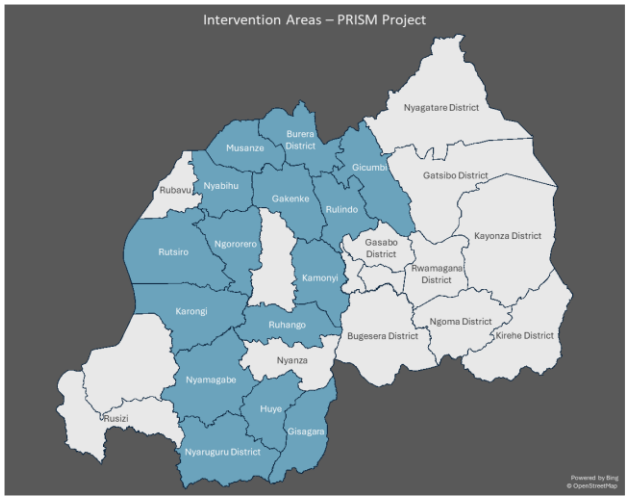


Figure 4: A Map of Rwanda Showing Study Districts

PRISM Operates in 3 Provinces of Rwanda.

- Northern Province
- Western Province
- Southern Province

15 Districts of Intervention

5 in each Province

Selected based on the Poverty levels of the country through engagement of key stakeholder- The GoR through RAB/SPIU and 15 districts.

Time Framework: 23 March 2021 – 22 March 2026.

Project Code: RW1338

2.4 Target Population

The study targeted both direct and indirect beneficiaries of the PRISM project in the 15 districts across the three provinces of Rwanda where the project is being implemented. Direct beneficiaries included women, youth, and men who actively participated in PRISM-supported interventions, such as members of self-help groups (SHGs), individuals trained and recipients of inputs among others. On the other hand, indirect beneficiaries comprised community members within the districts of project implementation who did not directly engage with the project but benefitted from the broader level community-impacts.

2.5 Data Collection Methods

Both primary and secondary data collection methods were used in the study. To ensure a smooth process, introductory letters were sent to the district local governments outlining the purpose of the assignment, followed by telephone calls to inform stakeholders about the study.

2.5.1 Primary Data Collection

Quantitative Data Collection

This involved data collection using a household survey from both direct and indirect beneficiaries of the PRISM project. The quantitative data collected covered key areas including demographics, food security, nutrition, income, training, livelihood, and community level impacts among others.

The target sample size was 1800 respondents consisting of 1500 direct beneficiaries and 300 indirect beneficiaries distributed across the 15 project districts. The aim was to include 100 direct beneficiary respondents and 20 indirect beneficiary respondents in each district. A total of 1,786 surveys were successfully completed, resulting in a response rate of 99.2%. The table below shows the total number of surveys completed per district in each province.

Table 1: Total Number of Surveys Done Per District

Province	District	Beneficiary Type		Total
		Direct	Indirect	
Northern	Burera	97	24	121
	Gakenke	100	20	120
	Gicumbi	100	20	120
	Musanze	101	22	123
	Rulindo	111	9	120
Northern Total		**509**	**95**	**604**
Southern	Gisagara	84	41	125
	Huye	96	24	120
	Nyamagabe	92	18	110
	Nyaruguru	99	21	120
	Ruhango	100	22	122
Southern Total		**471**	**126**	**597**
Western	Karongi	96	10	106
	Ngororero	100	20	120
	Nyabihu	103	16	119
	Nyamasheke	106	14	120
	Rutsiro	101	19	120
Western Total		**506**	**79**	**585**
Total		**1486**	**300**	**1786**

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Qualitative Data Collection

Qualitative data was collected through Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, and Consultative Meetings. Respondents were purposively selected and included Self-Help Group (SHG) members engaged in income-generating activities such as pig and poultry farming; the project team at heifer International Rwanda;

Animal Resources Officers from the 15 project districts; Agro-dealers; Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs (CAVEs); Community Facilitators (CFs) working with SHGs; and Sector Social Protection Officers.

Furthermore, observation and photography were also used to supplement the findings. Below is a table showing a summary of interviews done.

Type of Interview	Number
Key Informant Interviews	34
Focus Group Discussions	26
Consultative Meetings	5

2.5.2 Secondary Data Collection

This involved a comprehensive review of relevant project documents and national statistical sources. Key documents reviewed included annual, quarterly, and progress reports, along with financial data and records. The data provided contextual insights into the project's implementation.

2.6 Data Management, Analysis and Synthesis of Information

Quantitative Data

Quantitative data was collected electronically using SurveyCTO. This aimed at ensuring that accurate and quality data was collected. Each questionnaire captured GPS coordinates of the location of the enumerator during its administration.

The collected data underwent a thorough cleaning process, which involved handling missing values, identifying out-of-range entries, detecting and removing outliers, and eliminating duplicate cases. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS, STATA, and Microsoft Excel, generating both descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings were interpreted and discussed throughout the report and summarized in the executive summary.

Qualitative Data

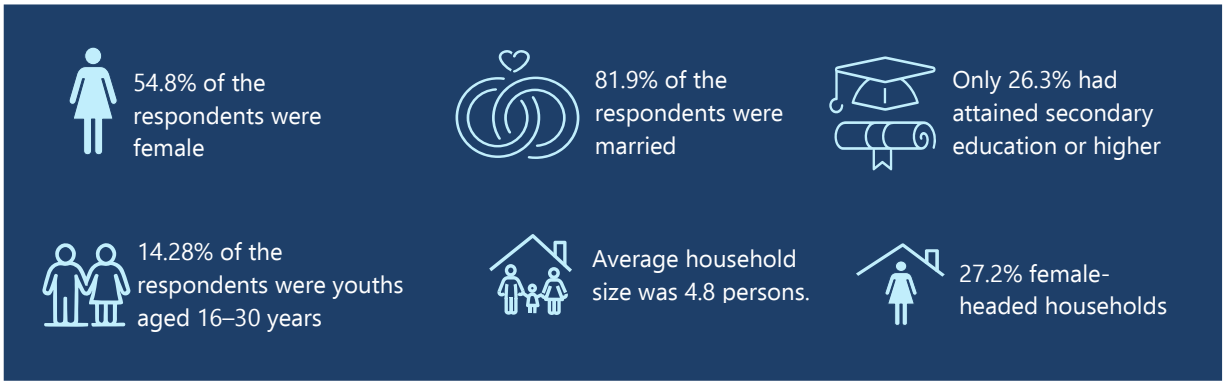
For qualitative data, field notes were taken and audio recordings transcribed into Microsoft Word. The data was analyzed using thematic analysis and where appropriate, direct quotes were incorporated to illustrate key findings. The qualitative findings were used to triangulate the quantitative results and to inform the development of concrete, actionable recommendations.

2.7 Limitations

- Heavy rainfall in some districts where data was collected which hindered enumerators' movement between sectors.
- The hilly and rocky terrain limited the speed and ease of enumerators' movement across locations.

3 Key Findings of the Assignment

3.1 Demographic Characteristics



3.1.1 Location

A total of 1,786 respondents participated in the study, drawn from 15 districts across the Northern, Southern, and Western provinces. The overall distribution of respondents was relatively balanced, with 33.82% from the Northern province, 33.43% from the Southern province, and 32.75% from the Western province.

Among the direct beneficiaries, the distribution was similarly balanced with 34.25% from the Northern province, 34.05% from the Western province, and 31.70% from the Southern province.

On the other hand, for the indirect beneficiaries, 42.00% were from the Southern province, followed by the Northern (31.67%) and Western (26.33%) provinces, as shown in Table 2 below.

On average, approximately 119 respondents were sampled per district across the three provinces and the respondents per district are detailed in Table 1 (see page 7) .

Table 2: Location of Respondents

Province	Direct Beneficiary		Indirect Beneficiary		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Northern	509	34.25%	95	31.67%	604	33.82%
Southern	471	31.70%	126	42.00%	597	33.43%
Western	506	34.05%	79	26.33%	585	32.75%
Total	**1486**	**100.00%**	**300**	**100.00%**	**1786**	**100.00%**

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.1.2 Sex

Overall, the majority of surveyed households (72.8%, n = 1301) were male-headed, however, most respondents were female (54.8%, n = 979). A similar observation was made among direct beneficiary households, where 71.1% (n = 1,057) were male-headed, while the majority of respondents were female (58.3%, n = 866). This reflects the project's selection criteria, which prioritized active participants, most of whom were women, as shown in the figure below.

In contrast, among indirect beneficiaries, the majority of households (81.3%, n = 187) were male-headed, and most respondents were also male (62.3%, n = 244).

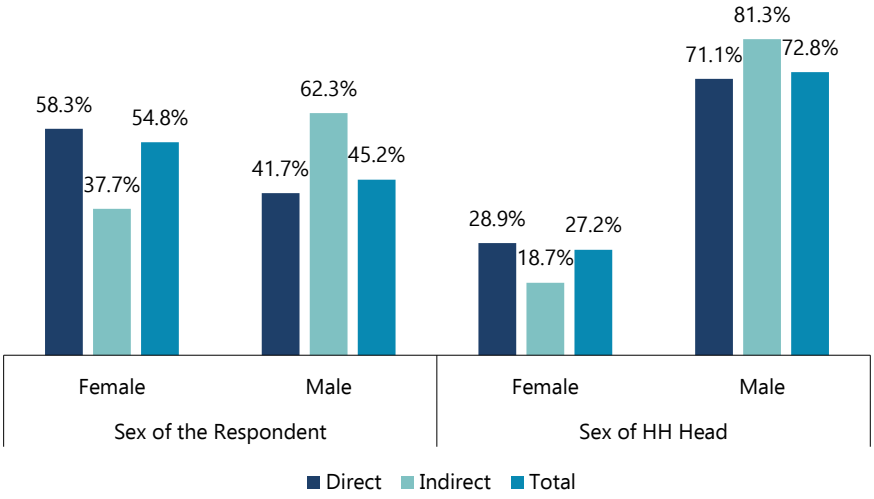


Figure 5: Distribution of Household Heads and Respondents by Sex and Beneficiary Type

3.1.3 Household Size

The average household size was 4.8 individuals, with 2.5 females and 2.3 males. This suggests a slightly higher number of females than males per household.

3.1.4 Age

Adults aged 31–64 years accounted for the highest proportion of respondents (79.12%), followed by youths aged 16–30 years (14.28%) and senior citizens aged 65 years and above (6.61%), who had the lowest representation.

This distribution showed a similar pattern across both the direct and indirect beneficiaries. Among the direct beneficiaries, 78.94% were adults aged 31–64 years, 14.80% were youth aged 16-30 years, and 6.26% were senior citizens aged 65 years and above. For the indirect beneficiaries, adults accounted for 80.00%, youths 11.67%, and senior citizens 8.33%.

All districts had at least 70% of their respondents in the adult age group (31–64 years), except Rulindo, which had 65.83%. Gisagara recorded the highest proportion of senior citizens (aged 65 and above) at 14.4%, while Rulindo had the highest proportion of youth respondents (aged 16–30 years).

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents

District	Age Category	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	16-30 (Youths)	23	23.71%	1	4.17%	24	19.83%
	31-64 (Adults)	74	76.29%	22	91.67%	96	79.34%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	0	0.00%	1	4.17%	1	0.83%
	Total	97	100.00%	24	100.00%	121	100.00%
Gakenke	16-30 (Youths)	17	17.00%	4	20.00%	21	17.50%
	31-64 (Adults)	80	80.00%	15	75.00%	95	79.17%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	3	3.00%	1	5.00%	4	3.33%
	Total	100	100.00%	20	100.00%	120	100.00%
Gicumbi	16-30 (Youths)	11	11.00%	4	20.00%	15	12.50%
	31-64 (Adults)	82	82.00%	16	80.00%	98	81.67%

District	Age Category	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	7	7.00%	0	0.00%	7	5.83%
	Total	100	100.00%	20	100.00%	120	100.00%
Gisagara	16-30 (Youths)	7	8.33%	3	7.32%	10	8.00%
	31-64 (Adults)	63	75.00%	34	82.93%	97	77.60%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	14	16.67%	4	9.76%	18	14.40%
	Total	84	100.00%	41	100.00%	125	100.00%
Huye	16-30 (Youths)	6	6.25%	1	4.17%	7	5.83%
	31-64 (Adults)	82	85.42%	22	91.67%	104	86.67%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	8	8.33%	1	4.17%	9	7.50%
	Total	96	100.00%	24	100.00%	120	100.00%
Karongi	16-30 (Youths)	16	16.67%	1	10.00%	17	16.04%
	31-64 (Adults)	75	78.13%	9	90.00%	84	79.25%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	5	5.21%	0	0.00%	5	4.72%
	Total	96	100.00%	10	100.00%	106	100.00%
Musanze	16-30 (Youths)	18	17.82%	2	9.09%	20	16.26%
	31-64 (Adults)	77	76.24%	13	59.09%	90	73.17%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	6	5.94%	7	31.82%	13	10.57%
	Total	101	100.00%	22	100.00%	123	100.00%
Ngororero	16-30 (Youths)	9	9.00%	4	20.00%	13	10.83%
	31-64 (Adults)	84	84.00%	15	75.00%	99	82.50%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	7	7.00%	1	5.00%	8	6.67%
	Total	100	100.00%	20	100.00%	120	100.00%
Nyabihu	16-30 (Youths)	8	7.77%	1	6.25%	9	7.56%
	31-64 (Adults)	89	86.41%	15	93.75%	104	87.39%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	6	5.83%	0	0.00%	6	5.04%
	Total	103	100.00%	16	100.00%	119	100.00%
Nyamagabe	16-30 (Youths)	22	23.91%	2	11.11%	24	21.82%
	31-64 (Adults)	66	71.74%	15	83.33%	81	73.64%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	4	4.35%	1	5.56%	5	4.55%
	Total	92	100.00%	18	100.00%	110	100.00%

District	Age Category	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Nyamasheke	16-30 (Youths)	7	6.60%	0	0.00%	7	5.83%
	31-64 (Adults)	94	88.68%	12	85.71%	106	88.33%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	5	4.72%	2	14.29%	7	5.83%
	Total	106	100.00%	14	100.00%	120	100.00%
Nyaruguru	16-30 (Youths)	15	15.15%	4	19.05%	19	15.83%
	31-64 (Adults)	80	80.81%	15	71.43%	95	79.17%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	4	4.04%	2	9.52%	6	5.00%
	Total	99	100.00%	21	100.00%	120	100.00%
Ruhango	16-30 (Youths)	11	11.00%	5	22.73%	16	13.11%
	31-64 (Adults)	78	78.00%	14	63.64%	92	75.41%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	11	11.00%	3	13.64%	14	11.48%
	Total	100	100.00%	22	100.00%	122	100.00%
Rulindo	16-30 (Youths)	33	29.73%	2	22.22%	35	29.17%
	31-64 (Adults)	72	64.86%	7	77.78%	79	65.83%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	6	5.41%	0	0.00%	6	5.00%
	Total	111	100.00%	9	100.00%	120	100.00%
Rutsiro	16-30 (Youths)	17	16.83%	1	5.26%	18	15.00%
	31-64 (Adults)	77	76.24%	16	84.21%	93	77.50%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	7	6.93%	2	10.53%	9	7.50%
	Total	101	100.00%	19	100.00%	120	100.00%
Overall Total	16-30 (Youths)	220	14.80%	35	11.67%	255	14.28%
	31-64 (Adults)	1173	78.94%	240	80.00%	1413	79.12%
	65 & Above (Senior Citizens)	93	6.26%	25	8.33%	118	6.61%
	Total	1486	100.00%	300	100.00%	1786	100.00%

Source: Primary Data (PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.1.5 Marital Status

Figure 6 shows that 81.9% of the respondents were married, followed by widowed individuals (9.6%), while single and divorced individuals accounted for 4.3% and 4.2%, respectively.

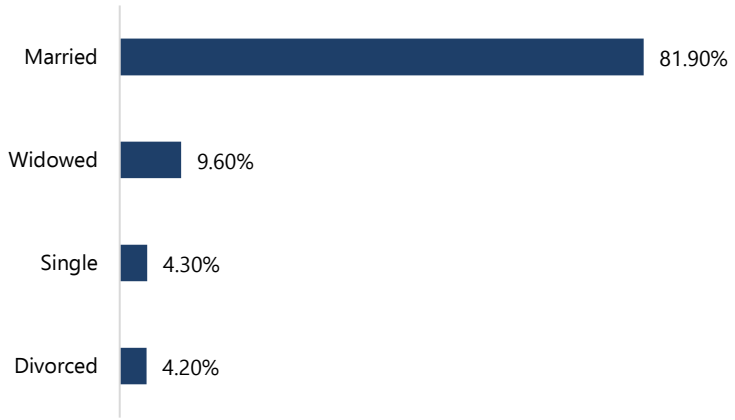


Figure 6: Marital Status of Respondents

3.1.6 Education Level

The largest proportion of respondents (62.2%) had primary education as their highest level of attainment, suggesting that most were able to read and write. This was followed by 15.2% with 'O' level, 11.5% with no formal education, and 8.7% with 'A' level education. Tertiary, University, and TVET, qualifications each accounted for less than 3% of respondents.

All districts had at least 50% of respondents whose highest level of education was primary school. Gicumbi had the highest proportion of respondents with 'O' level secondary education (25.0%), while Musanze had the highest with 'A' level secondary education (13.8%). Gisagara had the largest share of respondents without formal education (20.8%), followed by Ngororero (18.3%), Rulindo (14.17%), and Burera (14.05%).

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education and District

District	Level of Education	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	No Formal Education	15	15.46%	2	8.33%	17	14.05%
	Primary Level	65	67.01%	18	75.00%	83	68.60%
	Secondary Level (A level)	6	6.19%		0.00%	6	4.96%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	8	8.25%	3	12.50%	11	9.09%
	TVET	2	2.06%	1	4.17%	3	2.48%
	University level	1	1.03%		0.00%	1	0.83%
	Total	97	100.00%	24	100.00%	121	100.00%
Gakenke	No Formal Education	5	5.00%	1	5.00%	6	5.00%
	Primary Level	73	73.00%	13	65.00%	86	71.67%

District	Level of Education	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	Secondary Level (A level)	9	9.00%		0.00%	9	7.50%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	12	12.00%	5	25.00%	17	14.17%
	TVET	1	1.00%		0.00%	1	0.83%
	University level		0.00%	1	5.00%	1	0.83%
	Total	100	100.00%	20	100.00%	120	100.00%
Gicumbi	No Formal Education	5	5.00%	1	5.00%	6	5.00%
	Primary Level	54	54.00%	9	45.00%	63	52.50%
	Secondary Level (A level)	7	7.00%	2	10.00%	9	7.50%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	25	25.00%	5	25.00%	30	25.00%
	Tertiary Institute	2	2.00%		0.00%	2	1.67%
	TVET	7	7.00%	1	5.00%	8	6.67%
	University level		0.00%	2	10.00%	2	1.67%
	Total	100	100.00%	20	100.00%	120	100.00%
Gisagara	No Formal Education	22	26.19%	4	9.76%	26	20.80%
	Primary Level	48	57.14%	29	70.73%	77	61.60%
	Secondary Level (A level)	5	5.95%	4	9.76%	9	7.20%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	9	10.71%	2	4.88%	11	8.80%
	TVET		0.00%	1	2.44%	1	0.80%
	University level		0.00%	1	2.44%	1	0.80%
	Total	84	100.00%	41	100.00%	125	100.00%
Huye	No Formal Education	12	12.50%		0.00%	12	10.00%
	Primary Level	69	71.88%	14	58.33%	83	69.17%
	Secondary Level (A level)	2	2.08%	3	12.50%	5	4.17%

District	Level of Education	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	Secondary Level (O Level)	13	13.54%	7	29.17%	20	16.67%
	Total	96	100.00%	24	100.00%	120	100.00%
Karongi	No Formal Education	10	10.42%		0.00%	10	9.43%
	Primary Level	58	60.42%	5	50.00%	63	59.43%
	Secondary Level (A level)	8	8.33%	1	10.00%	9	8.49%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	20	20.83%	4	40.00%	24	22.64%
	Total	96	100.00%	10	100.00%	106	100.00%
Musanze	No Formal Education	5	4.95%	3	13.64%	8	6.50%
	Primary Level	69	68.32%	17	77.27%	86	69.92%
	Secondary Level (A level)	17	16.83%		0.00%	17	13.82%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	10	9.90%	2	9.09%	12	9.76%
	Total	101	100.00%	22	100.00%	123	100.00%
Ngororero	No Formal Education	21	21.00%	1	5.00%	22	18.33%
	Primary Level	57	57.00%	10	50.00%	67	55.83%
	Secondary Level (A level)	7	7.00%	3	15.00%	10	8.33%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	15	15.00%	6	30.00%	21	17.50%
	Total	100	100.00%	20	100.00%	120	100.00%
Nyabihu	No Formal Education	10	9.71%	2	12.50%	12	10.08%
	Primary Level	67	65.05%	9	56.25%	76	63.87%
	Secondary Level (A level)	11	10.68%	2	12.50%	13	10.92%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	14	13.59%	3	18.75%	17	14.29%
	Tertiary Institute	1	0.97%		0.00%	1	0.84%

District	Level of Education	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	Total	103	100.00%	16	100.00%	119	100.00%
Nyamagabe	No Formal Education	14	15.22%	1	5.56%	15	13.64%
	Primary Level	56	60.87%	15	83.33%	71	64.55%
	Secondary Level (A level)	6	6.52%	2	11.11%	8	7.27%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	15	16.30%		0.00%	15	13.64%
	University level	1	1.09%		0.00%	1	0.91%
	Total	92	100.00%	18	100.00%	110	100.00%
Nyamasheke	No Formal Education	12	11.32%	2	14.29%	14	11.67%
	Primary Level	64	60.38%	5	35.71%	69	57.50%
	Secondary Level (A level)	15	14.15%	2	14.29%	17	14.17%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	12	11.32%	4	28.57%	16	13.33%
	TVET	3	2.83%		0.00%	3	2.50%
	University level		0.00%	1	7.14%	1	0.83%
	Total	106	100.00%	14	100.00%	120	100.00%
Nyaruguru	No Formal Education	8	8.08%	2	9.52%	10	8.33%
	Primary Level	66	66.67%	12	57.14%	78	65.00%
	Secondary Level (A level)	1	1.01%	2	9.52%	3	2.50%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	22	22.22%	3	14.29%	25	20.83%
	TVET	2	2.02%	1	4.76%	3	2.50%
	University level		0.00%	1	4.76%	1	0.83%
	Total	99	100.00%	21	100.00%	120	100.00%
Ruhango	No Formal Education	16	16.00%	1	4.55%	17	13.93%
	Primary Level	61	61.00%	6	27.27%	67	54.92%

District	Level of Education	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	Secondary Level (A level)	7	7.00%	3	13.64%	10	8.20%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	13	13.00%	7	31.82%	20	16.39%
	TVET	2	2.00%	2	9.09%	4	3.28%
	University level	1	1.00%	3	13.64%	4	3.28%
	Total	100	100.00%	22	100.00%	122	100.00%
Rulindo	No Formal Education	17	15.32%		0.00%	17	14.17%
	Primary Level	61	54.95%	5	55.56%	66	55.00%
	Secondary Level (A level)	13	11.71%	2	22.22%	15	12.50%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	17	15.32%	2	22.22%	19	15.83%
	TVET	3	2.70%		0.00%	3	2.50%
	Total	111	100.00%	9	100.00%	120	100.00%
Rutsiro	No Formal Education	14	13.86%		0.00%	14	11.67%
	Primary Level	62	61.39%	14	73.68%	76	63.33%
	Secondary Level (A level)	13	12.87%	3	15.79%	16	13.33%
	Secondary Level (O Level)	12	11.88%	1	5.26%	13	10.83%
	University level		0.00%	1	5.26%	1	0.83%
		101	100.00%	19	100.00%	120	100.00%
Overall Total	No Formal Education	186	12.52%	20	6.67%	206	11.53%
	Primary	930	62.58%	181	60.33%	1111	62.21%
	Secondary (O' level)	127	8.55%	29	9.67%	271	8.73%
	Secondary (A' level)	217	14.60%	54	18.00%	156	15.17%
	Tertiary	3	0.20%		0.00%	3	0.17%
	University level	20	1.35%	6	2.00%	13	1.46%

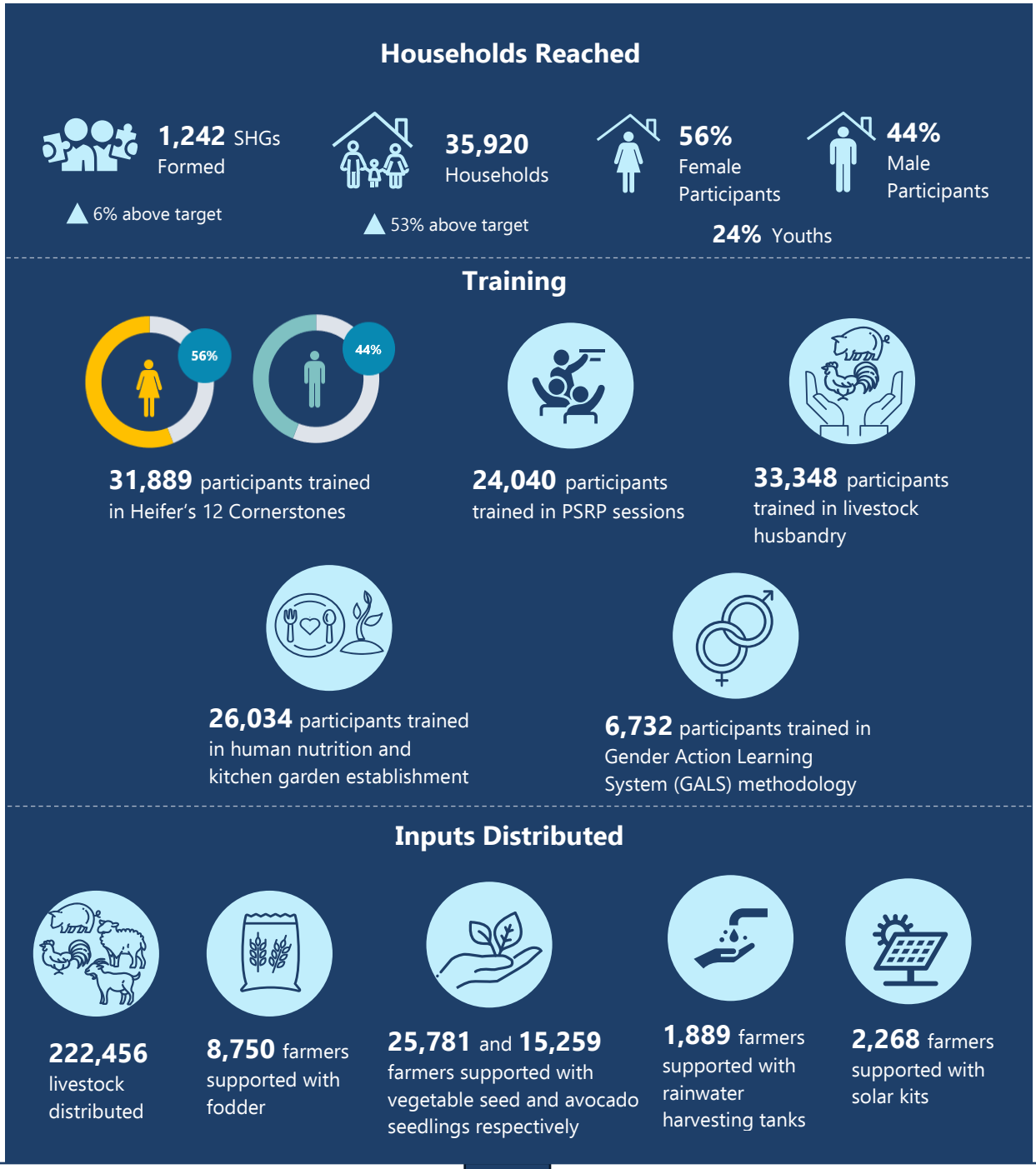
District	Level of Education	Direct		Indirect		Total	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	TVET	3	0.20%	10	3.33%	26	0.73%
	Total	1486	100.00%	300	100.00%	1786	100.00%

Source: Primary Data (PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Contribution of the VBHCD Model to PRISM Project Outcomes

3.2 Key Activities of the VBHCD Model and PRISM Project

To achieve the PRISM project outcomes, key activities under the VBHCD model were implemented. These included the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs); training of group members in Heifer's 12 Cornerstones and PSRP; capacity building in animal husbandry, human nutrition, and kitchen garden establishment; training in GALS (Gender Action Learning System), and the distribution of inputs. Through these interventions, communities were empowered socially, economically, and technically.



Almost 36,000 Households reached surpassing the initial target of 23,400

Of the participants trained in the VBHCD model were women

3.2.1 Formation of Self-Help Groups

This process involved the identification and validation of vulnerable individuals, selection of participants, and mobilization and organization into Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

According to the PRISM 2025 report, by the end of June 2025, a total of 1,242 SHGs comprising smallholder farmers had been established across the 15 project implementation districts, with each group consisting of 25-30 members. This was 6% higher than the overall target of 1,170 SHGs.

In total, these SHGs comprised 35,920 members, including 15,726 males (43.78%), 20,194 females (56.22%), and 8262 youths (23%), which is 53% higher than the overall project target of 23,400 households.

3.2.2 Training of Group Members

Following the formation of SHGs, the participants were taken through a series of training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones and Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP) processes. These training sessions were aimed at developing positive attitudes and behaviors that foster unity, harmony, social cohesion, and peaceful co-existence within communities.

Heifer's 12 Cornerstones

Data from the PRISM 2025 progress report shows that by June 2025, a total of 31,889 project beneficiaries from the OG, PoG, E-PoG and Ee-PoG SHGs had been trained in the VBHCD model across the 15 Districts. This group comprised 17,858 females (56%) and 14,031 males (44%), including 8,291 (26%) female-headed households. Youth (16-30 years) accounted for 7653 (24%) individuals, including both male and female members

Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP) Sessions

The Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP) sessions served as a platform for SHG members to reflect on past performance, identify challenges, celebrate achievements, and plan future activities.

A total of 24,040 individuals from OG, PoG and E-PoG SHGs actively participated in the sessions, including 13,943 females (58%) and 10,097 males (42%). Among the participants were 6,731 female-headed (28%) households and 5769 youth (24%), including both male and female members as per the PRISM 2025 progress report.

3.2.3 Technical Training in Livestock Husbandry Management

After the training of group members on Heifer's 12 cornerstones and the Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP) processes, farmers were prepared to receive livestock. This was done by organizing sessions that equipped them with essential knowledge and skills in proper animal husbandry to ensure the well-being of the livestock they received.

According to the PRISM 2025 progress report, a total of 33,348 beneficiaries across the 15 Districts participated in the technical training in livestock husbandry management, including 18,675 (56%) females and 14,673 (44%) males. Among the participants were 9,337 female headed households (28%) and 7,670 youth (23%), including female and male individuals.

3.2.4 Training in Human Nutrition and Kitchen Garden Establishment

In addition to the technical training, farmers were trained in human nutrition and kitchen garden establishment with the aim of equipping them with knowledge and skills to improve their household nutrition and food security. A total of 26,034 individuals were trained with 56% (n=14,579) females and 44% males (n = 11,455). Of these, 22% (n=5727) were youth and 29% (n=7,550) female-headed households as per the PRISM 2025 progress report.

3.2.5 The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Training

To promote gender equality and empower poor rural men, women, and youth to transform Rwanda's livestock sector, the GALS (Gender Action Learning System) methodology was adopted. GALS is a structured, community-driven approach that incorporates a rich set of tools, including visual diagramming, participatory principles, and peer-to-peer learning mechanisms, to enhance access to resilient and productive resources. A total of 6732 individuals were trained with 57% females (n=3,837) and 43% males (n=2895). Furthermore, 36% of the households were female-headed and 22% were youths (n=1481) (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

3.2.6 Distribution of Livestock and Inputs to Participants

The PRISM project distributed various inputs such as animals, fodder seeds/planting materials, animal shelter construction materials, feeds, veterinary drugs, vegetable seeds, avocado seedlings, water tanks and solar systems for lighting.

Livestock

Animals were distributed through the original groups and Pass on the Gift (PoG) concept. By June 2025, the original groups had received a total of 67,500 chickens, distributed to 6,750 beneficiaries, with each beneficiary receiving 10 chickens. In addition, 3,077 pigs were distributed to 3,077 beneficiaries, each receiving 1 pig, across 15 districts. In recognition of original group members who had fulfilled their PoG commitments, 13,759 goats and 3,608 sheep were also distributed, each receiving 2 goats or 2 sheep depending on their preference (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Under the Pass on the Gift (PoG) concept, members of the original groups were expected to pass on two 3-month-old piglets from the pig value chain, 10 chicks from the chicken value chain, and two 4-month-old kids or lambs from the goat or sheep value chain. A total of 128,990 chickens, 5,390 pigs, 65 goats, and 68 sheep were passed onto new beneficiaries.

A total of 222,456 livestock were distributed, with Gicumbi district receiving the highest number and Karongi district the lowest, as detailed in the table below. Furthermore, a range of veterinary drugs and animal feeds, as well as one-year insurance coverage were provided to promote and safeguard animal health.

Table 5: Livestock Distributed to Participants

Province	District	Chicken	Pigs	Goats	Sheep	Total Livestock
North	Gicumbi	20,000	744	716	550	22,010
	Rulindo	12,860	576	1,038	0	14,474
	Gakenke	17,010	722	1,064	210	19,006
	Musanze	14,590	576	932	354	16,452
	Burera	10,620	552	306	836	12,314
West	Nyabihu	13,260	395	470	584	14,709
	Rutsiro	10,180	495	0	1,142	13,149
	Ngororero	17,680	644	1,332	0	19,282
	Karongi	8,640	430	958	0	9,070
	Nyamasheke	17,960	794	1,402	0	20,156
South	Huye	10,380	453	944	0	11,777
	Nyamagabe	10,430	576	1,100	0	12,106
	Gisagara	11,560	551	1,266	0	13,377
	Ruhango	11,960	523	1,132	0	13,615
	Nyaruguru	9,360	435	1,164	0	10,959
Total		196,490	8,466	13,824	3,676	222,456

Source: Secondary Data (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report)

Animal Shelter Construction

To ensure proper care of the animals received, the farmers were provided with materials to support the construction of standard low-cost shelter structures. Chicken farmers received materials such as wire mesh, roofing nails, and iron sheets while pig farmers received cement, iron sheets, roofing nails and fixing nails of varying sizes.

Farmers contributed resources such as construction poles, sand, and manpower to ensure sustainability and community engagement.

By June 2025, from the original groups, a total of 6,750 beneficiaries had been supported for the chicken value chain, 3077 for pigs, and 8,750 for goats and sheep. Each chicken farmer received 2 sqm of wire mesh, one kg of roofing nails, and 2 iron sheets while each pig farmer received three bags of cement of 50 kgs each, 4 iron sheets, one kg of roofing nails, and three kgs of fixing nails. These materials were passed on along with the livestock to a qualifying household (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Climate Smart Innovations

For climate change adaptation and mitigation, fodder trees and shrub species, rainwater harvesting tanks, avocado seedlings and vegetable seed were distributed to the beneficiaries.

Fodder

To support livestock feeding and prevent soil erosion, fodder trees and shrubs were distributed to farmers. Each farmer received 100 cuttings of Kakamega Napier grass and 10 seedlings of either Calliandra calothyrsus or Leucaena leucocephala. These formed a key part of the project's climate-smart agriculture practices.

A total of 8,750 farmers were supported with fodder resources. Of these, 57% were female (n = 4,973) and 43% were male (n = 3,777). Youth made up 25% of the beneficiaries (n = 2,219), while 30% (n = 2,590) were female-headed households (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Vegetable Seeds and Avocado Seedlings

Following nutrition training and the establishment of backyard kitchen gardens, the project distributed a variety of vegetable seeds, including carrots, beetroots, and amaranthus, to support household food production. On average, each farmer received 6 grams of seed for each vegetable category. By June 2025, a total of 25,781 farmers had received vegetable seeds. Of these, 57% (n=14695) were female and 43% (n=11086) were male. Youth accounted for 23% (n= 5930) of the beneficiaries while 27% (n=6961) were female-headed households.

In addition to vegetable seeds, avocado seedlings were provided to promote both climate-smart agriculture and improved nutrition. As of June 2025, a total of 15,259 farmers had received avocado seedlings. Of these, 56% (n=8545), were female and 44% (n=6714) were male. Youth made up 19% (n=2899) while 23% (n=3510) were female-headed households (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Rainwater Harvesting Tanks

To ease water stress resulting from the increased water and labor demands of livestock keeping, the most vulnerable individuals, including the sick, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households, were supported with 1,000-liter rainwater harvesting plastic tanks, including full installation. In addition to improving access to water, these tanks contributed to climate change mitigation by reducing reliance on energy-intensive water sources and enhancing resilience to droughts.

By June 2025, a total of 1,889 farmers had received water tanks. Of these, 58% (n=1096), were female and 42% (n=793) were male. Youth made up 19% (n=359) while 25% (n=472) were female-headed households (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Solar Kits

To support climate change mitigation, the PRISM project distributed home solar kits to off-grid households. By replacing traditional fuel-based lighting with solar energy, the initiative reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lowered reliance on fossil fuels, and promoted the use of renewable energy. In addition to providing clean and reliable energy, the intervention also enhanced educational opportunities for beneficiaries' children and improved overall household well-being.

A total of 2268 farmers received solar kits. Of these, 58% (n=1315), were female and 42% (n=953) were male. Youth accounted for 20% (n=453) of the beneficiaries while 30% (n=680) were female-headed households (Financial Year 2025 PRISM Progress Report).

Beneficiary Outcomes and Broader Community Impacts

3.3 Community Cohesion and Social Networks

Social capital plays a foundational role in fostering social cohesion, enabling community development and facilitating empowerment. The VBHCD model ensured that this was attained through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), provision of direct support, support services, and capacity building.

3.3.1 Group Formation and Membership

As one of the core components of the VBHCD model, the assessment examined the extent to which the model contributed to the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The analysis revealed that 100% of direct beneficiaries were members of SHGs formed and supported under the PRISM project through the VBHCD model.

It is important to note that a small portion of participants (7.13%) had previously been members of other community-based groups not affiliated with PRISM. This indicates that while some level of group engagement existed prior, 100% of SHG participation by the direct beneficiaries is attributed to the interventions introduced through the VBHCD model. The table below presents the distribution of participants who joined SHGs because of the VBHCD model under PRISM.

Table 6: Group Formation and Membership

Province	District	Sampled Direct Respondents	Group Membership and Formation				
			Member of Other Groups Before PRISM		Joined SHGs After PRISM		Percentage Differences
			Frequency	Percent	Freq	Percent	Percent
Northen	Burera	97	1	1.03%	97	100.00%	98.97%
	Gakenke	100	0	0.00%	100	100.00%	100.00%
	Gicumbi	100	1	1.00%	100	100.00%	99.00%
	Musanze	101	0	0.00%	101	100.00%	100.00%
	Rulindo	111	4	3.60%	111	100.00%	96.40%
Southern	Gisagara	84	1	1.19%	84	100.00%	98.81%
	Huye	96	9	9.38%	96	100.00%	90.63%
	Nyamagabe	92	44	47.83%	92	100.00%	52.17%
	Nyaruguru	99	0	0.00%	99	100.00%	100.00%
	Ruhango	100	3	3.00%	100	100.00%	97.00%
Western	Karongi	96	4	4.17%	96	100.00%	95.83%
	Ngororero	100	7	7.00%	100	100.00%	93.00%
	Nyabihu	103	2	1.94%	103	100.00%	98.06%
	Nyamasheke	106	14	13.21%	106	100.00%	86.79%
	Rutsiro	101	16	15.84%	101	100.00%	84.16%
Total	15	1486	106	7.13%	1486	100.00%	92.87%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Duration of Membership

The assessment discovered that majority (81.5%) of the participants had been in these groups for more than one year. This implies a strong level of group stability and sustained participation, which are essential indicators of social cohesion. Long-term group membership allows individuals to build trust, share experiences, and develop mutual support systems. It also facilitates the accumulation of social capital through consistent interactions, collective decision-making, and strengthened community networks.

3.3.2 Participant Support Under the VBHCD Model

The assessment examined whether participants had received any support from Heifer Rwanda through the PRISM project implemented using the VBHCD model. All direct beneficiaries sampled across the assessed districts reported receiving at least one form of support from Heifer Rwanda under the VBHCD model.

Support Services Received by PRISM Participants

All participants (100%) received support as indicated in Table 116 (see Annexes on page 119). The support received was categorized into training, livestock and equipment (materials for constructing animal shelters). While all participants across the districts reported receiving training support, the distribution of livestock varied by district as indicated in Table 5 (see page 21).

Other direct support services reported by beneficiaries included, but were not limited to agroforestry seedlings, vegetable and avocado seedlings, and various inputs and equipment such as solar kits, and water tanks.

Table 7: Support Services Received by PRISM Participants

Location			Type of Support					
Province	District	Sampled Direct respondents	Training		Distribution of Livestock		Equipment	
			Frequency	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Northen	Burera	97	97	100.00%	97	100.00%	69	71.13%
	Gakenke	100	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	42	42.00%
	Gicumbi	100	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	84	84.00%
	Musanze	101	101	100.00%	101	100.00%	28	27.72%
	Rulindo	111	111	100.00%	111	100.00%	101	90.99%
Southern	Gisagara	84	84	100.00%	84	100.00%	41	48.81%
	Huye	96	96	100.00%	96	100.00%	60	62.50%
	Nyamagabe	92	92	100.00%	92	100.00%	91	98.91%
	Nyaruguru	99	99	100.00%	99	100.00%	90	90.91%
	Ruhango	100	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	58	58.00%
Western	Karongi	96	96	100.00%	96	100.00%	18	18.75%
	Ngororero	100	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	94	94.00%
	Nyabihu	103	103	100.00%	103	100.00%	73	70.87%
	Nyamasheke	106	106	100.00%	106	100.00%	75	70.75%
	Rutsiro	101	101	100.00%	101	100.00%	65	64.36%
Total	15	1486	1486	100.00%	1486	100.00%	989	66.55%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.3.3 Capacity Building

To ensure community cohesion and improved livelihoods participants were trained in several areas. These included Heifer's 12 Cornerstones, Human and animal nutrition, Animal husbandry, PSRP, and GALS methodology among others.

Training on the 12 Cornerstones

The assessment investigated the extent to which beneficiaries participated in the different areas of training conducted by Heifer under PRISM using the VBHCD Model. The analysis revealed that all the beneficiaries (100%) that participated in the survey had been trained on the 12 Heifer Cornerstones under PRISM as indicated in Table 117 (see Annexes on page 119).

The 12-cornerstones training in groups enhances the beneficiaries' capacities to build the requisite social capital for social economic transformation at all levels. This has been a foundation for groups to put in place mechanisms for resilience when they internalize the cornerstones. Heifer's 12 Cornerstones are summarized in table below.

Table 8: Heifer's 12 Cornerstones

No.	Heifer's 12 Cornerstones
1	Passing on the gifts.
2	Accountability.
3	Sharing and caring
4	Sustainability and Self-Reliance.
5	Improved Resources Management.
6	Nutrition, Health, and Income.
7	Gender and Inclusion.
8	Genuine Need and Justice.
9	Improving the Environment.
10	Full Participation.
11	Training, Communication, and Education.
12	Spirituality.

Source: Secondary Data (Heifer International, The 12 Cornerstones)

Training in Human and Animal Nutrition

The assessment investigated whether participants received training on both human and animal nutrition. The training on human nutrition and kitchen garden establishment aimed at equipping beneficiaries with skills and knowledge to improve household nutrition and food security, which eventually enabled participants to grow diverse vegetables and herbs, providing a sustainable source of fresh produce for daily consumption.

The findings of the survey revealed that all the sampled direct participants for the social impact assessment had been trained in human and animal nutrition as in the table below.

Table 9: Training in Human and Animal Nutrition

District	Trained in Human and Animal Nutrition	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
Burera	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	97	100.0%
	Total	97	100.0%
Gakenke	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gicumbi	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Musanze	No	0	0.0%

District	Trained in Human and Animal Nutrition	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
	Yes	84	100.0%
	Total	84	100.0%
Rulindo	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Gisagara	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Huye	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Nyamagabe	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Nyaruguru	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	103	100.0%
	Total	103	100.0%
Ruhango	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	92	100.0%
	Total	92	100.0%
Karongi	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	106	100.0%
	Total	106	100.0%
Ngororero	Yes	99	100.0%
	Total	99	100.0%
Nyabihu	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Nyamasheke	Yes	111	100.0%
	Total	111	100.0%
Rutsiro	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Overall Total		1486	100.0%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Technical Training

The technical training component of the PRISM project was designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for proper animal husbandry, with the goal of ensuring the health and well-being of the livestock received through OG, PoG, EPoG and the subsequent passing on the gifts. The analysis revealed that all direct beneficiaries across the 15 districts where animals were distributed received technical training. The table below presents a summary of participants that received technical training across the PRISM districts of implementation.

Table 10: Technical Training

District	Trained in the Technical Aspects of Livestock Management	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
Burera	Yes	97	100.0%
	Total	97	100.0%

District	Trained in the Technical Aspects of Livestock Management	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
Gakenke	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gicumbi	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gisagara	Yes	84	100.0%
	Total	84	100.0%
Huye	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Karongi	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Musanze	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Ngororero	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Nyabihu	Yes	103	100.0%
	Total	103	100.0%
Nyamagabe	Yes	92	100.0%
	Total	92	100.0%
Nyamasheke	Yes	106	100.0%
	Total	106	100.0%
Nyaruguru	Yes	99	100.0%
	Total	99	100.0%
Ruhango	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Rulindo	Yes	111	100.0%
	Total	111	100.0%
Rutsiro	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Overall Total		1486	100.0%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

PSRP Training

Participatory Self-Review and Planning (PSRP) sessions were also delivered by the PRISM project to direct beneficiaries. The purpose of these sessions was to cultivate positive attitudes and behaviors that foster unity, social cohesion, harmony, and peaceful co-existence within communities.

In addition, the training promoted transparency, accountability, and the formation of savings and credit schemes, which have supported the launch of income-generating activities, contributing to sustainable development and self-reliance. From the analysis, all the direct beneficiary respondents sampled for the social impact assessment attended the training on PSRP, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 11: PSRP Training

District	Participated in the PSRP Training	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
Burera	Yes	97	100.0%
	Total	97	100.0%
Gakenke	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gicumbi	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gisagara	Yes	84	100.0%
	Total	84	100.0%
Huye	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Karongi	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Musanze	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Ngororero	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Nyabihu	Yes	103	100.0%
	Total	103	100.0%
Nyamagabe	Yes	92	100.0%
	Total	92	100.0%
Nyamasheke	Yes	106	100.0%
	Total	106	100.0%
Nyaruguru	Yes	99	100.0%
	Total	99	100.0%
Ruhango	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Rulindo	Yes	111	100.0%
	Total	111	100.0%
Rutsiro	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Overall Total		1486	100.0%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Training on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Methodology

To advance gender equality, the PRISM project trained the beneficiaries in the GALS methodology. The study participants reported gaining greater awareness on several key topics, including gender and social inclusion. From the analysis, over 71.1% of the participants that took part in the social impact assessment participated in the training on GALS as shown in the table below.

Table 12: Trainings in GALS Methodology

District	Participation in GALS' Training	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
Burera	No	2	2.1%
	Yes	95	97.9%
	Total	97	100.0%
Gakenke	Yes	99	99.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gicumbi	No	19	19.0%
	Yes	81	81.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gisagara	No	37	44.0%
	Yes	47	56.0%
	Total	84	100.0%
Huye	No	18	18.8%
	Yes	74	77.1%
	Total	96	100.0%
Karongi	No	37	38.5%
	Yes	59	61.5%
	Total	96	100.0%
Musanze	No	60	59.4%
	Yes	40	39.6%
	Total	101	100.0%
Ngororero	No	44	44.0%
	Yes	52	52.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Nyabihu	No	37	35.9%
	Yes	66	64.1%
	Total	103	100.0%
Nyamagabe	No	63	68.5%
	Yes	28	30.4%
	Total	92	100.0%
Nyamasheke	No	2	1.9%
	Yes	103	97.2%
	Total	106	100.0%
Nyaruguru	No	6	6.1%
	Yes	93	93.9%
	Total	99	100.0%
Ruhango	No	39	39.0%
	Yes	60	60.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Rulindo	No	8	7.2%
	Yes	103	92.8%

District	Participation in GALS' Training	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent %
	Total	111	100.0%
Rutsiro	No	42	41.6%
	Yes	57	56.4%
	Total	101	100.0%
Overall Participation in Training in GALS (Yes)		1057	71.1%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Training Usefulness

The study participants were asked to rate the usefulness of the training they received and whether they apply the acquired skills in their daily activities and livestock management. Overall, 93.5% of participants reported that the training was very useful.

It should be noted that the highest rating of the usefulness of the training was recorded in the northern province, (96.9%), followed by the Western province with 95.3% and the Southern province with 87.9% as shown in the table below.

Table 13: Rating of Training Usefulness by Districts and Provinces

Location		Sampled Beneficiaries	Rating of Training Usefulness			
Province	District	Total	Not Useful (Freq)	Neutral (Freq)	Very Useful (Freq)	Percent of Very Useful
	Burera	97		6	91	93.8%
	Gakenke	100	2	3	94	94.0%
	Gicumbi	100		2	98	98.0%
	Musanze	101			100	99.0%
Northern	Rulindo	111		1	110	99.1%
Northern Total		509	2	12	493	96.9%
	Gisagara	84		26	58	69.0%
	Huye	96		4	88	91.7%
	Nyamagabe	92			91	98.9%
	Nyaruguru	99	1		98	99.0%
Southern	Ruhango	100		20	79	79.0%
Southern Total		471	1	50	414	87.9%
	Karongi	96		2	94	97.9%
	Ngororero	100		13	83	83.0%
	Nyabihu	103	2		101	98.1%
	Nyamasheke	106			105	99.1%
Western	Rutsiro	101			99	98.0%
Western Total		506	2	15	482	95.3%
Total		1486	5	77	1389	93.5%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Modes of Participant Engagement

Participants were actively engaged throughout the training sessions. The most common mode of engagement was asking relevant questions (86.7%), followed by sharing experiences (72.4%), and making contributions to the content being taught (51.9%). These results show that participants engaged in multiple interactive ways, with the majority demonstrating curiosity and a willingness to share knowledge, though fewer were involved in contributing to the content directly.

Table 14: Modes of Participant Engagement

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Modes of Participant Engagement					
		Ask questions		Sharing of experiences		Contribution to what is taught	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	97	100	93	95.9	82	84.5
Gakenke	100	100	100	89	89	49	49
Gicumbi	100	84	84	70	70	65	65
Gisagara	84	76	90.5	38	45.2	51	60.7
Huye	96	80	83.3	41	42.7	51	53.1
Karongi	96	58	60.4	80	83.3	19	19.8
Musanze	101	69	68.3	84	83.2	69	68.3
Ngororero	100	77	77	78	78	14	14
Nyabihu	103	102	99	67	65	26	25.2
Nyamagabe	92	58	63	52	56.5	36	39.1
Nyamasheke	106	104	98.1	101	95.3	98	92.5
Nyaruguru	99	98	99	70	70.7	53	53.5
Ruhango	100	93	93	64	64	63	63
Rulindo	111	103	92.8	72	64.9	34	30.6
Rutsiro	101	89	88.1	77	76.2	61	60.4
Total	1486	1288	86.7	1076	72.4	771	51.9

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Skills Application

The findings of the survey revealed that 97.7% of the direct beneficiaries have already applied the skills and knowledge acquired from the training. These skills include Accountability, Sharing and Caring, Sustainability and Self-Reliance, Improved Resources Management, Nutrition, Health, Income, Gender and Inclusion, Improving the Environment, Animal Health Management, Animal Husbandry, and Marketing and Business Development Services among others.

Furthermore, 61.6% of respondents had taken on various leadership roles or positions because of the training, and 74.7% were actively involved in decision-making within their respective groups. The table below summarizes the findings of the survey in relation to training usefulness and skills application.

Table 15: Skills' Application

Skills' Application		Province of the Respondents							
		Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
		Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Applying what was taught	Yes	507	99.6	461	97.9	484	95.7	1452	97.7
	No	2	0.4	10	2.1	22	4.3	34	2.3
Taking up leadership position in a group	Yes	351	69.0	262	55.6	303	59.9	916	61.6
	No	158	31.0	209	44.4	203	40.1	570	38.4
	Yes	412	80.9	339	72.0	359	70.9	1110	74.7

Skills' Application		Province of the Respondents							
		Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
		Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Participation in decision making at group level	No	97	19.1	132	28.0	147	29.1	376	25.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

The survey further looked at district performance regarding application of what was taught during the training. At the district level, over 90% of the participants in 14 districts have applied and put into practice the different skillsets acquired during the training courses. The table below summarizes the application of skills obtained from the training disaggregated by district.

Table 16: Application of Acquired Knowledge and Skills by District

District	Application of Knowledge and Skills Attained	Direct Beneficiaries of PRISM	
		Freq	Percent (%)
Burera	No	0	0.00%
	Yes	97	100.00%
	Total	97	100.00%
Gakenke	No	1	1.00%
	Yes	99	99.00%
	Total	100	100.00%
Gicumbi	No	0	0.00%
	Yes	100	100.00%
	Total	100	100.00%
Gisagara	No	1	1.00%
	Yes	83	99.00%
	Total	84	100.00%
Huye	No	5	5.21%
	Yes	91	94.79%
	Total	96	100.00%
Karongi	No	0	0.00%
	Yes	96	100.00%
	Total	96	100.00%
Musanze	No	1	0.99%
	Yes	100	99.01%
	Total	101	100.00%
Ngororero	No	15	15.00%
	Yes	85	85.00%
	Total	100	100.00%
Nyabihu	No	0	0.00%
	Yes	103	100.00%
	Total	103	100.00%
Nyamagabe	No	2	2.17%
	Yes	90	97.83%
	Total	92	100.00%
Nyamasheke	No	4	3.77%
	Yes	102	96.23%
	Total	106	100.00%

District	Application of Knowledge and Skills Attained	Direct Beneficiaries of PRISM	
		Freq	Percent (%)
Nyaruguru	No	0	0.00%
	Yes	99	100.00%
	Total	99	100.00%
Ruhango	No	2	2.00%
	Yes	98	98.00%
	Total	100	100.00%
Rulindo	No	0	0.00%
	Yes	111	100.00%
	Total	111	100.00%
Rutsiro	No	3	2.97%
	Yes	98	97.03%
	Total	101	100.00%
Overall Total		1452	97.71%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Leadership Roles Held by Participants

Participants who reported taking up leadership positions within their respective groups were further asked to specify the roles they held. The key positions mentioned included but were not limited to: Chairperson (20.3%), Secretary (10.9%), Treasurer (9.4%), Committee Member (12.0%), and Audit Committee Member (3.2%) as shown in the table below.

Table 17: Leadership Roles Held by Participants

Leadership roles	Province of the Respondents							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Chairperson	119	23.4	84	17.8	99	19.6	302	20.3
Secretary	60	11.8	37	7.9	65	12.8	162	10.9
Treasurer	52	10.2	43	9.1	44	8.7	139	9.4
Committee members	90	17.7	40	8.5	49	9.7	179	12.0
Audit Committee Member	21	4.1	14	3.0	13	2.6	48	3.2

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

At district level, over 50% of the participants in each of the districts had participated in at least one leadership position. Nyamagabe district had the least number of leaders interviewed while the Gakenke district had the highest. The table below summarizes the analysis on taking up leadership disaggregated by district.

Table 18: Leadership Engagement by District

District	Taking up leadership positions and responsibilities in groups	Direct Beneficiaries of PRISM	
		Freq	Percent (%)
Burera	No	25	25.77%
	Yes	72	74.23%
	Total	97	100%
Gakenke	No	21	21.00%
	Yes	78	78.00%
	Total	100	100%
Gicumbi	No	28	28.00%
	Yes	72	72.00%

District	Taking up leadership positions and responsibilities in groups	Direct Beneficiaries of PRISM	
		Freq	Percent (%)
	Total	100	100%
Gisagara	No	38	45.24%
	Yes	46	54.76%
	Total	84	100%
Huye	No	53	55.21%
	Yes	43	44.79%
	Total	96	100%
Karongi	No	40	41.67%
	Yes	56	58.33%
	Total	96	100%
Musanze	No	25	24.75%
	Yes	76	75.25%
	Total	101	100%
Ngororero	No	42	42.00%
	Yes	58	58.00%
	Total	100	100%
Nyabihu	No	45	43.69%
	Yes	58	56.31%
	Total	103	100%
Nyamagabe	No	57	61.96%
	Yes	35	38.04%
	Total	92	100%
Nyamasheke	No	45	42.45%
	Yes	61	57.55%
	Total	106	100%
Nyaruguru	No	26	26.26%
	Yes	73	73.74%
	Total	99	100%
Ruhango	No	33	33.00%
	Yes	67	67.00%
	Total	100	100%
Rulindo	No	58	52.25%
	Yes	53	47.75%
	Total	111	100%
Rutsiro	No	31	30.69%
	Yes	70	69.31%
	Total	101	100%
Overall Total	No	570	38.4%
	Yes	916	61.6%
	Total	1486	100%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Leadership Engagement Disaggregated by Gender

Participation in leadership roles was high for both men and women, with 67.42% of male and 57.51% of female respondents reporting taking up a leadership position. The relatively high participation of women in leadership points towards progress in terms of gender empowerment and equity in leadership within beneficiary communities.

Detailed analysis by district (see Annex Table 118) shows different levels of participation in leadership positions. The highest proportions of women taking up leadership roles were found in Gakenke (84.5%), Nyaruguru (72.7%), and Musanze (72.9%). Nyamagabe (32.6%), Huye (38.6%), and Nyamasheke (45.8%) on the other hand however reported the lowest proportions of women in leadership. Overall, across all districts, 57.5% of women had taken up leadership positions which points towards women empowerment.

Table 19: Leadership Engagement Disaggregated by Gender

Sex of Respondents	Province of the Respondents								
	Taken up leadership position	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
		Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Male	Yes	144	73.10	113	59.16	161	69.40	378	67.42
	No	53	26.90	78	40.84	71	30.60	242	32.58
Female	Yes	207	66.35	149	53.21	142	51.82	498	57.51
	No	105	33.65	131	46.79	132	48.18	368	42.49

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.3.4 Group Empowerment

Participants reported that the PRISM project empowered their groups in several ways, including improved ability to make collective decisions, improved skills in saving and managing group finances, and the establishment of market linkages for group products and services.

The assessment revealed that all direct beneficiaries interviewed were members of a Self-Help Group (SHG), and across all districts, participants consistently reported experiencing these three forms of group empowerment as a direct result of support received through PRISM. The table below presents a summary of group empowerment outcomes for direct beneficiaries, disaggregated by district.

The overall achievement of the VBHCD model was found to be 100% empowerment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across all provinces in all targeted areas of group decision-making, financial management, and market linkages.

Table 20: Group Empowerment for Direct Beneficiaries

Location		Direct beneficiaries					
		Ways in which SHGs have been empowered by PRISM					
		Improved ability to make collective decisions		Learned how to save and manage group finances		Established market linkages for group products/services	
Province	District	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Northern	Burera	97	100.00%	97	100.00%	97	100.00%
	Gakenke	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	100	100.00%
	Gicumbi	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	100	100.00%
	Musanze	101	100.00%	101	100.00%	101	100.00%
	Rulindo	111	100.00%	111	100.00%	111	100.00%
Northern Total		509	100.00%	509	100.00%	509	100.00%
Southern	Gisagara	84	100.00%	84	100.00%	84	100.00%
	Huye	96	100.00%	96	100.00%	96	100.00%
	Nyamagabe	92	100.00%	92	100.00%	92	100.00%
	Nyaruguru	99	100.00%	99	100.00%	99	100.00%
	Ruhango	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	100	100.00%
Southern Total		471	100.00%	471	100.00%	471	100.00%
Western	Karongi	96	100.00%	96	100.00%	96	100.00%
	Ngororero	100	100.00%	100	100.00%	100	100.00%
	Nyabihu	103	100.00%	103	100.00%	103	100.00%
	Nyamasheke	106	100.00%	106	100.00%	106	100.00%
	Rutsiro	101	100.00%	101	100.00%	101	100.00%

Location		Direct beneficiaries					
		Ways in which SHGs have been empowered by PRISM					
		Improved ability to make collective decisions		Learned how to save and manage group finances		Established market linkages for group products/services	
Province	District	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Western Total		506	100.00%	506	100.00%	506	100.00%
Overall Achievement		1486	100%	1486	100%	1486	100%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.3.5 Decision Making in a Household

The PRISM project, implemented through the VBHCD model, aimed to strengthen household decision-making by promoting greater involvement of women in decisions related to productive assets and income.

Prior to the project's implementation, less than 50% of household decisions were made jointly by husband and wife. However, following the introduction of the VBHCD model, there was a significant increase in joint decision-making within households.

For instance, except for Huye (62.50%), Karongi (67%) and Nyamasheke (68%) districts, all the remaining 12 districts reported joint decision-making rates exceeding 71%, indicating a positive shift toward more inclusive and equitable household decision-making dynamics.

Overall, the VBHCD model significantly transformed household decision-making patterns among direct beneficiaries. Prior to the project, only 42.93% of households reported joint decision-making between husband and wife, while 38.43% of decisions were made solely by husbands/fathers. Following the implementation of the VBHCD model, joint decision-making increased to 77.25%, indicating a strong shift toward shared household leadership. Correspondingly, husband-only decision-making declined sharply to 4.31%.

Decision-making by wives alone decreased by only 0.2% following the implementation of PRISM, likely because these households were female-headed. It is also important to note that the husband (father) and wife (mother) categories encompass both single-headed and dual-headed households.

Table *21*: Direct Beneficiary Household Decision Making Before and After PRISM

Province	District	Decision Making	Before		After	
			Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Northern	Burera	Husband (Father)	49	50.52%	10	10.31%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	39	40.21%	78	80.41%
		Wife (Mother)	9	9.28%	9	9.28%
	Gakenke	Husband (Father)	71	71.00%	1	1.00%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	15	15.00%	85	85.00%
		Wife (Mother)	14	14.00%	14	14.00%
	Gicumbi	Husband (Father)	60	60.00%	4	4.00%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	30	30.00%	87	87.00%
		Wife (Mother)	10	10.00%	9	9.00%
	Musanze	Husband (Father)	35	34.65%	2	1.98%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	48	47.52%	79	78.22%
		Wife (Mother)	18	17.82%	20	19.80%
	Rulindo	Husband (Father)	63	56.76%	2	1.80%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	21	18.92%	85	76.58%
		Wife (Mother)	27	24.32%	24	21.62%

Province	District	Decision Making	Before		After	
			Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Southern	Gisagara	Husband (Father)	21	25.00%	1	1.19%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	51	60.71%	71	84.52%
		Wife (Mother)	12	14.29%	12	14.29%
	Huye	Husband (Father)	27	28.13%		
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	33	34.38%	60	62.50%
		Wife (Mother)	36	37.50%	36	37.50%
	Nyamagabe	Husband (Father)	8	8.70%		
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	74	80.43%	81	88.04%
		Wife (Mother)	10	10.87%	11	11.96%
	Nyaruguru	Husband (Father)	42	42.42%	1	1.01%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	36	36.36%	78	78.79%
		Wife (Mother)	21	21.21%	20	20.20%
	Ruhango	Husband (Father)	35	35.00%	3	3.00%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	45	45.00%	76	76.00%
		Wife (Mother)	20	20.00%	21	21.00%
Western	Karongi	Husband (Father)	16	16.67%	2	2.08%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	51	53.13%	65	67.71%
		Wife (Mother)	29	30.21%	29	30.21%
	Ngororero	Husband (Father)	17	17.00%	10	10.00%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	65	65.00%	72	72.00%
		Wife (Mother)	18	18.00%	18	18.00%
	Nyabihu	Husband (Father)	60	58.25%		
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	26	25.24%	86	83.50%
		Wife (Mother)	17	16.50%	17	16.50%
	Nyamasheke	Husband (Father)	38	35.85%	18	16.98%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	52	49.06%	73	68.87%
		Wife (Mother)	16	15.09%	15	14.15%
	Rutsiro	Husband (Father)	29	28.71%	10	9.90%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	52	51.49%	72	71.29%
		Wife (Mother)	20	19.80%	19	18.81%
Overall Total		Husband (Father)	571	38.43%	64	4.31%
		Joint decision making (Both Husband & Wife)	638	42.93%	1148	77.25%
		Wife (Mother)	277	18.64%	138	18.44%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

The quantitative results align with qualitative findings from Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), where participants emphasised that the GALs training highlighted the importance of household discussions and joint brainstorming between husbands and wives before making critical decisions.

"…. before participating in these SHGs, I used to take decisions alone, I used to think this is what makes me a strong and respectable man, I now understand that involving my wife in the household decisions makes things easier and better for the good of our family…." - **Participant from Male FGD in Gicumbi district**

The key informant interviews also highlighted the impact of the VBHCD model in improving joint household decision making. The bringing together of men, women, and youth in groups and teach them the different aspects of gender inclusion, empowerment, and mainstreaming changed the perception of community residents as far as dialogue, and co-existence is concerned.

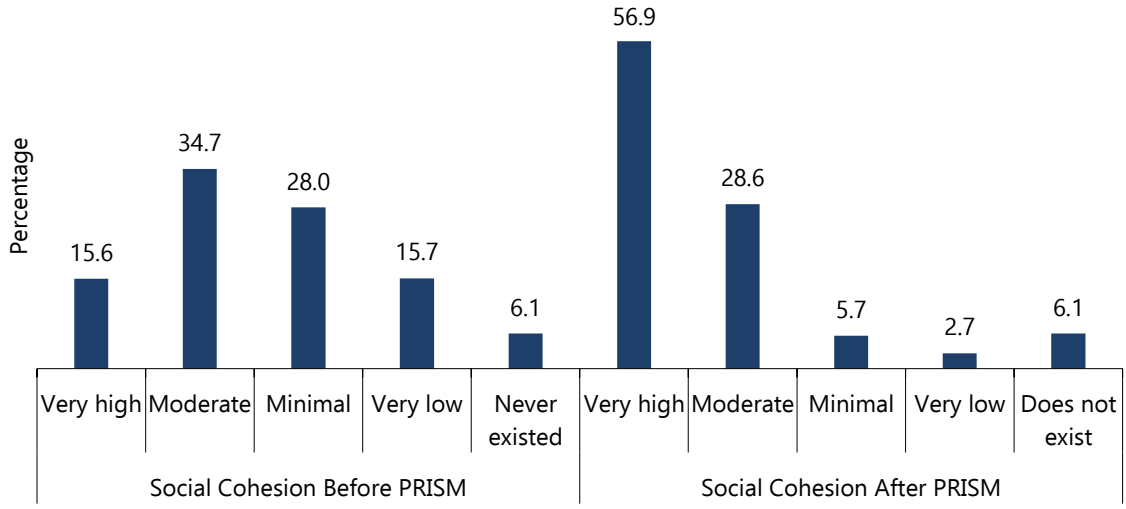
"……..we have seen reduction in gender-based violence, conflicts in homes and resistance whenever husbands and wives plan together on what to produce, the portion to sell and what to retain for home consumption, it has reduced the blame game that women usually have to their husbands of misusing funds……." - **Sector Social Affairs Officer from Nyaruguru district**

3.3.6 Social Cohesion

It is important to note that social cohesion is a dimension of community life that is often felt more than seen. As such, the ratings presented are based on participants' perceptions, which are inherently subjective and influenced by individual mindsets and lived experiences.

Despite this subjectivity, the data shows a substantial increase in perceived social cohesion following the implementation of the PRISM project. The overall rating increased from 15.6% before the project to 56.9% after implementation, indicating a considerable improvement in how participants view social unity and connectedness in their communities.

Figure 7: Rating of Social Cohesion



Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Social Cohesion by District

The table below illustrates how participants in each district rated social cohesion before and after the implementation of PRISM.

Table 22: Social Cohesion by District

Social Cohesion for Direct Beneficiaries		Before		After	
District	Rating	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	Never Existed	0	0.00%	1	1.03%
	Very Low	5	5.15%	0	0.00%
	Minimal	39	40.21%	1	1.03%
	Moderate	41	42.27%	44	45.36%

Social Cohesion for Direct Beneficiaries		Before		After	
District	Rating	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
	Very High	12	12.37%	51	52.58%
Gakenke	Very Low	2	2.00%	18	18.00%
	Minimal	46	46.00%	11	11.00%
	Moderate	45	45.00%	7	7.00%
	Very High	7	7.00%	64	64.00%
Gicumbi	Never Existed	0	0.00%	1	1.00%
	Very Low	46	46.00%	2	2.00%
	Minimal	45	45.00%	1	1.00%
	Moderate	9	9.00%	35	35.00%
	Very High	0	0.00%	61	61.00%
Gisagara	Never Existed	10	11.90%	10	11.90%
	Very Low	18	21.43%	3	3.57%
	Minimal	17	20.24%	2	2.38%
	Moderate	21	25.00%	14	16.67%
	Very High	18	21.43%	55	65.48%
Huye	Never Existed	1	1.04%	2	2.08%
	Very Low	10	10.42%	1	1.04%
	Minimal	43	44.79%	12	12.50%
	Moderate	41	42.71%	43	44.79%
	Very High	1	1.04%	38	39.58%
Karongi	Never Existed	2	2.08%	0	0.00%
	Very Low	1	1.04%	0	0.00%
	Minimal	14	14.58%	5	5.21%
	Moderate	39	40.63%	19	19.79%
	Very High	40	41.67%	72	75.00%
Musanze	Never Existed	7	6.93%	8	7.92%
	Very Low	10	9.90%	1	0.99%
	Minimal	23	22.77%	4	3.96%
	Moderate	40	39.60%	46	45.54%
	Very High	21	20.79%	42	41.58%
Ngororero	Never Existed	1	1.00%	1	1.00%
	Very Low	6	6.00%	4	4.00%
	Minimal	20	20.00%	5	5.00%
	Moderate	69	69.00%	58	58.00%
	Very High	4	4.00%	32	32.00%
Nyabihu	Never Existed	2	1.94%	1	0.97%
	Very Low	5	4.85%	0	0.00%
	Minimal	30	29.13%	0	0.00%
	Moderate	66	64.08%	1	0.97%
	Very High	0	0.00%	101	98.06%
Nyamagabe	Never Existed	5	5.43%	3	3.26%
	Very Low	19	20.65%	1	1.09%
	Minimal	12	13.04%	7	7.61%
	Moderate	39	42.39%	15	16.30%
	Very High	17	18.48%	66	71.74%

Social Cohesion for Direct Beneficiaries		Before		After	
District	Rating	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Nyamasheke	Never Existed	47	44.34%	48	45.28%
	Very Low	22	20.75%	6	5.66%
	Minimal	16	15.09%	19	17.92%
	Moderate	10	9.43%	25	23.58%
	Very High	11	10.38%	8	7.55%
Nyaruguru	Never Existed	1	1.01%	1	1.01%
	Very Low	19	19.19%	1	1.01%
	Minimal	34	34.34%	0	0.00%
	Moderate	18	18.18%	12	12.12%
	Very High	27	27.27%	85	85.86%
Ruhango	Very Low	10	10.00%	1	1.00%
	Minimal	40	40.00%	4	4.00%
	Moderate	23	23.00%	32	32.00%
	Very High	27	27.00%	63	63.00%
Rulindo	Never Existed	14	12.61%	15	13.51%
	Very Low	56	50.45%	2	1.80%
	Minimal	33	29.73%	13	11.71%
	Moderate	7	6.31%	30	27.03%
	Very High	1	0.90%	51	45.95%
Rutsiro	Very Low	4	3.96%	0	0.00%
	Minimal	4	3.96%	1	0.99%
	Moderate	47	46.53%	44	43.56%
	Very High	46	45.54%	56	55.45%
Overall Total	Never Existed	90	6.06%	91	6.12%
	Very Low	233	15.68%	40	2.69%
	Minimal	416	27.99%	85	5.72%
	Moderate	515	34.66%	425	28.60%
	Very High	232	15.61%	845	56.86%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

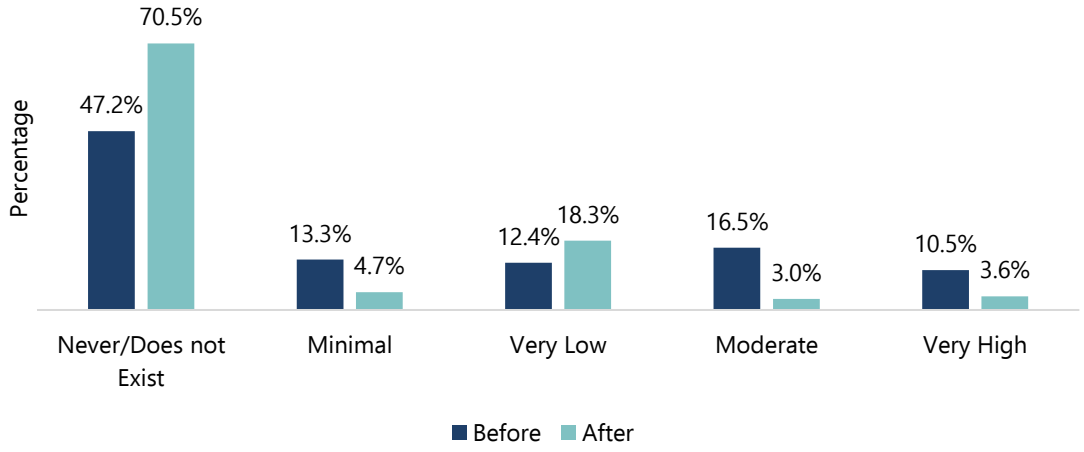
3.3.7 Conflict Cases

To assess the contribution of the VBHCD model to conflict reduction, direct beneficiaries were asked to share their perceptions of conflict before and after the implementation of the PRISM project. Responses were captured using a five-point scale: Never Existed/Does Not Exist, Minimal, Very Low, Moderate, and Very High.

The analysis revealed a substantial reduction in reported conflict across the 15 districts where the PRISM project is being implemented. The proportion of respondents reporting no to very low conflict cases (Never Existed/Does Not Exist, Minimal, Very Low) increased from 73.0% before PRISM to 93.5% after the VBHCD interventions.

Furthermore, reports of severe conflict (combined categories of "Very High" and "Moderate") dropped sharply, from 27.0% to 6.6%, indicating a broader shift toward more peaceful and manageable community dynamics.

Figure 8: Conflict Cases Before and After Implementation of PRISM



Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Conflict Cases by District

The table below shows a detailed breakdown of the rating of conflict cases by direct beneficiaries before and after the implementation of the PRISM in each of the districts.

Table 23: Conflict Cases by District

Conflict Cases' Rating													
District	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Never existed/does not Exist		Minimal		Very Low		Moderate		Very High		Percentage (No to Very Low Conflict Cases)	
		Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Burera	97	50	86	20	1	11	10	13	0	3	0	83.5%	100.0%
Gakenke	100	28	45	12	11	9	42	38	1	13	1	49.0%	98.0%
Gicumbi	100	1	20	9	29	4	47	32	3	54	1	14.0%	96.0%
Gisagara	84	37	67	18	1	17	9	6	0	6	7	85.7%	91.7%
Huye	96	61	76	10	3	16	11	5	3	4	3	90.6%	93.8%
Karongi	96	72	81	10	0	10	15	4	0	0	0	95.8%	100.0%
Musanze	101	69	89	4	1	8	7	16	3	4	1	80.2%	96.0%
Ngororero	100	43	48	11	3	3	4	38	18	5	27	57.0%	55.0%
Nyabihu	103	44	91	25	1	26	10	7	0	1	1	92.2%	99.0%
Nyamagabe	92	54	88	10	0	23	4	2	0	3	0	94.6%	100.0%
Nyamasheke	106	42	47	12	10	8	40	37	7	7	2	58.5%	91.5%
Nyaruguru	99	40	75	14	2	20	16	17	1	8	5	74.7%	93.9%
Ruhango	100	65	95	21	0	4	1	5	0	5	4	90.0%	96.0%
Rulindo	111	29	50	14	6	8	50	24	5	36	0	45.9%	95.5%
Rutsiro	101	67	89	8	2	18	6	1	3	7	1	92.1%	96.0%
Total	1486	702	1047	198	70	185	272	245	44	156	53	73.0%	93.5%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.3.8 Implication of Increased Social Cohesion and Reduction in Conflict Cases

The PRISM project has strengthened social cohesion by bringing smallholder farmers, including women, youth, and vulnerable households, into organized groups. Activities such as Pass on the Gift, training of participants in GALs, Group savings and access of loans have encouraged cooperation and mutual support. Stronger social cohesion has helped prevent and resolve conflicts within households over livestock management, land use, and income allocation. At the community level, group-based decision-making and participatory planning provide ways to address disagreements early, promoting peaceful coexistence and more resilient livelihoods.

3.4 Livelihood Development

The PRISM project supported the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), provided participant training, and distributed key inputs to enhance household livelihoods. This section highlights outcomes related to livestock productivity, access to services, and market access and linkages.

3.4.1 Livestock Productivity

Households Currently Involved in Livestock Production

The survey revealed that 80.7% of the sampled participants are currently involved in livestock production. This high participation implies that livestock production remains a key livelihood source among rural households, contributing significantly to household income and food security.

Average Number of Livestock Per Household

The level of livestock production by the different households was investigated by assessing the number of animals received by each household, the number of animals passed on under the PoG, EPoG, EePoG, and the number of additional animals by each household after Passing on the Gift (PoG). This was a combination of all the animals/livestock value chains which include Goats, sheep, pigs and backyard chicken as promoted by PRISM.

The survey findings revealed that the 1,486 direct beneficiaries sampled for the assessment received in total 9,770 animals, averaging about seven animals per household. Furthermore, the sampled participants had passed on a total of 20,323 livestock.

In terms of livestock accumulation (new purchases and new births), a total of 17,651 animals were added by the sampled households across the 15 PRISM implementation districts.

Table 24: Average Number of Livestock Per Household

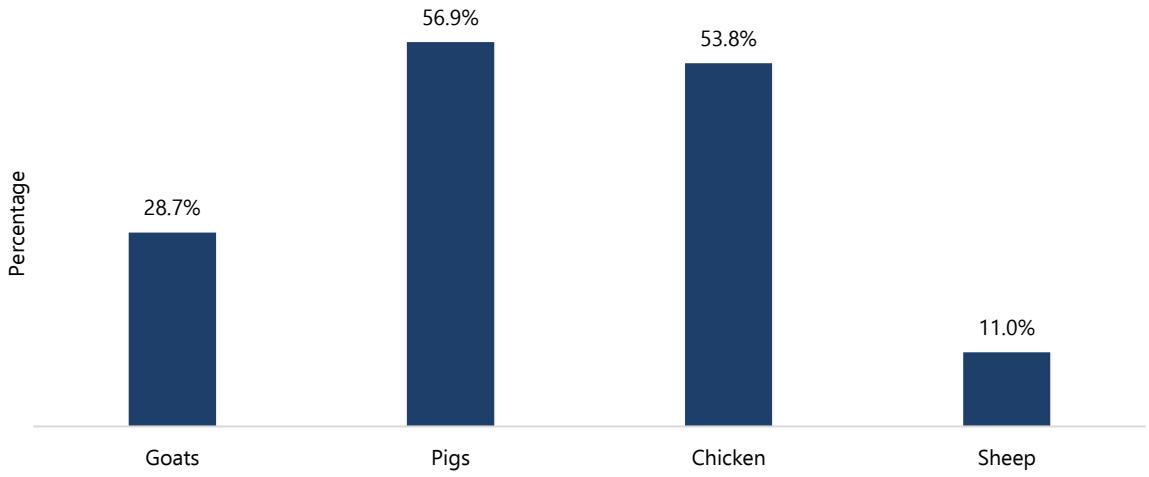
Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Number of Livestock Placed	1,486	9,770	6.57	5.487
Livestock Passed On	1,486	20,323	13.68	9.50
Livestock accumulated (New purchases and new births) by households because of participating in PRISM	1,486	17,651	11.88	27.426

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Households Engaged in Different Livestock Value Chains

The findings show that pigs are the most kept livestock among households, reported by 56.9% of respondents, followed by chicken at 53.8%. Goats were mentioned by 28.7% of households, while sheep were the least kept at 11.0%. These findings are consistent with the fact that pigs and chicken are the two major livestock supplied by PRISM to the participants.

Figure 9: Households Engaged in Different Livestock Value Chains



Source: Primary Data (PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Household Participation in Major Livestock and Other Livestock Value Chains

It should be noted that the participants in the social capital impact assessment mainly received pigs and chicken under the PRISM project. The study assessed the percentage of participants engaged in other livestock in addition to the major livestock received under PRISM.

Chicken Farmers Involved in Other Livestock Value Chains

The survey findings revealed that 52.8% of participants engaged in the chicken value chain were also involved in goat rearing, while only 16.8% were involved in sheep rearing. This suggests a likelihood of diversification as a strategy to ensure food security and livelihood resilience, enabling households to rely on other livestock value chains to offset potential losses if one performs poorly.

Table 25: Chicken Farmers Involved in Other Livestock Value Chains

District	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Engagement in More than One Livestock					
		Chicken (Major Livestock)		Goats		Sheep	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	52	53.6	11	21.2	31	59.6
Gakenke	100	54	54.0	19	35.2	8	14.8
Gicumbi	100	50	50.0	22	44.0	14	28.0
Gisagara	84	49	58.3	39	79.6	0	0.0
Huye	96	58	60.4	38	65.5	1	1.7
Karongi	96	65	67.7	35	53.8	1	1.5
Musanze	101	57	56.4	25	43.9	12	21.1
Ngororero	100	50	50.0	34	68.0	0	0.0
Nyabihu	103	55	53.4	12	21.8	21	38.2
Nyamagabe	92	47	51.1	38	80.9	0	0.0
Nyamasheke	106	52	49.1	19	36.5	0	0.0
Nyaruguru	99	35	35.4	28	80.0	0	0.0
Ruhango	100	61	61.0	47	77.0	1	1.6
Rulindo	111	63	56.8	55	87.3	1	1.6

District	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Engagement in More than One Livestock					
		Chicken (Major Livestock)		Goats		Sheep	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Rutsiro	101	51	50.5	0	0.0	44	86.3
Overall Total	1486	799	53.8	422	52.8	134	16.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Pig Farmers Involved in Other Livestock Value Chains

From the analysis, it was discovered that only 10% of the pig farmers were also engaged in the goats' value chain while 2.6% of the participants were engaged in sheep raring. Although the figures are low, this is an indication of the willingness of farmers to diversify their livestock farming which comes with lots of advantages like risk reduction, income source diversification, food security among others.

Table 26: Pig Farmers Involved in Other Livestock Value Chains

District	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Engagement in More than One Livestock					
		Pigs (Major Livestock)		Goats		Sheep	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	53	54.6	4	7.5	5	9.4
Gakenke	100	60	60.0	8	13.3	5	8.3
Gicumbi	100	50	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gisagara	84	35	41.7	1	2.9	0	0.0
Huye	96	53	55.2	16	30.2	0	0.0
Karongi	96	42	43.8	10	23.8	0	0.0
Musanze	101	46	45.5	1	2.2	1	2.2
Ngororero	100	50	50.0	2	4.0	0	0.0
Nyabihu	103	48	46.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nyamagabe	92	44	47.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nyamasheke	106	60	56.6	4	6.7	0	0.0
Nyaruguru	99	68	68.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Ruhango	100	66	66.0	19	28.8	1	1.5
Rulindo	111	62	55.9	15	24.2	0	0.0
Rutsiro	101	61	60.4	0	0.0	9	14.8
Overall Total	1486	798	53.7	80	10.0	21	2.6

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Animals That Survived Up to Maturity

For consistency, the maturity (full growth) threshold was set at 12 months for goats, sheep, for pigs however, this was set at 8 months while that of chicken and egg production was set at 6 months. These timelines can vary by breed, management practices, and production objectives. For example, some pigs reach breeding or production readiness at around 6–7 months, while layer hens typically begin egg production between (5.5–5 months). For purposes of data comparability, rather than adhering strictly to biological timelines, the social impact assessment applied these standardized operational thresholds.

The study assessed the survival rate of offsprings across different value chains, focusing on animals that reached maturity and were ready for sale. Among households that kept goats, a total of 1,190 kids had survived till maturity over the past 12 months. On average, two goats survived per household among the 513 goat-keeping households.

In the pig value chain, a total of 7,120 piglets reached maturity over the past year, averaging seven piglets per household. In the sheep value chain, 385 lambs survived among 196 sheep-keeping households, averaging two lambs per household. For households rearing chicken, 1,123 chicks survived to maturity during the same period.

These were statistics of all livestock kept at each household level (including the OGs, the PoGs, E-PoGs).

Table 27: Animals That Survived Up to Maturity

Descriptive Statistics						
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Newborn goats survived to maturity (12 months)	513	3	141	1,190	2.32	6.661
Newborn pigs that survived at maturity (8 months)	1016	6	50	7,120	7.01	6.846
Newborn sheep that survived maturity (12 months)	196	2	15	385	1.96	2.557
Received chicken that survived to maturity (5.5-6 months-for egg production)	960	4	10	7,488	7.8	1.25

Source: Primary Data (PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Note on Summary Statistics

N - Number of participants that provided information for each of the variable

Minimum - Least number of animals that survived to maturity

Maximum - Highest number of livestock that survived to maturity

Sum - Total number of livestock that survived as reported by the participants

Mean - Average number of livestock per household

Newborns That Reached Maturity: Provincial Analysis

The survey showed that the survival rate of the newly born livestock ranged from 66% to 80.4%, with chicken (6 months-egg production) having the highest rate at 80.4% and newborn sheep (12 months) with the lowest rate at 66%. The table below summarizes the survival rate analysis of the newborn livestock at province level.

Table 28: Newborns That Survived to Maturity: Provincial Analysis

Livestock Value Chain	Province			
	Northern (n=509)	Southern (n=471)	Western (n=506)	Total (n=1486)
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Newborn goats survived to maturity (12 months)	80.6	78.6	81	80.1
Newborn pigs survived to maturity (12 months)	77.5	76.5	78.7	77.6
Newborn sheep survived to maturity (12 months)	66.3	63.8	68.5	66

Livestock Value Chain	Province			
	Northern (n=509)	Southern (n=471)	Western (n=506)	Total (n=1486)
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Chickens survived to maturity (6 months – egg production)	80.8	79.9	81	80.4

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Comparison of New Births and Survival to Maturity

The survey compared the number of new livestock births with those that survived up to maturity, revealing an overall reasonably high survival rate of 77.6%. Among the livestock types, chickens and goats had the highest survival rate, with 1,123 of 1,397 chickens (80.4%) and 1,190 of 1,486 goats (80.1%) reaching maturity. Pigs also did well, with 7,120 of 9,175 piglets (77.6%) surviving. Sheep had the lowest survival, with 385 of 583 lambs (66%) making it to maturity.

Overall, most new livestock survived, showing that households participating in PRISM are managing their animals effectively. With continued support in areas like feeding, health care, and housing, survival rates could improve even more, benefiting both livelihoods and food security.

Table 29: Comparison of New Births and Survival to Maturity

Livestock Type	New Births	Survived to Maturity	Survival Rate (%)	Estimated Mortality (%)
Goats	1,486	1,190	80.1	19.9
Pigs	9,175	7,120	77.6	22.4
Sheep	583	385	66	34
Chicken	1,397	1,123	80.4	19.6
Overall Total	12,641	9,818	77.6	22.4

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Number of Animals Slaughtered or Sold

The analysis showed that, on average, households sold or slaughtered seven goats, six sheep, and five pigs per year, while the average number of chickens sold or slaughtered was forty, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 30: Summary of Animals Slaughtered/Sold

Descriptive Statistics						
Livestock Value Chain	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Goats slaughtered or sold before PRISM	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Goats slaughtered or sold following PRISM	513	1	20	3,704	7.22	3.8
No. of sheep slaughtered or sold before PRISM	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
No. of sheep sold/slaughtered following PRISM	196	1	12	1,234	6.3	2.9
Pigs slaughtered or sold before PRISM	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

Descriptive Statistics						
Livestock Value Chain	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
No. of pigs slaughtered or sold in a year following PRISM	1,072	1	25	5,772	5.39	4
No. chicken slaughtered or sold before PRISM	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
No. of chicken currently slaughtered or sold	877	10	100	35,920	40.96	18.2

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Note on Summary Statistics

N - Number of participants that provided valid responses for each of the livestock sold slaughtered

Minimum - Lowest number of animals slaughtered/sold by each household

Maximum - Highest number of livestock sold/slaughtered by each household

Sum - Total number of livestock slaughtered/sold

Mean - Average number of livestock sold/slaughtered by each household

Average Size (Weight in Kgs) of The Animal Sold

The survey assessed the average weight of livestock sold across different value chains. Goats averaged 28.10 kilograms, sheep 24.29 kilograms, pigs 45.82 kilograms, and chicken 2.88 kilograms.

Table 31: Average Size (Weight in Kgs) of Animals Sold

Livestock value Chain (Animals kept)	Average Weight (Kgs)
Goat	28.10
Sheep	24.29
Pig	45.82
Chicken	2.88

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.4.2 Participants' Rating of the VBHCD Model's Contribution to Livelihood Development

This was assessed by combining responses from participants who rated key livelihood development aspects as "Very good" and "Good ", to determine the contribution of the VBHCD Model to livelihood development. The three key aspects considered under this analysis and included: production, productivity and market participation. Overall, participants rated the contribution of the VBHCD model to livelihood development at 90%.

Production (Volume of Goods and Services Availed)

Overall, more than 94.9% of participants rated the VBHCD Model's contribution to production as either "Very Good" or "Good." This suggests that the model has strengthened their capacity to engage in the production of both food items and marketable commodities, reflecting a positive impact on livelihood development.

Productivity (Ratio of Output Per Unit Input)

Overall, 93.3% of the participants rated the contribution of the VBHCD to productivity as either "Very Good" or "Good". This was reflected through better livestock management practices, improved animal health, improved breeding practices, reduced disease burden and disease rates, enabling small livestock farmers produce higher outputs with fewer inputs (allocative efficiency). The high ratings across the three provinces indicate that the VBHCD model is effectively supporting the realization of the PRISM objectives.

Market Participation

Although slightly lower than the ratings for production and productivity, 82.0% of participants rated the VBHCD model's contribution to market participation as either "Very Good" or "Good," which is still a strong indication of its perceived value.

Market engagement is a critical pathway for development and resilience, as it enables households to diversify income sources and build sustainable livelihoods. These findings suggest that the VBHCD model is widely viewed as effective in improving livelihoods and productivity.

However, the slightly lower ratings for market participation in comparison to production and productivity indicate room for improvement. It is therefore recommended that Heifer International strengthens its support for market participation, particularly for small livestock producers across the districts, to maximize the model's overall impact and sustainability.

Table 32: Rating the Contribution of the VBHCD on Livelihood Development

Livelihood Development		Province							
		Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western (n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Rating the contribution of VBHCD to production	Very good	380	62.9	331	55.4	345	59	1056	59.1
	Good	197	32.6	221	37	222	37.9	640	35.8
	Neutral	27	4.5	44	7.4	18	3.1	89	5
	Poor	0	0	1	0.2	0	0	1	0.1
	Very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Rating for Production (Very Good + Good)		577	95.50	552	92.40	567	96.90	1696	94.90
Rating the contribution of VBCHD to productivity	Very good	298	49.3	325	54.4	314	53.7	937	52.5
	Good	255	42.2	220	36.9	254	43.4	729	40.8
	Neutral	51	8.4	51	8.5	17	2.9	119	6.7
	Poor	0	0	1	0.2	0	0	1	0.1
	Very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Rating for Productivity (Very Good + Good)		553	91.6	545	91.3	568	97.1	1666	93.3
Rating the contribution of VBHCD to market participation	Very good	183	30.3	206	34.5	290	49.6	679	38
	Good	301	49.8	232	38.9	253	43.2	786	44
	Neutral	103	17.1	111	18.6	41	7	255	14.3
	Poor	16	2.6	31	5.2	1	0.2	48	2.7
	Very poor	1	0.2	17	2.8	0	0	18	1
Total Rating for Market Participation (Very Good + Good)		484	80.1	438	73.4	543	92.8	1465	82
Overall Rating (Totals for Production, Productivity & Market Participation)		1614	89.1	1535	85.7	1678	95.6	4827	90.1

Source: Primary Data (PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.4.3 Access to Services

Access to Services

According to the survey results, all respondents across the provinces reported accessing at least one livestock management service. This suggests that the VBHCD Model has expanded opportunities for livestock farmers to obtain services such as veterinary care, market access, and financial support.

Different Services Accessed by Farmers

The data shows that all (100.0%) farmers accessed market and financial services such as saving groups and loans while 72.3% of farmers accessed veterinary services.

From the analysis, districts like Gicumbi and Rulindo performed well across all services, while others such as Huye, Nyamagabe, and Ngororero, showed particularly limited access to veterinary services, which points towards the need for targeted interventions to ensure balanced and inclusive support across regions.

Table 33: Access to Services Disaggregated by District

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Access to different services					
		Veterinary services		Livestock markets services		Financial services (loans, savings groups)	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	89	91.8	97	100.0	97	100.0
Gakenke	100	93	93.0	100	100.0	100	100.0
Gicumbi	100	97	97.0	100	100.0	100	100.0
Gisagara	84	63	75.0	101	100.0	84	100.0
Huye	96	15	15.6	96	100.0	96	100.0
Karongi	96	78	81.3	96	100.0	96	100.0
Musanze	101	85	84.2	101	100.0	101	100.0
Ngororero	100	46	46.0	100	100.0	100	100.0
Nyabihu	103	67	65.0	103	100.0	103	100.0
Nyamagabe	92	42	45.7	92	100.0	92	100.0
Nyamasheke	106	53	50.0	106	100.0	106	100.0
Nyaruguru	99	88	88.9	99	100.0	99	100.0
Ruhango	100	80	80.0	100	100.0	100	100.0
Rulindo	111	107	96.4	111	100.0	111	100.0
Rutsiro	101	72	71.3	101	100.0	101	100.0
Total	1486	1075	72.3	1486	100.0	1486	100.0

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Available Tools and Infrastructure for Animals

The analysis revealed that whereas progress has been made in equipping beneficiaries with livestock tools and infrastructure, significant gaps remain. For instance, out of 1,486 sampled direct beneficiaries, 100.0% had livestock pens, and 59.8% had feeders or waterers, reflecting a moderate level of basic infrastructure for livestock management.

However, only 45.2% had feed storage facilities, and 48.3% had fencing infrastructure. The relatively lower ownership of feed storage facilities and fencing points to the need for PRISM to further strengthen support in promoting sustainable feeding systems and livestock management infrastructure across all provinces.

District Level Analysis on the Availability of Tools

Districts like Gicumbi and Nyaruguru showed strong infrastructure availability across indicators, while districts such as Ruhango, Nyamagabe, and Nyabihu lagged significantly, especially in feed storage facilities

Table 34: District Level Analysis on the Availability of Tools

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Availability of tools and infrastructure for livestock							
		Livestock pens		Feeders or waterers		Feed storage facilities		Fencing facilities	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	97	100.0	88	90.7	66	68.0	38	39.2
Gakenke	100	100	100.0	67	67.0	19	19.0	30	30.0
Gicumbi	100	100	100.0	97	97.0	85	85.0	83	83.0
Gisagara	84	101	100.0	40	47.6	42	50.0	57	67.9
Huye	96	111	100.0	33	34.4	46	47.9	45	46.9
Karongi	96	509	100.0	55	57.3	59	61.5	61	63.5
Musanze	101	84	100.0	45	44.6	34	33.7	48	47.5

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Availability of tools and infrastructure for livestock							
		Livestock pens		Feeders or waterers		Feed storage facilities		Fencing facilities	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Ngororero	100	96	100.0	76	76.0	32	32.0	30	30.0
Nyabihu	103	92	100.0	27	26.2	7	6.8	10	9.7
Nyamagabe	92	99	100.0	12	13.0	16	17.4	30	32.6
Nyamasheke	106	100	100.0	63	59.4	62	58.5	60	56.6
Nyaruguru	99	471	100.0	89	89.9	63	63.6	71	71.7
Ruhango	100	96	100.0	50	50.0	40	40.0	76	76.0
Rulindo	111	100	100.0	77	69.4	88	79.3	72	64.9
Rutsiro	101	103	100.0	70	69.3	54	53.5	51	50.5
Total	1486	1486	100.0	889	59.8	671	45.2	717	48.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.4.4 PRISM Interventions' Contribution to Climate Resilience

Participants were asked whether they believed that interventions promoted by PRISM had contributed to climate resilience through climate smart farming. From the analysis, over 95.2% of the study participants believed that PRISM interventions had contributed to climate resilience through climate smart farming.

Contribution of PRISM to Climate Farming

The study further investigated how PRISM had contributed to climate-smart farming. The most reported contributions included the use of livestock value chain products to produce organic manure (80.1%), promotion of compost manure pits (77.7%), and encouraging tree planting for shade, and vegetation restoration (75.2%). Other practices supported by the project included rainwater harvesting (72.8%), distribution of avocado seedlings (67.4%), provision of water tanks (55.9%), and distribution of tree seedlings to promote agroforestry (59.9%).

Table 35: PRISM Contribution to Climate Smart Farming

The ways in which PRISM has contributed to climate smart farming	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
The livestock value chains waste as organic manure	455	89.4	306	65.0	429	84.8	1190	80.1
Farmers are encouraged to make use of composite manure pits to collect organic fertilizers	426	83.7	304	64.5	424	83.8	1154	77.7
Farmers are encouraged to plant trees to act as shade or animals, which end up promoting vegetation	403	79.2	297	63.1	417	82.4	1117	75.2
Farmers are encouraged to harvest rainwater preventing soil erosion	386	75.8	298	63.3	398	78.7	1082	72.8
The Project provided Water tanks to encourage water harvesting	296	58.2	263	55.8	271	53.6	830	55.9
The Project provided tree seedlings to encourage agroforestry	354	69.5	220	46.7	273	54.0	847	57.0

The ways in which PRISM has contributed to climate smart farming	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
The project offered Avocado seedlings	390	76.6	271	57.5	340	67.2	1001	67.4

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis of PRISM Contribution to Climate Smart Farming

The analysis revealed that Burera, Nyamasheke, and Nyaruguru districts had almost the same rate of adoption of climate smart farming practices. In contrast, Nyamagabe, Karongi, and Huye districts exhibited lower uptake, particularly in water harvesting and avocado planting.

Furthermore, Nyamasheke and Burera districts were standout performers with over 98% adoption across most indicators, confirming effective program delivery and high beneficiary engagement.

Table 36: District Level Analysis Climate Smart Farming practices adopted

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Climate Smart farming practices adopted							
		Organic manure		Planting trees (agroforestry)		Water harvesting tanks		Avocado seedlings	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	96	99.0	96	99.0	97	100.0	87	89.7
Gakenke	100	100	100.0	95	95.0	78	78.0	79	79.0
Gicumbi	100	93	93.0	97	97.0	96	96.0	74	74.0
Gisagara	84	53	63.1	48	57.1	51	60.7	52	61.9
Huye	96	60	62.5	40	41.7	52	54.2	51	53.1
Karongi	96	82	85.4	39	40.6	31	32.3	20	20.8
Musanze	101	98	97.0	57	56.4	73	72.3	45	44.6
Ngororero	100	50	50.0	84	84.0	80	80.0	40	40.0
Nyabihu	103	99	96.1	101	98.1	95	92.2	90	87.4
Nyamagabe	92	31	33.7	44	47.8	28	30.4	1	1.1
Nyamasheke	106	105	99.1	103	97.2	104	98.1	104	98.1
Nyaruguru	99	94	94.9	97	98.0	99	100.0	98	99.0
Ruhango	100	68	68.0	68	68.0	68	68.0	69	69.0
Rulindo	111	68	61.3	58	52.3	42	37.8	105	94.6
Rutsiro	101	93	92.1	90	89.1	88	87.1	86	85.1
Total	1486	1190	80.1	1117	75.2	1082	72.8	1001	67.4

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.4.5 The Need to Strengthen Adoption of Priority Climate-Smart Practices

It should be noted that the PRISM project has achieved high adoption rates for several climate-smart interventions, including the use of organic manure, planting trees through agroforestry, rainwater harvesting tanks, and avocado seedlings. These practices have been embraced by many beneficiaries, contributing to improved soil fertility, diversified production, and enhanced resilience to climate variability.

However, adoption remains low or non-existent for other critical areas like Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Practices, such as contour farming, terracing, mulching, and cover cropping.; Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) Practices, including the combined use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, composting, and crop residue management; Soil and Water Conservation Technologies, such as stone bunds, micro-catchments, check dams, and retention ditches. To accelerate adoption of these essential practices, the following strategies are recommended:

Targeted Capacity Building: Conduct hands-on training sessions and workshops on SLM, ISFM, and soil/water conservation techniques. Practical demonstrations should highlight the benefits in terms of increased productivity, reduced erosion, and improved water retention.

Demonstration Plots and Farmer Field Schools: Establish visible demonstration sites for SLM, ISFM, and soil/water conservation, allowing farmers to observe outcomes and experiment with techniques under guidance. Farmer-to-farmer learning through field days, study tours, and peer mentoring can further encourage replication.

Access to Inputs and Financing: Facilitate access to critical inputs such as organic fertilizers, composting materials, tree seedlings, and stones or equipment for terracing and bund construction. Linking farmers with affordable credit, subsidies, or grants can remove financial barriers to adoption.

Community-Based Knowledge Sharing: Encourage farmer networks, cooperative groups, and digital platforms to disseminate information, share experiences, and provide ongoing technical support. Peer-to-peer learning ensures wider uptake and sustainability of these practices.

3.4.6 Value Addition, Market Access and Linkages

Value Addition

The assessment investigated the rate at which participants are engaged in value addition for livestock products. The findings revealed that 65% of the PRISM participants were involved in some form of value addition. The value addition practices reported included pork frying and roasting on the streets (20.5%), boiling and selling eggs on streets (17.5%), pork preservation-smoking (34.8%), and supplying bakeries and other clients with eggs (49.1%). More efforts towards value addition should be given priority in the next phase of PRISM activities to ensure that farmers can increase their incomes. The table below shows value addition engagement by small livestock farmers.

Table 37: Value Addition

Addition to Livestock Products	Province of the Respondents							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Yes	356	70	283	60	329	65	966	65.0
No	153	30	188	40	177	35	520	35.0
Forms of value addition								
Pork frying and roasting	212	41.6	112	23.7	141	27.9	305	20.5
Boiling and selling eggs	235	46.1	55	11.7	100	19.7	260	17.5
Pork preservation-smoking	283	55.6	211	44.7	301	59.5	517	34.8
Supplying bakeries and other clients with eggs	256	50.2	200	42.4	278	54.9	730	49.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Market Access and Selling Points Before and After PRISM

The analysis revealed very limited data on the selling points of livestock value chains, namely goats, sheep, pigs, and chicken prior to the implementation of the PRISM project. This is not unexpected, as none of the direct participants were engaged in these priority value chains before the project began.

The participants' selection followed a comprehensive needs assessment, which confirmed that they were drawn from marginalized and vulnerable rural communities, characterized by high levels of food insecurity, limited

livelihood opportunities, and poverty. Based on this assessment, these individuals were mobilized into organized groups and subsequently supported with livestock through the OGs, PoG, EPoG, and EePoG.

Selling Points for Pigs

It was discovered that majority of pig farmers sold their animals at the farm gate. For example, 100% of the pig farmers in Rulindo district sold their animals at the farm gate, 96% in Gicumbi district, and 86% Nyabihu district.

The other common place where farmers sold their pigs was the nearby markets. For instance, 60.9% of farmers in Nyamasheke district sold their pigs in the nearby markets, 49.4% in Huye district, and 35.5% in Nyaruguru district.

Potential markets and selling points like nearby abattoirs, urban areas, Kigali capital and cross border trade are not so much exploited with zero farmers reporting to have sold a single pig in Kigali and only 3% of farmers in Nyamasheke district reported selling their pigs through cross border trade. The table below summarizes the selling points of backyard pigs.

Table 38: Selling Points for Pigs

District	Total	Markets (selling points) for farmers											
		Farm gate		Nearby local Market		Nearby Abattoirs		Urban areas		Kigali Capital		Cross border trade	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	78	51	65.4	26	33.3	1	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gakenke	90	67	74.4	21	23.3	0	0	2	2.2	0	0	0	0
Gisagara	33	23	69.7	4	12.1	0	0	6	18.2	0	0	0	0
Huye	81	41	50.6	40	49.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karongi	58	41	70.7	17	29.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Musanze	58	38	65.5	20	34.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ngororero	40	38	95	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyabihu	71	61	85.9	10	14.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyamagabe	90	51	56.7	38	42.2	1	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyamasheke	64	22	34.4	39	60.9	1	1.6	0	0	0	0	2	3.1
Nyaruguru	121	78	64.5	43	35.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rutsiro	87	82	94.3	5	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gicumbi	65	63	96.9	0	0	2	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruhango	56	43	76.8	0	0	1	1.8	12	21.4	0	0	0	0
Rulindo	66	66	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overall Total	1058	765	72.3	265	25	6	0.6	20	1.9	0	0	2	0.2

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Selling Points for Chicken and Eggs

From the 877 sampled chicken farmers across the 15 Districts, it was discovered that the farm gate and nearby markets were the most common selling points for chicken and eggs.

For example, in Gisagara district, all the farmers reported selling chicken and eggs at both the farm gate and the nearby marketplaces. In Nyamasheke, 81% reported selling their poultry products at farm gate, while 71% reported selling their products in the nearby markets.

Similar to the pig value chain, urban areas, Kigali capital and cross border trades are potential selling points that have not yet been fully exploited by the producers of poultry products.

Table 39: Selling Points for Chicken and Eggs

District	Producers of Chicken and eggs sampled	Selling points											
		Farm gate		Nearby Markets		Nearby Abattoirs		Urban areas		Kigali Capital		Cross border trade	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	65	37	56.9	54	83.1	0	0	1	1.5	0	0	0	0
Gakenke	51	30	58.8	39	76.5	0	0	3	5.9	0	0	0	0
Gicumbi	82	59	72	47	57.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gisagara	34	34	100	34	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huye	72	27	37.5	66	91.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karongi	67	30	44.8	54	80.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Musanze	30	18	60	21	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ngororero	33	24	72.7	27	81.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyabihu	75	52	69.3	64	85.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyamagabe	32	15	46.9	24	75	0	0	0	0	1	3.1	0	0
Nyamasheke	66	54	81.8	47	71.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.5
Nyaruguru	66	61	92.4	50	75.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruhango	49	31	63.3	26	53.1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Rulindo	75	23	30.7	62	82.7	0	0	0	0	2	2.7	0	0
Rutsiro	80	51	63.8	44	55	0	0	1	1.3	0	0	0	0
Total	877	546	62.3	659	75.2	0	0	5	0.57	3	0.34	1	0.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.4.7 Implication of Selling Points (Farm Gate and Nearby Markets)

The survey revealed that the majority of smallholder farmers continue to sell livestock, poultry, and related products primarily at the farm gate or in nearby local markets. For instance, over 72% of pig farmers sold at the farm gate, with only a small fraction accessing urban centers, abattoirs, or cross-border markets. Similarly, chicken and egg producers relied heavily on farm gates and local markets, with very limited engagement in urban, Kigali, or cross-border sales. While farm gate and local markets provide convenient access, they constrain bargaining power, limit price discovery, and reduce opportunities for higher incomes.

To improve market linkages and create more opportunities for small-holder farmers, several approaches can be explored. These include:

a) Strengthening connections with urban supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, and other institutional buyers would help farmers access higher-value markets.
b) Regional trade could also be expanded by supporting farmer groups and cooperatives to navigate regulatory requirements, ensure quality standards, and aggregate products for bulk sales.
c) Partnering with nearby abattoirs and processors would further improve product quality, encourage value addition, and increase off-take.
d) Promoting cooperative-based marketing can help farmers pool resources, reduce costs, and negotiate better prices. Digital tools and mobile platforms can provide timely market information, connect farmers with buyers, and facilitate sales beyond the local markets.

3.4.8 Livelihood Sources

Main Livelihood Sources Before PRISM

Before the distribution of the priority livestock value chains (goats, pigs, sheep, and chickens), a thorough verification process was conducted to ensure that recipients belonged to vulnerable households with low-income levels.

The study revealed that 100.0% of these beneficiaries primarily relied on crop farming as their main source of livelihood. Other sources of livelihood included fishing and beekeeping (0.07%), handicrafts such as basket weaving

At district level, crop farming participation ranged from 81.3% to 87.6% across all the 15 districts. The table below summarizes the analysis of livelihood sources before PRISM.

Table 40: District Analysis of Livelihood Sources Before PRISM

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Sources of Livelihood Before PRISM					
		Crop farming (e.g. beans, maize, bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes)		Small-scale trade and retail		Handicrafts (e.g., basketweaving, pottery)	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	97	100	2	2.1	2	2.1
Gakenke	100	100	100	3	2.5	2	2.3
Gicumbi	100	100	100	3	2.5	2	2.3
Gisagara	84	84	100	3	2.5	2	2.3
Huye	96	96	100	3	2.5	3	2.3
Karongi	96	96	100	4	5	2	2
Musanze	101	101	100	5	5	2	2
Ngororero	100	100	100	5	5	2	2
Nyabihu	103	103	100	5	5	2	2
Nyamagabe	92	92	100	5	5	2	2
Nyamasheke	106	106	100	5	4.8	2	1.9
Nyaruguru	99	99	100	5	4.8	2	1.9
Ruhango	100	100	100	5	4.8	2	1.9
Rulindo	111	111	100	5	4.8	2	1.9
Rutsiro	101	101	100	5	4.8	2	1.9
Total	1486	1486	100	2	2.1	2	2.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Main Livelihood Sources After the Implementation of PRISM

The implementation of PRISM and its support to participants through small livestock value chains has contributed to a shift in livelihood sources among participants. While crop farming remains the primary source of livelihood, reported by over 74% of respondents, it is followed by backyard pig rearing (60%), poultry (50.5%), goats (27.9%), and sheep (11.3%). Other livelihood sources included handicrafts (1.5%), fishing (0.1%) and apiculture (1.3%). These results point towards PRISM's contribution to enhancing household resilience through diversified and climate-smart livelihood options

Main Livelihood Sources After the Implementation of PRISM by District

At the district level, livelihoods among participants varied significantly following the implementation of PRISM. Rutsiro district had the highest proportion of participants engaged in the pig value chain, while Gicumbi district had the highest proportion in the poultry value chain.

Table 41: Main Livelihood Sources After the Implementation of PRISM by District

District	Sampled direct beneficiaries	Sources of Livelihood following the implementation of PRISM											
		Goats		Sheep		Backyard pigs		Poultry		Crop farming		Handicraft	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	15	15.5	29	29.9	58	59.8	54	55.7	78	80.4	1	1.0
Gakenke	100	23	23.0	7	7.0	68	68.0	43	43.0	99	99.0	2	2.0
Gicumbi	100	37	37.0	23	23.0	63	63.0	69	69.0	84	84.0	5	5.0
Gisagara	84	32	38.1	0	0.0	29	34.5	27	32.1	69	82.1	0	0.0
Huye	96	41	42.7	0	0.0	56	58.3	61	63.5	72	75.0	2	2.1
Karongi	96	12	12.5	1	1.0	43	44.8	61	63.5	46	47.9	0	0.0
Musanze	101	15	14.9	14	13.9	55	54.5	25	24.8	68	67.3	2	2.0
Ngororero	100	32	32.0	4	4.0	61	61.0	27	27.0	66	66.0	0	0.0
Nyabihu	103	19	18.4	39	37.9	52	50.5	68	66.0	91	88.3	1	1.0
Nyamagabe	92	34	37.0	2	2.2	54	58.7	24	26.1	48	52.2	3	3.3
Nyamasheke	106	35	33.0	0	0.0	68	64.2	60	56.6	46	43.4	2	1.9
Nyaruguru	99	39	39.4	3	3.0	81	81.8	51	51.5	98	99.0	1	1.0
Ruhango	100	36	36.0	1	1.0	55	55.0	39	39.0	69	69.0	2	2.0
Rulindo	111	30	27.0	1	0.9	66	59.5	72	64.9	106	95.5	2	1.8
Rutsiro	101	15	14.9	44	43.6	83	82.2	69	68.3	71	70.3	0	0.0
Total	1486	415	27.9	168	11.3	892	60.0	750	50.5	1111	74.8	23	1.5

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.4.9 Awareness of Modern Enterprise Management Practices

The study discovered that although participants received training in several key areas, such as the 12 Cornerstones of Heifer, Technical training in livestock husbandry management, and Training on human and animal nutrition, there remains a gap in awareness and uptake of modern enterprise management practices. This is because less than half of the participants (42.3%) reported being familiar with these practices. Among those mentioned were record keeping (38.7%), budgeting and financial planning (40.3%), marketing and customer relations (22.6%), and inventory management (21%).

Table 42: Awareness of Modern Enterprise Management Practices by District

District	Awareness of Modene enterprise management practices		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Awareness	
		Freq (Yes)	Percentage
Burera	97	80	82.5
Gakenke	100	66	66.0
Gicumbi	100	79	79.0
Gisagara	84	25	29.8
Huye	96	21	21.9
Karongi	96	13	13.5
Musanze	101	60	59.4
Ngororero	100	2	2.0

District	Awareness of Modene enterprise management practices		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Awareness	
		Freq (Yes)	Percentage
Nyabihu	103	53	51.5
Nyamagabe	92	7	7.6
Nyamasheke	106	49	46.2
Nyaruguru	99	79	79.8
Ruhango	100	19	19.0
Rulindo	111	39	35.1
Rutsiro	101	36	35.6
Total	1486	628	42.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Modern Enterprise Management Practices Adopted by Livestock Farmers

Overall adoption was at 38.6% for record keeping, 36.6% for budgeting and financial planning, 17.6% for marketing and customer relations, and 17.3% for inventory management. Districts such as Burera (82.5% record keeping, 79.4% budgeting), Nyaruguru (76.8% record keeping, 68.7% budgeting, 60.6% marketing), and Musanze (61.4% record keeping, 52.5% budgeting) showed relatively high uptake across multiple practices, while others like Ngororero (2.0% record keeping, 14.0% budgeting) and Nyamagabe (7.6% record keeping, 3.3% budgeting) reported minimal adoption.

Table 43: Modern Enterprise Management Practices Adoption by District

District	Adoption of Modern Enterprise Management Practices								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Record Keeping		Budgeting & Financial Planning		Marketing & Customer Relations		Inventory Management	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	80	82.5	77	79.4	21	21.6	17	17.5
Gakenke	100	62	62.0	59	59.0	20	20.0	13	13.0
Gicumbi	100	55	55.0	19	19.0	11	11.0	14	14.0
Gisagara	84	19	22.6	21	25.0	18	21.4	21	25.0
Huye	96	21	21.9	21	21.9	12	12.5	13	13.5
Karongi	96	10	10.4	51	53.1	0	0.0	5	5.2
Musanze	101	62	61.4	53	52.5	20	19.8	26	25.7
Ngororero	100	2	2.0	14	14.0	1	1.0	0	0.0
Nyabihu	103	52	50.5	56	54.4	19	18.4	55	53.4
Nyamagabe	92	7	7.6	3	3.3	5	5.4	0	0.0
Nyamasheke	106	43	40.6	47	44.3	19	17.9	10	9.4
Nyaruguru	99	76	76.8	68	68.7	60	60.6	31	31.3
Ruhango	100	15	15.0	14	14.0	14	14.0	14	14.0
Rulindo	111	33	29.7	9	8.1	16	14.4	8	7.2
Rutsiro	101	37	36.6	32	31.7	25	24.8	30	29.7
Total	1486	574	38.6	544	36.6	261	17.6	257	17.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Attribution of Modern Enterprise Management Practice Adoption to PRISM/VBHCD

The findings indicate that participants who have adopted modern enterprise management practices attributed this adoption to PRISM and the VBHCD model, with attribution rates of 93.8% in the Northern Province, 88.8% in the Southern Province, and 93.3% in the Western Province, representing an overall attribution rate of 92.4%. This suggests that the project implementation team should deliberately integrate modern enterprise management

practices such as record keeping, budgeting, marketing, and inventory management into the values-based training modules to further enhance uptake

Table 44: Attribution of Modern Enterprise Management Practice Adoption to PRISM

Attribution of Adoption to PRISM	Province of the Respondents							
	Northern (n=369)		Southern (n=206)		Western (n=283)		Total (n=858)	
	Freq	Precent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Yes	346	93.8	183	88.8	264	93.3	793	92.4
No	23	6.2	23	11.2	19	6.7	65	7.6
Total	369	100	206	100	283	100	858	100

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Change in Investment Mindset

The assessment sought participants' opinions on whether the VBHCD model had influenced their attitudes toward investment. Results showed that 74.5% of respondents believed the VBHCD model had significantly shaped their attitudes toward investment. In contrast, only 2.1% reported no noticeable change, as illustrated in Table 45 below.

Table 45: Change in Investment Mindset

Change in Investment Mindset	Province of the Respondents							
	Northern (n=369)		Southern (n=206)		Western (n=283)		Total (n=858)	
	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Yes, significantly	244	66.1	167	81.1	228	80.6	639	74.5
Yes, slightly	117	31.7	34	16.5	50	17.7	201	23.4
No change	8	2.2	5	2.4	5	1.8	18	2.1
Total	369	100	206	100	283	100	858	100.0

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Analysis of Change in Investment Mindset

The change in mindsets varies across the districts. For instance, Nyabihu, Nyaruguru & Gicumbi districts had the highest change in investment mindset, with 72.8%, 69.7%, and 63.0% of responents respectively, reporting a positive shift in mindset towards investment. Conversely, Ngororero and Nyamagabe districts had minimal change, with only 9.0% and 10.9% of respondents, respectively. The table below summarizes the analysis of change in investment mindset by district.

Table 46: District Analysis of Change in Investment Mindset

District	Change in Investment Mindset						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Yes, significantly		Yes, slightly		No change	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	64	66.0	16	16.5	0	0.0
Gakenke	100	46	46.0	27	27.0	0	0.0
Gicumbi	100	63	63.0	16	16.0	1	1.0
Gisagara	84	38	45.2	1	1.2	0	0.0
Huye	96	22	22.9	2	2.1	0	0.0
Karongi	96	47	49.0	13	13.5	0	0.0
Musanze	101	29	28.7	33	32.7	0	0.0
Ngororero	100	9	9.0	6	6.0	0	0.0

District	Change in Investment Mindset						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Yes, significantly		Yes, slightly		No change	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Nyabihu	103	75	72.8	8	7.8	0	0.0
Nyamagabe	92	10	10.9		0.0	0	0.0
Nyamasheke	106	47	44.3	7	6.6	0	0.0
Nyaruguru	99	69	69.7	23	23.2	0	0.0
Ruhango	100	19	19.0	1	1.0	0	0.0
Rulindo	111	32	28.8	9	8.1	1	0.9
Rutsiro	101	39	38.6	3	3.0	0	0.0
Total	1486	609	41.0	165	11.1	2	0.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.5 Entrepreneurship and Income Generating Activities

3.5.1 Entrepreneurship Development

Risk Taking

To assess the risk appetite of participants, they were asked whether they were willing to invest in any potential profitable venture. The findings of the survey revealed that 62.2% of the study participants expressed willingness to invest in new ventures, which reflects a positive inclination to risk-taking and entrepreneurship development which is essential for driving innovations.

However, 20.9% of participants were not willing to invest in any new venture, and an additional 17.0% were unsure, both groups reflecting risk averse individuals. Aspects that can help participants boost their confidence levels, capacity to take calculated risk can be incorporated into the training offered by Heifer and other project implementing partners.

Willingness to Take Risks at District Level

The willingness to take up risks by participants also varied across districts. For example, Nyaruguru (87.9%), Nyamasheke (83.0%), and Rutsiro (82.2%) districts reported the highest percentages of beneficiaries willing to take risks, which indicates entrepreneurial confidence and openness to innovation. Table 47 below summarizes the willingness of participants to take up risky ventures.

Table 47: Willingness to Take Risks

District	Willingness to take up Risks						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percentage	Freq (No)	Percentage	Freq (Not Sure)	Percentage
Burera	97	74	76.3	9	9.3	14	14.4
Gakenke	100	75	75.0	16	16.0	9	9.0
Gicumbi	100	47	47.0	32	32.0	21	21.0
Gisagara	84	55	65.5	12	14.3	17	20.2
Huye	96	33	34.4	23	24.0	40	41.7
Karongi	96	67	69.8	12	12.5	17	17.7
Musanze	101	74	73.3	21	20.8	6	5.9
Ngororero	100	3	3.0	86	86.0	11	11.0
Nyabihu	103	73	70.9	6	5.8	24	23.3
Nyamagabe	92	39	42.4	9	9.8	44	47.8
Nyamasheke	106	88	83.0	16	15.1	2	1.9

District	Willingness to take up Risks						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percentage	Freq (No)	Percentage	Freq (Not Sure)	Percentage
Nyaruguru	99	87	87.9	7	7.1	5	5.1
Ruhango	100	51	51.0	27	27.0	22	22.0
Rulindo	111	75	67.6	24	21.6	12	10.8
Rutsiro	101	83	82.2	10	9.9	8	7.9
Total	1486	924	62.2	310	20.9	252	17.0

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Investment in High-Risk Ventures

In addition to the willingness to take up any risky venture, participants were further asked whether they had taken up any risky venture with the hope of getting higher returns. The findings of the survey revealed that only 38.1 percent of the participants had taken up some risky ventures.

District Level Analysis of Investing in New Ventures

Nyaruguru (66.7%), Musanze (62.4%), and Rutsiro (59.4%) districts had the highest proportion of participants that had invested in new income generating activities. On the other hand, Ngororero (16.0%), Huye (14.6%), and Nyamagabe (16.3%) districts had the least proportion of participants that were involved in investing in new economic activities. The table below summarizes the analysis of districts as far as investing in new ventures is concerned.

Table 48: District Level Analysis of Investing in New Ventures

District	Participants that invested in New Ventures		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percentage
Burera	97	56	57.7
Gakenke	100	41	41.0
Gicumbi	100	59	59.0
Gisagara	84	21	25.0
Huye	96	14	14.6
Karongi	96	52	54.2
Musanze	101	63	62.4
Ngororero	100	16	16.0
Nyabihu	103	11	10.7
Nyamagabe	92	15	16.3
Nyamasheke	106	30	28.3
Nyaruguru	99	66	66.7
Ruhango	100	20	20.0
Rulindo	111	42	37.8
Rutsiro	101	60	59.4
Total	1486	566	38.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Invested in New Income Generating Activities

According to the analysis, 68.8% of the participants invested in crop production as a new economic venture. This points towards preference for traditional agriculturally based business enterprises with limited need for diversification into nonagricultural enterprises. **Error! Reference source not found.** below illustrates the findings of the survey of new economic activities of investment.

District Level Analysis of Invested in New Income Generating Activities

From the analysis, participants from Karongi (76%), Rutsiro (76.2), Gicumbi (76%) and Nyabihu (75.7%) districts had the highest proportion of participants investing in crop farming. Investments across all the 15 Districts were majorly made in crop farming, followed by retail trade and the service industry.

Table 49: New Income Generating Activities that were taken up

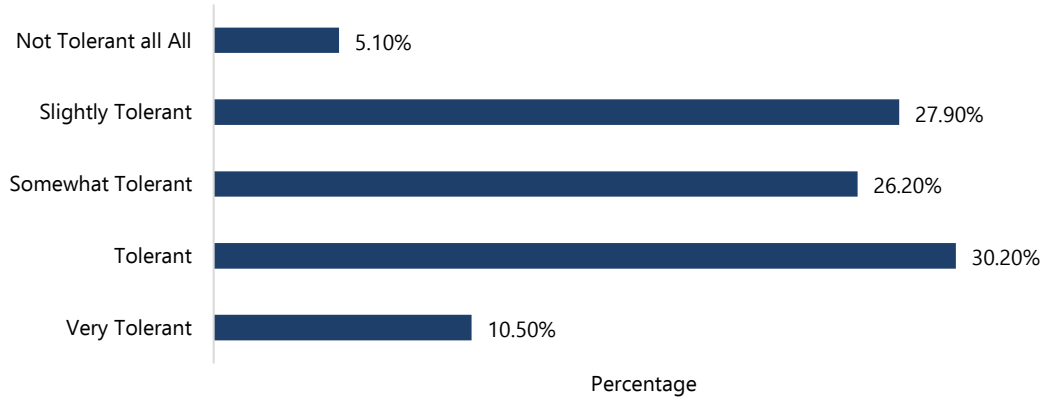
District	New Income Generating Activities that farmers invested in								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Crop production		Retail trade		The service industry		Others (casual labor, tailoring, petty vending, hairdressing)	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent		
Burera	97	71	73.2	28	28.9	2	2.1	5	5.2
Gakenke	100	73	73	29	29	2	2	6	6
Gicumbi	100	75	75	26	26	2	2	6	6
Gisagara	84	45	53.6	22	26.2	1	1.2	6	5.9
Huye	96	51	53.1	25	26	1	1	6	6
Karongi	96	73	76	24	25	1	1	7	6.8
Musanze	101	75	74.3	28	27.7	2	2	8	9.5
Ngororero	100	71	71	25	25	2	2	10	10.4
Nyabihu	103	78	75.7	26	25.2	1	1	10	10.4
Nyamagabe	92	49	53.3	24	26.1	1	1.1	9	9.8
Nyamasheke	106	80	75.5	27	25.5	1	0.9	10	10
Nyaruguru	99	54	54.5	25	25.3	1	1	4	3.8
Ruhango	100	54	54	27	27	1	1	4	4
Rulindo	111	83	74.8	30	27	2	1.8	5	4.5
Rutsiro	101	77	76.2	26	25.7	1	1	4	4
Total	1486	1014	68.2	388	26.1	21	1.4	102	6.9

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Tolerance of Financial Losses

The findings of the analysis revealed that 33% of the respondents were either slightly tolerant or not tolerant at all, which points towards the level of risk aversion. These statistics highlight the need to strengthen financial literacy, risk management skills and business resilience training. Figure 10 below describes the tolerance levels to financial losses by farmers.

Figure 10: Tolerance of Financial Loss



Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Tolerance of Financial Loss

The analysis revealed varying levels of tolerance across districts. For instance, 70.4% of participants in Rutsiro district were either tolerant or very tolerant of financial losses, compared to only 21.8% in Nyamagabe district. The table below summarizes the findings of the assessment.

Table 50: District Level Analysis for Tolerance of Financial Loss

District	Tolerance of Financial Loss										
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Very Tolerant		Tolerant		Somewhat Tolerant		Slightly Tolerant		Not Tolerant at All	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	4	4.1	31	32.0	39	40.2	14	14.4	9	9.3
Gakenke	100	22	22.0	10	10.0	9	9.0	53	53.0	6	6.0
Gicumbi	100	28	28.0	44	44.0	23	23.0	4	4.0	1	1.0
Gisagara	84	2	2.4	46	54.8	7	8.3	24	28.6	5	6.0
Huye	96	3	3.1	53	55.2	30	31.3	7	7.3	3	3.1
Karongi	96	13	13.5	45	46.9	14	14.6	22	22.9	2	2.1
Musanze	101	0	0.0	33	32.7	13	12.9	55	54.5	0	0.0
Ngororero	100	3	3.0	13	13.0	44	44.0	39	39.0	1	1.0
Nyabihu	103	13	12.6	29	28.2	21	20.4	36	35.0	4	3.9
Nyamagabe	92	3	3.3	17	18.5	55	59.8	15	16.3	2	2.2
Nyamasheke	106	5	4.7	24	22.6	55	51.9	22	20.8	0	0.0
Nyaruguru	99	4	4.0	10	10.1	32	32.3	36	36.4	17	17.2
Ruhango	100	31	31.0	20	20.0	12	12.0	27	27.0	10	10.0
Rulindo	111	17	15.3	11	9.9	13	11.7	54	48.6	16	14.4
Rutsiro	101	8	7.9	63	62.4	23	22.8	7	6.9	0	0.0
Total	1486	156	10.5	449	30.2	390	26.2	415	27.9	76	5.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Practices for Starting a Business

In assessing whether participants follow a standard process when starting a business, the findings of the survey revealed that 79.8% of participants reported consulting with others before starting a business. These findings reflect social networks and shared decision making.

Additionally, 37.7% reported that they would take potential risks when the expected gains are high, indicating a moderate level of calculated risk-taking. However, 26.1% admitted to avoiding risks altogether indicating that some participants remain cautious and hesitant when venturing into entrepreneurship.

District Level Analysis for Participant Practices Before Starting a Business

The analysis revealed varying tendencies in practices before starting a business. For risk aversion for example, Nyaruguru district recorded a relatively low proportion (21%) of individuals who avoid taking risks, while Musanze and Ngororero had a higher rate (33.3%).

Regarding consultation before starting a business, Burera district had the highest rate at 87.7%, compared to 70.5% in Karongi district. In terms of willingness to take risks when potential gains are high, Gisagara district demonstrated greater openness at 43.6%, whereas Rutsiro District was more conservative, with only 30.7% expressing such willingness.

Table 51: District Level Analysis for Participant Practices Before Starting a Business

District	Practices Before Starting a Business						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	I avoid taking risks		I consult with other people		I take the potential risk when the gains are likely to be high	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	23	24.2	85	87.7	42	43.2
Gakenke	100	24	24.2	88	87.7	43	43.2
Gicumbi	100	24	24.2	88	87.7	43	43.2
Gisagara	84	24	23.8	89	88.1	44	43.6
Huye	96	27	24.3	97	87.4	48	43.2
Karongi	96	28	32.8	59	70.5	33	38.9
Musanze	101	32	33.3	68	70.8	37	38.5
Ngororero	100	33	33.3	70	70.7	39	39.4
Nyabihu	103	30	32.6	65	70.7	36	39.1
Nyamagabe	92	33	33	71	71	39	39
Nyamasheke	106	21	21.9	78	81.2	30	31.3
Nyaruguru	99	21	21	81	81	31	31
Ruhango	100	22	21.4	84	81.6	32	31.1
Rulindo	111	23	21.7	86	81.1	33	31.1
Rutsiro	101	22	21.8	82	81.2	31	30.7
Total	1486	467	26.1	1426	79.8	673	37.7

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Rate of Starting New Businesses

Participants were asked the number of new products/services introduced in their businesses as a way of assessing creativity and innovation. The findings showed that most participants (70.3%) had introduced 1-2 new products or services while 29.7% had launched three or more. This highlights a need for the PRISM team to encourage more creative thinking and product diversification by providing continued mentorship, market exposure, and practical training tailored to help participants respond to changing customer needs and stay competitive.

Number of Businesses Started Per District

The analysis revealed that 61.6% of the participants across the districts have stated two businesses. At district level, Ngororero (83.0%), Karongi (78.1%), and Gicumbi (74.0%) recorded the highest proportions of participants engaged in two business ventures, underscoring a dominant trend of dual-business ownership among beneficiaries in these areas.

Table 52: Number of Businesses Started Per District

District	Number of Businesses Started								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	One (1) business		Two (2)		Three (3)		More than 3	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	4	4.1	59	60.8	33	34.0	1	1.0
Gakenke	100	0	0.0	50	50.0	43	43.0	7	7.0
Gicumbi	100	4	4.0	74	74.0	22	22.0	0	0.0
Gisagara	84	4	4.8	51	60.7	26	31.0	3	3.6
Huye	96	4	4.2	73	76.0	16	16.7	3	3.1
Karongi	96	4	4.2	75	78.1	17	17.7	0	0.0
Musanze	101	50	49.5	33	32.7	18	17.8	0	0.0
Ngororero	100	1	1.0	83	83.0	16	16.0	0	0.0

District	Number of Businesses Started								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	One (1) business		Two (2)		Three (3)		More than 3	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Nyabihu	103	0	0.0	59	57.3	27	26.2	17	16.5
Nyamagabe	92	40	43.5	45	48.9	7	7.6	0	0.0
Nyamasheke	106	2	1.9	74	69.8	22	20.8	8	7.5
Nyaruguru	99	0	0.0	60	60.6	34	34.3	5	5.1
Ruhango	100	6	6.0	60	60.0	30	30.0	4	4.0
Rulindo	111	6	5.4	62	55.9	35	31.5	8	7.2
Rutsiro	101	5	5.0	57	56.4	38	37.6	1	1.0
Total	1486	130	8.7	915	61.6	384	25.8	57	3.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Modern Technologies in Managing Businesses

From the analysis, it was discovered that 41% of the participants had adopted the use of modern technologies for managing businesses. Therefore, there is need to promote aspects like digital literacy and encourage collective efforts such joint technology adoption, group-based platforms and shared services to make technology more accessible, affordable and effective for rural entrepreneurs.

Different Technologies Used in Managing the Business

For the farmers that had embraced technologies in managing their business, the assessment investigated the common technologies used in managing businesses. Mobile money payments emerged as the most utilized form of technologies reported by 39.2% of the participants, improved animal breeds reported by 13.5% and digital marketing reported by 2.1%. The low level of using digital marketing implies that most farmers are missing out on opportunities to expand their market reach, increase visibility, and improve sales through online platforms.

Table 53: Different Technologies Used in Managing Businesses

Different Technologies Used in Managing Businesses	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Mobile payments	225	44.2	149	31.6	208	41.1	582	39.2
Improved animal breeds	103	20.2	80	17.0	18	3.6	201	13.5
Digital marketing	23	4.5	1	0.2	7	1.4	31	2.1

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

In terms of district analysis, there are variations in the adoption of modern technologies for managing businesses. The use of mobile payments was prominent in Rutsiro (74.3%) and Burera (74.2%) districts, while adoption was found to be low in Ngororero (3%) and Ruhango (17%) districts.

Digital marketing was found to be limited across most districts, with Gicumbi district leading at 15%, and the majority including Gisagara, Huye, and Karongi districts reporting no usage at all.

In terms of adopting improved animal breeds, Burera (49.5%) and Nyaruguru (42.4%) districts reported relatively higher figures, pointing to more advanced livestock practices, whereas many districts, including Ngororero and Ruhango districts, showed no uptake.

Table 54: Different Technologies Used in Managing Businesses by District

District	Different technologies Used in Business Management						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Mobile payments		Digital marketing		Improved animal breeds	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	72	74.2	5	5.2	48	49.5
Gakenke	100	40	40.0	2	2.0	11	11.0
Gicumbi	100	39	39.0	15	15.0	31	31.0
Gisagara	84	13	15.5	0	0.0	35	41.7
Huye	96	27	28.1	0	0.0	2	2.1
Karongi	96	56	58.3	0	0.0	1	1.0
Musanze	101	41	40.6	0	0.0	4	4.0
Ngororero	100	3	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nyabihu	103	36	35.0	1	1.0	4	3.9
Nyamagabe	92	31	33.7	0	0.0	1	1.1
Nyamasheke	106	38	35.8	1	0.9	6	5.7
Nyaruguru	99	61	61.6	1	1.0	42	42.4
Ruhango	100	17	17.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rulindo	111	33	29.7	1	0.9	9	8.1
Rutsiro	101	75	74.3	5	5.0	7	6.9
Total	1486	582	39.2	31	2.1	201	13.5

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.5.2 Levels of Innovation

To assess the levels of innovation among the program participants, study respondents were asked to state how often they think about new business ideas. The findings of the study revealed that only 22.6% frequently think about new business ideas, 55.0% occasionally think about new business ideas, while 22.4%. These findings indicate that the levels of innovations idea generations among beneficiaries are still low. The PRISM team should intensify efforts in nurturing creativity innovations and opportunity identification skills.

Key areas to think about in the training courses include business incubation, mentorship, exposure visits, and innovation challenges.

Table 55: Levels of Innovation

Rating of thinking about new ideas	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western(n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Rarely	79	15.5	59	12.5	195	38.5	333	22.4
Occasionally	273	53.6	283	60.1	261	51.6	817	55.0
Frequently	157	30.8	129	27.4	50	9.9	336	22.6

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Levels of Innovation

From the analysis, participants from Burera (50.5%) and Ruhango (48%) districts had the highest levels of frequent creativity and innovation, while Nyamagabe (1.1%) and Ngororero (3%) districts had the lowest levels. Occasional innovation was most reported in Nyamagabe (81.5%) and Karongi (79.2%) districts, suggesting moderate engagement.

Nyamasheke (75.5%) and Nyabihu (42.7%) districts recorded the highest levels of rarely practicing innovation, reflecting limited creative activity.

Table 56: District Level Analysis for Levels of Innovation

District	Levels of creativity and innovation						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Frequently		Occasionally		Rarely	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	49	50.5	31	32.0	17	17.5
Gakenke	100	19	19.0	78	78.0	3	3.0
Gicumbi	100	30	30.0	46	46.0	24	24.0
Gisagara	84	21	25.0	52	61.9	11	13.1
Huye	96	23	24.0	57	59.4	16	16.7
Karongi	96	13	13.5	76	79.2	7	7.3
Musanze	101	41	40.6	59	58.4	1	1.0
Ngororero	100	3	3.0	59	59.0	38	38.0
Nyabihu	103	8	7.8	51	49.5	44	42.7
Nyamagabe	92	1	1.1	75	81.5	16	17.4
Nyamasheke	106	2	1.9	24	22.6	80	75.5
Nyaruguru	99	36	36.4	57	57.6	6	6.1
Ruhango	100	48	48.0	42	42.0	10	10.0
Rulindo	111	18	16.2	59	53.2	34	30.6
Rutsiro	101	24	23.8	51	50.5	26	25.7
Total	1486	336	22.6	817	55.0	333	22.4

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Farmer Enterprise Membership

From the analysis, it was discovered that 100% of the direct participants samples for the assessment belonged to at least a farmer enterprise. This is due to the fact that all participants belong to an SHG which is also considered a farmer enterprise.

Table 57: Farmer Enterprise Membership

Province	District	Sampled Direct respondents	Farmer Enterprise Membership	
			Freq	Percent
Northen	Burera	96	96	100.00%
	Gakenke	100	100	100.00%
	Gicumbi	99	99	100.00%
	Musanze	101	101	100.00%
	Rulindo	107	107	100.00%
Southern	Gisagara	83	83	100.00%
	Huye	87	87	100.00%
	Nyamagabe	48	48	100.00%
	Nyaruguru	99	99	100.00%
	Ruhango	97	97	100.00%
Western	Karongi	92	92	100.00%
	Ngororero	93	93	100.00%
	Nyabihu	101	101	100.00%
	Nyamasheke	92	92	100.00%
	Rutsiro	85	85	100.00%
Total	15	1380	1380	100.00%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.5.3 Leadership in Group Enterprises

The analysis revealed that of all the respondents that were interviewed, 44% reported having never held any leadership position in a group enterprise. Note that the leadership role depends on the existence of SHG, length and number of terms each leader can serve as well as internal regulations.

Participation in Decision Making

The analysis revealed that 42.6% of respondents reported that sometimes participating in group decision-making, while only 25.0% said they often participate. It was also noted that 32.4% had never been involved in decision-making, indicating limited engagement in key group processes.

These findings suggest that although some members are occasionally involved, regular and meaningful participation in group decisions remains low, particularly in the Western province. For the PRISM and VBHCD teams, this points to a need to strengthen inclusive group governance structures and empower more members especially women and youth to actively take part in decisions, which is critical for building ownership and sustaining group-based enterprises.

District Level Analysis for Participation in Decision Making

From the analysis, Ruhango (72%) and Gakenke (46%) districts recorded the highest proportions of respondents who are engaged in innovative practices, Nyamasheke (3.8%) and Karongi (15.6%) districts on the other hand had the lowest levels of frequent innovation.

Table 58: District Level Analysis for Participation in Decision Making

District	District Level Analysis for Participation in Decision Making						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Never		Often		Sometimes	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	18	18.6	38	39.2	41	42.3
Gakenke	100	2	2.0	46	46.0	52	52.0
Gicumbi	100	18	18.0	27	27.0	55	55.0
Gisagara	84	8	9.5	38	45.2	38	45.2
Huye	96	59	61.5	12	12.5	25	26.0
Karongi	96	28	29.2	15	15.6	53	55.2
Musanze	101	6	5.9	33	32.7	62	61.4
Ngororero	100	29	29.0	24	24.0	47	47.0
Nyabihu	103	72	69.9	20	19.4	11	10.7
Nyamagabe	92	35	38.0	18	19.6	39	42.4
Nyamasheke	106	72	67.9	4	3.8	30	28.3
Nyaruguru	99	33	33.3	11	11.1	55	55.6
Ruhango	100	3	3.0	72	72.0	25	25.0
Rulindo	111	61	55.0	9	8.1	41	36.9
Rutsiro	101	37	36.6	5	5.0	59	58.4
Overall total	1486	481	32.4	372	25.0	633	42.6

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Initiative in Identifying and Exploiting Business Opportunities

The analysis revealed that 46.5% of the respondents had never taken initiative in identifying or exploiting business opportunities, while 41.5% had done so 1–2 times, and only 12.0% had done so more than twice. This means that entrepreneurship skills and innovations is still wanting and as a result, for the PRISM and VBHCD implementation teams, this highlights the need to strengthen entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and motivation, especially targeting women and youth, to boost confidence, initiative, and innovation in exploring viable business opportunities within the livestock value chain.

Table 59: Initiative in Identifying and Exploiting Business Opportunities

How many times have you ever tried to identify and look for different business opportunities	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western(n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Never	227	37.6	276	46.2	327	55.9	830	46.5
1-2 times	299	49.5	257	43.0	186	31.8	742	41.5
More than 2 times	78	12.9	64	10.7	72	12.3	214	12

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Initiative in Identifying and Exploiting Business Opportunities-District level analysis

From the analysis, Nyaruguru (73.7%) and Musanze (68.3%) had the highest proportions of individuals taking initiative at least 1–2 times, indicating growth in entrepreneurial drive. On the other hand, Nyamasheke (81.1%) and Huye (72.9%) recorded the highest percentages of respondents who never took such initiative, which shows limited engagement in opportunity-seeking.

Frequent initiative (more than 2 times) was most evident in Rutsiro (31.7%) and Nyaruguru (20.2%), while districts like Gisagara (1.2%) and Karongi (2.1%) had the lowest, showing minimal repeated efforts to pursue business opportunities.

Table 60: Initiative in Identifying and Exploiting Business Opportunities-District level analysis

District	Initiative in Identifying and Exploiting Business Opportunities						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	1–2 times		More than 2 times		Never	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	54	55.7	14	14.4	29	29.9
Gakenke	100	64	64.0	10	10.0	26	26.0
Gicumbi	100	50	50.0	15	15.0	35	35.0
Gisagara	84	46	54.8	1	1.2	37	44.0
Huye	96	16	16.7	10	10.4	70	72.9
Karongi	96	57	59.4	2	2.1	37	38.5
Musanze	101	69	68.3	7	6.9	25	24.8
Ngororero	100	11	11.0	17	17.0	72	72.0
Nyabihu	103	35	34.0	5	4.9	63	61.2
Nyamagabe	92	38	41.3	15	16.3	39	42.4
Nyamasheke	106	16	15.1	4	3.8	86	81.1
Nyaruguru	99	73	73.7	20	20.2	6	6.1
Ruhango	100	37	37.0	11	11.0	52	52.0
Rulindo	111	27	24.3	18	16.2	66	59.5
Rutsiro	101	41	40.6	32	31.7	28	27.7
Total	1486	634	42.7	181	12.2	671	45.2

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Proactive Response to New Opportunities

The findings of the survey revealed that 47.0% of respondents reacted to new opportunities after consulting others, while 40.9% responded immediately, and 12.1% rarely acted on such opportunities. This indicates a generally positive level of proactiveness, with the majority showing readiness to engage, either independently or after seeking guidance.

Table 61: Proactive Response to New Opportunities

	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western (n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Immediately	268	44.4%	206	34.5%	256	43.8%	730	40.9%
After consulting others	275	45.5%	278	46.6%	287	49.1%	840	47.0%
Rarely act	61	10.1%	113	18.9%	42	7.2%	216	12.1%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Proactive Response to New Opportunities-District Level Analysis

The analysis shows varying levels of proactiveness in responding to new opportunities across districts. Nyabihu (76.7%) and Burera (75.3%) districts had the highest proportion of respondents who acted immediately while Musanze (73.3%) and Ngororero (73%) districts showed a preference for acting after consulting others. Gisagara (47.6%) and Nyaruguru (37.4%) districts had the highest percentages of individuals who rarely took action. This suggests limited responsiveness to emerging opportunities.

Table 62: Proactive Response to New Opportunities-District Level Analysis

District	Proactive Response to New Opportunities-District level analysis						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Immediately		After consulting others		Rarely act	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	73	75.3	20	20.6	4	4.1
Gakenke	100	53	53.0	36	36.0	11	11.0
Gicumbi	100	44	44.0	36	36.0	20	20.0
Gisagara	84	31	36.9	13	15.5	40	47.6
Huye	96	50	52.1	37	38.5	9	9.4
Karongi	96	32	33.3	59	61.5	5	5.2
Musanze	101	20	19.8	74	73.3	7	6.9
Ngororero	100	26	26.0	73	73.0	1	1.0
Nyabihu	103	79	76.7	11	10.7	13	12.6
Nyamagabe	92	57	62.0	35	38.0		0.0
Nyamasheke	106	61	57.5	39	36.8	6	5.7
Nyaruguru	99	42	42.4	20	20.2	37	37.4
Ruhango	100	42	42.0	53	53.0	5	5.0
Rulindo	111	26	23.4	77	69.4	8	7.2
Rutsiro	101	50	49.5	40	39.6	11	10.9
Total	1486	686	46.2	623	41.9	177	11.9

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Entrepreneurial Growth

To assess the rate of entrepreneurial growth participants were asked whether they had started any income generating activities in the past 12 months, the findings of the survey revealed that 38.4% of the study participants had started up some income generating activities.

For the PRISM project and the VBHCD model, which aims at empowering the poor rural households especially women and youth to participate in profitable livestock value chains and build resilience, these results point to a need for strengthening support systems such as business training, access to startup capital, mentorship, and market

linkages. Boosting entrepreneurial confidence and capability is essential to accelerate the creation of viable small enterprises and achieve the project's goal of reducing poverty through sustainable, community-driven economic growth.

Table 63: Entrepreneurial Growth

	Province							
	Northern (n = 604)		Southern (n =597)		Western (n =585)		Total (n = 1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	300	49.7%	188	31.5%	198	33.8%	686	38.4%
No	304	50.3%	409	68.5%	387	66.2%	1100	61.6%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Levels of Entrepreneurship Growth at District Level

The level of entrepreneurship growth, measured by the initiation of income-generating activities in the past 12 months, varied significantly across districts. Musanze (62.4%) and Burera (61.9%) recorded the highest levels of entrepreneurial activity, while Huye (11.5%) and Nyabihu (15.5%) reported the lowest engagement in such activities

Table 64: Levels of Entrepreneurship Growth at District Level

District	Proactive Response to New Opportunities-District level analysis		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Started any income generating activities in the past 12 months	
		Freq	Percent
Burera	97	60	61.9
Gakenke	100	52	52.0
Gicumbi	100	49	49.0
Gisagara	84	23	27.4
Huye	96	11	11.5
Karongi	96	57	59.4
Musanze	101	63	62.4
Ngororero	100	17	17.0
Nyabihu	103	16	15.5
Nyamagabe	92	39	42.4
Nyamasheke	106	21	19.8
Nyaruguru	99	59	59.6
Ruhango	100	16	16.0
Rulindo	111	36	32.4
Rutsiro	101	56	55.4
Total	1486	575	38.7

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Rate of Interaction Between Market Actors

In the bid to find out whether there is interaction between market actors in the livestock value chains, participants were asked whether they interact or network with traders, buyers, or other entrepreneurs to gather market information.

The findings of the assessment revealed that 65.7% of the participants were involved in the small livestock value chains. This implies that 65.7% of livestock farmers (direct and indirect) are actively engaging with market actors, which is a positive indicator of market awareness and linkages that can enhance access to opportunities, improve pricing decisions, and strengthen business relationships.

Table 65: Rate of Interaction Between Market Actors

Interactions and networking with market actors	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western(n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	452	74.8	376	63.0	345	59.0	1173	65.7
No	152	25.2	221	37.0	240	41.0	613	34.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Entrepreneurship Growth-Based Market Demand Analysis

In a bid to find out whether entrepreneurship is based on market demand analysis, participants were asked whether they have started any new income-generating activities in the last 12 months based on market demand analysis.

The findings of the survey showed that only 38.4% of the participants have started some income-generating activities based on market demand analysis. This implies that the majority of participants are engaging in entrepreneurship without fully considering existing market needs and trends, which may limit the viability and profitability of their ventures, and the PRISM implementation team should strengthen market-oriented capacity building by training participants in basic market research, demand analysis, and customer-focused business planning to ensure that new enterprises are aligned with real market opportunities.

Table 66: Entrepreneurship Growth-Based Market Demand Analysis

	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western(n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	300	49.7	188	31.5	198	33.8	686	38.4
No	304	50.3	409	68.5	387	66.2	1100	61.6

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.5.4 Income Generating Activities

Involvement in Income Generating Activities at Group Level

The analysis revealed that 51.0% of respondents across all provinces reported participating in group-level income-generating activities, while 49.0% did not. This implies that even though groups are formed under the VBHCD model, income-generating activities operated as a group are not yet fully embraced or implemented by nearly half of the participants.

For the PRISM and VBHCD implementation team, the findings point to a gap between group formation and actual economic collaboration. It suggests the need to strengthen the functionality and productivity of these groups by supporting them with appropriate training, resources, and business development services that encourage joint ventures and shared income opportunities. Strengthening group-based IGAs would not only enhance sustainability but also deepen the economic impact of the VBHCD model.

Group-Based Income Generating Activities

The analysis reveals that crop farming (27.9%) is the most common group-based income-generating activity across all provinces, reflecting the central role of farming in rural livelihoods. This is followed by chicken selling (16.2%), egg selling (14.9%), and pig fattening (10.6%), indicating strong group engagement in small livestock ventures. Moderately practiced activities included animal feed shops (6.8%) and plant seed selling (1.0%), suggesting some level of diversification into input-related businesses. Specialized enterprises included chicken brooding (1.0%).

Table 67: Group Based Income Generating Activities

Different income generating activities engaged in as a group	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Egg selling	83	16.3	69	14.6	69	13.6	233	14.9
Animal feed shop	15	2.9	73	15.5	13	2.6	101	6.8
Chicken selling	78	15.3	95	20.1	68	13.4	241	16.2
Chicken brooding	4	0.8	8	1.7	3	0.6	15	1.0
Pig fattening	49	9.6	73	15.5	36	7.1	158	10.6
Plant seeds selling	9	1.8	0	0	6	1.2	15	1.0
Crop growing	139	27.3	121	25.7	154	30.4	414	27.9

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Group Based Income Generating Activities

From the analysis, it was found that although the PRISM project directly supported livestock production, it has had tremendous impact on crop farming as well.

For example, crop growing (28.0%) is the most practiced group activity, led by Nyamasheke (32 farmers) followed by Rutsiro (32), with the lowest numbers in Gisagara (21) and Gicumbi (28). Chicken selling follows (18.8%), highest in Ruhango and Nyaruguru (20 each), and lowest in Karongi and Rutsiro (12 each).

Egg selling (15.7%) is common in Rulindo (18) and Gicumbi (17), but least in Gisagara and Rutsiro (12 each). Pig fattening (11.3%) is most active in Ruhango (16) and Nyaruguru (15), and least in Karongi and Rutsiro (5 each).

Table 68: District Level Analysis Group Based Income Generating Activities

District	Group Based Income Generating Activities														
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Egg selling		Animal feed shop		Chicken selling		Chicken brooding		Pig fattening		Plant seeds selling		Crop growing	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	15	15.5	3	3.1	14	14.4	1	1	9	9.3	2	2.1	26	26.8
Gakenke	100	16	16	3	3	15	15	0	0	10	10	2	2	27	27
Gicumbi	100	17	17	3	3	16	16	1	1	9	9	1	1	28	28
Gisagara	84	12	14.3	13	15.5	17	20.2	1	1.2	13	15.5	0	0	21	25
Huye	96	15	15.6	15	15.6	19	19.8	2	2.1	15	15.6	0	0	25	26
Karongi	96	11	11.5	2	2.1	12	12.5	0	0	5	5.2	1	1	31	32.3
Musanze	101	17	16.8	3	3	16	15.8	1	1	10	9.9	2	2	28	27.7
Ngororero	100	16	16	3	3	15	15	0	0	10	10	1	1	28	28
Nyabihu	103	17	16.5	4	3.9	16	15.5	1	1	10	9.7	2	1.9	29	28.2
Nyamagabe	92	13	14.1	14	15.2	19	20.7	1	1.1	14	15.2	0	0	24	26.1
Nyamasheke	106	13	12.3	2	1.9	13	12.3	1	0.9	6	5.7	1	0.9	34	32.1
Nyaruguru	99	15	15.2	16	16.2	20	20.2	2	2	15	15.2	0	0	25	25.3

District	Group Based Income Generating Activities														
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Egg selling		Animal feed shop		Chicken selling		Chicken brooding		Pig fattening		Plant seeds selling		Crop growing	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Ruhango	100	14	14	15	15	20	20	2	2	16	16	0	0	26	26
Rulindo	111	18	16.2	3	2.7	17	15.3	1	0.9	11	9.9	2	1.8	30	27
Rutsiro	101	12	11.9	2	2	12	11.9	1	1	5	5	1	1	32	31.7
Total	1486	221	14.9	101	6.8	241	16.2	15	1	158	10.6	15	1	414	28

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Individual Level Income Generating Activities

The data shows that livestock sales are the most common individual-level income-generating activity (IGA), reported by 64.3% of respondents across all provinces. This is followed by produce processing (e.g., drying, milling) at 8.4%, and value addition activities such as packaging and branding at 5.7%. These findings indicate that while livestock sales are the primary source of income for most individuals, there is limited engagement in higher-value IGAs, hence the need to support livelihood diversification and promotion of value additions for improved incomes.

Table 69: IGAs at Individual Levels

IGAs at Individual Levels	Province							
	Northern		Southern		Western		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Livestock and their product sales	91	55.8	177	51.2	295	80.4	563	64.3
Produce processing (e.g., drying, milling)	15	9.2	1	0.3	58	15.8	74	8.4
Value addition (Packaging, branding etc)	3	1.8	1	0.3	46	12.5	50	5.7

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Individual Level Income Generating Activities

From the analysis, Nyamasheke consistently reports the highest number of individuals engaged in all three types of income-generating activities: 85 in livestock and their product sales, 17 in produce processing, and 13 in value addition.

Table 70: District Level Analysis for Individual Level Income Generating Activities

District	Individual Level Income Generating Activities						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Livestock and their product sales		Produce processing (e.g., drying, milling)		Value addition (Packaging, branding etc)	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	54	55.7	9	9.3	2	2.1
Gakenke	100	56	56	9	9	2	2
Gicumbi	100	56	56	9	9	2	2

District	Individual Level Income Generating Activities						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Livestock and their product sales		Produce processing (e.g., drying, milling)		Value addition (Packaging, branding etc)	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Gisagara	84	56	55.4	9	8.9	2	2
Huye	96	62	55.9	10	9	2	1.8
Karongi	96	43	51.2	0	0.3	0	0.3
Musanze	101	49	51	0	0.3	0	0.3
Ngororero	100	47	51.1	0	0.3	0	0.3
Nyabihu	103	51	51.5	0	0.3	0	0.3
Nyamagabe	92	51	51	0	0.3	0	0.3
Nyamasheke	106	77	80.2	15	15.6	12	12.5
Nyaruguru	99	80	80	16	16	13	13
Ruhango	100	83	80.6	16	15.5	13	12.6
Rulindo	111	85	80.2	17	16	13	12.3
Rutsiro	101	81	80.2	16	15.8	13	12.9
Total	1486	563	64.3	74	8.4	50	5.7

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Prospects of Forward Linkages

The findings show that only 10.8% of respondents across the three provinces identified prospects for forward linkages in livestock production, while the vast majority (89.2%) did not perceive such opportunities, suggesting low awareness or limited access to markets and value addition activities. Provincially, the Western province had the highest proportion (16.6%) recognizing forward linkage prospects, compared to just 5.5% in the North and 4.0% in the South.

Table 71: Prospects of Forward Linkages

Any prospects for forward linkages	Province							
	Northern		Southern		Western		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	5	5.5%	7	4.0%	49	16.6%	61	10.8%
No	86	94.5%	170	96.0%	246	83.4%	502	89.2%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Prospects of Forward Linkages

Just as it was found out at the provincial level analysis, the proportion of participants identified prospects of forward linkages was found to be small. Districts whose participants exhibits some prospects of forward linkages include: Nyamagabe, Nyamasheke, Nyaruguru, Ruhango, Rulindo.

Table 72: District Level Analysis for Prospects of Forward Linkages

District	Prospects of Forward Linkages		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percent
Burera	97	5	5.2
Gakenke	100	6	6
Gicumbi	100	5	5
Gisagara	84	6	5.9

District	Prospects of Forward Linkages		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percent
Huye	96	6	5.4
Karongi	96	3	3.6
Musanze	101	4	4.2
Ngororero	100	4	4.3
Nyabihu	103	4	4
Nyamagabe	92	4	4
Nyamasheke	106	16	16.7
Nyaruguru	99	17	17
Ruhango	100	17	16.5
Rulindo	111	18	17
Rutsiro	101	17	16.8
Total	1486	61	10.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Forward Linkage Businesses

Among those who saw forward linkage opportunities manure sales also ranked high (95.1%), particularly in the Western province (95.9%). Other forward linkages, such as meat processing (26.2%) and skins and hides businesses (4.9%), were less frequently reported, pointing to limited engagement or development in these areas.

These insights suggest that the PRISM team could capitalize on the strong interest in manure businesses to enhance the sustainability and profitability of livestock enterprises, while also raising awareness and building capacity around underdeveloped but viable areas like meat processing and by-product utilization.

Table 73: Forward Linkage Businesses

Forward linkage businesses	Province							
	Northern (n=5)		Southern (n=7)		Western (n=145)		Total (n=157)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
butchery or smoked meat	1	20	3	42.9	12	24.5	16	26.2
Skins and hides business	0	0.0	2	28.6	1	2.0	3	4.9
Manure sales	5	100	4	57.1	36	73.5	45	73.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Manure as a Marketed Product

Findings show that manure has become one of the most commonly sold livestock by-products, even though households also require it for improving their own crop production. In many cases, farmers explained that the quantity of manure produced exceeds their immediate on-farm needs, allowing them to sell the surplus to neighbors and local markets. However, for some households, the decision to sell manure is driven by the urgent need for cash to meet expenses such as school fees, food, and healthcare. This means that manure is both a surplus product and a cash-generating commodity, with farmers weighing the trade-off between soil fertility gains on their own plots and the immediate benefits of household income.

Table 74: District Level Analysis for Forward Linkage Businesses

District	Forward Linkage Businesses							
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	butchery or smoked meat		Skins and hides business		Manure sales	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	1	1	0	0	5	5.2
Gakenke	100	1	1	0	0	5	5
Gicumbi	100	1	1	0	0	5	5
Gisagara	84	1	1.2	1	1.2	2	2.4
Huye	96	2	2.1	1	1	3	3.1
Karongi	96	4	4.2	0	0	12	12.5
Musanze	101	2	2	0	0	6	5.9
Ngororero	100	4	4	0	0	11	12
Nyabihu	103	4	3.9	0	0	11	11.6
Nyamagabe	92	2	2.2	1	1.1	3	3.3
Nyamasheke	106	4	3.8	1	0.9	12	13.2
Nyaruguru	99	2	2	1	1	3	3
Ruhango	100	1	1	1	1	3	3
Rulindo	111	1	0.9	0	0	6	5.4
Rutsiro	101	4	4	0	0	12	12.9
Overall Total	**1486**	**35**	**2.4**	**6**	**0.4**	**110**	**7.6**

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Prospects of Backward Linkages

Participants involved in livestock production were asked whether there is potential for backward linkages in the areas where they produce their livestock. The findings of the survey revealed only 11.2% of respondents across the three provinces reported being aware of the potential backward linkages in livestock production.

Table 75: Prospects of Backward Linkages

Prospects of Backward Linkages	Province							
	Northern (n=91)		Southern (n=117)		Western(n=295)		Total (n=563)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	10	11.0	34	19.2	19	6.4	63	11.2
No	81	89.0	143	80.8	276	93.6	500	88.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Backward Linkage IGAs

The most cited backward linkage across all provinces was hay and silage making and selling, mentioned by 96.8% of these respondents, indicating strong recognition of the importance of fodder preservation in supporting livestock productivity. Animal feed production and sales followed at 58.7%, especially prominent in the Northern (90.0%) and Western (78.9%) provinces. Livestock housing construction was also notable, reported by 47.6% of respondents, with high mentions in Northern (60.0%) and Southern (58.8%). Note that the district level statistics are so small and don't provide significant meaning and implications.

Table 76: Backward Linkage IGAs

Backward Linkage IGAs	Province							
	Northern (n=10)		Southern (n=34)		Western(n=19)		Total (n=63)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Animal feed production and sales	9	90.0	13	38.2	15	78.9	37	58.7
Fodder crop cultivation (e.g., Napier grass, maize for silage)	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	26.3	5	7.9
Veterinary drug retail	1	10.0	11	32.4	2	10.5	14	22.2
Animal health service provision (deworming, vaccinations)	0	0.0	5	14.7	0	0.0	5	7.9
Livestock housing construction (pens, shelters)	6	60	20	58.8	4	21.1	30	47.6
Breeding services (AI, hiring of male breeders)	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	1	1.6
Hay and silage making and selling	10	100	34	100	17	89.5	61	96.8
Manure collection and transport services	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	10.5	2	3.2
Livestock transport services	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	1	1.6
Local extension or advisory services	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.6
Water provision services for livestock (e.g., water delivery, trough setup)	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	1	1.6

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

The PRISM Implementation team should prioritize and scale up support for IGAs related to fodder preservation, animal feed production, and livestock housing, as these are the most recognized and potentially impactful backward linkages in the livestock value chain according to respondents. The high percentage (96.8%) citing hay and silage making and selling underscores a strong local awareness of its role in improving livestock productivity, especially during dry seasons.

VBHCD Support Services Received

From the analysis, all the participants sampled for the assessment received the different support services provided under the VBHCD model. These services include: Training, Coaching, Access to Finance and Support in building social capital

Table 77: VBHCD Support Services Received

Support services received	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Training	509	100	471	100	506	100	1486	100
Coaching	509	100	471	100	506	100	1486	100

Support services received	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Access to Finance	509	100	471	100	506	100	1486	100
Support in building social capital	509	100	471	100	506	100	1486	100

Source: Primary Data (PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Table 78: District Level Analysis for VBHCD Support Services Received

District	VBHCD Support Services Received								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Training		Coaching		Access to Finance		Support in building social capital	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	97	100	97	100	97	100	97	100
Gakenke	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Gicumbi	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Gisagara	84	84	100	84	100	84	100	84	100
Huye	96	96	100	96	100	96	100	96	100
Karongi	96	96	100	96	100	96	100	96	100
Musanze	101	101	100	101	100	101	100	101	100
Ngororero	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nyabihu	103	103	100	103	100	103	100	103	100
Nyamagabe	92	92	100	92	100	92	100	92	100
Nyamasheke	106	106	100	106	100	106	100	106	100
Nyaruguru	99	99	100	99	100	99	100	99	100
Ruhango	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rulindo	111	111	100	111	100	111	100	111	100
Rutsiro	101	101	100	101	100	101	100	101	100
Total	1486	1486	100	1486	100	1486	100	1486	100

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.5.5 Household Income

Average Household Income

According to the study findings, the average household income of participants increased after the implementation of PRISM. The annual average household income rose from RWF 236,304.78 in the year 2022 to RWF 613,001.35 in the year 2024, with a mean difference of RWF 334, 542, an equivalent of 51.7% percentage increase in household incomes

Table 79: Income Levels Before and After PRISM

Descriptive Statistics						
Income Status	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Annual Household Incomes (RWF) Before Participating in the Project	1486	86,725	532,622	351,205,500	236,304.78	117,281.26

Descriptive Statistics						
Income Status	N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Current Annual Household Incomes (RWF) After Participation in PRISM	1486	148,083	882,678	911,186,000	613,001.35	168,370.23

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis Average Household Income

From the analysis Gakenke recorded the highest income increase at 71.6%, followed by Gisagara at 68.8%, and Nyabihu at 63.8%. Rutsiro had the lowest at 38.4%, followed by Musanze at 42.8%, and Huye at 46.5%. Most districts ranged between 48.1% (Ruhango) and 56.5% (Nyaruguru and Rulindo).

Table 80: District Level Analysis Average Household Income

District	Average annual Household incomes before PRISM	Average annual Household income following PRISM	Difference in average household incomes	Percentage change in average annual incomes
	Mean	Mean	Mean difference	% increase
Burera	392678	882678	490000	55.5
Gakenke	200283	704750	504467	71.6
Gicumbi	365542	751675	386133	51.4
Gisagara	141005	451801	310796	68.8
Huye	376392	703266	326874	46.5
Karongi	167676	352501	184825	52.4
Musanze	138541	242049	103508	42.8
Ngororero	86725	184083	97358	52.9
Nyabihu	178815	494370	315555	63.8
Nyamagabe	187312	371061	183749	49.5
Nyamasheke	263947	590795	326848	55.3
Nyaruguru	215163	494526	279363	56.5
Ruhango	221385	426902	205517	48.1
Rulindo	235383	541667	306284	56.5
Rutsiro	532622	864183	331561	38.4

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Increase in Household Income from Livestock and Other Income Generating Activities

Participants were asked whether their incomes have increased in the past 12 months, From the analysis, over 80% of the participants reported that their incomes had increased in the past 12 months.

Table 81: Increase in Household Income from Livestock and Other Income Generating Activities

Increase in Household Income from Livestock and Other Income Generating Activities	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western(n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	562	93.0%	429	71.9%	453	77.4%	1444	80.9%
No	42	7.0%	168	28.1%	132	22.6%	342	19.1%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

The participants that reported an increase in incomes from livestock and other sources were further asked to estimate the percentage increase in incomes. The majority (46.6%) indicated that their incomes had increased by between 25–50%, while 38.3% reported an increase of less than 25%. Only 15.1% estimated that their income had increased by more than 50%. These findings point to the fact that whereas income improvements were reported, majority of the participants experienced moderate gains.

Table 82: Estimated Percentage Increase in Income

Estimated Percentage Increase in Income	Province							
	Northern (n=562)		Southern (n=429)		Western(n=453)		Total (n=1444)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Less than 25%	205	36.50%	198	46.10%	150	33.10%	553	38.30%
Between 25-50%	247	44.00%	176	41.00%	250	55.20%	673	46.60%
More than 50%	110	19.60%	55	12.80%	53	11.70%	218	15.10%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Estimated Percentage Increase in Income

From the analysis, Musanze (70.3%) and Nyaruguru (65.7%) had the highest percentage of participants reporting income increase of less than 25%, while Gicumbi (10.0%) and Nyabihu (28.2%) reported the lowest increase of less than 25%. The analysis further revealed that Nyabihu (59.2%) and Nyamagabe (55.4%) had the highest for increases between 25-50%, while Huye (13.5%) and Ruhango (18.0%) reported the lowest. Gicumbi (37.0%) and Burera (26.8%) recorded the highest shares of beneficiaries reporting income increases of more than 50%, whereas Karongi (2.1%) and Huye (9.4%) had the lowest.

Table 83: District Level Analysis for Estimated Percentage Increase in Income

District	Estimated percentage increase						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Less than 25%		Between 25-50%		More than 50%	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	23	23.7	42	43.3	26	26.8
Gakenke	100	25	25.0	51	51.0	19	19.0
Gicumbi	100	10	10.0	47	47.0	37	37.0
Gisagara	84	35	41.7	30	35.7	9	10.7

District	Estimated percentage increase						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Less than 25%		Between 25-50%		More than 50%	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Huye	96	9	9.4	13	13.5	9	9.4
Karongi	96	32	33.3	45	46.9	2	2.1
Musanze	101	71	70.3	21	20.8	6	5.9
Ngororero	100	39	39.0	35	35.0	7	7.0
Nyabihu	103	29	28.2	61	59.2	9	8.7
Nyamagabe	92	10	10.9	51	55.4	3	3.3
Nyamasheke	106	21	19.8	24	22.6	10	9.4
Nyaruguru	99	65	65.7	29	29.3	4	4.0
Ruhango	100	39	39.0	18	18.0	24	24.0
Rulindo	111	42	37.8	51	45.9	10	9.0
Rutsiro	101	10	9.9	50	49.5	17	16.8
Total	1486	460	31.0	568	38.2	192	12.9

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Sources of Household Income

The analysis of income sources reveals that the majority of respondents (62.1%) reported having two sources of income, followed by 25.7% with three sources, while 8.6% had only one, and a small portion (3.6%) had more than three. This indicates that most households are diversifying their income streams to some extent. Regarding specific sources of income, crop farming (93.4%) and livestock rearing (91.2%) were the most commonly reported, highlighting their central role in rural livelihoods.

Other income-generating activities were reported at much lower levels, including small-scale trade and retail (12.6%), and casual labor (10.0%). Activities like agro-processing (4.9%), handicrafts (3.4%), and transport services (1.4%) were less common, while sources such as beekeeping, fishing, tourism, and remittances each accounted for less than 1%,

Table 84: Sources of Household Income

Sources of incomes	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western(n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
One (1)	68	11.3	69	11.6	16	2.7	153	8.6
Two (2)	343	56.8	371	62.1	395	67.5	1109	62.1
Three (3)	175	29.0	141	23.6	143	24.4	459	25.7
More than 3	18	3.0	16	2.7	31	5.3	65	3.6
Crop farming – including maize, beans, bananas, cassava, potatoes, sorghum, coffee, and tea.	583	96.50%	533	89.30%	553	94.50%	1669	93.40 %
Livestock rearing – cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, and poultry (chickens and ducks)	542	89.70%	537	89.90%	549	93.80%	1628	91.20 %

Sources of incomes	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western(n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Agro-processing and value addition – such as producing banana wine, cassava flour, or dairy products	66	10.90%	12	2.00%	10	1.70%	88	4.90%
Beekeeping (apiculture) – for honey and beeswax	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	0.50%	3	0.20%
Fishing and aquaculture – especially near lakes and rivers	2	0.30%	0	0.00%	1	0.20%	3	0.20%
Handicrafts and artisan work – weaving, pottery, basketry, and tailoring	28	4.60%	16	2.70%	16	2.70%	60	3.40%
Small-scale trade and retail – operating kiosks, village shops, or market vending	77	12.80%	84	14.10%	64	10.90%	225	12.60 %
Casual labor (wage employment) – working on other people's farms or construction projects	57	9.40%	55	9.20%	66	11.30%	178	10.00 %
Forestry and charcoal/firewood sales – harvesting and selling forest products	2	0.30%	6	1.00%	3	0.50%	11	0.60%
Transport services – bicycle or motorcycle taxi (bodaboda).	13	2.20%	6	1.00%	6	1.00%	25	1.40%
Tourism-related activities – especially in areas near parks or tourist sites (e.g., cultural performances, craft sales)	1	0.20%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.10%
Remittances – from family members working in towns or abroad	0	0.00%	1	0.20%	0	0.00%	1	0.10%
Government and NGO programs – such as social protection schemes (e.g., Vision 2020 Umurenge Program - VUP) and public works	5	0.80%	4	0.70%	6	1.00%	15	0.80%
Renting land or property – leasing farmland or rental houses/rooms	3	0.50%	0	0.00%	8	1.40%	11	0.60%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Income Sources

The analysis revealed that across the 15 Districts, 61.6% of PRISM participants have two sources of income, 25.8% have three sources of income, 8.7% of participants have one source of income, while 3.8% have more than 3 sources of income.

Table 85: District Level Analysis for Income Sources

District	Number of income sources								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	One (1)		Two (2)		Three (3)		More than 3	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	4	4.1	59	60.8	33	34.0	1	1.0
Gakenke	100	0	0.0	50	50.0	43	43.0	7	7.0
Gicumbi	100	4	4.0	74	74.0	22	22.0	0	0.0
Gisagara	84	4	4.8	51	60.7	26	31.0	3	3.6
Huye	96	4	4.2	73	76.0	16	16.7	3	3.1
Karongi	96	4	4.2	75	78.1	17	17.7	0	0.0
Musanze	101	50	49.5	33	32.7	18	17.8	0	0.0
Ngororero	100	1	1.0	83	83.0	16	16.0	0	0.0
Nyabihu	103	0	0.0	59	57.3	27	26.2	17	16.5
Nyamagabe	92	40	43.5	45	48.9	7	7.6	0	0.0
Nyamasheke	106	2	1.9	74	69.8	22	20.8	8	7.5
Nyaruguru	99	0	0.0	60	60.6	34	34.3	5	5.1
Ruhango	100	6	6.0	60	60.0	30	30.0	4	4.0
Rulindo	111	6	5.4	62	55.9	35	31.5	8	7.2
Rutsiro	101	5	5.0	57	56.4	38	37.6	1	1.0
Total	1486	130	8.7	915	61.6	384	25.8	57	3.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.5.6 Acquisition of New Assets

Household That Acquired New Assets

To assess graduation and improvement in standards of living, the survey assessed the percentage of households that acquired additional assets because of participation in income generating activities promoted by the VBHCD model under PRISM. Over 80% of the sampled participants reported acquiring additional assets because of participating in PRISM.

Table 86: Household That Acquired New Assets

Household That Acquired New Assets	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	430	84.5%	363	77.1%	397	78.5%	1190	80.1%
No	79	15.5%	108	22.9%	109	21.5%	296	19.9%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Additional Assets Acquired by Households

The data shows that the most commonly acquired additional assets by households were new and high-quality telephones (34.7%), the ability to pay school fees in better private schools (35.8%), and additional land (50.3%), reflecting improvements in communication, education, and land ownership. Other notable acquisitions include additional mattresses (28.8%), access to electricity (15.9%), and new radios (16.2%).

Table 87: Additional Assets Acquired by Households

Additional household assets	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Additional Land	223	51.9%	198	54.5%	177	44.6%	598	50.3%
TV screen	24	5.6%	11	3.0%	14	3.5%	49	4.1%
Additional Mattresses	143	33.3%	106	29.2%	94	23.7%	343	28.8%
Access to electricity	52	12.1%	56	15.4%	81	20.4%	189	15.9%
Access to water at home	39	9.1%	47	12.9%	28	7.1%	114	9.6%
New and high-quality Radio	64	14.9%	45	12.4%	84	21.2%	193	16.2%
Able to pay school fees for my children in better private schools	155	36.0%	119	32.8%	152	38.3%	426	35.8%
Bicycle	37	8.6%	21	5.8%	13	3.3%	71	6.0%
Motorcycle	3	0.7%	3	0.8%	3	0.8%	9	0.8%
New and high-quality telephone	142	33.0%	96	26.4%	175	44.1%	413	34.7%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Additional Assets

From the analysis, Nyaruguru (51.5%) and Burera (63.9%) had the highest proportions of respondents acquiring additional land, while Karongi (26.0%) and Rulindo (24.3%) had the lowest. For mattresses, Burera (44.3%) and Nyabihu (39.8%) had the highest acquisition rates, compared to Nyamagabe (5.4%) and Gicumbi (7.0%) with the lowest. Regarding the ability to pay school fees in better private schools, Nyamasheke (48.1%) and Gakenke (51.0%) had the highest number of participants, while Nyabihu (3.9%) and Nyamagabe (3.3%) had the lowest participants. For acquisition of new and high-quality phones, Nyaruguru (54.5%) and Nyamasheke (51.9%) were highest, while Huye (8.3%) and Nyamagabe (5.4%) were the lowest.

Table 88: District Level Analysis-Additional Assets

District	Acquiring assets								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Additional Land		Mattresses		Able to pay school fees for my children in better private schools		New and high-quality telephone	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	62	63.9	43	44.3	39	40.2	39	40.2
Gakenke	100	41	41.0	42	42.0	51	51.0	35	35.0
Gicumbi	100	47	47.0	7	7.0	23	23.0	10	10.0
Gisagara	84	29	34.5	15	17.9	20	23.8	12	14.3
Huye	96	35	36.5	19	19.8	32	33.3	8	8.3
Karongi	96	25	26.0	10	10.4	21	21.9	21	21.9
Musanze	101	46	45.5	13	12.9	31	30.7	14	13.9
Ngororero	100	42	42.0	7	7.0	36	36.0	10	10.0
Nyabihu	103	44	42.7	41	39.8	4	3.9	39	37.9

District	Acquiring assets								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Additional Land		Mattresses		Able to pay school fees for my children in better private schools		New and high-quality telephone	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Nyamagabe	92	54	58.7	5	5.4	3	3.3	5	5.4
Nyamasheke	106	22	20.8	17	16.0	51	48.1	55	51.9
Nyaruguru	99	51	51.5	34	34.3	23	23.2	54	54.5
Ruhango	100	29	29.0	33	33.0	41	41.0	17	17.0
Rulindo	111	27	24.3	38	34.2	11	9.9	44	39.6
Rutsiro	101	44	43.6	19	18.8	40	39.6	50	49.5
Total	1486	598	40.2	343	23.1	426	28.7	413	27.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

These statistics are consistent with the findings from qualitative data where testimonies on additional assets were reported by the different study participants.

In an interview with Mukarubibi, a resident and livestock farmer from Gisagara district in the Southern Province, it was confirmed that the before PRISM, the direct beneficiaries were vulnerable, with very low levels of income, food insecure, and many did not have land where to cultivate crops.

After PRISM, households have acquired land to grow crops and have been able to even start raring cattle as a result of accessing loans and buy more animals.

3.6 Sustainability of SHGs and Farmer Cooperatives

3.6.1 Savings and Access to Loans

To ensure sustainability of SHGs and strengthened community networks and relationships to enable participants to collectively mobilize resources, farmers were empowered to access finance through savings and loans. This enhanced economic resilience, financial inclusion, and mutual trust and support. The table below summarizes the annual group savings, livestock farmers that accessed loans, and the amount of loans disbursed which form an integral element of social capital development.

Table 89: Contribution of the VBHCD Model to Savings and Access to loans

Reporting Period	No. of SHGs	Amount Saved		Farmers Who Accessed Loans		Amount Disbursed in Loans	
		RWF ('000)	USD Equivalent	Men	Women	RWF ('000)	USD Equivalent
July 2024 – June 2025	1,242	407,972	294,143	26,171	14,672	285,365,959	205,745
Jan-March 2025	1,165	106,959	77,116	4,852	4,616	104,505	75,347
July -Dec 2024	1,147	184,610	140,591	8,396	9,758	196,237	149,446
July 2023-June 2024	951	267,471	214,243	10,867	13,662	313,725	251,292
July 2022 – June 2023	759	190,578	173,450	5,091	6,757	89,325	81,296

Reporting Period	No. of SHGs	Amount Saved		Farmers Who Accessed Loans		Amount Disbursed in Loans	
		RWF ('000)	USD Equivalent	Men	Women	RWF ('000)	USD Equivalent
July 2021 – June 2022	290	50,023	48,378	3,277	4,019	30,232	29,229.30

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.7 Food Security and Nutrition

3.7.1 Dimensions of Food Security

Participants were asked to share their opinions on various dimensions of food security, including constant food availability, accessibility, affordability, nutritional value, and utilization. Based on their responses, a food security perception index was computed.

The Food Security Perception Index provides a quantitative measure of how participants perceive each dimension of food security. The index is derived by subtracting the combined percentage of negative responses (Disagree + Strongly Disagree) from the combined percentage of positive responses (Agree + Strongly Agree). A higher index score reflects a stronger positive perception of that food security aspect, while a lower score indicates concerns or dissatisfaction.

Table 90: Food Security Index

Food Security Index						
Dimension	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Positive (%)	Disagree (%)	Negative (%)	Index
Availability	26.72	52.96	79.68	5.45	5.45	74.23
Accessibility	23.62	49.60	73.22	7.00	7.00	66.22
Affordability	16.96	45.42	62.38	15.21	15.21	47.17
Nutritious Quality	32.17	46.03	78.20	3.50	3.50	74.70
Utilisability	26.31	48.12	74.43	2.49	2.49	71.94

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

While participants generally perceive food to be available (79.7%), nutritious (78.2%), and utilizable (74.4%), affordability remains an issue to think about, with only 62.4% reporting a positive perception and 15.2% expressing negative views the highest among all dimensions.

3.7.2 Household with Sufficient Food

The study investigated the months in which the households had enough food to meet their dietary needs in the previous 12 months. The findings show that the majority of respondents (37.3%) reported having enough food to meet their dietary needs for 10–12 months in the previous year, indicating relatively stable food availability for a significant portion of households. This was followed by 22.9% who had adequate food for 7–9 months, and 20.8% for 4–6 months. Only 19.0% reported having sufficient food for just 1–3 months, highlighting that while food insecurity exists, most households experienced moderate to high levels of food availability throughout the year.

Nyaruguru (71.7%), Gicumbi (60.0%), and Nyabihu (57.3%) districts recorded the highest proportion of households with high food sufficiency (10–12 months) in the previous year. In contrast, Ruhango (42.0%), Musanze (39.6%), Huye (37.5%), and Karongi (37.5%) districts had the highest proportion of households experiencing low food sufficiency (1–3 months). These findings could be attributed to the differences in agroecological conditions and market access which underscore the need for geographically targeted interventions that strengthen household

resilience, support livelihood diversification, and enhance local food production capacity to bridge gaps in food access and availability.

Table 91: Household with Sufficient Food

District	Months of Household Food Sufficiency								
	Sampled Participants	1–3 months		4–6 months		7–9 months		10–12 months	
	Freq	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Burera	97	18	18.60%	34	35.10%	28	28.90%	17	17.50%
Gakenke	100	6	6.00%	20	20.00%	24	24.00%	50	50.00%
Gicumbi	100	1	1.00%	6	6.00%	33	33.00%	60	60.00%
Musanze	101	40	39.60%	30	29.70%	24	23.80%	7	6.90%
Rulindo	111	4	3.60%	2	1.80%	47	42.30%	58	52.30%
Gisagara	84	21	25.00%	21	25.00%	32	38.10%	10	11.90%
Huye	96	36	37.50%	19	19.80%	25	26.00%	16	16.70%
Nyamagabe	92	12	13.00%	25	27.20%	13	14.10%	42	45.70%
Nyaruguru	99	5	5.10%	12	12.10%	11	11.10%	71	71.70%
Ruhango	100	42	42.00%	23	23.00%	25	25.00%	10	10.00%
Karongi	96	36	37.50%	14	14.60%	9	9.40%	37	38.50%
Ngororero	100	19	19.00%	5	5.00%	24	24.00%	52	52.00%
Nyabihu	103	11	10.70%	29	28.20%	4	3.90%	59	57.30%
Nyamasheke	106	30	28.30%	46	43.40%	19	17.90%	11	10.40%
Rutsiro	101	2	2.00%	23	22.80%	22	21.80%	54	53.50%
Total	1486	283	19.00%	309	20.80%	340	22.90%	554	37.30%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.7.3 Food Shortage

Households that Experienced any Food Shortages in the Previous 12 Months

To further assess household food availability, participants were asked whether there were any months in the past year when they experienced food shortages. Overall, 59.8% of respondents reported that they experienced food shortages at some point in the previous 12 months, while 40.2% reported no such shortages.

Nyamasheke (99.1%), Musanze (93.1%), and Huye districts had the highest proportion of households reporting food shortages. In contrast, Nyamagabe (76.1%), Rutsiro (73.3%), and Nyaruguru districts had the highest proportion of households reporting no food shortages.

The mismatch between perceived annual food sufficiency and reported food shortages highlights the vulnerability of households to periodic food insecurity, possibly due to fluctuations in harvests, market access, or income levels. These results underscore the need for interventions that not only improve overall food production but also address seasonal variability and strengthen household resilience to food shocks

Table 92: Food Shortages in the Previous 12 Months

	Experienced any food shortages in the previous 12 months				
District	Sampled Respondents	Yes		No	
		Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Burera	97	82	84.5%	15	15.5%
Gakenke	100	63	63.0%	37	37.0%
Gicumbi	100	61	61.0%	39	39.0%
Gisagara	84	30	35.7%	54	64.3%
Huye	96	87	90.6%	9	9.4%
Karongi	96	66	68.8%	30	31.3%
Musanze	101	94	93.1%	7	6.9%
Ngororero	100	49	49.0%	51	51.0%
Nyabihu	103	44	42.7%	59	57.3%
Nyamagabe	92	22	23.9%	70	76.1%
Nyamasheke	106	105	99.1%	1	0.9%
Nyaruguru	99	30	30.3%	69	69.7%
Ruhango	100	58	58.0%	42	42.0%
Rulindo	111	70	63.1%	41	36.9%
Rutsiro	101	27	26.7%	74	73.3%
Total	1486	888	59.8%	598	40.2%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Period of Household Food Shortages

Households that reported some months of food shortages were further subjected to the question of identifying the months in which their households experienced food shortages. The findings of the study revealed that food shortages were most experienced in April (30.9%), followed by October (26.8%), November (25.2%), and September (23.2%). These months accounted for the highest proportions of reported food insecurity, suggesting a seasonal pattern linked to the pre-harvest period and lean seasons. In contrast, the months of January (3.8%), February (4.6%), and December (9.4%) had the fewest reports of shortages, indicating relatively better food availability during these periods.

Table 93: Period of Household Food Shortages

Period of Household Food Shortages		
Month	Freq	Percent
Jan	57	3.8%
Feb	68	4.6%
Mar	170	11.4%
Apr	459	30.9%
May	317	21.3%
Jun	199	13.4%
Jul	164	11.0%
Aug	166	11.2%
Sep	345	23.2%
Oct	398	26.8%
Nov	374	25.2%
Dec	139	9.4%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.7.4 Food Values

Household Diets Containing Essential Nutrients

The findings reveal that a significant majority of households (87.4%) reported that their diets contained all the necessary food values, suggesting that most perceive their diets as balanced and nutritionally adequate. However, the 12.6% of households that reported lacking essential food values highlights a gap that may require targeted nutritional support or awareness interventions, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Table 94: Household Diets Containing Essential Nutrients

Households that believe that their diets contain all essential nutrients					
District	Yes		No		Total
	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	
Burera	74	76.3%	23	23.7%	97
Gakenke	89	89.0%	11	11.0%	100
Gicumbi	91	91.0%	9	9.0%	100
Gisagara	68	81.0%	16	19.0%	84
Huye	93	96.9%	3	3.1%	96

Households that believe that their diets contain all essential nutrients					
District	Yes		No		Total
	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	
Karongi	89	92.7%	7	7.3%	96
Musanze	81	80.2%	20	19.8%	101
Ngororero	83	83.0%	17	17.0%	100
Nyabihu	80	77.7%	23	22.3%	103
Nyamagabe	79	85.9%	13	14.1%	92
Nyamasheke	82	77.4%	24	22.6%	106
Nyaruguru	92	92.9%	7	7.1%	99
Ruhango	93	93.0%	7	7.0%	100
Rulindo	110	99.1%	1	0.9%	111
Rutsiro	95	94.1%	6	5.9%	101
Total	**1299**	**87.4%**	**187**	**12.6%**	**1486**

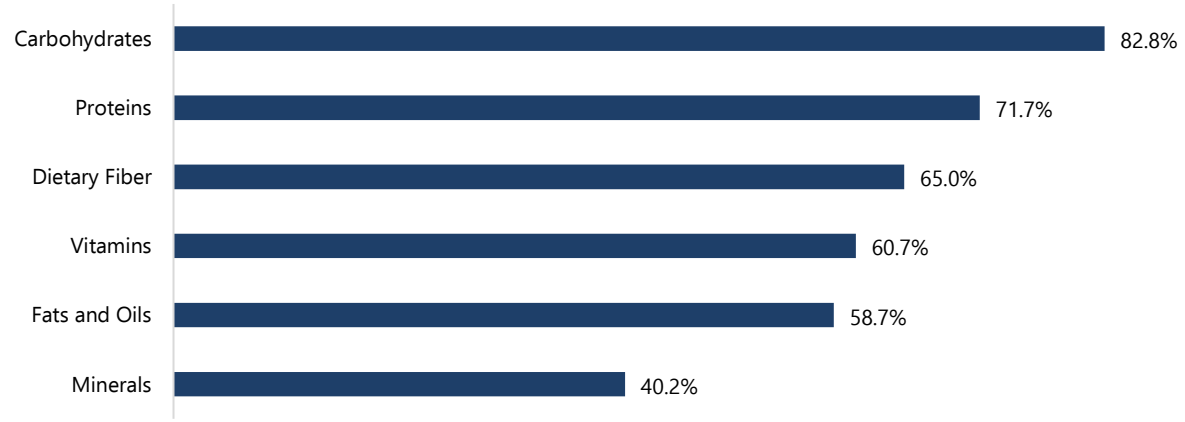
Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Food Values in Household Foods

In terms of specific food values present in household diets, carbohydrates were the most reported at 82.8%, followed by proteins at 71.7% and dietary fiber at 65.0%. The inclusion of vitamins (60.7%) and fats and oils (58.7%) was moderate, while minerals were the least reported, at only 40.2%.

These findings suggest that households applied the knowledge gained from nutrition training, as evidenced by the consumption of vegetables. However, a potential gap remains in the intake of essential micronutrients. While many households have access to staple and protein-rich foods, limited dietary diversity may restrict the adequate consumption of vitamins and minerals. This highlights the continued need for nutritional education and improved access to a broader variety of nutrient-rich foods, particularly those rich in micronutrients.

Figure 11: Food Values in Household Foods



Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.7.5 Meals Per Day

As a basic standard, households are expected to have at least three meals a day. The study found that prior to the implementation of the VBHCD model under the PRISM project, 54.4% of participants were living on just one meal per day while only 3.2% lived on three meals. This highlights the depth of vulnerability among targeted households and confirms that participant selection was based on a thorough vulnerability assessment to ensure the program reached those most in need.

Following the implementation of the VBHCD model, the proportion of households consuming three meals per day increased significantly to 38.8% and those consuming one meal reduced to 5.3%. This improvement suggests that the program's interventions effectively addressed core challenges related to food insecurity and nutrition within the communities.

Table 95: Meals Per Day

District	Meals Per Day					
	One		Two		Three	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Burera	67.0%	2.1%	33.0%	58.8%	0.0%	39.2%
Gakenke	37.0%	2.0%	62.0%	62.0%	1.0%	36.0%
Gicumbi	33.0%	0.0%	58.0%	25.0%	9.0%	75.0%
Gisagara	73.8%	7.1%	23.8%	65.5%	2.4%	27.4%
Huye	52.1%	6.3%	45.8%	49.0%	2.1%	44.8%
Karongi	16.7%	0.0%	77.1%	57.3%	6.3%	42.7%
Musanze	74.3%	10.9%	25.7%	72.3%	0.0%	16.8%
Ngororero	28.0%	12.0%	71.0%	81.0%	1.0%	7.0%
Nyabihu	50.5%	1.9%	49.5%	23.3%	0.0%	74.8%
Nyamagabe	42.4%	3.3%	38.0%	37.0%	19.6%	59.8%
Nyamasheke	66.0%	19.8%	31.1%	64.2%	2.8%	16.0%
Nyaruguru	78.8%	4.0%	20.2%	69.7%	1.0%	26.3%
Ruhango	66.0%	2.0%	32.0%	71.0%	2.0%	27.0%
Rulindo	62.2%	0.0%	36.9%	33.3%	0.9%	66.7%
Rutsiro	68.3%	7.9%	29.7%	71.3%	2.0%	20.8%
Total	**54.4%**	**5.3%**	**42.3%**	**55.9%**	**3.2%**	**38.8%**

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

The qualitative findings also reinforce the quantitative results of the assessment, highlighting that there is an increase in the number of households consuming more than one meal per day.

".....before PRISM we could hardly afford one meal a day. Now we have three. We had no livestock; today we keep six pigs, and their manure has boosted our garden harvests and productivity. I credit PRISM for the change in our household....." Jean Marie Viennay

3.8 Project Spillovers

This section looks at how the project's influence has extended beyond its direct participants. It highlights changes among community members that were not directly targeted but have benefited through shared knowledge, behavior change, and/or adoption of similar practices.

3.8.1 Rates of Knowledge Sharing to Non-Target Beneficiaries

The Indirect beneficiaries sampled for the study were asked whether anyone has ever shared any information, knowledge, skill or a benefit to them from any of the PRISM/Heifer interventions. Note that this question was answered by 300 Respondents. From the analysis, only 34% of the indirect beneficiaries reported having acquired a skill.

Table 96: Rate of Skills and Knowledge Acquisition by Indirect Project Beneficiaries

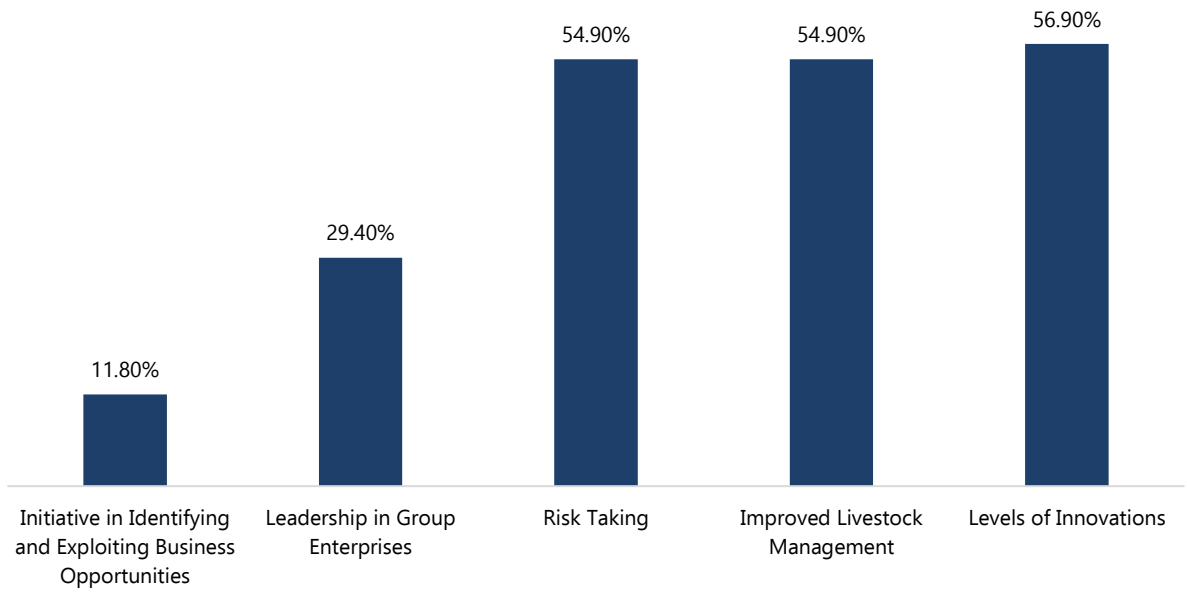
Skills and Knowledge Acquisition	Province of the Respondents							
	Northern (n=95)		Southern (n=126)		Western (n=79)		Total (n=300)	
	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)	Freq	Percent (%)
Yes	4	4.2	49	38.9	49	62.0	102	34
No	0	0.0	34	27.0	16	20.3	50	16.7

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.8.2 Skills and Knowledge Acquired

The analysis revealed that among non-project beneficiaries, the most commonly acquired skills were related to levels of innovation (56.9%) and risk-taking (54.9%), followed by improved livestock management (54.9%). However, skills such as leadership in group enterprises (29.4%) and business opportunity identification (11.8%) were transferred at lower rates. This implies that while technical or individual-level competencies are somehow shared informally, more strategic and entrepreneurial capacities are less likely to spill over to non-beneficiaries.

Figure 12: Skills and Knowledge Acquired by Indirect Beneficiaries



Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

The low rate of knowledge transfer, especially in leadership and opportunity identification, indicates limited diffusion of critical group-based and transformative skills. This calls for the project team to strengthen community-wide learning mechanisms such as peer-to-peer mentorships, exposure visits, and inclusive group training to ensure broader knowledge dissemination beyond direct beneficiaries.

District Level Analysis for Rate of Skills and Knowledge Acquisition by Indirect Project Beneficiaries

In terms of District level analysis, Nyamasheke, Rulindo and Musanaze had the highest number of indirect beneficiaries who acquired some skills and knowledge from the direct beneficiaries of PRISM. These were represented by 92.9%, 88.9% and 84.6% respectively. On the other hand, Huye, Gisagara and Gicumebi had the lowest number of indirect beneficiaries to acquire and skills from the direct beneficiaries. These were represented by 16.7%, 17.1%, and 20.0% respectively. Overall, 51.3% of the indirect beneficiaries acquired knowledge and skills from the direct beneficiaries of PRISM across the 15 Districts.

Table 97: District Level Analysis for Rate of Skills and Knowledge Acquisition

District	Acquired Skills and Knowledge by Indirect beneficiaries		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percent
Burera	24	14	58.3
Gakenke	20	16	80.0
Gicumbi	20	4	20.0
Gisagara	41	7	17.1
Huye	24	4	16.7
Karongi	10	7	70.0
Musanze	22	19	86.4
Ngororero	20	7	35.0
Nyabihu	16	13	81.3
Nyamagabe	18	11	61.1
Nyamasheke	14	13	92.9
Nyaruguru	21	11	52.4
Ruhango	22	8	36.4
Rulindo	9	8	88.9
Rutsiro	19	12	63.2
Total	300	154	51.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.8.3 Rate of Sharing Knowledge by the Direct Beneficiaries

From the analysis, a high proportion of direct beneficiaries reported sharing information with indirect beneficiaries, with 94.1% in the Northern province, 92.3% in the Southern province, and 98.0% in the Western province. Overall, 1,265 out of 1,334 respondents (94.8%) confirmed they had shared some form of information, while only 5.2% had not. This indicates a strong culture of knowledge sharing among direct beneficiaries.

Table 98: Rate of Sharing Knowledge by the Direct Beneficiaries

Ever shared any form of information to indirect beneficiaries	Province							
	Northern (n=505)		Southern (n=388)		Western (n=441)		Total (n=1334)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	475	94.1%	358	92.3%	432	98.0%	1265	94.8
No	30	5.9%	30	7.7%	9	2.0%	69	5.2

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Rate of Sharing Knowledge by the Direct Beneficiaries

The analysis revealed an overall 94.8% rate of direct beneficiaries sharing knowledge and skills from the training and capacity-building initiatives under the VBHCD Model. In terms of district performance, Burera, Gakenke, and Nyabihu had the highest numbers of participants sharing information with indirect beneficiaries, each reaching 100.0%, 100.0%, and 97.1**%** respectively. Conversely, Rulindo, Gisagara, and Huye recorded the lowest numbers of participants sharing knowledge with indirect beneficiaries, represented by 81.1%, 83.3%, and 83.3**%** respectively

Table 99: District Level Analysis for Rate of Sharing Knowledge by the Direct Beneficiaries

District	Direct beneficiaries who shared knowledge and skills to indirect beneficiaries		
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Freq (Yes)	Percent
Burera	97	97	100
Gakenke	100	100	100
Gicumbi	100	90	90
Gisagara	84	70	83.3
Huye	96	80	83.3
Karongi	96	80	83.3
Musanze	101	100	99
Ngororero	100	95	95
Nyabihu	103	100	97.1
Nyamagabe	92	80	87
Nyamasheke	106	100	94.3
Nyaruguru	99	95	96
Ruhango	100	90	90
Rulindo	111	90	81.1
Rutsiro	101	93	92.1
Overall Total	1486	1265	94.8

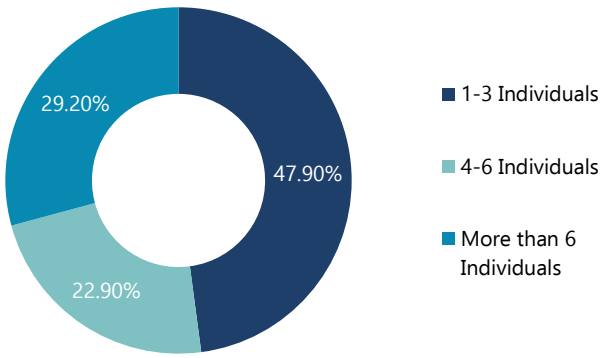
Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.8.4 Indirect Beneficiaries with Whom Knowledge and Information Is Shared

From the analysis, most direct beneficiaries share knowledge with a relatively small number of indirect beneficiaries. Specifically, 606 respondents (45.4%) reported sharing with 1–3 individuals, 290 (21.7%) shared with 4–6 people, and only 369 (27.6%) shared with more than six individuals.

According to provinces, the Southern and Western provinces had the highest proportion of those sharing with just 1–3 people (55.6% and 50.7% respectively), while the Northern province showed a relatively balanced distribution across all three categories. These findings imply that while knowledge sharing is widespread, it is mostly limited to small social circles, potentially limiting the broader impact of the project. To amplify the project's reach and sustainability, the team should encourage structured peer learning forums, community knowledge hubs, and incentivize champions who actively disseminate knowledge to larger groups.

Figure 13: Indirect Beneficiaries Reached Through Knowledge and Information Sharing



3.8.5 Awareness of Indirect Beneficiaries Implementing/Imitating Practices Promoted by PRISM

The data showed that 79.3% of respondents were aware of indirect beneficiaries implementing or imitating PRISM-promoted practices, while 12.5% were not aware and 8.2% were unsure. This high level of awareness reflects a tangible spillover from direct to indirect beneficiaries. However, the presence of over 20% who are either unaware or unsure pauses the need for better documentation and visibility of indirect adoption. The project team should consider community-led tracking systems, wide sharing of success stories, and organizing public demonstrations to strengthen awareness and encourage further imitation of best practices.

Table 100: Indirect Beneficiaries Implementing/Imitating Practices Promoted by PRISM

Aware of indirect beneficiaries practicing activities promoted under PRISM	Province							
	Northern (n=604)		Southern (n=597)		Western (n=585)		Total (n=1786)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	482	79.8%	421	70.5%	514	87.9%	1417	79.3
No	55	9.1%	115	19.3%	53	9.1%	223	12.5
Not sure	67	11.1%	61	10.2%	18	3.1%	146	8.2

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.8.6 Practices Being Implemented by Indirect Beneficiaries as Reported by Direct beneficiaries

The data, as reported by direct beneficiaries, indicates that a high proportion of indirect beneficiaries are implementing key livestock practices promoted by the project. Specifically, 71.5% have adopted improved livestock management, 70.1% have embraced improved feeding practices, and 62.8% have implemented improved livestock housing, this implies that the technical knowledge shared is not only being received but also effectively applied by indirect beneficiaries.

Table 101: Practices Being Implemented by Indirect Beneficiaries as Reported by Direct Beneficiaries

Practices being implemented by indirect beneficiaries	Province							
	Northern (n=509)		Southern (n=471)		Western (n=506)		Total (n=1486)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Improved livestock management	438	86	337	71.5	438	86	337	71.5
Improved livestock feeding	410	80.5	330	70.1	410	80.5	330	70.1
Improved livestock housing	340	66.8	296	62.8	340	66.8	296	62.8

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis for Implementing Practices Promoted Under PRISM

From the analysis, the highest implementation rates across all three practices were observed in Musanze (86.4% for all), Nyabihu (81.3% for all), and Karongi (70.0% for all). On the other hand, Gisagara and Gicumbi reported the lowest levels of practice adoption, with implementation rates below 25% for each category. Overall, while over half of the indirect beneficiaries are adopting at least one promoted practice, gaps remain in certain districts, highlighting the need for enhanced follow-up and support.

Table 102: District Level Analysis for Implementing Practices Promoted Under PRISM

District	Practices being implemented by indirect beneficiaries						
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	Improved livestock management		Improved livestock feeding		Improved livestock housing	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	24	14	58.3	14	58.3	12	50.0
Gakenke	20	16	80.0	13	65.0	10	50.0
Gicumbi	20	4	20.0	5	25.0	5	25.0
Gisagara	41	7	17.1	4	9.8	4	9.8
Huye	24	4	16.7	15	62.5	11	45.8
Karongi	10	7	70.0	7	70.0	7	70.0
Musanze	22	19	86.4	19	86.4	19	86.4
Ngororero	20	7	35.0	7	35.0		0.0
Nyabihu	16	13	81.3	13	81.3	13	81.3
Nyamagabe	18	11	61.1	7	38.9	10	55.6
Nyamasheke	14	13	92.9	8	57.1	3	21.4
Nyaruguru	21	11	52.4	11	52.4	10	47.6
Ruhango	22	8	36.4	5	22.7	5	22.7
Rulindo	9	8	88.9	5	55.6	5	55.6
Rutsiro	19	12	63.2	11	57.9	12	63.2
Total	300	154	51.3	144	48.0	126	42.0

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.8.7 Broader Shifts in Community Norms and Attitudes

Known Indirect Beneficiaries Practicing PRISM Promoted Interventions

The findings of the assessment indicated that among the direct beneficiaries, 60.1% reported knowing 1–3 households that had adopted project-promoted practices despite not attending the training, 21.2% knew 4–6 such households, and 18.7% knew more than six. This indicates that knowledge spillovers from trained to untrained community members is happening, though mostly within small networks. It reflects a modest yet meaningful influence of the project on broader community behavior, contributing to a gradual shift in agricultural practices beyond the direct target group.

Table 103: Known Indirect Beneficiaries Practicing PRISM Promoted Interventions

Households known by direct beneficiaries that have adopted these practices but did not participate in the training	Province							
	Northern (n=482)		Southern (n=421)		Western (n=514		Total (n=1417)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1-3	288	59.8%	255	60.6%	308	59.9%	851	60.1%
4-6	94	19.5%	89	21.1%	118	23.0%	301	21.2%
More than 6	100	20.7%	77	18.3%	88	17.1%	265	18.7%
Total	482	100.0%	421	100.0%	514	100.0%	1417	100.0%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Participants That Have Supported/Guided Other Community Members in Applying PRISM Practices

From the analysis, 86.9% of direct beneficiaries reported having supported and/or guided at least one other community member in applying what they learned from the training, demonstrating a strong willingness to share

knowledge. Of those, 74.0% provided support occasionally, 12.9% weekly, and 12.3% monthly. This points towards an active peer support system that is reinforcing learning and contributing to behavioural change at the community level, fostering a culture of collaboration and shared growth in agricultural practices.

Table 104: Participants That Have Supported/Guided Other Community Members

Ever supported or guided another community member in applying what you learned from the training	Province							
	Northern (n=482)		Southern (n=421)		Western (n=514)		Total (n=1417)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Yes	427	88.6%	342	81.2%	463	90.1%	1232	86.9%
No	55	11.4%	79	18.8%	51	9.9%	185	13.1%
Frequency of support	**(n=427)**		**(n=342)**		**(n=463)**		**(n=1232)**	
Occasionally	302	70.7%	256	74.9%	354	76.5%	912	74.0%
Monthly	69	16.2%	38	11.1%	45	9.7%	152	12.3%
Weekly	53	12.4%	47	13.7%	59	12.7%	159	12.9%
Not at all	3	0.7%	1	0.3%	5	1.1%	9	0.7%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Observed Shifts in Community Norms and Attitudes

Reported changes in community attitudes show encouraging trends: 86.2% of respondents observed more women engaging in agricultural enterprises, and 54.5% noted increased youth participation in agribusiness. Furthermore, 68.4% observed greater respect for female and youth farmers, and 45.1% reported increased innovativeness within their communities. These shifts suggest that the project is not only improving technical practices but also influencing broader social norms, particularly around gender inclusion and youth involvement in agriculture, which are essential for long-term transformation and sustainability.

Table 105: Observed Shifts in Community Norms and Attitudes

Observed any of the shifts in community norms and attitudes	Province							
	Northern (n=482)		Southern (n=421)		Western (n=514)		Total (n=1417)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
More women engaging in agricultural enterprise/ Agribusinesses	503	83.3%	520	87.1%	517	88.4%	1540	86.2%
More youths starting agribusinesses	383	63.4%	328	54.9%	262	44.8%	973	54.5%
Greater respect for females/youth farmers	531	87.9%	342	57.3%	349	59.7%	1222	68.4%
Increased innovativeness	342	56.6%	223	37.4%	241	41.2%	806	45.1%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

District Level Analysis on Observed Shifts in Community Norms and Attitudes

The analysis revealed that across the 15 districts, 87.1% of respondents reported more women engaging in agribusiness apart from Nyamagabe, 56.5% observed more youths starting agribusinesses, 71.1% reported greater respect for female and youth farmers, and 46.3% reported increased innovativeness in the community.

Table 106: District Level Analysis on Observed Shifts in Community Norms and Attitudes

District	Observed Shifts in Community Norms and Attitudes								
	Sampled Direct Beneficiaries	More women engaging in agricultural enterprise/ Agribusinesses		More youths starting agribusinesses		Greater respect for females/youth farmers		Increased innovativeness	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	97	95	97.9	92	94.8	94	96.9	48	49.5
Gakenke	100	100	100.0	79	79.0	95	95.0	58	58.0
Gicumbi	100	99	99.0	73	73.0	96	96.0	76	76.0
Gisagara	84	74	88.1	49	58.3	47	56.0	45	53.6
Huye	96	96	100.0	52	54.2	46	47.9	25	26.0
Karongi	96	93	96.9	27	28.1	32	33.3	11	11.5
Musanze	101	87	86.1	71	70.3	62	61.4	13	12.9
Ngororero	100	98	98.0	8	8.0	49	49.0	19	19.0
Nyabihu	103	100	97.1	83	80.6	96	93.2	39	37.9
Nyamagabe	92	61	66.3	66	71.7	52	56.5	32	34.8
Nyamasheke	106	103	97.2	94	88.7	102	96.2	78	73.6
Nyaruguru	99	96	97.0	78	78.8	90	90.9	40	40.4
Ruhango	100	94	94.0	30	30.0	56	56.0	35	35.0
Rulindo	111	38	34.2	17	15.3	110	99.1	104	93.7
Rutsiro	101	61	60.4	20	19.8	30	29.7	65	64.4
Total	1486	1295	87.1	839	56.5	1057	71.1	688	46.3

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Graduation Out of Poverty

3.9 Graduation of Vulnerable Households

The VBHCD model under PRISM has laid a foundation for the graduation of small livestock farmers under the PRISM project. As of June 2025, over 35,000 households have been identified and validated project beneficiaries. This is however only the first step in the long-term development journey to graduation and does not imply that these households have graduated

Note that graduation under PRISM is defined as the point at which the household has received and effectively utilized a comprehensive package of support that enables sustainable improvements in their livelihoods. This package typically includes training on improved agricultural practices, business skills, provision of livestock or other productive assets, access to finance (savings, credit, insurance), improved food security, Nutrition, better living conditions and enhanced resilient to shocks.

As of June 2025, 25,000 out of 35,000 validated households had received livestock, which marks 71.4% towards asset provision. It should however be noted that not all households are at the same stage of the journey. Some have already started accessing credits and savings from their respective Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Others have improved nutrition and food security, while others are awaiting the elements of packages of graduation. This process is therefore phased with different households expected to graduate at different times depending on how comprehensively they receive the packages.

The VBHCD model has been instrumental in the process of strengthening social, technical and economic empowerment dimensions, which form the foundation for graduation. The write up below describes the contribution of the VBHCD model to three dimensions that form the basis of graduation.

3.9.1 Contribution of The VBHCD to Social Empowerment

The VBHCD model is highly credited for fostering social empowerment with an average score of 86%, one of the dimensions of graduation. This is manifested through the establishment and strengthening of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Training of community facilitators and operationalization of multistakeholder platforms like the small livestock working group. These platforms have made tremendous contributions to policy formulations, conflict resolutions and reductions, and high social cohesion indicators reported by over 80% of the sampled participants sampled for the social capital impact assessment.

3.9.2 Contribution of the VBHCD to Technical Empowerment

The VBHCD model largely contributed to technical empowerment, with an average score of 83%. The analysis revealed that the target participants to be technically empowered were superseded by over 50% whereby more than the targets were trained on the different components such as the VBHCD 12 cornerstone, technical training, GALS, Human and animal nutrition, PRSP among other aspects. Areas such as contingency planning are some of the few cases where the VBHCD model under performed.

3.9.3 The Contribution of the VBHCD Model to Economic Empowerment

The VBHCD model contributed to economic empowerment with an average score of 87%. This is evidenced by more than doubling the average annual household income of participants that took part in the social capital impact assessment. Other aspects that show the contribution of the VBHCD model to economic empowerment include: the wide spread access to saving and credit schemes established under the SHGs facilitated by the VBHCD, as well as increased participation of women and youth in economic activities, higher reporting of acquisition of additional household assets from incomes earned as a result of participating in livestock raring promoted under PRISM, together with the participation of livestock farmers in markets.

The framework below provides statistics and ratings of the contribution of the VBHCD model towards the three fundamental dimensions of social, technical and economic empowerment

3.9.4 Framework Illustrating the Contribution of the VBHCD Towards the Three Fundamental Dimensions of Social, Technical and Economic Empowerment

Graduation Pillar	Relevant PRISM Results (Outcome/Output)	Indicators	Target	Achievement	Score/Rating	Extent of the Contribution	Interpretation (Progress Towards Graduation)
Social Empowerment	Outcome 1: Small livestock farmers empowered	Households validated and supported under VBHCD	23,400	35,920	153.50%	To a greater extent	Validation surpassed target represents strong mobilization, but households are still at different stages of the graduation journey.
		SHG Groups formed & supported	1,170	1,242	106.20%	To a greater extent	Strong SHG formation and support; a key step toward building social capital for graduation.
	Output 2.5: Stakeholder platforms	Functioning stakeholder fora	2	• Supported the establishment of the small livestock working group (SLWG) • Supported the establishment of national umbrella organizations for goat and sheep farmers		To a greater extent	Platforms in place to enhance coordination and advocacy, contributing indirectly to graduation.
	Outcome 3: Policy environment improved	Policy actions and knowledge products	2	• Supported the development of the Livestock Development Strategy (LDS) in Rwanda (2024-2029); the final draft was approved on 16th February 2024. • Supported the development and enforcement of food safety and animal welfare regulatory framework.		To a greater extent	Strong policy influence creates enabling environment, but households still need full package to graduate.
		Reduced conflict, improved cohesion	• Households reporting zero conflicts increased from 47.2% before PRISM to 70.5% following PRISM • Households reporting severe cases dropped from 27% before PRISM to 6.6% following PRISM			To a greater extent	Clear improvements in social cohesion, laying the foundation for sustained graduation

Graduation Pillar	Relevant PRISM Results (Outcome/Output)	Indicators	Target	Achievement	Score/Rating	Extent of the Contribution	Interpretation (Progress Towards Graduation)
Technical Empowerment	Output 1.1: Strengthened production skills	Farmers trained on 12 Cornerstones	23,400	31,889	136.30%	To a greater extent	Strong uptake of principles; households gaining skills required for graduation.
		Farmers trained in PSRP	23,400	24,040	102.70%	To a greater extent	Near full coverage, builds resilience capacity.
		Farmers trained in human nutrition	23,400	26,034	111.30%	To a greater extent	Nutrition knowledge improving; supports food security dimension of graduation.
		Farmers trained & coached on Champions in GALS	549	549	100%	To a greater extent	Target fully met; supports gender empowerment as part of graduation.
		SHG members trained in GALS	4,952	6,732	136%	To a greater extent	Strong gender/leadership integration; important graduation step.
		Facilitators trained in LFFS	117	312	266.70%	To a greater extent	Expanded technical backstopping; enhances sustainability.
		Facilitators from ENABEL trained	25	12	48%	To a smaller extent	Below target; limited contribution to graduation.
		SHG members trained in VBHCD-LFFS	4,952	15,600	315%	To a greater extent	Wide-scale dissemination of skills; milestone towards graduation.
		CFs & CAVes trained in 12 Cornerstones	148	192	129.70%	To a greater extent	Strong capacity building; enhances sustainability of progress.
		CFs & CAVes trained in AI techniques	31	75	241.90%	To a greater extent	Expanded breeding practices; contributes to productivity gains.
	Output 1.2: Improved animal health	Farmers receiving OG pigs	3,077	3,077	100%	To a greater extent	Asset provision achieved; step towards income generation but not full graduation.

Graduation Pillar	Relevant PRISM Results (Outcome/Output)	Indicators	Target	Achievement	Score/Rating	Extent of the Contribution	Interpretation (Progress Towards Graduation)
		Farmers receiving POG pigs	12,000	2,695	22.50%	To a smaller extent	Significant gap; delays some households' progression towards graduation.
	Output 1.3: Sanitary risk response	Contingency plans developed	4	0	0%	To a smaller extent	No progress; weakens risk preparedness.
	Output 1.4: Climate-smart innovation	Farmers with kitchen gardens	23,400	25,781	110.20%	To a greater extent	Nutrition and resilience improved; an essential graduation element.
		Farmers supported with fodder	6,750	8,750	129.60%	To a greater extent	Stronger livestock feeding systems; supports productivity.
		Farmers supported with avocado seedlings	14,777	15,259	103.30%	To a greater extent	Diversification promoted; contributes to household resilience.
	Output 2.1: Youth in production	Validated youth supported	17% of validated	1,527	–	To a moderate extent	Good progress but youth potential not fully tapped.
		Youth in PSRP sessions	1,530	1,145	74.80%	To a moderate extent	Below target, youth empowerment remains uneven.
Economic Empowerment	Programme Goal + Dev. Objective	Increase in rural income	Average HH income before PRISM-(247465.221)	Annual average HH incomes following PRISM-(538823.272)		To a greater extent	Income more than doubled; strong progress towards economic sustainability
	Outcome 2: Market access & incomes	HHs receiving additional assets	0	80.1% ≈ (1190) survey participants		To a greater extent	Asset acquisition reported; boosts resilience.
	Output 2.3, 2.4: Infrastructure & finance	Women with improved diets	0	88% (≈28,736 HHs)		To a greater extent	Strong nutrition gains; essential for graduation.
		Households accessing markets	23,400	35,920	153.50%	To a greater extent	Market linkages strengthened; progress toward sustainable graduation.

Graduation Pillar	Relevant PRISM Results (Outcome/Output)	Indicators	Target	Achievement	Score/Rating	Extent of the Contribution	Interpretation (Progress Towards Graduation)
		Female participants in savings/loans	23,400	17,280		To a moderate extent	High engagement but below target; financial inclusion improving.
		Male participants in savings/loans		13,728		To a moderate extent	Positive contribution; complements women's participation.

Source: Both Secondary Data from the Annual Progress Reports and Primary Data from the Social Capital Impact Assessment

3.10 Best Practices and Areas of Communication

3.10.1 Best Practices

Use of Integrated Training Packages

It should be noted that the training sessions not only focus on technical skills for livestock management skills, but also encompassed issues like gender, personal and leadership development, the 12 cornerstones of Heifer, Human and animal nutrition among others. This resulted in increased participation of all people in leadership, productivity, empowerment and equality and mutual trust and respect. This has strongly improved joint decision making in families but also making informed decisions among the Self-Help Groups.

Multi-Layered Support Mechanisms

The other best practice of the model lies in its ability to offer various support services. For example, a household that received pigs, also received training, in livestock management practices, fodder seeds, linked to veterinary service providers, and supported to join a marketing cooperative union. This layered approach ensured that the physical inputs do not get wasted but used productively.

The Use of Participatory Methodologies

The use of participatory self-review and planning (PSRP) and cornerstone training have strengthened ownership and accountability. Participants themselves review progress, set targets, and plan for the next steps. These sessions have led to identification of practical and real barriers, like limited access to water, which have eventually resulted in community driven solutions building share water points.

Targeting the Poor and Food Insecure Households

Note that the project adopted a structured approach that enables the poorest households to slowly but progressively build assets and capacity to move to another level. The poor households were supported with capacity building sessions to work on their mindsets and prepare them for the next steps, before giving them livestock. They were later introduced to group savings, access to credit and the livestock themselves and building materials. As time went on, these households moved from substance to small scale commercial production as illustrated in the increase in incomes section

3.10.2 Areas of Communication

Success Stories and Testimonies

Documenting and sharing success stories from the beneficiaries will give Heifer Rwanda and the PRISM implementation team visibility. Impacts like women starting profitable enterprises, youths taking up leaderships will create more connections between the project implementation team the society out there. The Heifer comms team take advantage of the "X" space, among others to communicate what is being achieved through the implementation of the VBHCD model under PRISM

Scalability of the VBHCD Model

The adaptability and community-led nature of the VBHCD model makes it highly scalable to different parts of the country. Communicating its success in the 15 different Districts and among the various socioeconomic settings of the beneficiaries speaks to the potential for expansion. In the end, it will help to show how the model can be replicated with limited resources such that other NGO, Government Agencies can peak leaf in their respective endeavors to transform the livelihood of the communities

Areas For Potential Partners and Funders

The VBHCD model provides multiple entry points for collaboration. Examples of opportunities include livestock development, youth and women empowerment, sustainable land management practices, value chain development. Communicating these partnership opportunities will attract Donors, private sector actors and Government Agencies with share development objectives to come on board and work with Heifer Rwanda

Innovations and Spillovers

The PRISM project intentionally fosters the systematic interconnection of market actors through linkages of key stakeholders such as unions, animal feed producers, chicken brooders, egg buyers, input suppliers, financial institutions, and extension service providers to promote interdependence and strengthen a functional market ecosystem.

With actors working collaboratively and adding value to each other and the livestock value chain at large, transparency and trust is encouraged, transaction costs and risks are minimized, economies of scale are enabled, and adaptive responses to market dynamics and environmental challenges are ensured.

Heifer Rwanda should leverage learning events, policy dialogues, and media campaigns to share how the systematic interconnection will not only drive sustainable innovations but also secure inclusive growth for rural communities, ensuring that interventions deliver long-term impact beyond project lifecycles.

3.11 Factors Influencing Success of the Adoption of the VBHCD Model

Working with Seasoned and Established Partners

The PRISM project has strategic partnerships with a well-established private sector actor UZIMA Chicken, a sole producer of Sasso Chicken in Rwanda. UZIMA has technical expertise, quality assurance, and a strong distribution network that ensures efficiency and reliability in delivering poultry to beneficiaries.

Through this collaborative approach, project participants have been successfully transformed into UZIMA Agents, community-level actors trained and equipped to carry out brooding activities. As UZIMA Agents, they have:

- Effectively managed brooding operations, ensuring a consistent supply of healthy chicks.
- Restocked chickens for both current and new project beneficiaries.
- Facilitated the "pass-on" mechanism, allowing initial beneficiaries to support others, thereby strengthening community solidarity and ownership.
- Encouraged spillover effects by extending services and knowledge to non-project beneficiaries, expanding the reach and impact of the intervention beyond the original scope.

This approach not only builds local capacity but also establishes a self-sustaining system of poultry production and distribution, reinforcing long-term resilience and inclusive economic development within the communities.

Community Facilitators and CAVEs Involvement in Livestock Production

It should be noted that the Project has CAVEs and 10 Community facilitators in each district, totaling 150 facilitators in the 15 Districts. These are farmers who can read and write, given tablets for data collection, undertaken through training about the VBHCD model and all other aspects to a small extent has contributed to the success of the project.

However, the fact that these facilitators are encouraged to take up these value chains before being enrolled to “practice what they preach”, has greatly contributed to the success of the project. This “practice what they preach” approach has significantly enhanced their credibility, strengthened peer-to-peer learning, and increased community trust in the interventions. Farmers are more willing to adopt practices when they see tangible results from facilitators within their own communities, making adoption faster, more organic, and sustainable.

The Joint Action Development Forum

This is a forum usually held every six (6) months. It is where all partners at different levels from the National to village level sit down to evaluate the action plan and assess whether whatever was planned to be done in the period has actually been done, in the event that some of the planned activities haven’t been implemented, reasons for such delays are thought and solutions taken up. This has kept the project team in check to ensure that panned interventions are implemented according to plan.

Sharing Annual Press Reports with Relevant Stakeholders

These among others include the Ministry of Agriculture and the steering committee. These stakeholders go through the reports and compare the achievements with planned activities. The stakeholders and partners provide feedback to the project implementation team to help them improve gaps identified in the previous implementation period, ensuring alignment of the resources to the program goals and objectives.

The IFAD Independent Supervision Mission

In as much as the project team regularly updates all their funders (IFAD inclusive) about the progress of the project, IFAD carries out a separate supervision mission, usually after 3-4 months. IFAD team directly interacts with the community to establish whether what is being reported in the monthly and quarterly reports is happening. These supervision missions have generated recommendations for the Heifer project implementation team based on the gaps identified to ensure that the project remains on track.

Planning and Budgeting

The project team, in collaboration with the RAB/SPIU team, develops activity plans based on the outcomes of the PSRP sessions conducted at the Self-Help Group (SHG) level. Once these activities are agreed upon, the teams jointly prepare a draft budget aligned with the available annual budget framework, clearly indicating each activity, the respective donor, and the implementing agency.

The project team then works closely with the finance department to finalize the Annual Budget. This agreed-upon budget serves as the basis for developing the Annual Addendum between Heifer International and RAB/SPIU, outlining the financial contributions from each counterpart.

A "No Objection" is secured from IFAD prior to legal review and formal budget approval by both parties. Following this process, district-specific action plans and budgets are developed and submitted to the respective districts for approval through the JADF forum.

3.12 Market Systems Analysis and Opportunities for Scaling Up

3.12.1 Characteristics of small livestock market system

It should be noted that the PRISM project is being implemented within small livestock market system. The livestock of focus includes goats, sheep, backyard pigs, and poultry. These animals are very important for food security, nutrition, and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable households. These value chains are currently characterized by fragmented and informal transactions in Rwanda, limited aggregation, and weak linkages to higher-value markets.

Table 107: Analysis of the Market System Under which PRISM Operates

Aspect	Description
Target Value Chains	▪ Small ruminants (goats, sheep), backyard pigs, backyard chickens
Importance	▪ Food, nutrition, and entry point to markets for poor & vulnerable households
Current Characteristics	▪ Fragmented & informal transactions ▪ Limited aggregation ▪ Weak links to higher-value markets
Farmer Position	▪ Mostly individual producers with low bargaining power
Market Dynamics	▪ Traders & middlemen dominate the market ▪ Access is provided to farmers, but margins are minimal ▪ Most farmers sell products directly at the farm gate, ▪ Other farmers sale their livestock products to nearby local markets. ▪ Manure emerges as a frequently sold product, creating an additional revenue stream for households.
Opportunity	▪ Rising demand for animal-source protein in the Rural and urban areas of Rwanda. ▪ Potential for profitable, resilient systems ▪ Leveraging high manure sales, ▪ Creating structured supply chains could further increase farmer incomes and reduce dependency on middlemen

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.12.2 Constraints within the Small livestock Market system

The small livestock market system in Rwanda faces several structural and operational challenges that limit farmers' productivity and income. The table below summarizes the Constraints within the Small livestock Market system.

Table 108: Constraints within the Small livestock Market system

Constraint	Description
Limited aggregation	▪ Weak cooperatives; low levels of bulking, quality control, and structured marketing

Constraint	Description
Inconsistent supply & quality	▪ Seasonal fluctuations, ▪ Low adoption of improved breeds,
Market information gaps	▪ Farmers lack timely price info ▪ Weak negotiation power
Financial exclusion	▪ Limited access to credit for breeds, housing, feed, and veterinary care
Weak market linkages	▪ Few strong ties with processors, buyers, and institutional markets

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.12.3 Opportunities for Scaling Up

The Rwandan small livestock market presents multiple opportunities to enhance productivity, income, and resilience for smallholder farmers. Key areas for scaling up include strengthening aggregation, promoting value addition, improving market linkages, leveraging digital solutions for youth, expanding financial inclusion, as well as supporting the adoption climate-smart practices (Integrated soil fertility management practices, Soil and water conservation technologies, sustainable land management practices). The table below outlines these opportunity areas, their key focus, and potential partners or funders to support implementation.

Table 109: Opportunities for Scaling Up

Area of Opportunity	Key Focus	Potential Partners/Donors/Funders
Strengthening Aggregation	▪ Build cooperative aggregation hubs ▪ Support collective bargaining,	▪ AGRA ▪ Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), ▪ World Bank ▪ FAO
Value Addition & Processing	▪ Promote small-scale processing (meat, manure, hides/skins) ▪ Support the diversification of income ▪ Support the stabilize markets	▪ SNV ▪ FAO ▪ World Bank
Market Linkages & Contracting	▪ Connect cooperatives with hotels, supermarkets, cross-border buyers-secure demand via contracts	▪ Trademark Africa ▪ Rwanda Development Board (RDB) ▪ World Food Programme
Digital Market Solutions for young people (youths)	▪ Expand mobile platforms for prices, ▪ Veterinary services, and inputs -reduce info gaps	▪ Mastercard Foundation ▪ Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) ▪ Smart Africa ▪ MTN Rwanda ▪ ICT Chamber
Financial Inclusion	▪ Link savings/credit groups with MFIs & SACCOs-unlock capital for investment	▪ Mastercard Foundation, ▪ United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) ▪ AFR (Access to Finance Rwanda)
Climate-Smart, Nutrition-Sensitive Development	▪ Promote improved fodder, water harvesting, biogas, and nutrition-sensitive practices-sustainable and aligned with national goals ▪ Integrated soil fertility management practices. ▪ Soil and water conservation technologies ▪ Sustainable land management practices	▪ GCF (Green Climate Fund), ▪ FAO, ▪ World Bank, ▪ GIZ, ▪ CARE International

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

3.12.4 Youth Engagement and Opportunities

The assessment revealed that youth participation in small livestock value chains remains relatively low compared to other beneficiary groups in the different activities implemented and practices promoted by the Program. The table below summarizes the rate of involvement of youths in each of the program areas of interventions.

Table 110: Youth Involvement in the PRISM Program Areas of Interventions

Component / Activity	Percentage (%) of Youths Involved
Formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs)	23%
Training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones	24%
Participatory Self Review and Planning (PSRP)	24%
Technical Training in Livestock Husbandry	23%
Training in Human Nutrition & Kitchen Gardens	22%
Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Training	22%
Livestock Distribution (OG & PoG)	23%
Fodder Distribution	25%
Vegetable Seeds Distribution	23%
Avocado Seedlings Distribution	19%
Rainwater Harvesting Tanks	19%
Solar Kits Distribution	20%

The low rates of involvement of youths in these intervention areas points to the need for targeted strategies to attract and retain young people. Opportunities exist across multiple segments of the livestock market, including processing (value addition) since the primary production is looked at as a "Dirty" kind of work, and marketing. Poultry and pig value chains, for example, provide entry points for youth in animal rearing, feeding, and health management, while small-scale processing of meat, manure, and hides/skins offers potential for income diversification and entrepreneurial activities.

Digital platforms present another opportunity to engage youth, allowing them to access real-time market information, veterinary services, and input supply, thereby reducing knowledge gaps and transaction costs. Linking youth-led savings and credit groups with microfinance institutions and SACCOs can further open capital for investment in livestock and related enterprises.

Partnerships with organizations such as the Mastercard Foundation (particularly involved in creating gainful employment and transitioning young people into meaningful work)-Refer to Uganda's case where Mastercard is supporting programs like (SAYE in Busoga sub region implemented by Heifer, YiIDaMs implemented by Ripple Eeffectin Western Uganda), GSMA, Smart Africa, MTN Rwanda, and the ICT Chamber can support the development of these digital solutions, while cooperatives, RCA, and development agencies like FAO and World Bank can provide technical and market support.

3.13 Factors and Constraints Affecting Project Implementation

3.13.1 Internal Factors

The VBHCD Model Itself: The model has laid a foundation for mobilizing communities, building trust and promoting self-reliance. The integration of values, leadership and technical support strengthened ownership and accountability.

The Influence of Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs: The integration of CAVEs in the implementation of the program has been instrumental in providing localized animal health services and technical support. These services have ensured the survival of animals especially in remote areas with limited access to formal Veterinary services.

Skilled Community Facilitators: The deployment of 150 community facilitators each with tablet for data collection played a crucial role in mobilization, training and tracking of project progress. Their dual roles as model farmers and extension agents enhanced credibility and farmer to farmer learning

3.13.2 External Factors

Unexpected Weather Changes: The unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry seasons, together with folds have all negatively impacted pasture production and growth as well as water access, reducing livestock productivity and delaying land preparation activities.

Market Volatilities and Input Prices: Price fluctuations of animal feeds, animal drugs, transport services all fueled by the general inflationary tendencies, made it a little difficult for farmers to maintain livestock productivity especially for those without stable incomes.

3.13.3 Unforeseen Factors

Livestock Disease Outbreak: Swine fever, for example in pigs for example suddenly affected animals in some districts like Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru. This caused losses among farmers, disrupting planned activities and re-investment.

Insecurity and Theft Incidents: In some areas of Rulindo, some farmers experienced cases of Theft causing insecurity and frustration. For a household that had struggled to build their assets especially from project support, it was demoralizing. These cases also affected trust within the community, as some members became hesitant to fully engage in group activities or share resources, fearing they might be targeted again.

3.14 SWOT Analysis

To identify the internal and external factors affecting the success and impact of the PRISM project, a SWOT analysis was conducted. A summary of the key findings is presented below.

Figure 14: Summary of SWOT Analysis Findings

3.14.1 Strengths

Strong Project Implementation Team

The project implementation team is composed of highly qualified professionals with over five years of experience in project management and implementation. Each member holds at least a bachelor's degree in their respective fields, enabling the team to execute project activities efficiently and effectively, thereby enhancing the likelihood of achieving desired outcomes.

Strong Project Coordination and Management Structure

Effective coordination is maintained from the national level down to the village level, with competent and dedicated teams operating at each tier. This structured approach ensures seamless communication, efficient implementation, and strong oversight throughout the project hierarchy, as detailed below.

Figure 15 : Project Coordination and Management Structure

The structure above ensured clear communication, effective oversight, and active community involvement at all levels. By incorporating technical experts, government officials, and local representatives such as youth, women, and community leaders, the structure promotes inclusivity, accountability, and responsiveness throughout the project.

Technology Use in Project Implementation and Monitoring

All community facilitators are equipped with tablets to capture real-time data on project activities, beneficiary progress, and field-level interventions. This ensures timely, accurate, and consistent data flow from the village level to the central level. The data collected is managed by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team, which comprises qualified professionals with substantial experience and strong academic qualifications.

Alignment of Program Implementation with Heifer International Framework

The assessment discovered that Heifer Rwanda operates within the broader framework of Heifer International and does not function independently. The control mechanisms in place at Heifer Rwanda are aligned with global standards set by Heifer International.

For instance, the use of the SurveyCTO platform for data collection, where submissions must meet predefined quality standards before approval, illustrates the organization's emphasis on quality and consistency. Regular checks and oversight are conducted to ensure that implementation in Rwanda adheres strictly to established plans and aligns with the global mission and vision of Heifer International.

3.14.2 Weaknesses

Inadequate Communication About VBHCD Successes

Although the achievements of PRISM and the VBHCD model are visible and remarkable, there is a need for Heifer Rwanda to more effectively package and communicate these successes to the public. Strengthening external communication would enhance visibility, inform stakeholders, and attract potential partners and collaborators.

Limited Involvement of Other Development Partners and Donors

Despite existing partnerships with key stakeholders such as the Government of Rwanda, IFAD, and others, Heifer Rwanda can broaden its partnership network by engaging additional development partners. For instance, the Mastercard Foundation is supporting similar initiatives in Uganda, working with organizations such as Heifer International Uganda on the SAYE project and Ripple Effect on the YIDaMs project. To tap into similar opportunities,

Heifer Rwanda should consider strengthening its business development team to attract more funders, particularly those targeting youth and women empowerment.

3.14.3 Threats

Climate Change and Disease Outbreaks

Unpredictable weather patterns like unexpected rainfall, prolonged drought, floods and constant raising temperatures pose a major threat to livestock health and productivity as well as pasture productivity. These climate shocks disrupt income generation and food security, especially for smallholder farmers who heavily depend on livestock production.

Inflationary Tendencies

These directly increase the cost of essential inputs such as animal feeds, veterinary services, and equipment, making them less affordable for smallholder farmers. Additionally, rising fuel prices lead to higher transportation costs for both materials and produce, further hindering farmers' access to markets.

Competing Demands for Food Between Humans and Livestock

This challenge is particularly common for small livestock such as pigs and chickens and poses a significant threat in rural areas with limited food resources. During periods of food scarcity, households often prioritise human consumption over livestock feed, resulting in poor animal nutrition, slower growth rates, and ultimately compromising the outcomes of the Passing on the Gift initiative.

3.14.4 Opportunities

Market Availability Especially for Eggs and Pork

The assessment identified a rising demand for pork and eggs in both urban and rural areas of Rwanda, presenting a reliable source of income for smallholder livestock farmers engaged in these value chains. The VBHCD model, which promotes the rearing of small livestock, can leverage these opportunities by enhancing production, improving quality standards, and facilitating market access through cooperative unions.

Existence of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

The insurance scheme is designed to protect farmers against losses arising from various risks, providing a valuable safety net for those participating in the VBHCD model. By leveraging this opportunity, farmers can take calculated risks, recover more quickly from setbacks, and maintain consistent engagement in production activities.

Support from the Government of Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, directly supports PRISM by providing conducive policies, extension services, and direct partnerships, thereby creating an enabling environment for the effective operationalization of the project and the VBHCD model.

3.15 Economic Evaluation: Value for Money & Cost Benefit Analysis

3.15.1 Value for Money Analysis

This section presents a detailed assessment of value for money and cost benefit analysis for the PRISM project implementation. The analysis evaluates whether project resources were used efficiently, economically, and equitably to achieve the intended results focusing on four key pillars: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Equity

Economy

This is concerned with spending less without compromising the quality of deliverables. The data analysis team discovered the PRISM project implementation team made concerted efforts to minimize costs while maintaining the quality of services and inputs delivered to beneficiaries. For example, through the interaction with the project implementing team, it was discovered that PRISM partnered with UZIMA chicken and the local Veterinary actors that enabled effective sourcing and distribution of improved poultry breeds and other veterinary inputs, reducing the need for more expensive supply chains and ensuring affordability without compromising service quality.

Other areas where the project team demonstrated the principle of economy in relation to value-for-money analysis included bulk procurement and the targeted delivery of livestock inputs, as well as construction materials for animal shelters such as iron sheets, nails, cement, and wire mesh, among others. Bulk procurement significantly lowered the unit cost of inputs for farmers across all 15 districts.

Additionally, the engagement of community Agrovet entrepreneurs—who were trained and empowered to provide animal health services for pigs and other livestock—helped reduce operational costs that would otherwise have been incurred by relying solely on veterinary extension officers.

Project Efficiency

This is concerned with maximizing output for every amount spent; and from the interaction with the project implementation, it was discovered that the project implementation team demonstrated strong efficiency in converting financial resources into tangible outputs and achieving set targets. The efficiency analysis was based on the key strategic (high level) objectives of persons directly receiving services from the programme, the number of households (HHs) reached, estimated corresponding total number of households members (average 4.4 pers. per HH), and average increase in rural income per capita, derived from targeted value chains (COSOP indicator)

Table 111: Summary of Project Efficiency

Results Hierarchy	Indicators			
	Name	Target	Achievement (June 2025)	Percentage achievement (%)
Outreach	1.Persons directly receiving services from the programme	23, 400	35,920	153.5
	1a. Number of households (HHs) reached	23, 400	35,920	153.5
	1b. Estimated corresponding total number of households members (average 4.4 pers. per HH)	115,962	152,429	131.5
Programme Goal	2.Average increase in rural income per capita, derived from targeted value chains (COSOP indicator)	25%	54%	116

Source: Secondary Data from PRISM Annual Progress Reports

Based on the table above, the project implementation team demonstrated high level efficiency in delivering small livestock value interventions exceeding outreach targets by over 31.5% over and above the intended target and a 116% over and above the 25% targeted percentage increase in incomes.

Effectiveness

This is mainly concerned with the outcomes and impact of the project mainly exhibited in behavioral change, asset acquisition, and income growth through the targeted interventions

Dimensions of Effectiveness	Before PRISM	After Implementation of PRISM
Percentage of Households that carried joint decision making	46.1%	77.1%
Percentage of Households that experienced conflicts	10%	3.4%
Percentage of households that acquired new assets as a result of participating in PRISM	N/A	80.1%
Percentage of households involved in income generating activities being run and operated as a group	0	51%

Equity (Fairness and Inclusive Reach)

In terms of equity, the analysis singled out a few aspects that demonstrate a strong fairness**.** These include support given to female headed households, youths and women.

Table 112: Equity (Fairness and Inclusive Reach)

Equity (Fairness & Inclusion categorization)	Achievement
Female headed households	8,712 (25% of the project reach of 34,643)
Females supported in the different aspects of the project	18,053 females (52% of the project reach of 34,643)
Youth supported	8,295 youth Representing 24% of the project reach

Source: Secondary Data from PRISM Annual Progress Reports

The table above describes a strong performance as far as fairness and inclusive reach are concerned. As of March 2025, female head households participating and benefiting from PRISM represented 25 of the project reach, while women overall made up to 52% of the current project reach. This implies a deliberate reach for Gender reach across the project activities Over 24% of the project beneficiaries are youths. Which underscores the project emphasis on empowering young people. Within the target value chains

Overall Rating of PRISM On the Value for Money Analysis

Criteria for Overall Rating

Very Good: The project exceeded its target which shows high levels of innovation, cost effectiveness, impact and inclusiveness

Good: The project slightly met or moderately exceeded targets with clear evidence of positive outcomes and efficient use of resources

Fair: The project met some targets but showed gaps in resource use, coverage and outcomes

Poor: The project underperformed with limited outcomes and inefficient use of resources

Table 113: Overall Rating of PRISM On the Value for Money Analysis

Value for Money Dimensions	Rating	Remarks
Economy	Good	Cost effectiveness through bulk procurement, local partnerships with Uzima chicken and community agrovet entrepreneurs
Efficiency	Very good	High level of efficiency exhibited by over and above reaching of the project targets
Effectiveness	Good	Behavioral change, asset acquisition, and income growth through the targeted interventions
Equity	Very good	Inclusion of women participants (52%), female headed households (25%), and youths represented by 24%
Overall rating	Good	Project outputs and outcomes have exceeded the target even before the project enters the final year of implementation.

3.15.2 Cost Benefit Analysis

Note that quantitative bit of the cost benefit analysis is based on the data on incomes that was collected from 1786 households that were interviewed from the 15 Districts, and the project expenses and provided by the Director of Finance at Heifer Rwanda

Table 114: Project Benefits in Monetary Terms

Status	Average Annual Household Income
Before PRISM	236,305
Following PRISM	613, 001
Average household increase	376,696
Scaling up the impact of increased incomes to the entire project reach	(35,920 HH * 376,696 RWF) =13,530,801,314 RWF

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Cost Analysis

Table 115: Project Costs

	VBHCD COST ANALYSIS FROM FY22-FY25 MAY 2025	
	Item	Amount RWF
1	**Identification**	
	Transport	12,092,676
	Accommodation	24,928,300
	Per-diem	152,073,691
2	**Training**	
	Cf Fees	677,649,600
	Accommodation	906,414,147
	Training Materials	203,077,156
3	**Placement (OG & PoG)**	
	Construction Materials	782,186,950
	Animals & Insurance	2,181,921,368
	Feeds & Drugs	1,161,538,778
	Water Tanks	145,465,320
	Total Expense	**6,247,347,985**

Source: Secondary data from the annual progress reports

$$\textbf{Cost Benefit Ratio (CBR)} = \frac{\textbf{Total Benefit}}{\textbf{Total Cost}} = \frac{\mathbf{13,530,801,314}}{\mathbf{6,247,347,985}} \approx \mathbf{2.17}$$

This implies that for every RWF 1 invested, the project generated RWF 2.17 in household incomes. This confirms that PRISM delivered positive economic returns across all project outcomes.

4 Existing Challenges

The Geographical Terrain and Nature of Landscape

Rural areas in the project area are characterised by hilly terrain, steep slopes, and rocky surfaces, which pose significant challenges for community facilitators, Agro-vet entrepreneurs, and project staff in reaching farmers at their homes and fields, particularly during the rainy season. The geographical constraints also hinder farmers' access to markets.

In areas with poor road infrastructure, transporting essential inputs such as livestock, veterinary supplies, and construction materials for animal shelters becomes both labour-intensive and time-consuming. These logistical challenges, at times, lead to delayed planned activities, reduced frequency of monitoring visits, and limited participation of remote households in trainings and group events.

The General Increase in Price Levels (Inflationary Tendencies)

Inflation has driven up the cost of chicken, animal feeds, veterinary supplies and building materials. For the project implementation team, this necessitates adjustments to budgets and plans, resulting not only in delays but also in the downsizing of planned activities. On the participants' side, farmers are unable to meet their Pass-on-the-Gift (PoG) commitments due to the rising costs of maintaining or reproducing livestock. This ultimately discourages full participation among vulnerable households that lack the capacity to absorb these unexpected financial burdens.

Theft of Livestock

Loss of livestock by smallholder farmers not only undermines a critical source of income and food security but also discourages ongoing participation in Pass-on-the-Gift (PoG) initiatives. It further reduces farmers' motivation to rear more animals, as they face uncertainty about benefiting from their efforts. For the project implementation team, such incidents hinder the tracking of PoGs, delay achievement of targets, and increase costs associated with replacing stolen animals.

Unpredictable Weather Changes

It was discovered that the unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry spells and storms affect livestock health. For smallholder farmers, this not only affects food security and income generation but also limits their ability to meet obligations under the Pass-on-the-Gift (PoG) model, such as rearing and passing on animals. For the project team, weather unpredictability complicates planning and delays the implementation of time-sensitive activities like distribution of inputs or training sessions.

5 Lessons Learned

Mindset Change Plays a Very Crucial Role in Transforming Individual and Community Livelihood

One of the most evident outcomes observed is the positive shift in participants' attitudes and mindsets. Through values-driven engagement and participatory learning, smallholder livestock farmers have "started believing again"; they have developed a renewed sense of possibility that they can start small and progressively grow.

The mindset transformation has led to increased self-confidence, stronger commitment to self-help groups (SHGs), participatory planning, and a greater willingness to support one another. As group members appreciate the values of accountability, integrity and collective production, the adoption of improved livestock management practices increases hence increased production, productivity and economic growth.

Involvement of Local Community Actors Accelerates the Adoption of Development Interventions

A high rate of participation and acceptance of PRISM initiatives was observed, largely attributed to the role of community facilitators and community agro-vet entrepreneurs in communicating project messages. These community actors possess a deep understanding of the cultural context, including the community's norms, values, and daily challenges, particularly those related to livestock management. Their familiarity with the local setting makes their communication relatable and trustworthy, contributing to the smooth implementation of project activities.

Sustaining Members Participation in Groups After Mobilization is Vital for Program Success

The assessment revealed that although mobilizing participants into groups initially appears straightforward, maintaining their active engagement and alignment with development objectives remains a significant challenge. As the initial enthusiasm diminishes, individuals often tend to revert to familiar routines, which can undermine group cohesion and long-term commitment to the intended goals.

The PRISM structure, spanning from the national to the district, sector, cell, and village levels, provided a strong foundation for consistent engagement, encouragement, and both technical and moral support. This multi-level support system played a critical role in sustaining group functionality and ensuring self-help groups (SHGs) remained focused on their intended goals. As a result, by March 2025, a total of 1,165 SHGs were reported as active and consistently participating in PRISM activities.

The Passing on the Gift Model Improves Relationships Among Community Members

This approach has transformed how community members interact with one another. As farmers continue to engage in the Pass-on-the-Gift process (PoG, EPoG, EePoG), a natural sense of collective responsibility emerges. This is reflected in increased trust, mutual respect, and accountability among community members. Together with a strong project structure, these factors have contributed to a significant reduction in conflict rates within project areas. Furthermore, the few conflicts that do arise are typically resolved at the village level without escalation to higher administrative levels such as the cell, sector, or district.

6 Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

The VBHCD model under PRISM has demonstrated potential to transform rural livelihood through the values-based, socially cohesive and market-oriented approach. These interventions have significantly improved household incomes, social cohesion, food security and leadership participation across all categories of people including women, youths and female-headed households. Despite some operational challenges, the VBHCD model offers a replicable and scalable pathway for empowering vulnerable households and strengthening community resilience.

6.2 Recommendations

Adopt the Use of Appropriate Transport Means

The nature of the landscape, characterized by hilly and rocky terrain, poses a persistent challenge to the implementation of PRISM, because it is a natural and unchangeable factor. To overcome accessibility issues, the project implementation team and their partners are encouraged to utilize appropriate transport options such as motorbikes and pack animals to reach hard-to-access households. Additionally, adopting a decentralized service delivery model, in which inputs and services are brought closer to beneficiary clusters, can help reduce logistical difficulties in such terrain.

Establish Adaptive Procurement and Budgeting Processes

Procurement and budgeting processes should be designed to accommodate price fluctuations, encourage the use of locally available alternatives, and promote collective purchasing through self-help groups to reduce individual costs. Additionally, introducing input subsidy schemes for vulnerable households should be considered to ensure their continued participation, particularly during periods of financial hardship.

Establish Mechanisms for Community Livestock Protection

For farmers who have successfully raised a relatively large number of livestock, protective mechanisms such as joint kraals, night guards, and neighborhood watch systems should be promoted. Additionally, the project implementation team should prioritize strengthening trust and transparency during the livestock handover process to minimize theft-related tensions and foster greater confidence in the project.

Enhance and Diversify Income Generating Activities

The study discovered that, although most, if not all, food values are available in the market, affordability remained a challenge. It is therefore essential to diversify the income sources to enable farmers to afford the food items they are unable to produce themselves. Key strategies to consider include supporting viable small enterprises, improving access to markets, and promoting value addition opportunities.

Integrating Sustainable Land Management Practices and Weather Responsive Planning

It is worth noting that while the project has promoted climate-smart farming through initiatives such as encouraging agroforestry and providing tree seedlings alongside livestock, there remains significant room for improvement in sustainable land management and soil and water conservation practices. Greater emphasis should be placed on improved pasture production and management and the promotion of hydroponics, hay and silage, Azzolla production and black soldier flies (BSFs), among other strategies, to better address the impacts of increasingly unpredictable weather and animal feeding patterns.

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8 Annexes

Annex 1: Detailed Analysis Tables

Table 116: Participant Support Under the VBHCD Model

Location			Direct beneficiaries	
Province	Districts	Sampled Direct respondents	Recipient of Support from the VBHCD Model Under PRISM	
			Yes (Frequency)	Percentage
Northen	Burera	97	97	100.00%
	Gakenke	100	100	100.00%
	Gicumbi	100	100	100.00%
	Musanze	101	101	100.00%
	Rulindo	111	111	100.00%
Southern	Gisagara	84	84	100.00%
	Huye	96	96	100.00%
	Nyamagabe	92	92	100.00%
	Nyaruguru	99	99	100.00%
	Ruhango	100	100	100.00%
Western	Karongi	96	96	100.00%
	Ngororero	100	100	100.00%
	Nyabihu	103	103	100.00%
	Nyamasheke	106	106	100.00%
	Rutsiro	101	101	100.00%
Total	**15**	**1486**	**1486**	**100.00%**

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Table 117: Training on Heifer's 12 Cornerstones

Districts	Trained on the 12 cornerstones	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent
Burera	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	97	100.0%
	Total	97	100.0%
Gakenke	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Gicumbi	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Musanze	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	84	100.0%
	Total	84	100.0%
Rulindo	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Gisagara	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	96	100.0%
	Total	96	100.0%
Huye	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%
Nyamagabe	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%

Districts	Trained on the 12 cornerstones	Direct Beneficiaries	
		Freq	Percent
Nyaruguru	Yes	103	100.0%
	Total	103	100.0%
Ruhango	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	92	100.0%
	Total	92	100.0%
Karongi	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	106	100.0%
	Total	106	100.0%
Ngororero	Yes	99	100.0%
	Total	99	100.0%
Nyabihu	Yes	100	100.0%
	Total	100	100.0%
Nyamasheke	Yes	111	100.0%
	Total	111	100.0%
Rutsiro	No	0	0.0%
	Yes	101	100.0%
	Total	101	100.0%

Source: Primary Data (2025 PRISM Social Capital Impact Assessment)

Table 118: Leadership Engagement Disaggregated by Gender and District

District	Taken up Leadership Position	Female		Male	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Burera	No	14	35.00%	11	19.30%
	Yes	26	65.00%	46	80.70%
		40	100.00%	57	100.00%
Gakenke	No	9	15.52%	13	30.95%
	Yes	49	84.48%	29	69.05%
		58	100.00%	42	100.00%
Gicumbi	No	16	25.00%	12	33.33%
	Yes	48	75.00%	24	66.67%
		64	100.00%	36	100.00%
Gisagara	No	18	40.91%	20	50.00%
	Yes	26	59.09%	20	50.00%
		44	100.00%	40	100.00%
Huye	No	43	61.43%	10	38.46%
	Yes	27	38.57%	16	61.54%
		70	100.00%	26	100.00%
Karongi	No	29	43.94%	11	36.67%
Karongi	Yes	37	56.06%	19	63.33%
Karongi Total		66	100.00%	30	100.00%
Musanze	No	16	27.12%	9	21.43%
Musanze	Yes	43	72.88%	33	78.57%
Musanze Total		59	100.00%	42	100.00%
Ngororero	No	22	47.83%	20	37.04%
Ngororero	Yes	24	52.17%	34	62.96%
Ngororero Total		46	100.00%	54	100.00%
Nyabihu	No	34	51.52%	11	29.73%
Nyabihu	Yes	32	48.48%	26	70.27%
Nyabihu Total		66	100.00%	37	100.00%

District	Taken up Leadership Position	Female		Male	
		Freq	Percent	Freq	Percent
Nyamagabe	No	29	67.44%	28	57.14%
Nyamagabe	Yes	14	32.56%	21	42.86%
Nyamagabe Total		43	100.00%	49	100.00%
Nyamasheke	No	26	54.17%	19	32.76%
Nyamasheke	Yes	22	45.83%	39	67.24%
Nyamasheke Total		48	100.00%	58	100.00%
Nyaruguru	No	15	27.27%	11	25.00%
Nyaruguru	Yes	40	72.73%	33	75.00%
Nyaruguru Total		55	100.00%	44	100.00%
Ruhango	No	26	38.24%	9	28.13%
Ruhango	Yes	42	61.76%	23	71.88%
Ruhango Total		68	100.00%	32	100.00%
Rulindo	No	50	54.95%	8	40.00%
Rulindo	Yes	41	45.05%	12	60.00%
Rulindo Total		91	100.00%	20	100.00%
Rutsiro	No	21	43.75%	10	18.87%
Rutsiro	Yes	27	56.25%	43	81.13%
Rutsiro Total		48	100.00%	53	100.00%
Overall Total	No	368	42.49%	242	39.03%
	Yes	498	57.51%	378	60.97%
	Total	866	100.00%	620	100.00%

Table 119: District Level Analysis-Survival Rate for Livestock

District	Newborn goats (kids) survived (12 months)		Newborn pigs (piglets) survived (12 months)		Newborn sheep (lambs) survived (12 months)		Chickens survived (6 months)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Burera	82	80.4	485	77.2	27	65.9	509	80.5
Gakenke	78	79.6	470	77	26	66	498	81
Gicumbi	75	81.2	465	77.8	25	66.8	502	80.8
Musanze	88	81	480	77.6	27	66.5	511	81.2
Rulindo	87	81	500	77.8	25	66.4	520	80.6
Gisagara	73	78.2	445	76.4	24	63.3	495	79.5
Huye	75	78.5	450	76.6	23	63.6	470	79.8
Nyamagabe	74	78.4	440	76.2	25	64.9	470	80.2
Nyaruguru	72	78	440	76.1	23	63.7	460	80.1
Ruhango	76	79	465	77	25	63.5	455	79.8

District	Newborn goats (kids) survived (12 months)		Newborn pigs (piglets) survived (12 months)		Newborn sheep (lambs) survived (12 months)		Chickens survived (6 months)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Karongi	80	80	485	78	27	68.3	520	81.1
Ngororero	82	81	500	78.5	27	68.9	515	81
Nyabihu	83	81.2	495	78.1	27	68.4	518	81.2
Nyamasheke	84	81.4	500	78.8	27	68.5	522	80.9
Rutsiro	81	81	500	78.9	27	68.7	523	80.8

Annex 2: List of Key Informants

District	Name	Contact Number
Project Staff		
Ruhango	Charles Hategekimana	788563558
Nyamagabe	Jean Claude Nyabyenda	783065986
Huye	Jean Claude Nyabyenda	783065986
Gisagara	Theodomir Karera	788733097
Nyaruguru	Pierre Andre Mutabaruka	788853389
Musanze	Josue Habyarimana	785178714
Rulindo	Aline Nyiramariza	788887988
Gakenke	Fabien Nizeyimana	789638218
Gicumbi	Olivier Uwamungu	783286213
Burera	Daniel Kurawige	787493997
Nyabihu	Gedeon Nsengimana	783338461
Ngororero	Honore Mbonimpaye	785979926
Rutsiro	Pierre Celestin Mukeshimana	788865003
Nyamasheke	Theophile Shimirwa	788273854
Karongi	Anselme Abayisenga	788778129
Heifer Rwanda Country office	Theogene Safari	785466038
	Harriet Mutoni	788455330
	Thomas Semahoro	788472130
	Enock Bwatete Arinda	788309470
	Ivan Karegyeya	786583598
Community Interviewees		
Rulindo	Alphosine Mukagasana	783525408
	Eric Nzatuma Nfitumukiza	786210336
	Bizavugarurema Joseph	788649416
Gicumbi	Guillaume Uwayo	788505080
	Angelique Umuhoza	781299555
	Leonidas Iyaturemye	783563098
Huye	Clement Sindikubwabo	788686224
	Muwagezi Fouzah	783332585
Nyaruguru	Ndagisimana Vincent	786346762

Annex 3: List of Farmers Interviewed

S/N	Farmer Name	Gender	ID number	Phone Number
1	Uwimana Jacqueline	F	1198970109334032	786935174
2	Nyiramugisha Beatrice	F	1199670142668056	790353813
3	Habimana Jean Damascene	M	1198580113941058	786256447
4	Dushimimana Agnes	F	1198770105334082	798061549
5	Ingabire Jacqueline	F	1198470119015092	783100114
6	Nyiramahirwe Beatrice	F	1200170013617040	782804212
7	Niyikiza Jean Paul	M	1199580137205069	787749231
8	Mukarusagara Esperance	F	1197570097209085	791588505
9	Mukadepite	F	1198370109394090	785835094
10	Manishimwe Daniel	M	1199380112911010	781166187
11	Musaniwabo Anastasie	F	1198470118848039	791506528
12	Mutarutwa	M	1199180097849077	787766065
13	Nzabonimpa Emmanuel	M	1197780107339025	781392946
14	Ntirenganya Jean Bosco	M	1198580173901138	782042252
15	Niyonsenga Immaculee	F	1198270123794093	783120710
16	Mbarushimana Theogene	M	1198880117655072	784893516
17	Manirakiza	M	1199580161726010	791466257
18	Uwiringiyimana Seraphine	F	1198270123753054	790082457
19	Izabayo Julienne	F	1198870117689090	789599828
20	Nyirandatwa	F	1197170044385025	782776342
21	Nahimana Sylivie	F	1998570098658080	781527893
22	Mukamana Louise	F	1199470181561042	790087018
23	Nyiramahirwe Jacpueline	F	1198870116986006	790675764
24	Twibanire Jean Damascene	M	1198380108966038	783566277
25	Nzabarinda Gaspard	M	1195980041900012	787719064
26	Murangira Jean Baptiste	M	1198780110193080	783716688
27	Ntamfura Evelyne	F	1197570061073088	795367524
28	Uwimpuhwe Jeanne	F	1199770008286081	785371430
29	Nsabagasani Emmanuel	M	1196680040887057	786957177
30	Ayinkamiye Chantal	F	1199170192393098	782936220
31	Mukamugema Marie Claire	F	1198770109780090	790753070
32	Ndahayo Dieudonne	M	1198680113699094	788832854
33	Nyiragasazwe Beatrice	F	1199070112945129	782897109
34	Nduwayezu Fulgence	M	1198780109853070	782405423
35	Ahobantegeye Dina	F	1198370108751043	784616928
36	Yezarakiza Jacqueline	F	1200170082588000	781310581
37	Mutuyimana Alphonse	M	1199090112895088	782564973
38	Sekamondo Jean Bosco	M	1198280122821009	782466588
39	Manirakiza Eugene	M	1199480065802134	788333226
40	Mukagatare Collette	F	1199070194720062	782771792
41	Igabe Vianny	M	1199580039169044	781086574
42	Ndayishimiye Leonard	M	1199580022190004	786364040
43	Mukamana Erisaberth	F	1198570194474148	787487424

S/N	Farmer Name	Gender	ID number	Phone Number
44	Nyiramasaka Godilive	F	1197570062282057	783696779
45	Mukamurenzi Christine	F	1199170101381113	784110537
46	Ndayisenga Valens	M	1199780061604451	784398367
47	Ihirwe Triphonie	F	1199770130084074	781661679
48	Yamfashije Solange	F	1199170154071037	787350576
49	Tumukunde Solange	F	1200370031760057	788233960
50	Ndangurura Jean Damascene	M	1198580115512005	789681111
51	Mukapasika Regine	F	1199770034113028	784580086
52	Ibyimana Protais	M	1199280180581032	784433115
53	Bayihorere Emmanuel	M	1199480135197071	780043392
54	Arinitwe Josiane	F	1199970053042080	780687489
55	Mujawimana Daprose	F	1196670041836026	782163605
56	Nsabyimbabazi Francois	M	1197480062723060	788970448
57	Uwihoreye	M	1199080116039056	790043519
58	Harerimana Jean Bosco	M	1198980207501177	787099534
59	Nyamvura Chantal	F	1200070010093097	786415158
60	Surwumwe	M	1197280059364026	790043431
61	Rwamakuba	M	1197280059534006	790420571
62	Ahishakiye Jean Claude	M	1199880181887081	786840054
63	Niyongabo Dieudonne	M	1199880111010007	788805753
64	Singiranumwe Gaston	M	1199280176747029	729618045
65	Nsengimana Evariste	M	1199580214640082	787261382
66	Akibirunge Leocadie	F	1199370186445080	725981675
67	Nzitukuze Epiphanie	F	1197470963319034	792019285
68	Sibomana Daniel	M	1198380111674132	781627226
69	Nkurunziza Jean Pierre	M	1198080104765028	785376053
70	Uwajeneza Florance	F	1198570116505074	786924178
71	Manirafasha Jean D'Amour	M	1199180100629066	787383182
72	Habyarimana Jean Bosco	M	1197480063231019	788407466
73	Tuyisabe Jean Bosco	M	1199480158096046	783016606
74	Uwineza Joyeuse	F	1199170193550053	786901738
75	Bagiruwusa Emelance	F	1199270046828242	782189116
76	Bamporineza Mediatrce	F	1198170098213057	782086305
77	Mukantwari Josiane	F	1199670010276069	783322060
78	Musirikare Pierrie	M	1198780113548007	785599025
79	Tuyisabe Adalbert	M	1199880043234080	789183483
80	Nduwayo Theodole	M	1199780056013095	783372704
81	Uwiduhaye Emmanuel	M	1199480103630016	792429971
82	Niwemukobwa J'D^Arc	F	1199470094287017	786982570
83	Nyiranshuti Marcelline	F	1198670102095065	781203708
84	Ndazigaruye	M	1199680018990060	786009136
85	Hakorimana Janvier	M	1198082105208006	788916831
86	Dushimirimana Odette	F	1199370111212090	791332445
87	Ntakirutimana Vestine	F	1197770068310086	780456668

S/N	Farmer Name	Gender	ID number	Phone Number
88	Uwihoreye Sylverie	F	1196370044180006	784137123
89	Hafashimana Innocent	M	1199580028916074	790043474
90	Tuyizere Jean Paul	M	1199580022783011	783181573
91	Twizere Jean Claude	M	1199680007264040	786607600
92	Iragena Jeannine	F	1200070079127074	789045798
93	Kuratwige Jean De La Paix	M	1197480070468091	782569859
94	Twishime Tite	M	1198880135394072	780683003
95	Habimana Jean Pierre	M	1198580129911025	782198655
96	Nyirahabimana Pelagie	F	1197870085140079	780456664
97	Nziyompagaze Justin	M	1198780127171051	785252875
98	Ndacyayisenga Jean De Dieu	M	1199280053144090	787225516
99	Mukarage Joseph	M	1197580069044025	784205524
100	Tuyihimbaze Jean Damascenne	M	1199980037972035	787945840
101	Muyizere Eric	M	1199280053062003	782254936
102	Uwurukundo	F	1198570129810055	782260290

Annex 4: List of Farmers Interviewed for Spillover Effects

S/N	Farmer name (spillover)	Gender	ID number	Phone number
1	Dusingizimana Jeannette	F	1199270176279028	791184407
2	Ndyoyiki Cyprien	M	1198680114131043	785108709
3	Nduwayezu Jonas	M	1199980083241067	780250553
4	Habyarimana Fabrice	M	1199780067348543	781943412
5	Bucyana Etienne	M	1195380011563242	781592029
6	Nizeyimana Maria	F	1198670113586090	786253951
7	Uwizeyimana yasenta	F	1196570062456254	726845454
8	Ntarindwa Kabego	M	1198880117424043	788324297
9	Mukandayisenga	F	1199570052854002	782970048
10	Nsengiyumva Joseph	M	1197180044340032	783787841
11	Nziyumvira Felicien	M	1197880082995090	788726750
12	Ndahimana Pelagie	F	1197970081753097	784595547
13	Mugisha Isac	M	1199580053056048	739042825
14	Seramunga Emmy	M	1197880083033077	783021821
15	Muganga Emmanuel	M	1197780065848015	787855022
16	Mudakekwa Jean Damascene	M	1197480062629093	783514110
17	Ndimukarengane Jean Baptiste	M	1197180043897036	783117925
18	Zirimwabagabo	M	1198780113910097	787861742
19	Twagirayezu Vincent	m	1198180098154001	783485933
20	mbonyingabire Jean marie	m	1198280126505074	783321115

Annex 5: Data Collection Tools

Beneficiary Household Questionnaire

SECTION 100: INTRODUCTION:

Greetings. My name is _____ I am a research assistant from ASIGMA consulting which was contracted by Heifer International Rwanda to undertake a Social Capital Impacts Assessment for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets (PRISM) PROJECT IN RWANDA

Overview of the PRISM Project

The Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets "PRISM" is a five-year project (from March 23, 2021, to March 22, 2026) whose goal is to contribute to reduce poverty and enhance resilience of poor rural people. The overall objective is to reduce poverty by empowering poor rural men, women, and youth to participate in the transformation of the Rwanda livestock sector and to enhance their resilience. Specifically, the project seeks to increase competitiveness and profitability of the small livestock sector for the provision of quality products from smallholder producers to domestic and regional consumers, thus improving their livelihoods, food security and nutrition whilst building overall resilience.

About the VBHCD

This is an approach by heifer international Rwanda aimed at building a strong social capital, which generally refers to institutions, relationships and norms, that shape the quality and quantity of society's social interactions in an effort to achieve Heifer's mission of ending hunger and poverty while caring for the earth

Purpose of the assignment

The social capital impact assessment will capture data that will be analysed to produce the overall impact of the VBHCD approach in terms of its contribution to achievement of the project objectives. Specifically, the assessment will analyse, and document the influence of the VBHCP implementation approach on different aspects of beneficiaries' livelihoods including food security, income

Confidentiality:

The answers you give will be known to us only and kept strictly confidential with your names not being taken. Results will be reported in general terms. The interview will take about 30-45 minutes to complete.

Participation in this study is voluntary. I will highly appreciate your full participation in this study given that your views are very important.

Thank you!!

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

GPS Coordinates (to be captured by the Tablets automatically) _____-

Time of Interview: _____

Name of Research Assistant: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ...../...../.....

Supervisor Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ...../...../.....

SECTION 100: Respondents Details/Identifiers		
Q101	Respondent Unique code (Allocated by Researcher):	[_____]
Q102	Region of Responsibility 1. North 2. South	[_____]

	3. Western	
Q103	Districts in the Northern Region 1. Burera 2. Gakenke 3. Gicumbi 4. Musanze 5. Rulindo	[_____]
Q104	Districts in the Southern Region 1. Gisagara 2. Huye 3. Nyamagabe 4. Nyaruguru 5. Ruhango	[_____]
Q105	Districts in the Western Region 1. Karongi 2. Ngororero 3. Nyabihu 4. Nyamasheke 5. Rutsiro	[_____]
Q106	Category of beneficiary 1. Direct (OG & PoG) 2. Indirect	[_____]
Q107	For Direct beneficiaries, which livestock value chain are you involved in? 1. Goat 2. Sheep 3. Backyard pig 4. Backyard chicken	[_____]
Q108	For the non-direct beneficiaries, which livestock value chains are you involved in? 1. Goat 2. Sheep 3. Backyard pig 4. Backyard chicken	[_____]
Q109	Sex (Gender) of the household head 1. Male headed households 2. Female headed households	[_____]
Q110	Age category of the respondent 1. 16-30 (Youths) 2. 31-64 (Adults) 3. 65 & above (Senior citizen)	[_____]
Q111	Sex of the respondent 1. Male 2. Female	[_____]
Q112	Marital status 1. Married 2. Single 3. Divorced 4. Widowed	[_____]

Q113	Household size	[_____]
Q114	How many males are in your household?	[_____]
Q115	How many females are in your household?	[_____]
Q116	What is your level of education? 1. No formal Education 2. Primary level 3. Secondary Level (O'Level) 4. Secondary level (A level) 5. Tertiary institute 6. University level	[_____]
Section 200: Awareness and Participation (Impact on Project's Effectiveness)		
Social Capital Development		
Q201	Are you aware of PRSIM & the VBHCD model –through the 12 Heifer's Cornerstones? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q202	If yes in Q201 above, 1. Were you a member of any group or association before the PRISM project started? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q203	If no in Q202 above, 2. Did you join or form a group as a result of the PRISM project activities? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____] [_____]
Q204	If yes in Q203 above, what type of group did you join? 1. Savings group 2. Farming cooperative, 3. Youth group 4. Other (Specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q205	Has your group received any support from PRISM/Heifer Rwanda? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q206	If yes in Q205 above, what type of support has your group received from Heifer? 1. Training 2. Financial 3. Equipment 4. Other (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q207	In what ways has your group become more empowered following the joining of the group? 1. Improved ability to make collective decisions 2. Learned how to save and manage group finances 3. Established market linkages for group products/services 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q208	Do you think there is trust and collaboration among community members now compared to before the project? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q209	Before the implementation of PRISM (Heifer Rwanda's interventions), who used make decisions in your households? 1. Husband (Father) 2. Wife (Mother)	[_____]

	3. Joint decision making (both husband & wife)	
Q210	Following the implementation of PRISM (Heifer Rwanda's interventions), who makes decisions in your households? 1. Husband (Father) 2. Wife (Mother) 3. Joint decision making (both husband & wife)	[_____]
Q211	How would you rate conflict cases in a household before PRISM Interventions 1. Very high 2. Moderate 3. Minimal 4. Very low 5. Never existed	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q212	How do you rate conflict cases in a household following PRISM Interventions 1. Very high 2. Moderate 3. Minimal 4. Very low 5. Does no exist	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q213	How would you rate social cohesion with neighbours and community members before PRISM Interventions 1. Very high 2. Moderate 3. Minimal 4. Very low 5. Never existed	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q214	How would you rate social cohesion with neighbours and community members following PRISM Interventions 1. Very high 2. Moderate 3. Minimal 4. Very low 5. Does not exist	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Capacity building		
Q209	Have you ever received any form of training from Heifer Rwanda (PRISM) 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q210	If yes in Q209 above, in which areas did you receive the training? 1. Heifer's 12 corner stones, GALs, animal husbandry/management, 2. Training on Human Nutrition 3. Technical training (e.g., Livestock management, shed construction, farming, processing) 4. 12 Heifers Cornerstones 5. Nutrition 6. PSRP 7. Leadership training 8. Gender equity and inclusion-(GALS) 9. Youth employment and entrepreneurship 10. Others (Specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q211	How useful were these trainings in improving your skills and confidence? 1. Not useful 2. Neutral 3. Very useful	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q212	After the training, were you able to apply what you learned to improve your activities or income?	[_____]

	1. Yes 2. No	
Q213	Do you now take on more leadership or decision-making roles in your group or community? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q214	How do you see your journey of graduation through the PRISM Project? If you think you have graduated, what shows?	
Q215	What was your household income levels before PRISM/Heifer internation?	[_____]
Q216	What are your current income levels following PRISM Intervention?	[_____]
Market Access and Linkages		
Q214	Are you currently engaged in any enterprise that was supported by the project? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q215	Has the project helped you connect with buyers or markets for your products? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q216	Have you experienced an increase in sales or income due to better market access? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q217	Are you more involved in value chain activities compared to before the PRISM? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q218	If yes in Q217, in which value chain activities are you more involved? 1. Processing 2. Packaging, 3. Bulk selling 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Project Outcomes		
Production, Revenue and Markets		
Q219	What was your main source of livelihood before the PRISM? 1. Goats 2. Sheep 3. Backyard pigs 4. Poultry 5. None of the above 6. Others (specify)_____	[_____]
Q220	What is your main source of livelihood following the PRISM? 1. Goats 2. Sheep 3. Backyard pigs 4. Poultry 5. None of the above 6. Others (specify)_____	[_____]
Q221	For farmers keeping goats, how many goats did you use to keep before Heifer's intervention/PRISM in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q222	How many of the goats kept in a year did you sell?	[_____]

Q223	How much did you use to sell each?	[_____]
Q224	Where did you sell the goats? 1. Buyers usually come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____]
Q225	For farmers keeping goats, how many goats are you currently keeping in a in a year (12 months)??	[_____]
Q226	How many are you able to sell in the year	[_____]
Q227	How much do you sell each current?	[_____]
Q228	Where do you sell the goats? 1. Buyers usually come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____]
Q229	For farmers keeping sheep, how many sheep did you use to keep before Heifer's intervention/PRISM in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q230	How many of the sheep kept in a year did you sell?	[_____]
Q231	How much did you use to sell each?	[_____]
Q232	Where did you sell the sheep? 1. Buyers come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____]
Q233	For farmers keeping sheep, how many sheep are you currently keeping in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q234	How many are you able to sell in the year	[_____]
Q235	How much do you sell each current?	[_____]
Q236	Where do you use the sheep? 1. Buyers come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____]
Q237	For farmers keeping back yard pigs, how many Backyard pigs did you use to keep before Heifer's intervention/PRISM in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q238	How many of the back yard pigs kept in a year did you sell?	[_____]
Q239	How much did you use to sell each?	[_____]
Q240	Where did you use the back yard pigs? 1. Buyers come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas	[_____]

	5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	
Q241	For farmers keeping backyard pigs, how many Backyard pigs are you currently keeping in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q242	How many are you able to sell in the year	[_____]
Q243	How much do you sell each current?	[_____]
Q244	Where do you use the backyard pigs? 1. Buyers come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____]
Q245	For farmers keeping poultry, how many Birds (Poultry) did you use to keep before Heifer's intervention/PRISM in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q246	How many of the Birds (Poultry) kept in a year did you sell?	[_____]
Q247	How much did you use to sell each?	[_____]
Q248	Where did you use the Birds (Poultry)? 1. Buyers come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____]
Q249	For farmers keeping poultry, how many birds (poultry) are you currently keeping in a year (12 months)?	[_____]
Q250	How many are you able to sell in the year	[_____]
Q251	How much do you sell each current?	[_____]
Q252	Where do you use the backyard pigs? 1. Buyers come to the farm 2. In the local Markets 3. Nearby abattoirs 4. In the urban areas 5. In the city of Kigali 6. Exported outside Rwanda	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q253	Are there any other types of livestock your household has as a result of support from the PRISM Project/Heifer Rwanda interventions? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q254	If yes in Q253 above, what are these livestock? 1. Cattle 2. Rabbits 3. Bees 4. Fish 5. Donkeys 6. Turkeys 7. Ducks 8. Guinea fowls	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Food security (Food availability, affordability, accessibility, Nutritious, Utilization)		
Q255	How many meals did you use to have before PRISM (Heifer interventions)	[_____]

	1. One 2. Two 3. Three	
Q256	How many meals does your household have following PRISM (Heifer interventions) 1. One 2. Two 3. Three	[_____]
Q257	What would be your opinion in case someone says food is available in your area all the time? 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree	[_____]
Q258	What would be your opinion in case someone says food is accessible in your area all the time? 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree	[_____]
Q259	What would be your opinion in case someone says food is affordable in your area? 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree	[_____]
Q260	What would be your opinion in case someone says food is Nutritious in your area? 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree	[_____]
Q261	What would be your opinion in case someone says food is utilizable in your area? 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree	[_____]
Q262	Has any member of your household ever experienced any deficiencies as a result of unbalanced diet? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q263	If yes above, what deficiencies have been faced by any of your household members? 1. Kwashiorkor 2. Stunted growth among children 3. Marasmus 4. Night blindness, 5. Weakened immunity, 6. Dry skin 7. Anaemia 8. Hormonal imbalance 9. Constipation	[_____]

	10. Others (specify)_____	
Q264	Overall, how would you rate the contribution of the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer intervention on Livelihood? 1. Very good 2. Good 3. Neutral 4. Poor 5. Very poor	[_____]
Q265	Overall, how would you rate the contribution of the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer intervention on Productivity? 1. Very good 2. Good 3. Neutral 4. Poor 5. Very poor	[_____]
Q266	Overall, how would you rate the contribution of the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer intervention on Livelihood? 1. Very good 2. Good 3. Neutral 4. Poor 5. Very poor	[_____]
Q267	Overall, how would you rate the contribution of the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer intervention on Market participation? 1. Very good 2. Good 3. Neutral 4. Poor 5. Very poor	[_____]
Q268	Overall, how would you rate the contribution of the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer intervention on Resilience? 1. Very good 2. Good 3. Neutral 4. Poor 5. Very poor	[_____]
SECTION 300: Assessing beneficiary participation		
Q301	Did you attend any training sessions organized under VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer international Rwanda? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q302	If yes in Q301 above, how many training sessions did you attend?	[_____]
Q303	During the training, were you actively involved? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q304	If yes, how did you actively get involved in the training? 1. Asking relevant questions 2. Sharing experiences 3. Making contributions to what is being taught 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q305	During the training sessions, how often did you actively participate? 1. Always	[_____]

	2. Sometimes 3. Rarely never	[_____]
Q306	Are you currently a member of any community group or structure? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q307	If yes above, which of the following group are you a member of? 1. Self-help group 2. Cooperative society 3. Farmers' group 4. Village savings and loans association (VSLA) 5. None	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q308	How long have you been a member of this group? 1. Less than 6 months 2. 6-12 Month 3. Over a year	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q309	Have you ever held any leadership position in the community group? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q310	If yes above, which position have you held? 1. Chairperson 2. Secretary 3. Treasure 4. Committee members 5. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Enterprise management practices		
Q311	Are you aware of any modern enterprise management practices? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q312	If yes, which modern enterprise management practices are you aware of? 1. Record keeping 2. Budgeting & financial planning 3. Marketing & customer relations 4. Inventory management 5. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q313	If Yes, which modern enterprise management practices have you ever adopted and practiced? 1. Record keeping 2. Budgeting & financial planning 3. Marketing & customer relations 4. Inventory management 5. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q314	Would you attribute the practice of modern management practices to the training by Heifer? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q315	Since your participation in the training, do you feel your attitudes towards livestock enterprise has changed for the better? 1. Yes, significantly 2. Yes, slightly 3. No change	[_____] [_____] [_____]

Project Spillover		
Q316	In the last 3 years, did you participate in any of the PRISM project (Heifer Rwanda) activities 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q317	If no in Q316 above, has anyone shared any information, knowledge, skill or a benefit to you from any of the PRISM/Heifer interventions? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____] [_____]
Q318	If Yes in Q317 above, in what areas have you received any knowledge/benefit transfer from PRISM/Heifer Rwanda interventions? 1. Risk taking 2. Levels of Innovations 3. Leadership in group enterprises 4. Initiative in identifying and exploiting business opportunities 5. Improved livestock management 6. Improved livestock feeding 7. Improved livestock housing	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q319	Have you ever shared knowledge/skills acquired from VBHCD supported training with other community members who were not part of the training? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q320	If yes in Q319 above, approximately how many people have you shared knowledge with? 1. 1-3 2. 4-6 3. More than 6	[_____]
Q321	Are you aware of any non-trained households in your community who have started implementing similar practices promoted by the project? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure	[_____] [_____]
Q322	If yes above, what are some of the similar livestock management practices have been adopted by households that did not participate in the trainings? 1. Improved livestock management 2. Improved livestock feeding 3. Improved livestock housing 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q323	How many such households do you know personally that have adopted these practices but did not participate in the training? 1. 1-3 2. 4-6 3. More than 6	[_____]
Q324	Have you ever supported or guided another community member in applying what you learned from the training? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q325	How often do you provide informal mentoring to others? 1. Occasionally 2. Monthly 3. Weekly 4. Not at all	[_____] [_____] [_____]

		[_____]
Q326	Have you observed any of the following changes in your community eve since the start of VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer international? 1. More women engaging in agricultural enterprise/Agribusinesses 2. More youths starting agribusinesses 3. Greater respect for females/youth farmers 4. Increased innovativeness	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Section 400: Livelihood Development		
Q401	What is your average monthly income from livestock related activities? (Rwanda Francs)	[_____]
Q402	Has your household income from livestock and other income generating activities increased in the past 12 months? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q403	If yes above, by what approximate percentage has it increased? 1. Less than 25% 2. Between 25-50% 3. More than 50%	[_____]
Q404	How many different income sources does your household have? 1. One (1) 2. Two (2) 3. Three (3) 4. More than 3	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Food security at a household level		
Q405	In the past 12 months, how many months did your household have enough food to meet its needs? 1. 1–3 months 2. 4–6 months 3. 7–9 months 4. 10–12 months	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q406	In the past Twelve (12) months, has your household ever experienced any food shortages? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q407	If yes in Q407 above, what are those months where your households experienced food shortage? 1. January 2. February 3. March 4. April 5. May 6. June 7. July 8. August 9. September 10. October 11. November 12. December	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q408	Does your household diet include all the necessary food values (Fruits, Vegetables, among others) 1. Yes	[_____]

	2. No	
Livestock productivity		
Q409	Is your household involved in any livestock production? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q410	If yes in Q409 above, how many livestock in total does your household keep?	[_____]
Q411	Which of the following livestock are you involved in? 1. Goats 2. Pigs 3. Chicken 4. Sheep	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q412	For household keeping goats, how many newborn animals survived to maturity in the past 12 months	[_____]
Q413	For household keeping goats, how many animals were sold or slaughtered for household use in the past 12 months?	[_____]
Q414	What is the average weight/size of your goat at market age?	[_____]
Q415	At what age do you usually sell the goats?	
Q416	For household keeping pigs, how many newborn animals survived to maturity in the past 12 months	[_____]
Q417	For household keeping pigs, how many animals were sold or slaughtered for household use in the past 12 months?	[_____]
Q418	What is the average weight/size of your pig at market age?	[_____]
Q419	For household keeping sheep, how many newborn animals survived to maturity in the past 12 months	[_____]
Q420	For household keeping sheep, how many animals were sold or slaughtered for household use in the past 12 months?	[_____]
Q421	What is the average weight/size of your sheep at market age?	[_____]
Q422	For household keeping chicken, how many newborn animals survived to maturity in the past 12 months	[_____]
Q423	For household keeping chicken, how many animals were sold or slaughtered for household use in the past 12 months?	[_____]
Q424	What is the average weight/size of your chicken at market age?	[_____]
Q425	Have you accessed veterinary services in the past 6-12 months? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q426	Have you accessed any of the following services in the past 6-12 months? 1. Veterinary services 2. Livestock markets 3. Financial services (loans, savings groups)	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q427	Does your household any of the following tools or infrastructure? 1. Livestock pens 2. Feeders or waterers 3. Feed storage facilities 4. Fencing	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q428	Since your participation in the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer international interventions, has your household acquired any new durable assets? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]

Q429	If yes above, which assets have your household been able to acquire as a result of participating in the VBHCD/PRISM/Heifer international interventions? 1. Additional Land 2. TV screen 3. Additional Mattresses 4. Access to electricity 5. Access to water at home 6. New and high-quality Radio 7. Able to pay school fees for my children in better private schools 8. Bicycle 9. Motorcycle 10. New and high-quality Telephone 11. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q430	Would someone be right if they say, PRISM/Heifer Rwanda interventions have contributed to the adoption of Climate Smart farming practices? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q431	If yes in Q430 above, what climate smart farming practices have been promoted directly or indirectly by PRISM/Heifer Rwanda interventions? The livestock value chains produce organic manure Farmers are encouraged to make use of composite manure pits to collect organic fertilizers Farmers are encouraged to plant trees to act as shades for animals, which end up promoting vegetation Farmers are encouraged to harvest rain water preventing soil erosion	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Section 500: Assess Entrepreneurship and Income Generation		
Q501	Are you willing to invest in a new income generating activity even if there are chances it may not work out? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure	[_____] [_____]
Q502	If yes in Q501, what new income generating activities are you willing to invest in?	[_____]
Q503	In the past 12 months, have you invested in any new income generating activity? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q504	If yes above, what new income generating activities have invested in the past 12 months? 1. Crop production 2. Retail trade 3. The service industry 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q505	On a scale of 1-5, how tolerant would you be on a financial loss when testing a new idea? 1. Not Tolerant at All 2. Slightly Tolerant 3. Somewhat Tolerant 4. Tolerant 5. Very Tolerant	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q506	When making a business decision, how do you typically proceed? 1. I avoid taking risks 2. I consultant with other people 3. I take the potential risk when the gains are likely to be high. 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____]

Q507	In the last 12 months, how many new products/services have you introduced in your business? 1. None 2. 1-2 3. More than 3	[_____]
Q508	Are you using any of the modern technologies in managing your business? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q509	If yes above, what technologies are you using to manage your business? 1. Mobile payments, 2. Improved animal breeds 3. Digital marketing 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q510	How often do you come up with new ideas for your business/farming activities? 1. Rarely 2. Occasionally 3. Frequently	[_____] [_____]
Q511	Do you belong to and enterprise/farmer group? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q512	If yes above, are you currently in any leadership position of your group? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q513	If yes above, how often do you participate in decision making of your group? 1. Never 2. Sometimes 3. often	[_____] [_____] [_____]
Q514	In the past 12 months, how often have you identified a new market need/gap? 1. Never 2. 1–2 times 3. More than 2 times	[_____] [_____]
Q515	When you identify a new opportunity, how quickly do you act on it? 1. Immediately 2. After consulting others 3. Rarely act	[_____] [_____]
Q516	Do you interact or network with traders, buyers, or other entrepreneurs to gather market information? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____] [_____]
Q517	Have you started any new income-generating activities in the last 12 months based on market demand analysis? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____] [_____]
Section 600: Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) at Household and Group Level		
Q601	Do you belong to any income generating activity group? 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q602	If yes in Q601 above, which income generating activity do you belong to? 1. Farmer group 2. Farmer association 3. Cooperative union 4. Milk processing group 5. Milk coolant group	[_____] [_____]

	6. Dairy product marketing assessment 7. Cooperative society 8. Egg selling 9. Animal feed shop 10. Chicken selling 11. Chicken brooding 12. Pig fattening 13. Plant seeds selling 14. Agriculture 15. Others (specify)_____	
Q603	For participants who do not belong to a group, which of the following IGAs are currently operated in your household? 1. Livestock sales 2. Produce processing (e.g., drying, milling) 3. Value addition (Packaging, branding etc) 4. Others (specify)_____	[_____]
Q605	When did you start operating this income generating activity? 1. Within the past 6 months 2. 6–12 months ago 3. More than 1 year ago	[_____]
Q606	For households operating Livestock sales, what are your average monthly costs of running the IGA? (RFC)	[_____]
Q607	What is the average monthly revenue from the IGA?	[_____]
Q608	What is the average monthly profit? (Revenue – Costs)	[_____]
Q609	Has the IGA become more profitable over time? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure	[_____]
Q610	Are there any income generating activities emerging due to the fact that Livestock sales act as raw materials (Forward linkages) 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q611	If yes above, what other IGAs what IGA have emerged for which Livestock sales act as raw materials? 1. Meat processing (butchery or smoked meat) 2. Skins and hides business 3. Manure sales 4. Biogas production 5. Milk value addition 6. Others specify (_____)	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q612	Are there any income generating activities emerging due to the fact that Livestock sales act as raw materials (Forward linkages) 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q613	If yes above, what other IGAs what IGA have emerged for which Livestock sales act as raw materials? 1. Animal feed production and sales 2. Forage crop cultivation (e.g., Napier grass, maize for silage) 3. Veterinary drug retail 4. Animal health service provision (deworming, vaccinations) 5. Livestock housing construction (pens, shelters) 6. Breeding services (AI, hiring of male breeders) 7. Fabrication of livestock equipment (feeders, drinkers, milking cans) 8. Hay and silage making and selling 9. Manure collection and transport services	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]

	10. Livestock transport services 11. Local extension or advisory services 12. Record-keeping and livestock monitoring services 13. Livestock insurance services 14. Water provision services for livestock (e.g., water delivery, trough setup)	[_____] [_____]
Q614	For households operating Produce processing, what are your average monthly costs of running the IGA? (RFC)	[_____]
Q615	What is the average monthly revenue from the IGA?	[_____]
Q616	What is the average monthly profit? (Revenue – Costs)	[_____]
Q617	Has the IGA become more profitable over time? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure	[_____]
Q618	Are there any income generating activities emerging due to the fact that Produce processing act as raw materials (Forward linkages) 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q619	If yes above, what other IGAs what IGA have emerged for which Produce processing act as raw materials? (Forward linkage) 1. Wholesaling and retailing of branded/packaged products 2. Export aggregation (linking to external markets) 3. Online marketing and distribution businesses 4. Institutional supply (to schools, hotels, NGOs) 5. Urban kiosk and supermarket reselling 6. Others specify (_____)	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q620	Are there any income generating activities emerging due to the fact that Produce processing act as raw materials (Backward linkages) 1. Yes 2. No	[_____]
Q621	If yes above, what other IGAs what IGA have emerged for which Produce processing act as raw materials? 1. Packaging materials supply (e.g., bottles, sachets, wrappers) 2. Quality certification and food safety testing services 3. Digital marketing and social media promotion services 4. Business registration and advisory services 5. Photography and content creation for product marketing	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q622	For households operating Value addition (Packaging, branding etc), what are your average monthly costs of running the IGA? (RFC)	[_____]
Q623	What is the average monthly revenue from the IGA?	[_____]
Q624	What is the average monthly profit? (Revenue–Costs)	[_____]
Q625	Has the IGA become more profitable over time? 1. Yes 2. No 3. Not sure	[_____]
Q626	Which of the following VBHCD support services were you able to receive? 1. Training 2. Coaching 3. Access to finance 4. Support in building social capital (e.g., forming groups, networks) 5. None of the above	[_____] [_____] [_____] [_____]
Q627	To what extent would you attribute the success of our IGA to the VBHCD support services? 1. To a less extent	[_____]

	2. To a moderate extent 3. To a greater extent	[_____] [_____]

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>Thank you for your participation<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

KII Guide

KII guide for Community leaders (LC chairpersons, Elders, Religious leaders etc.)-15

1. How has the VBHCD approach influenced trust and cooperation within your community?
2. In your view, how has community participation changed since the PRISM project began?
3. Have there been changes in the way community members support each other or resolve conflicts?
4. What role do you think local leadership has played in mobilizing collective action through VBHCD?
5. Are certain groups (e.g., youth, women, PWDs) more involved in decision-making now than before?
6. Can you share examples of how the community has jointly addressed a local challenge through the PRISM project?

Local Government Officials (Sub- County Chiefs, CDOs, Agricultural Officers)-15

1. How has the VBHCD approach influenced collaboration between community structures and local government?
2. What changes have you observed in community engagement and civic participation?
3. Have you seen any shifts in resource sharing or community-led planning since the project started?
4. To what extent has the project strengthened local institutions or accountability structures?
5. What challenges or gaps have you encountered in integrating VBHCD into local planning?

VBHCD Facilitators/Coordinators-15

1. What strategies have been most effective in building trust among community members?
2. How do you facilitate inclusive participation, especially of marginalized groups?
3. What changes have you seen in power dynamics or leadership structures as a result of VBHCD?
4. Have there been noticeable improvements in collective problem-solving within the communities?
5. How do you monitor or assess social cohesion among participants?
6. Can you share success stories or lessons learned related to strengthening social capital?

Private Sector Actors / Market Actors (e.g., agro-dealers, traders)-15

1. How has your engagement with local community groups changed since the project began?
2. Have you noticed increased collaboration or trust between your business and VBHCD beneficiaries?
3. Are there any new networks or platforms for engagement that you've benefited from?
4. What opportunities or challenges do you see in sustaining these relationships?
5. How do you perceive the role of social capital in improving market access or transaction outcomes?

Project implementing staff (Heifer TEAM)-15

Community Engagement and Ownership

a) How were communities involved in the design and implementation of the VBHCD approach?

b) What strategies were used to foster community ownership and ensure sustainability of interventions?

c) To what extent have local leaders (e.g., LCs, religious leaders) supported the VBHCD model?

Capacity and Delivery

a) Do facilitators and change agents have the necessary skills and training to implement the VBHCD approach effectively?

b) What capacity gaps (technical, human resource, or knowledge-based) have been observed during implementation?

Cultural and Social Fit

a) How well does the VBHCD approach align with local cultural norms, values, and practices?

b) Have you encountered resistance to behavioural or systemic change? If yes, what were the causes and how were they addressed?

Communication and Awareness

a) How was awareness of the VBHCD model raised among community members?

b) Are there common misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the model among target groups?

Resource Availability

c) Were the financial and logistical resources adequate to support effective implementation (e.g., transport, materials, facilitation)?

d) What challenges, if any, did you face in coordinating operational activities?

Outcomes and Benefits

a) What tangible benefits have you observed in communities (e.g., livelihoods, income, nutrition)?

b) Have there been any intangible benefits (e.g., empowerment, cohesion, knowledge sharing)?

c) In your opinion, do the benefits of the VBHCD approach outweigh the associated costs?

Innovation and Scalability

a) What innovative tools, practices, or methods were introduced through the VBHCD model?

b) Which of these have shown strong potential for replication or scale-up?

c) Are there enabling policies or stakeholder interest that support scaling these innovations?

Project Implementation Experience

a) What internal strengths (e.g., management systems, coordination, technical expertise) contributed to effective implementation?

b) What internal challenges (e.g., staffing, planning, reporting) limited performance?

c) How have external factors—political, economic, social, technological, or legal—influenced project success or created barriers?

Adaptability to Shocks

a) Did the project experience any unforeseen external shocks (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, market shifts)?

b) How did the implementation team respond or adapt to these challenges?

Overall Assessment (SWOT)

a) What would you identify as the key strengths of the VBHCD approach under PRISM?

b) What are the main weaknesses or limitations you have observed?

c) What opportunities exist for improving or expanding the approach?

d) What threats could undermine its sustainability or scale-up?

FGD Guide

1. What changes have you experienced in your household or community since the VBHCD model was introduced under the PRISM project?
   (Probe for changes in income, nutrition, housing, sanitation, social cohesion, etc.)
2. How has your access to services or livelihood opportunities improved as a result of the PRISM project activities?
   (Include health, education, agricultural services, vocational training, etc.)
3. In what ways has the VBHCD approach empowered individuals or groups (e.g., women, youth) in your community?
4. Have community members taken ownership of any of the interventions introduced under PRISM? If so, how?
5. What challenges did your community face in adopting the VBHCD model, and how were these addressed (if at all)?
6. Which activities or support provided by the PRISM project do you consider most useful or impactful? Why?
7. Have there been any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) from the PRISM project or the VBHCD model?
   (For example, changes in gender roles, conflicts, or increased collaboration.)
8. What recommendations would you make to improve or expand the VBHCD approach in other communities like yours?