DVC FOUNDATION

"Changing Lives Everyday"

Empowering Futures: Building Sustainable Livelihood Pathways

DVC Foundation Youth Skills, Employment, and Community Resilience Report

2025



Creating Opportunities.
Building Skills.
Transforming Communities.

Executive Summary

DVC Foundation is committed to empowering young people and vulnerable communities through integrated solutions that create sustainable livelihoods, improve economic participation, and strengthen long-term resilience.

Across East Africa and beyond, youth continue to face barriers including unemployment, underemployment, limited market access, inadequate skills development opportunities, weak social protection systems, and restricted access to financial services. DVC Foundation recognizes that meaningful transformation requires more than employment interventions it requires a comprehensive approach that addresses capability, opportunity, health, resilience, and social inclusion.

This report presents the DVC Foundation's Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, developed to support individuals in moving from economic vulnerability toward productivity, self-reliance, and prosperity.

The framework organizes participant journeys into two broad trajectories:

- **Advancing Futures** – participants demonstrating measurable progression toward sustainable employment, entrepreneurship, and improved well-being.
- **Strengthening Resilience** – participants continuing to navigate economic instability while building capacity for future growth.

The report captures key learning areas, strategic priorities, and the Foundation's commitment to strengthening evidence-based programming and long-term impact measurement.





1. Introduction and Background

Young people remain one of the most powerful drivers of economic growth and social transformation. However, many continue to encounter structural barriers that limit access to decent work, entrepreneurship opportunities, quality education, healthcare, and financial systems.

DVC Foundation was established to contribute toward inclusive development by equipping communities with practical tools that improve livelihoods and strengthen resilience.

Our approach supports individuals not only to access opportunities—but to sustain them.

Through integrated programming, DVC Foundation works to:

- Increase employability and productivity.
- Expand access to entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Improve household resilience.
- Strengthen social and economic inclusion.
- Promote sustainable and community-led development.









Pictorial showing different participants who attended orientation program for skilling program hosted by DVC foundation in partnership with National Women's Council and Rotary Club of Namasuba.

2. DVC Foundation Integrated Livelihoods Model

DVC Foundation implements an interconnected model designed to support the full livelihood journey.

Pillar I: LEARN — Skills Development and Human Capital

Building practical and future-ready capabilities through:

- Vocational and technical skills training
- Entrepreneurship and enterprise development
- Digital literacy and workforce readiness
- Leadership and communication skills
- Financial capability training
- Innovation and problem-solving competencies
- Career guidance and mentorship

Intended Outcomes

- Increased employability
- Improved workforce competitiveness
- Enhanced entrepreneurial capacity

Pillar II: EARN — Employment and Economic Opportunity

Creating pathways that convert skills into sustainable income generation.

Interventions include:

- Employment readiness support
- Internship and apprenticeship placement
- Business incubation
- Enterprise acceleration
- Market linkage initiatives
- Business mentorship
- Youth-led enterprise development

Intended Outcomes

- Increased household income

- Business growth
- Employment creation

Pillar III: SUSTAIN — Resilience and Community Well-being

Strengthening enabling systems that support long-term success.

Key interventions:

- Access to healthcare services
- Financial literacy and savings culture
- Community support networks
- Humanitarian response mechanisms
- Clean energy and environmental sustainability
- Household resilience initiatives

Intended Outcomes

- Reduced vulnerability
- Improved household stability
- Sustainable community development

3. Youth Livelihood Progression Framework

DVC Foundation measures participant journeys through two development pathways.

A. Advancing Futures

Participants within this category demonstrate measurable upward mobility and stronger economic independence.

Characteristics include:

- Stable employment or profitable self-employment
- Increased and diversified income
- Improved financial decision-making
- Business expansion
- Greater confidence and leadership

- Enhanced household welfare
- Investment-oriented behaviour

Success Enablers

- Consistent skills application
- Access to productive assets
- Mentorship and market access
- Financial inclusion
- Community support

B. Strengthening Resilience

Participants continue navigating significant economic challenges while building foundations for future advancement.

Indicators include:

- Dependence on irregular income
- Limited capital access
- Household responsibilities
- Economic shocks
- Interrupted learning pathways
- Reliance on multiple livelihood activities

Strategic Response

DVC Foundation prioritizes:

- Longer-term coaching
- Flexible training pathways
- Enterprise support
- Community-based assistance
- Financial strengthening mechanisms

4. Drivers of Sustainable Livelihood Outcomes

4.1 Gender and Inclusive Participation

DVC Foundation recognizes that inclusive development requires targeted support mechanisms.

Priority actions include:

- Increasing female participation.
- Supporting youth with limited access to opportunity.
- Strengthening safe and inclusive learning environments.

4.2 Education, Certification, and Continuous Learning

DVC Foundation promotes:

- Competency-based training
- Industry-recognized certification
- Continuous professional development
- Lifelong learning opportunities

4.3 Employment and Enterprise Ecosystems

Participants operate across sectors including:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Technology
- Manufacturing
- Services
- Retail and commerce
- Creative industries

Sector-responsive interventions improve long-term outcomes.

4.4 Mixed Livelihood Strategies

Economic resilience increasingly depends on diversified income streams.

Examples:

- Enterprise + employment
- Agriculture + digital services
- Vocational trade + business ownership

4.5 Financial Inclusion and Capital Access

DVC Foundation supports participants through:

- Savings mobilization
- Financial education
- Enterprise readiness
- Investment awareness
- Community financing approaches

4.6 Social Networks and Community Capital

Strong social systems support:

- Opportunity sharing
- Mentorship
- Emergency assistance
- Economic collaboration

5. Strategic Findings and Institutional Learning

DVC Foundation's implementation experience highlights five priorities.

1. Integrated Support Delivers Stronger Outcomes

Skills development becomes more effective when linked to economic and social support.

2. Health Drives Productivity

Healthy participants demonstrate stronger retention and improved performance.

3. Financial Capability Accelerates Growth

Access to financial tools improves enterprise sustainability.

4. Community Systems Build Long-Term Resilience

Social capital strengthens economic recovery.

5. Sustained Engagement Improves Impact

Longer-term mentorship contributes to better outcomes.

6. Program Outcomes and Impact Areas

DVC Foundation expects to contribute toward:

Economic Outcomes

- Increased employment opportunities

- Growth in youth-led enterprises
- Expanded household income

Social Outcomes

- Improved confidence and participation
- Stronger community engagement

Resilience Outcomes

- Better financial preparedness
- Reduced household vulnerability

Institutional Outcomes

- Improved evidence-based decision making
- Scalable livelihood interventions

7. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Framework

To ensure accountability and continuous improvement, DVC Foundation will implement a robust measurement framework.

Performance Tracking Metrics (2026–2028)

Indicator Category	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Strategic Target
Skills Development	% of participants completing certified training	**85%**
Employment Outcomes	% of graduates employed or self-employed within 6 months	**Increase by 20%**
Enterprise Development	% of supported enterprises reporting revenue growth	**15% annual growth**
Health Integration	% of participants accessing healthcare support	**≥80%**
Financial Inclusion	% of participants actively engaged in savings mechanisms	**70%**
Household Resilience	% of households adopting sustainable livelihood practices	**Increase by 15% annually**
Livelihood Progression	% of participants transitioning into the "Advancing Futures" pathway	**25%**

8. Longitudinal Learning and Sustainability Strategy (2025–2030)

DVC Foundation will strengthen long-term measurement through:

Transition Tracking

Monitoring movement toward stable livelihoods.

Integrated Impact Analysis

Assessing relationships between skills, health, finance, and employment.

Livelihood Sustainability Monitoring

Tracking participant outcomes over 12–24 months.

Community Transformation Assessment

Measuring wider household and local development outcomes.

Adaptive Learning

Using evidence to continuously improve program design.

9. Strategic Recommendations

To strengthen future outcomes, DVC Foundation will prioritize:

1. Scaling integrated livelihood interventions.
2. Expanding employer and private-sector partnerships.
3. Increasing enterprise financing pathways.
4. Strengthening digital and green economy skills.
5. Enhancing monitoring and learning systems.
6. Building stronger community ownership models.

Conclusion

DVC Foundation believes that sustainable livelihoods are created through integrated investment in people, systems, and opportunity.

By combining skills development, employment pathways, financial inclusion, healthcare access, and community resilience, the Foundation aims to create measurable pathways toward economic empowerment and social transformation.

This report reinforces DVC Foundation's commitment to enabling more individuals to move beyond vulnerability and toward dignified, sustainable futures.

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