



Samaritan Initiative Organization (SIO)

Annual Report 2024

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1. Introduction

The Samaritan Initiative Organization (SIO) is a registered non-governmental organization dedicated to empowering communities through sustainable development initiatives. In 2024, SIO implemented key projects focusing on women's economic empowerment, youth skills development, and environmental conservation. These initiatives reflect our mission to improve livelihoods, promote environmental sustainability, and inspire change agents for future generations.

2. Implemented Projects

2.1 Women Empowerment through VSLA



SIO supported **five Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)**, each consisting of 30 members (150 people in total). The groups were trained in **developing a saving culture, financial literacy, record-keeping, and loan management**. Through these trainings, members gained access to small loans that enabled them to start income-generating activities including soap, grain, vegetable and eggs, thereby improving household income, poverty reduction and supporting their children in education and wellbeing.

In addition, members were equipped with **practical business skills** to help them identify viable opportunities and manage enterprises effectively. As a result, **102 women successfully established small businesses**, such as identify the opportunities and venture on it, of which buying and selling sugar and soap within their households and trading grains in local markets was highly deployed. These ventures not only increased their income but also strengthened their capacity to repay loans on time. It has helped to provide the services within the Maasai Boma. The timely repayments have improved group sustainability, built trust among members, and enhanced the overall impact of the VSLA model on community livelihoods.

2.2 Youth Workshop Training

To address youth unemployment and promote innovation, SIO under Jithubutu Project conducted **youth workshops on creative recycling and value addition**. These workshops were designed to provide young people with **hands-on, practical skills** that could be immediately applied to generate income. Participants learned how to:

- **Recycle bottles** into glasses and decorative household items, reducing waste while creating products that can be sold locally.
- **Add value to notebooks** by enhancing them with creative designs, making them more attractive to students and professionals.
- **Design bracelets and earrings** using kitenge fabric, blending cultural identity with modern fashion to create unique accessories.

Beyond technical skills, the program focused on entrepreneurial training, including pricing, marketing, and customer service. This combination of creativity and business knowledge enabled youth to see waste as a resource and develop innovative products for local and tourist markets.

2.3 Self-Discovery and mentorship

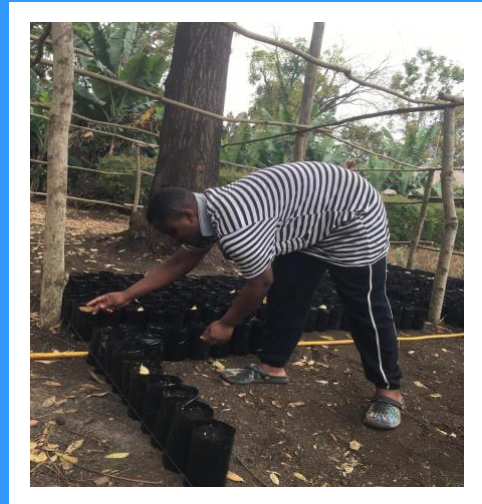
The project conducted self-discovery and mentorship to 14 youth as a result, the program boosted self-confidence, encouraged teamwork, and promoted problem-solving skills among participants. Several youths have already started small-scale enterprises in their communities, turning what was once considered waste into valuable products. The initiative not only opened pathways for entrepreneurship but also contributed to environmental conservation by reducing waste and promoting sustainable practices.



2.4 Establishment of Avocado Nurseries

SIO established 3,000 avocado nursery trees and provided grafting support to schools and households. This initiative promoted both environmental and economic sustainability by ensuring access to quality seedlings.

- **Environmental benefits:** Avocados increase green cover, prevent soil erosion, and contribute to carbon sequestration.
- **Economic benefits:** Households can sell avocado fruits to improve income.
- **Nutritional benefits:** Avocados enrich family diets with healthy food.
- **Educational benefits:** Through school-based planting programs, children are engaged as active change agents in environmental conservation.



Achievements

- Empowered 150 women through VSLA groups, improving access to credit and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Trained over 100 youth in recycling and creative arts, fostering innovation and self-reliance.
- 20 youth engaged in foreign languages including Spanish and English, of which it heled to connect them with Kananga tour company.
- Established 3,000 avocado seedlings, reaching households and schools with sustainable environmental and economic impact.
- Strengthened community awareness on conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

4. Lessons Learned

- Combining economic empowerment with environmental initiatives creates broader community impact.
- Women and youth are highly motivated when given practical skills that directly improve livelihoods.
- School-based programs are effective in instilling environmental conservation values at an early age.
- Community ownership and participation are essential for sustainability of projects.

5. Challenges

- Limited financial resources restricted expansion of successful programs to reach more beneficiaries.
- Harsh weather conditions affected some avocado seedlings, requiring additional investment in irrigation and care.
- Some communities still lack adequate awareness of the long-term benefits of environmental conservation.
- Youth face limited market access for their recycled and handmade products.

6. Conclusion

In 2024, SIO made significant strides in women's empowerment, youth skills development, and environmental conservation. Despite challenges, our projects created measurable impact by improving household incomes, equipping youth with entrepreneurial skills, and promoting environmental sustainability. Moving forward, SIO is committed to expanding its reach, strengthening partnerships, and mobilizing more resources to continue transforming lives and communities across Tanzania.