



SAMARITAN INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION

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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. The organization continues its commitment to empower the community through integrated programs focused on economic empowerment, youth skills development, education, health and environment conservation activities. These initiatives highlight our mission to improve livelihoods, health, skills and knowledge, promote environmental sustainability, and inspire change agents for future generations. These projects were implemented through community outreach programs and Jithubutu social and cultural center project. This project was conducted in Monduli, Arumeru and Arusha District.

The overall goal of the interventions was to improve livelihoods, build skills, promote well-being, and strengthen sustainable community development systems.

2.0 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

In 2025, the organization successfully implemented a range of community development projects that positively impacted the lives of women, youth, and children. Through interventions in economic empowerment, education, health, environmental conservation, and youth skills development such as youth workshop and art craft training and youth dancing which helped to improve knowledge and well-being among vulnerable groups. These efforts contributed to increased self-reliance. Enhanced opportunities and strong community resilience.

2.1. Economic Empowerment Project



The Economic Empowerment Project focused on improving the financial capacity, business knowledge, and economic independence of community members, particularly women and youth in Monduli and Arusha District. A total of 150 women were directly reached through structured training sessions on financial discipline and business literacy. The training equipped participants with skills on budgeting, saving, investment, and responsible use of credit. All 150 women were successfully accessed loan within their groups through local saving groups. As the

result of this training, 150 women began engaging in various income generating activities including small scale business such as selling sugar, soaps, cooking oil, grains, and motorcycle fuel within their communities and in market places expect petrol.

The establishment of these businesses significantly improved household income and contributed to financial stability. This have also encouraged women to develop a saving culture through weekly contributions and to purchase shares within the groups, which strengthened their financial resilience and long-term economic planning among group members.



In addition, the project reached 10 youth who were trained on financial discipline and responsible in money management. The training had a notable impact on behavioral change among the youth. One participant out of 10 who is a dancer, successfully transitioned into entrepreneurship by starting a small business. Other youth demonstrated improved financial control, disciplined saving habits, and reduced impulsive spending behavior.

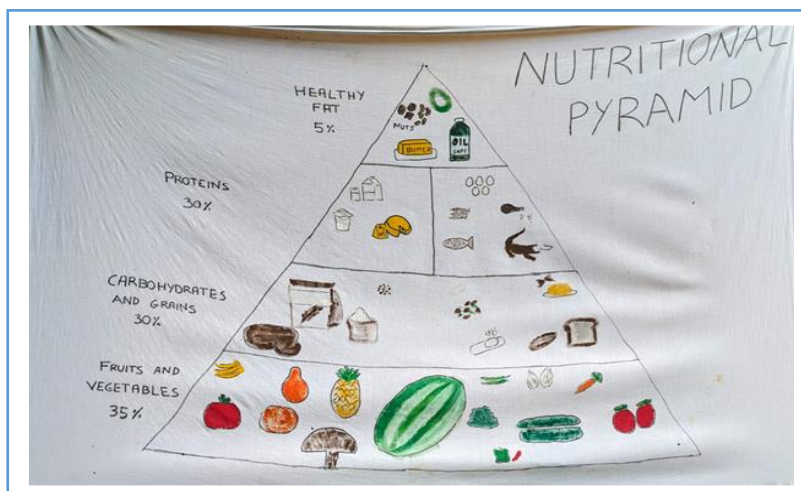
Overall, the program enhanced youth employability, creativity, and self-reliance by providing them with diversified skill sets aligned with local economic opportunities.

2.2. Health Project

The Health Project aimed to improve awareness and promote healthy living practices among youth and community members. A total of 10 youth participants were directly engaged in structured health training sessions covering nutrition, first aid, hygiene, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and mental health.



Participants were trained on proper nutrition practices, including balanced diets and food safety, which is essential in preventing malnutrition and related health complications. First aid training equipped youth with basic emergency response skills such as wound care and initial response to accidents before medical help is accessed. Hygiene education focused on sanitation practices, disease prevention, and personal cleanliness to reduce the spread of communicable diseases.



The training also addressed non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, emphasizing prevention through lifestyle changes including eating health food which is indicated in nutritional pyramid picture and physical exercise.

On the other hands, mental health awareness sessions helped participants understand emotional well-being, stress

management and the importance of seeking support when needed. These interventions contributed to improved health awareness and behavior changes among the youth.

2.3. Environmental Conservation Project



The Environmental Conservation Project focused on promoting sustainability and environmental restoration within the community. The project distributed and supported the planting of 780 Hass avocado seedlings to community members and schools, with the aim of promoting agroforestry, food security, nutrition and income generation in the long term. The tree seedlings were distributed from our nursery tree in Tengeru

In addition to household-level tree distribution, SIO conducted environmental activities at educational institutions, including tree planting at Leminyori Primary School. These activities involved students, teachers, and community members, creating awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.

The planting of avocado trees is expected to provide both environmental, nutrition and economic benefits in the future, as the trees contribute to improved soil fertility, carbon absorption, and potential household income from fruit production.



2.4. Education and Language Development Project

The Education Project focused on improving communication skills and expanding opportunities for youth through foreign language training. A



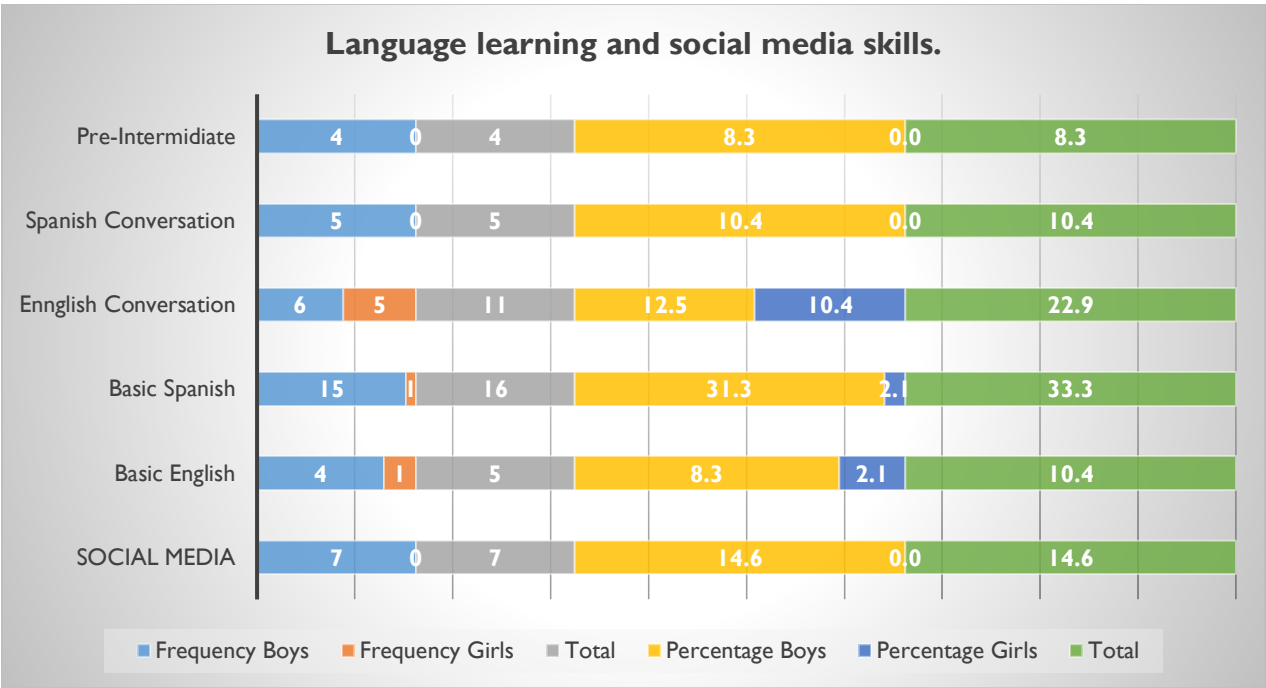
total of 48 youth participants were enrolled in structured Spanish and English language courses, ranging from basic to intermediate and conversational levels. The foreigner languages learning and social media activities were successfully implemented and reached both boys

and girls. The highest participation was in Basic Spanish, with 16 students (33.3%), highlighting strong interest in learning Spanish for communication and tourism opportunities. English Conversation had 11 participants (22.9%), helping youth improve speaking confidence and communication skills. Social Media Skills reached 7 participants (14.6%) and equipped youth with digital communication and online marketing skills. Other activities such as Basic English, Spanish



Conversation, and Pre-Intermediate English also supported participants in improving language abilities step by step. Overall, the activities strengthened communication skills, confidence, cultural interaction, and employability among youth, of which two (2) students who are confessant with Spanish Languages secured employment at travel agency.

Chart: Participant Language learning and social media skills



The chart above summarizes the foreign language learning and social media activities conducted in 2025 were successfully implemented and reached both boys and girls.

2.5. Youth Workshop and Art craft Training

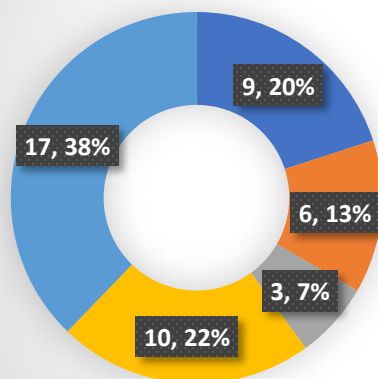
The Youth Workshop and Art craft Training Program targeted youth development through practical and creative skills training. A



total of 48 youth participants were engaged in this program, where they received hands-on training in carpentry to 9 youth, 3 youth in bottle cutting painting and drawing were 6 youth, note books, earing and bracelets by 10 youth, decoration and photography and painting flowers vessels and planting.

In the carpentry component, youth were trained in furniture making, bottle cutting, and decorative crafts. This equipped them with technical skills which is directly applied in income-generating activities such as furniture production and small-scale artisanal work. Additionally, photography training introduced participants to basic photography techniques, including event photography and visual documentation skills, which are increasingly valuable in the tourism and media sectors.

Workshop participation



- Carpentry
- Painting and drawing
- Bottle cutting and decoration
- Note books, earing and Brecelets
- Painting flower vessels and planting

2.5.1. Youth Engagement in Dancing and Its Health Benefits



SIO under its Jithubutu Social and cultural center project engaged 3796 youth in dancing activities as part of its youth development and well-being initiatives. The dancing sessions provided young people with an opportunity to actively participate in cultural expression, physical exercise, teamwork, and talent development. Through regular participation in dance practices and performances, the youth experienced both physical and mental health benefits. Additionally, it has provided visibility of youth in dancing industries and helped them to get engagement in different business promotion.

From a physical health perspective, dancing helped improve body fitness, flexibility, stamina, and coordination among participants. The continuous body movement involved in dancing acted as a form of physical exercise, which contributed to improved cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and overall body wellness. Dancing also encouraged active lifestyles among youth, reducing the risk of sedentary behavior and related health problems such as obesity and poor physical fitness.

Mentally and emotionally, dancing played a significant role in improving the psychological well-being of the youth. Participation in dance activities helped reduce stress, anxiety, and feelings of isolation by creating a positive and supportive social environment. Youth were able to express themselves creatively, build self-confidence, and develop a sense of belonging within peer groups. The activities also improved concentration, discipline, teamwork, and emotional control, contributing to better mental resilience and positive behavior change.

Additionally, engagement in dancing kept many youths occupied in productive activities, reducing exposure to risky behaviors such as substance abuse, violence, and negative peer influence. Through group interaction and performances, participants strengthened friendships, social networks, and communication skills, which further supported their emotional and social development.

Overall, youth engagement in dancing contributed significantly to both physical fitness and mental wellness, while also promoting social cohesion, confidence, and healthy lifestyles among participating youth.

2.6. Gift in Kinds

The clothing support intervention was successfully implemented in Oldonyosambu in collaboration with Uhuru Nomads Tour company with the aim of improving the wellbeing and dignity of vulnerable community members through the provision of essential clothing items. The intervention targeted children and adults who were facing economic hardship and lacked adequate clothing for daily use, and protection against harsh weather conditions.



Through the project, a total of 30 children and 12 adults received clothes and other basic wearable items. The support included trousers, dresses, blouse, T-shirts, sweaters, jackets and shoes. Priority was given to vulnerable children, including those from low-income households, orphaned children, and families experiencing social and economic challenges.



The distribution exercise was conducted in a participatory and community-centered manner, involving local leaders and community representatives to ensure transparency and fair beneficiary selection. The project not only addressed immediate material needs but also restored confidence, dignity, and social inclusion among the beneficiaries.

The support to adults also contributed to reducing vulnerability among households by assisting individuals who had limited access to basic necessities. The project strengthened community solidarity and demonstrated compassion and practical support toward vulnerable groups within Oldonyosambu community.

Overall, the initiative contributed to improving the living conditions of the targeted beneficiaries and highlighted the importance of community-based humanitarian assistance in promoting dignity, protection, and social wellbeing.

2.7. Networking and collaboration

Samaritan Initiative Organization (SIO) strengthened its institutional capacity and community impact through strategic collaboration with Business Design for Africa and Uhuru Nomads Company, each contributing in distinct but complementary ways to the organization's development and outreach work.

The partnership with Business Design for Africa focused on institutional strengthening through capacity building of SIO staff. The organization provided training and mentorship on effective project design, strategic planning, and sustainability-focused programming for NGOs. This capacity-building initiative equipped staff with practical skills in designing projects that are not only impact-oriented but also financially sustainable. Staff were trained on how to integrate income-generating components, resource mobilization strategies, and sustainability models into

project design. As a result, SIO improved its ability to develop stronger proposals, attract funding opportunities, and ensure that its programs are aligned with long-term organizational sustainability and donor expectations.

On the other hand, Uhuru Nomads Company contributed directly to community support interventions by mobilizing and providing clothes to support vulnerable children and adults within SIO-supported communities. This initiative helped address immediate basic needs among the most vulnerable groups, particularly those facing economic hardship. The clothing support improved dignity, reduced vulnerability, and strengthened community well-being. It also complemented SIO's broader social protection efforts by ensuring that vulnerable groups receive both economic empowerment and direct humanitarian assistance.

Overall, these collaborations enhanced both the internal capacity of SIO and its external community impact. While Business Design for Africa strengthened organizational systems and sustainability planning, Uhuru Nomads Company contributed to direct humanitarian support, together reinforcing SIO's holistic approach to development and social welfare.

3. PROJECTS ACHIEVEMENT

Project/Intervention Area	Key Activities Implemented	Indicators	Target	Achievement	Outcomes Achieved
Economic Empowerment for Women	Training on financial discipline and business literacy; loan access facilitation; promotion of weekly savings and shares	Number of women trained on financial literacy	150 women	150 women trained	Improved financial discipline and business management skills among women
		Number of women accessing loans	150 women	150 women accessed loans	Increased access to financial services and startup capital
		Number of women engaged in income-generating activities	150 women	150 women started or expanded businesses	Increased household income and economic independence
		Percentage of women practicing weekly savings	100%	100%	Strengthened saving culture and financial resilience

Youth Financial Discipline	Financial discipline training and entrepreneurship mentorship	Number of youths trained on financial discipline	10 youth	10 youth trained	Improved money management and saving behavior
		Number of youths initiating business activities	2 youth	1 youth established a business	Increased entrepreneurship and self-reliance among youth
Youth Workshop and Art craft Training	Carpentry training, furniture making, bottle cutting and decoration, music and singing workshop, photography training	Number of youths trained in vocational and creative skills	48 youth	48 youth trained	Improved technical skills and employability opportunities
		Number of practical workshops conducted	3 workshops	3 workshops conducted	Increased practical exposure and creativity among youth
Health Project	Nutrition training, First Aid training, hygiene and sanitation education, non-communicable diseases awareness, mental health awareness sessions	Number of youths trained on health-related topics	10 youth	10 youth trained	Improved health knowledge and healthy lifestyle practices
		Number of First Aid sessions conducted	1 session	1 session conducted	Increased emergency response knowledge among youth
		Number of mental health awareness activities conducted	1 activity	1 activity conducted	Improved awareness and understanding of mental health issues
Environmental Conservation Project	Distribution and planting of Hass avocado trees; tree planting at Leminyori Primary School	Number of avocado seedlings distributed	780 trees	780 trees distributed	Improved environmental conservation and future income opportunities
		Number of schools	1 school	1 school reached	Increased environmental

		involved in tree planting activities			awareness among students and community
Education and Language Development Project	English and Spanish language classes from basic to conversational levels	Number of youths trained in English and Spanish languages	10 youth	10 youth trained	Improved communication skills and confidence among youth
		Number of conversational practice sessions conducted	4 sessions	4 sessions completed	Enhanced speaking confidence and interpersonal communication skills
Youth Engagement in Dancing (Health & Well-being)	Dance training, rehearsals, cultural performances, group engagement	Number of youths participating in dancing activities	3796	3796	Improved physical fitness, mental health, confidence, and social cohesion

4.MOSTLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY

Financial discipline opened the door for Sustainable Investment



Filbert, a young dancer from Arusha, was among the youth supported by the Samaritan Initiative Organization through training on financial discipline on budgeting, savings and investment. Before participating in training, Filbert depended mainly on income earned from dancing activities. Although he is talented and hardworking, he faced challenges in managing his finances effectively. Most of his earnings were spent immediately on personal needs without a clear savings plan, making it difficult for him

to achieve long term economic stability. Through the training provided by the organization, Filbert gained knowledge and practical skills on budgeting, financial planning, saving regularly, and investing in income-generating activities. The sessions helped him understand the importance of controlling unnecessary expenditures and using available income wisely for future development.

After the training, Filbert started practicing financial discipline by setting aside part of his income from dancing activities as savings. With time, he accumulated enough capital to establish a small

business selling domestic products within his community. The business currently provides him with an additional and more stable source of income apart from dancing.

Filbert explained that the training changed his mind-set about money management and future planning. He is now able to support some of his personal needs more independently and has become an example to fellow youth on the importance of saving and investing. His business has also increased his confidence and strengthened his vision for future economic growth.

The most significant change in Filbert's life is the transformation from depending solely on irregular daily earnings to becoming a young entrepreneur with financial discipline and a growing investment. This change demonstrates how capacity building on savings and investment can empower youth to create sustainable livelihoods and improve their economic resilience.

5.LESSON LEARNT

The implementation of SIO projects generated several important lessons that can be replicated and applied in other community development programs and geographical areas.

Intervention Area	Lessons Learnt
Economic Empowerment Project	Financial literacy training is more effective when combined with access to loans and continuous mentorship. Communities are more likely to sustain businesses when they are trained on savings culture, budgeting, and disciplined use of income. Commitment and daring for women participation in saving have created accountability, peer encouragement and financial confidence among group members. The Loans access has significantly helped women to initiated small business for income generation and helped repayment of loans.
Youth Financial Discipline	Youth can develop responsible financial behavior when exposed to practical financial management skills at an early stage.
Youth Workshop and Artcraft Training	Practical and hands-on vocational training increases youth participation and retention compared to theory-based approaches alone. Creative arts and vocational skills can become alternative livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth. Training that combines creativity, practical work, and mentorship helps youth build confidence and discover talents that can generate income.
Youth Engagement in Dancing	Dance and cultural activities are effective tools for improving mental health, physical fitness, and social cohesion among youth. Youth engagement through arts and culture helps reduce stress, isolation, and risky behaviors while promoting teamwork and discipline. Recreational and cultural activities served as low-cost approaches for promoting emotional well-being and positive behavior change in communities.

Health Project	Health education is more impactful when participatory methods such as demonstrations, discussions, and practical sessions are used. Integrating mental health awareness into youth programs increased openness, confidence, and emotional support among participants. Youth are more likely to adopt healthy practices when information is delivered in simple and relatable ways.
Environmental Conservation Project	Linking environmental activities with economic benefits, such as avocado production, increases community interest and sustainability. School-based tree planting activities help children develop environmental responsibility at an early age and influence the wider community.
Education and Language Development Project	Language learning improves confidence, communication, and employability, especially for youth interested in tourism and service industries. Conversational practice sessions are more effective in improving fluency than classroom instruction alone. Youth are more motivated to learn foreign languages when they can relate them to future employment and networking opportunities.
In kind Gift	Provision of basic necessities such as clothing's significantly improved the dignity, confidence, social inclusion and wellbeing of vulnerable children and adults. Community involvement in identifying beneficiaries strengthened transparency, trust and ownership of intervention. Children happiness: The children and parents/guidance felt happier and more comfortable which provide that opportunity to change clothes according to events including church/mosque and other occasion.

6. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING IMPLEMENTATION

Intervention Area	Challenges Encountered
Economic Empowerment Project	Limited startup capital constrained some women from expanding their businesses beyond small-scale trading. Fluctuation of market prices for commodities such as sugar, cooking oil, and grains affected profit margins. In addition, competing household responsibilities limited some participants' full engagement in training and follow-up activities.
Youth Financial Discipline	Some youth lacked stable income sources, which made it difficult to consistently practice saving and investment behaviors. The program also required continuous mentorship and follow-up, which was sometimes constrained by limited resources and staffing capacity.
Youth Workshop and Art-craft Training	The project faced shortages of vocational training tools and equipment, particularly for carpentry, photography, and craft production. This limited the level of hands-on practice for some participants.

	Transportation challenges also affected consistent attendance among some youth.
Youth Engagement in Dancing	Limited training space and lack of basic equipment affected the quality and consistency of rehearsals. In addition, limited funding reduced opportunities for participation in external cultural events and performances that could have enhanced exposure and motivation.
Health Project	Stigma around sensitive issues such as mental health reduced open participation and discussion among some youth. Limited health education materials and outreach resources constrained wider community sensitization efforts.
Environmental Conservation Project	Water scarcity and irregular rainfall affected the survival rate of some planted trees. Inadequate knowledge among some community members on tree management and care also affected long-term sustainability of the planted trees.
Education and Language Development Project	One of the major challenges was insufficient funds to adequately compensate teachers/facilitators, which affected motivation and sometimes limited the continuity and expansion of classes. In addition, limited learning materials and irregular attendance by some youth affected learning progress and consistency.
Organizational Challenges	Overall program implementation was constrained by limited financial resources, affecting scale-up of activities across communities. Transportation costs and logistical limitations affected monitoring, follow-up visits, and timely delivery of some interventions.

7.RECOMMENDATION

Intervention Area	Recommendations
Economic Empowerment Project	There is a need to expand access to affordable loans and revolving funds so that more women can scale up their businesses beyond small retail activities. Continuous mentorship on business growth, record keeping, and market access should be strengthened to ensure sustainability and profitability of the enterprises established by women and youth. Linking groups with financial institutions for accessing more funds to develop their business.
Youth Financial Discipline	Financial literacy programs for youth should be institutionalized and linked with entrepreneurship incubation opportunities, savings groups, and startup support to encourage long-term economic independence and responsible financial behavior.
Youth Workshop and Art craft Training	SIO through Jithubutu center should invest in more vocational tools, equipment, and practical learning materials to strengthen skills acquisition among youth. Partnerships with vocational institutions and local artisans should also be expanded to provide certification, internships, and employment pathways for trained youth.
Youth Engagement in Dancing	Dancing and cultural engagement activities should be expanded as part of youth wellness and psychosocial support programs because

	they contribute significantly to mental health, physical fitness, discipline, and social cohesion. More structured youth recreation centers and cultural platforms should be established to keep youth engaged in productive activities and reduce exposure to risky behaviors.
Health Project	Health awareness activities should be expanded to reach more youth and community members, particularly on mental health and non-communicable diseases, which are increasingly affecting young people. Regular community outreach campaigns and peer educator approaches should be strengthened to improve behavior change and preventive health practices.
Environmental Conservation Project	Environmental conservation initiatives should be scaled up through increased tree distribution, school environmental clubs, and community awareness campaigns. Communities should also be supported with technical knowledge on tree management and climate-smart agriculture to ensure long-term environmental and economic benefits.
Education and Language Development Project	Language learning programs should be expanded and linked with tourism, hospitality, and employment opportunities to increase youth competitiveness in the labor market. Additional learning resources, qualified trainers, and digital learning opportunities should be introduced to improve learning outcomes.
Gift in Kinds	There is a need to expand the clothing support initiative to reach more vulnerable households in Oldonyosambu and neighboring communities, while integrating it with other social support services such as education support, food assistance, and livelihood programs to create a more sustainable impact on beneficiaries' lives.
Organizational and Program Sustainability	SIO should strengthen partnerships with government institutions, donors, volunteers, private sector actors, and community stakeholders to mobilize more resources and expand program coverage.

8.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the organization successfully implemented community development programs that improved the lives of women, youth, children, and vulnerable groups through economic empowerment, education, health awareness, youth development, and environmental conservation initiatives. Through strategic partnerships and community participation, the interventions strengthened livelihoods, promoted self-reliance, and enhanced community resilience. Despite challenges such as limited financial resources and logistical constraints, the organization achieved significant results and remains committed to expanding its impact through sustainable and transformative programs.