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Impact of Non-Governmental Organizations on Community Livelihoodsin Rwanda

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ABSTRACT: This study assessed howSOS Family Strengthening Programimproved livelihoods by comparing livelihoods of its beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries localized in three sectors (Kinyinya, Kacyiru and Gatsata) in Gasabo district, City of Kigali. The study period ranged from 2015 to 2018. The data were provided through a structured questionnaire distributed among 266 respondents including 151 beneficiaries and 111 non-beneficiaries. The SOS services are vocational skills (driving, welding, sewing, hair dressing), mobilization to join Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), training on entrepreneurship and family planning methods, tree plantation, wood recycling, vegetable garden, water harvesting, energy-saving stove and construction of skate park. Also, 23 percent of program non-beneficiaries are employed on monthly payment basis compared to 17% of program beneficiaries. However, 23 percent of program beneficiaries working with joining saving schemes register high income (75,000–100,000) than 19% of non-beneficiaries. Also, 53% of project beneficiaries are very high able to cover health and school insurance than 43% of non-beneficiaries and 119 of 200 SOS program beneficiaries have at satisfactorily level, benefited from the program. Finally, correlation between SOS project and livelihoods improvement generated a positive and a very strong correlation between both variables (r= 0.990 or 99.0%, p=0.045), at 0.05 significant. Therefore, it is concluded that between 2015 and 2018, SOS Family Strengthening Program was impactful due to the difference recorded between the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Keywords: Beneficiaries and Non-beneficiaries, Community; Livelihood, SOS; Rwanda

I. INTRODUCTION

It is reported (Vishwambhar and Lalrimpuia, 2017) that poverty and malnutrition have become very common phenomena in the developing world where food supply is insufficient for the vast growing population. The areas where this situation exists include South America, Africa and South-east Asia. These areas are socially backward and economically underdeveloped where agriculture is the main occupation and the major source of income for the majority of people. Similarly, most of the mountainous regions of the world are worst affected by poverty and malnutrition (Vishwambhar and Lalrimpuia, 2017).

Many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa are under considerable strain and in many countries, poverty remains endemic. Agriculture lies at the core of rural livelihoods and has major influence on the strands and quality of lives of millions of people (Clare,2005). Rwanda has been significantly affected by the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 which has resulted in socioeconomic consequences and aggravated poverty. In the post-genocide period, concerns with poverty have resulted in the development and application of various poverty alleviation projects, programs, and policies (Clare, 2005).

In order to relieve its population from poverty and ensure the wellbeing, Rwanda pursued the Vision 2020 objectives through the successful implementation of medium-term successive strategies; Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP I, 2002-2006) and the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies (EDPRS I and II, 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 respectively). In 2018, Rwanda started implementing its fourth medium-term strategy, the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1). NST1 is conceived as the bridge between the finalization of the Vision 2020 and the beginning of the Vision 2050, Rwanda's roadmap towards becoming a high-income country (Republic of Rwanda, 2019). This NTS1 is also known as the Seven-Year Government Programme (7YGP) with

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which Rwanda's public policy will focus on developing and transforming Rwandans into a capable and skilled people ready to compete in a global environment (Republic of Rwanda, 2017).

SOS Children's Villages is one of the International non-governmental organizations operating in Rwanda as it is engaging in developmental projects within family strengthening program. Like many other INGOs, it is facing dual challenge to meet the needs of the supported families and trying to adapt to the requirements of the donors. Yet, the concept of sustainability to ensure continuity of the interventions after project phase out has been a concern in order to ensure long term impact and people wonder if these interventions really impact beneficiaries. In the other hand, impacts of these interventions as well as lessons learnt are not well documented and disseminated to help decision makers to find room for improvement and scaling up the interventions (Jalil, 2011).

In addition, the report of Niyirera and Mulyungi(2018) studied the contribution of VSLA to sustainable livelihoods in families under care of SOS Children's Rwanda in Kigali, Habumuremyi et al., (2019) studied village savings and loan Associations and social economic development of poor household in Rwanda with the case study of Murundi sector, while Davis, Nyamweya, & Prudence (2020) studied Contribution of Non-Governmental Organization's Financial Services on Social Economic Development in Rwanda: Case of Plan International's Village Saving and Loan Associations Project Model in Bugesera District. However, these studies didn't embrace all areas of interventions done by the Organization and did not involve non-beneficiaries in their study.

It is against this backdrop that this study is conducted to examinethe impact of Non-Governmental Organizations in improving community livelihoods. The study considered the case of Family Strengthening Program of SOS Children's Villages in Gasabo District of Rwanda.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Description of study area

This study considered the SOS Children's Villages founded in 1949 by a young Austrian medical student, Hermann Gmeiner, who witnessed the suffering of so many orphaned and abandoned children after World War II and felt that something had to be done to help them. Before it was called SOS Children's Villages, Hermann Gmeiner's **Societas Socialis** was a social club organized to raise funds for the care of orphaned children in Austria. That is where the "SOS" comes from, an acronym of the club's name.To Gmeiner and his supporters, SOS meant socially responsible society (Societas Socialis is a Latin phrase and translates literally to "social service society").

Gmeiner believed that every child deserves a mother, as well as brothers and sisters, a home, and a supportive community environment. Officially founded in 1949, Hermann Gmeiner refined the name to SOS Children's Villages to emphasize the call for attention to children in need worldwide (https://www.sosbc.org/who-we-are/the-meaning-of-sos)Today, SOS Children's Villages is active in 136 countries and territories around the world, helping hundreds of thousands of children each year through alternative care, family strengthening, schools, health centres, and other community-based work. Currently, there are 2,000 SOS Children's Village facilities worldwide.

The research specifically concentrated on the SOS Children's Villages' Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) is a community outreach programme responding to the recognition that children are better placed to develop within their communities of origin. The FSPsupports orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) by providing community-based family preservation services to them. It uses a family-based model to support OVCs to build the resilience of vulnerable families and strengthen their capacity to support the development and care of vulnerable children (SOS, 2017).

SOS Children Villages through FSP enable children who are at risk of losing the care of their family to grow within a caring family environment. They work directly with families and communities to empower them to effectively protect and care for their children, in cooperation with local authorities and other service providers. The program also focuses on caring and supporting children who have lost, or who are at risk of losing the care of their biological family. The program additionally, empowers families to strengthen their capacity to protect and care for their children, and strengthen safety nets for vulnerable children and their families within the community (SOS, 2017). The SOS Family Strengthening Program works across three sectors (Kinyinya, Kacyiru and Gatsata)of Gasabo district (Figure 1) in the City of Kigali.

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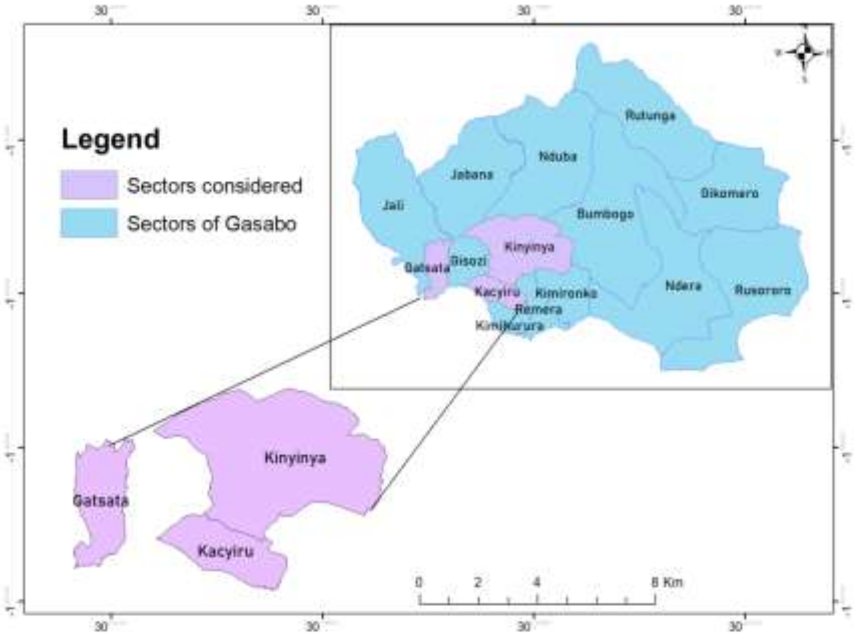

Figure 1:Map of SOS Intervention areas in Gasabo district

Source: Author, 2025

2.2 Data collection

2.2.1 Population of the study

This study employed 266 respondents divided into 155 SOS Family Strengthening Program beneficiaries and111 non-beneficiarieslocated in Kinyinya, Kacyiru and Gatsata sectors of Gasabo district. The selection of these respondents based on the fact that both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were considered while choosing the beneficiaries (conditions were set to them) to be admitted into the Program. The authors believed that considering both respondents would help to assess the contribution of the initiated programs (2015-2018) by evaluating same livelihood parameters to those benefiting from the program and non-beneficiaries.

2.2.2Sampling design and sample size

Theauthorsemployed all 266 respondents (155 SOS Family Strengthening Program beneficiaries and 111 non-beneficiaries) plustwo program staff (Program Coordinator and Field Officer). The total number of respondents was 268as detailed in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Selected respondents

Sectors	**Program beneficiaries**	**Program non-beneficiaries**
Total	**155**	**111**
Program Coordinator	**1**	
Program Field Officer	**1**	
Grand total	**268**	

The authors employed a structured questionnaire which was distributed among the program beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries while interview was used for the two-program staff (Program Manager and Field Officer). The authors also referred to recent similar literature review which facilitated to understanding and tracing the problem under study.

2.3Data analysis

After data collection, the authors proceeded to checking completeness, validity, accuracy and consistency of the questionnaires. The process arranged and grouped the collected data according to the research questions. The data were thenanalyzed by descriptive statistics. Prior to analysis, the data were screened and cleaned of errors, coded, keyed to facilitate analysis. Thereafter,the Statistical Package for Social

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Sciences (SPSS) software was used for data analysis.

Finally, the authors applied the Pearson Correlation of the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) in order to test the relationship between both variables (NGOs interventions and community livelihood improvement) based on the formulated research hypotheses. In order to successfully perform the Pearson Correlation analysis, the researcher based on the fact that a p-value smaller than 0.05 indicated a statistically significant association (at 5 % level) and a p-value larger than 0.05 reveals no statistically significant association between two variables tested.

III. RESULTS

3.1 Description of respondents

The results in Table 2 showed that most respondents are female in both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with 67 percent and 62 percent respectively while male respondents are male with 33 percent and 38 percent respectively.

Table 2: Gender of respondents

	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries		
Gender	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Total**
Male	51	33	42	38	93
Female	104	67	69	62	173
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**	**266**

Source: Primary data, 2021

The results in Table 3 revealed that a high proportion of respondents are above 45 year in both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with 43 percent and 51 respectively, followed by respondents aged between 36 and 45 years old followed by those aged between 26 and 35 years old who scored 20 percent. There is a low proportion of respondents aged 25 years and below. The same showed that for the marital status of respondents, 37 percent in both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are married, 32 and 31 percent of respondents are widow (ers) respectively while 24 percent are single mothers in both parties.

Table 3: Age and marital status

	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
Age	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
25 years or below	2	1	0	0
26 – 35 years	31	20	22	20
36 – 45 years	56	36	32	29
Above 45 years	66	43	57	51
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**
Marital status				
Single mothers	37	24	27	24
Married	57	37	41	37
Widow (er)	50	32	35	31
Divorced	2	1	1	1
Separated	3	2	3	3
CHH (child-Headed Household	6	4	4	4
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

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Furthermore, the results in Table 4 indicated that 90 percent and 87 percent of the respondents attended primary school for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries respectively, while 6 and 5 percent of them attended secondary school. It was noticed that those who have never been at school were 4 percent and 8 percent respectively. The same Table 4 revealed that, regarding household size of respondents, 48 percent and 44 percent of respondents' household size ranges between 4 and 5 members for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries respectively. In addition, the number of households with 6-10 members is higher for beneficiaries with 32 percent against 26 percent for non-beneficiaries. This shows how large families are and how difficult it is to cater for children.

Table 4: Education and Household size

	Beneficiaries		Non beneficiaries		
Item/Education	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Total**
Illiterate	6	4	9	8	15
Primary	140	90	97	87	237
Secondary	9	6	5	5	14
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**	**266**
Household size					
1 – 3	30	20	33	30	63
4 – 5	75	48	49	44	124
6 – 10	50	32	29	26	79
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**	**266**

Source: Primary data, 2021

3.2 Services offered by SOS Family strengthening Program

The results onFamily Strengthening Program selection criteria are shown in Figure 2 where the Program considers the social-economic categorization of families (Ibyiciroby'ubudehe) where people in category one and two are considered. It was also mentioned that during the selection, the local administration plays a key role through provision of lists of potential families eligible for support. This promotes transparency and allows to choose the right program beneficiaries since the local leaders know those in need compared to others in the sectors considered.

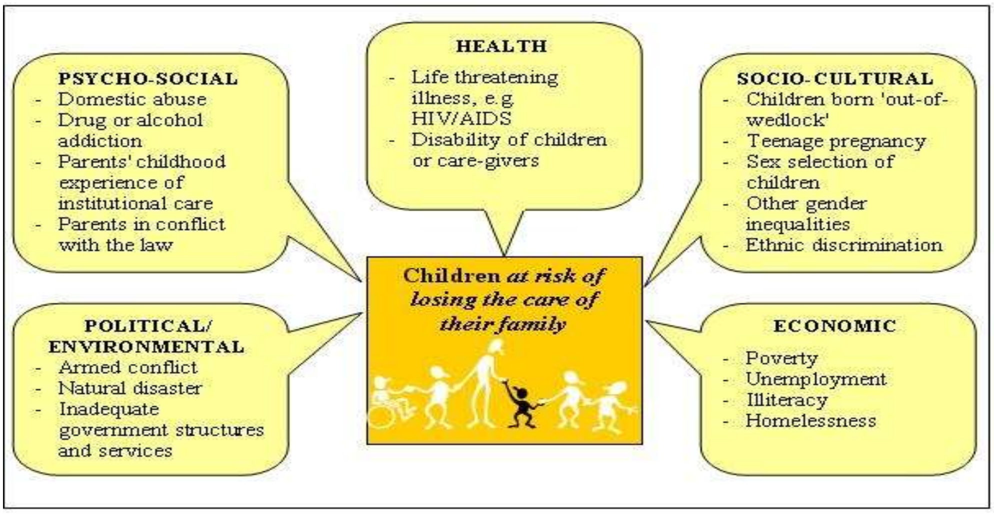

Figure 2: Beneficiaries selection criteria

Source: FSP Manual, 2007

The offered services are vocational skills (driving, welding, sewing, hair dressing), mobilization on joining Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), diverse trainings including training on entrepreneurship and family planning methods, tree plantation, pigs farming, wood recycling and tree plantation for environmental protection, vegetable gardens, water harvesting, energy-saving stoves and Promotion of sport in children and youth specifically skateboarding.

Table 5: Services offered by SOS family Strengthening Program to beneficiaries

Services	Frequency	Percent
Saving groups	155	100
Animal husbandry	35	23
Vocational training	71	46
Water tanks	16	10
Seeds and materials	42	27
Startup kits	40	26
Tree plantation	12	8
Wood recycling and stove making	12	8
Diverse trainings	155	100

3.3 Livelihood status of SOS beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries

The results in Table 6 showed that the percentage of SOS beneficiaries who are employed on monthly basis is quite low compared to that of non-beneficiaries. They both answered at 17 and 23 percent, respectively (Table 6). However, SOS program beneficiaries own small business and practice farming (livestock and agriculture) along with working on technical/vocational work at high extent (31, 22 and 27 percent, respectively).

Table 6: Income sources

Income source	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Monthly wage/employment	26	17	26	23
Small business	48	31	23	21
Farming (agriculture and livestock)	34	22	21	19
Technical work/Vocational skills	42	27	13	12
Nothing and no small part time job (jobless at all)	0	0	18	16
Relatives and friends support	5	3	10	9
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

The results showed that the highest monthly income recorded by both SOS program beneficiaries and non- beneficiaries is more than 100,000 Frw per month. However, the SOS-beneficiaries record advanced monthly income of more than 100,000 Frw at high extent (12 percent) compared to non-beneficiaries who are at 9 percent (Table 7).

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Table 7: Monthly income

Monthly income	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
Range	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
10,000 – 30,000	34	22	31	28
30,000 – 50,000	29	19	28	25
50,000 – 75,000	36	23	21	19
75,000 – 100,000	37	24	21	19
>100,000	19	12	10	9
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

The results in Table 8 showed that with regard to house ownership as shown in Table 8, the SOS Program beneficiaries built their own houses at high percentage (15 percent) compared to non-beneficiaries who scored (7 percent). Concerning renovation of houses already owned before the interventions, program beneficiaries have high percentage (73 percent) against 69 percent for non-beneficiaries.

Concerning daily meals consumption, those consuming two and three meals per day areSOS Program beneficiaries at 69 percent and 31(Table 8). The non-program beneficiaries consuming the same number of meals per day are 57 and 15 percent, respectively.

Table 8: Daily meal and house ownership

	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
House ownership and renovation				
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Renovation	113	73	76	69
Construction	23	15	8	7
No ownership	19	12	27	24
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**
Daily meals				
One	0	0	31	28
Two	107	69	63	57
Three	48	31	17	15
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

For the capacity of paying school fees of children and paying health insurance, the results in Table 9 showed that both project beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries can be able to cover both expenses but their abilities differ a bit. The details on this were provided in Table 9 where 26 and 24 percent of SOS Program beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries can sufficiently pay their health insurance and children's school fees, respectively.

However, in terms of high capability of covering school fees and health insurance, the SOS Program beneficiaries are at high extent able to cover both expenses at 53 percent than 43 percent of non –beneficiaries of SOS Program (Table 8).

Table 9: School fee and healthcare payment capacity

School fees and Health insurance payment ability	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**percentage**
Low	5	3	23	21
Sufficient	40	26	27	24
High	82	53	48	43
Very high	28	18	13	12
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

Regarding saving scheme, as shown in Table 10), it was realized that all (100 percent) SOS program beneficiaries utilize the VSLA (Ibimina) saving scheme compared to 42 percent who are members of this saving scheme. In addition,22 percent of the SOS program non-beneficiaries mobilized themselves to join the saving schemes and the majority of them (51 percent) joined the saving scheme after being mobilized by the local administration and media while 27% were mobilized by friends and/or neighbours.

Table 9: Saving scheme

Saving scheme and mobilization	Beneficiaries		Non-beneficiaries	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
None	0	0	20	18
VSLA (Ikimina)	155	100	47	42
SACCO	104	67	37	21
Commercial bank	26	17	21	19
Mobilization source				
Self	0	0	24	22
Program institution/partner' intervention	155	100	0	0
Media and local leaders	0	0	57	51
Friend/neighbour	0	0	30	27
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

Regarding monthly savings, the results in Table 11 showed that 47 percent of SOS Program beneficiaries have monthly saving ranging between 10,000 and 30,000 Rwandan Francs compared to 33 percent of non-beneficiaries. Similarly, 29 percent of the program beneficiaries record a monthly saving of 30,000 – 50,000 than 15 percent on non-beneficiaries (Table 11). Few beneficiaries reported to save 75,000 and 100,000 Rwandan Francs and more than 100,000 Rwandan francs at the rates of 5 and 2 percent respectively compared to non-beneficiaries whose rates are at 4 and 0 percent respectively.

TABLE 4. 1: MONTHLY SAVINGS

Monthly savings	Beneficiaries (%)		Non-beneficiaries (%)	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
<10,000	12	8	47	42
10,000 – 30,000	73	47	37	33
30,000 – 50,000	45	29	17	15
50,000 – 75,000	14	9	6	5
75,000 – 100,000	8	5	4	4
>100,000	3	2	0	0
Total	**155**	**100**	**111**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2021

As indicated in Table 12, 100 percent of the SOS Program beneficiaries certified that they have at very high extent, gained new skills through training and new employment, increased their monthly savings, changed their behaviour and mind-sets and purchased new domestic animals. The big difference in livelihood status was detected in house ownership where only 7 percent of the program non-beneficiaries have been able to construct their houses compared to 15 percent of program beneficiaries who owned their houses between 2015 and 2018. This largely expresses the extent to which working with the program has contributed to lifting the beneficiaries' house ownership.

Table 12: Livelihood comparison

Livelihood parameter	Livelihood status			
	Beneficiaries		**Non-beneficiaries**	
	Frequency	**Percentage**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
New employment	155	100	67	60
Increase in monthly saving	155	100	89	80
Joining and working with saving scheme	155	100	67	60
Paying school fees and medical insurance	124	80	67	60
Gain of new skills through training	155	100	22	20
Consuming balanced diet	124	80	67	60
House ownership (construction)	23	15	8	7
Change of behaviour and mindset	155	100	67	60
Start of new business	139	90	67	60
Purchase of new home assets/equipment	124	80	89	80
Practice of family planning	58	40	27	30
Access to water and electricity	124	80	67	60

Source: Primary data, 2021

Regarding the extent to which SOS interventions contributed to household livelihoods, as shown in Table 13, 55.5% of respondents strongly agreed that SOS interventions helped them in acquisition of property, 63.9% strongly agreed that their nutrition improved. Also, increased household income and access to finance was recorded as certified by 48.4 an d40 percent, respectively. More details on the key livelihood parameters improved by SOS Family Strengthening Program are provided in Table 13.Many researchers (Elliott 1987, Fernandez 1987, Garilao 1987) argue that the NGOs as SOS children villages may be better placed to articulate the needs of the poor people, to provide services and development in remote areas, to encourage the changes in attitudes and practices necessary to curtail discrimination, to identify and redress threats to the environment, and to nurture the productive capacity of the most vulnerable groups such as the disabled or the landless populations.

Table 13: Extent of SOS intervention in livelihoods

Statements	N	A	SA	Total
SOS interventions helped in the increase of acquisition of property	10 (6.4%)	59 (38.1%)	86 (55.5%)	155 (100%)
SOS interventions helped in the improvement of nutrition	0 (0.0%)	56 (36.1%)	99 (63.9%)	155 (100%)
SOS interventions helped to have easy access to finance	20 (12.9%)	73 (47.1%)	62 (40%)	155 (100%)
SOS interventions helped to increase household income	5 (3.2%)	75 (48.4%)	75 (48.4%)	155 (100%)
SOS interventions helped to pay school fees of children	20 (12.9%)	75 (48.4%)	60 (38.7%)	155 (100%)
SOS interventions helped to fight against unemployment	0 (0%)	85 (54.8%)	70 (45.2%)	155 (100%)
SOS interventions helped mindset change among beneficiaries	1 (0.6%)	84 (54.2%)	70 (45.2%)	155 (100%)

Source: Primary data, 2021

3.4Impact of SOS services to livelihoods improvement

The findings of correlation between SOS project and livelihoods improvement presented in table 12 generated a positive and a very strong correlation between both variables (r= 0.990 or 99.0%, p=0.045), at 0.05 significant level of two tailed. Therefore, there is a positive and/or significant correlation between SOS project and its beneficiaries' livelihoods improvement as certified by the estimated 0.045 confidence level with a Pearson correlation of 0.990. Thus, the livelihoods of SOS Family Supporting Program beneficiaries improved than that of non-beneficiaries.

Table 14: Correlation analysis

		SOS Project	Livelihood
SOS Project	Pearson Correlation	1	.990
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.045
	N	155	155
Livelihood	Pearson Correlation	.990	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.045	
	N	155	155

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

IV. DISCUSSIONS

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been working with the local communities especially the very poor to help in exploiting the available resources toward poverty reduction. The main components include but not limited to providing training to change people's behaviour and mind-sets, giving out domestic animals,

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technical vocation education and training, etc. In Rwanda, SOS has been working to help the government in improving people's livelihoods since 1979 and its Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) started in 2005 as a community outreach programme responding to the needs of children with principle that children are better placed to develop within their families and communities of origin.

Although the program was run and helped the selected beneficiaries, it is good to conduct and academic research which could help both program management and its beneficiaries to better understand the extent to which the program was helpful in terms of improving people's livelihoods. Therefore, this research was conducted with the main objective of comparing the livelihoods status of SOS Family Strengthening Program beneficiaries' and non-beneficiaries. The results indicated that since 2015 to 2018 when the project was rendering its services to beneficiaries, different livelihood parameters raised among the beneficiaries compared to that of non-beneficiaries. For example, the results in Table 6 indicated that for the beneficiaries (27 percent against 12 percent of non-beneficiaries), after working with SOS program, they gained technical work/Vocational skills. In addition, the same Table 6 certified how new businesses were started by the program beneficiaries at 31 percent over 21 percent of non-beneficiaries.

These results in Table 6 agree with the reports of Fisher (2017) and Benda (2013) that NGOs contribute in increasing people's income and job opportunities mainly due to mobilization in joining saving schemes, training on vocational and technical skills offered by NGOs to local people. This was similarly approved by the results of this research shown in Tables 5-11. The SOS program beneficiaries highlighted the fact that after working with the program, their monthly income, house ownership or renovation and daily meals, ability of paying school fees and health insurance, joining saving scheme and increasing monthly savings recorded increasing trend while working with the program.

Furthermore, as asserted by the respondents, the non-beneficiaries of SOS program increased in terms of livelihoods as well. However, the results in Table 13 indicated the extent to which the assessed livelihood factors were, at high extent, confirmed to increase by the program beneficiaries. This resulted from the reason that, as it was previously reported by Badreldin and Tarig (2015) and Qing et al., (2013), that in case people are working together under certain assistance, their livelihoods can increase. The reason is that the service providers easily reach each and every one through group meetings and work in collaboration with local administration to ensure that those in need of services are selected and met as well.

V. CONCLUSION

This research aimed to evaluate the contribution of SOS Family Strengthening Program to improving people's livelihood in Gasabo district of the City of Kigali. The results highlighted that the major services offered to the program beneficiaries are the vocational skills (driving, welding, sewing, hair dressing), mobilization on joining Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), training on entrepreneurship and family planning methods, tree plantation, pigs farming, wood recycling, vegetable garden, water harvesting, energy-saving stove and promotion of sport through skateboarding. Also, high percentage of the program non-beneficiaries are employed on monthly payment basis compared to program beneficiaries. However, technical work and vocational skills along with rearing domestic animals and growing crops are mainly practiced by program beneficiaries. Regarding the monthly income, the program beneficiaries register high income than non-beneficiaries which is similar to house ownership and two meals consumption per day. High ability of covering health and school insurance is recorded by the program beneficiaries while very high capacity is of the program beneficiaries. Therefore, it is concluded that between 2015 and 2018, the SOS Family Strengthening Program has contributed to improving the livelihoods of its beneficiaries due to the difference recorded between the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

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