

The Roles of Non-Governmental Organizations in Promoting the Socio-Economic Rights of Orphans: A Case Study on SOS Children's Village in Bo City, An Examination of Programs, Challenges, and Impact on the Community

Ibrahim Munu¹

Department of Sociology and Social Work, Njala University, Sierra Leon.
ibrahim.munu@njala.edu.sl

Abu Bakarr Mans-Kanu²

Department of Sociology and Social Work, Njala University, Sierra Leon.
manskanuabubakarr@gmail.com

Tejan Sesay³

Department of Sociology and Social Work, Njala University, Sierra Leon.
tejan.sesay@njala.edu.sl

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61165/sk.publisher.v12i6.4>

Abstract: *This study explores the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo City, Sierra Leone. Using a quantitative research design, data were collected from 92 respondents, including orphans, family members, NGO officials, and social welfare officers, through purposive-randomized sampling. Primary data were gathered using structured questionnaires, while secondary data were sourced from journals, e-books, and related publications.*

The findings indicate that 80.4% of respondents believe NGOs and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) have made significant efforts to address the socio-economic rights of orphans. Notably, SOS Children's Villages emerged as the most prominent organization, cited by 43.5% of respondents. Key support areas identified include education, healthcare, financial assistance, and policy advocacy; however, only 45.7% of respondents reported receiving any such support.

The study also reveals that 78.3% of participants view SOS Children's Villages as impactful, particularly in areas such as education (47.2%), combating child labor (27.8%), and healthcare provision (18.1%). Nonetheless, challenges such as insufficient financial resources, lack of community support, and sociocultural barriers impede NGO efforts.

Recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo City include improving financial mobilization, strengthening community engagement, fostering collaboration among NGOs, building staff capacity, and expanding educational support to combat child labor.

Keywords: *Role, Ingos, Orphans, Socio-Economic, Rights.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Millions of orphans worldwide experience harsh realities marked by violence, war, abuse, and family loss, leading to psychological trauma such as depression and loss of self-worth. Many also suffer from malnutrition and a lack of education, limiting their potential. Annually, approximately 15 million children, including orphans, die from hunger (www.ntnu.edu, retrieved on 15/02/2024 at 9 am). Regardless of geographical location, orphans have fundamental human rights, including access to education, healthcare, nutrition, water, and care. These rights are essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and enabling orphans to take control of their future (www.fundsforngos.org, retrieved on 15-02-2024/12:30 pm).

The UN General Assembly Special Session for Children in New York aimed to evaluate progress since the 1990 World Summit on Children. The session focused on health, education, HIV/AIDS, and protection from violence and abuse. However, political resistance hindered the advancement of a rights-oriented plan. The United States, one of two states that have not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, opposed references to adolescent reproductive healthcare. Child labor, armed conflict, and resource mobilization were contentious issues (www.hrw.org, retrieved on 20-02-2024/9:36 am). The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended an in-depth UN study on violence against children, modeled after the Graça Machel study on children in armed conflict.

In response to these issues, organizations such as Jonathan's Child Care (JCC), SOS Children's Village, and Child Rescue Center in Bo provide essential services to orphans. The SOS Social Centre Bo community outreach program offers food to approximately 300 SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools students and, in some cases, their parents (www.soschildrensvillages.ca, retrieved on 28/07/2024 6:33 pm). The Alternative Care Programme (AC) in Hargeisa, established in 2008, provides long-term family-based care through three units: Family-like Care (FLC), Foster Family Care (FFC), and Youth Care (YC). The program accommodates 206 children and young people, prioritizing community integration (<https://sos.somaliland.org>, retrieved on 29/07/2024 at 9:59 pm). More than two million children in South Asia, including orphans, die before their fifth birthday due to preventable causes, with 38% suffering from chronic malnutrition. The region also has one of the highest maternal mortality rates, with 8 million children under one-year-old lacking immunization. Additionally, 45% of girls marry before age 18, and 18% before age 15. Despite economic growth, disparities persist, preventing many orphans from accessing dignified lives and making autonomous decisions (www.globalchildforum.org, retrieved on 2/01/2024 9 am; www.news.un.org, retrieved on 22-12-2023 3 pm).

In Africa, orphans face extreme poverty, abuse, child labor, and armed conflict. According to UNICEF, orphans in sub-Saharan Africa endure hunger, malnutrition, and violence. In 2008, 47% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa survived on less than \$1.25 per day, exacerbating hunger (www.developafrica.org, retrieved on 25-02-2024/12:28 pm). Child labor is a significant issue, with nearly one million children working in gold mines. Countries such as Nigeria, Rwanda, and Mozambique have adopted an action plan to combat child labor. Neglect is another widespread form of abuse, leading to anxiety and depression. Many neglected children suffer from physical injuries, malnutrition, and psychological trauma.

Armed conflict further exacerbates the plight of orphans. Militant groups such as anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka in Africa recruit thousands of child soldiers, many of whom are killed or severely injured (United Nations report). Education is a crucial tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and conflict, yet 46 million African children, including orphans, have never attended school. Government intervention and international organizations like the United Nations are critical in ensuring the protection and education of orphans.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1990 and enforced in 1999, is a guiding framework for children's rights in Africa. Like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), it outlines universal principles and calls for the creation of the African Committee of Experts on the

Rights and Welfare of the Child. The committee's role is to promote, protect, and interpret child rights provisions as African Union institutions and member states require.

Despite international frameworks, many governments struggle to implement child rights protections fully. The continued presence of economic disparities, political instability, and cultural practices that disadvantage orphans hinder progress. Sustainable interventions such as policy reform, increased investment in education and healthcare, and stronger child protection mechanisms are necessary to address these challenges.

In conclusion, the plight of orphans worldwide remains a pressing issue requiring urgent intervention. Although efforts by international organizations, governments, and NGOs have made some progress, millions of orphans still lack access to fundamental human rights. Strengthening legal frameworks, increasing funding for child welfare programs, and ensuring international cooperation are critical in improving the lives of orphaned children globally.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Specific programs and initiatives of SOS children's village to address the educational needs of orphans

As an NGO, gearing towards complementing government's effort to accelerate the energy of young people to be educated, the village adopt and implement various programs and initiatives to help disadvantaged children across the country and even beyond. Some of these programs and initiative are intended to even capture the kids at an early stage, which is critical to their developments. A critical look at one of the prominent NGOs in sierra Leone whose efforts to address educational needs of orphans and other vulnerable children are targeted at different levels of services

1 SOS Kindergartens (Early Childhood Development)

In Bo, SOS operates a nursery with ~170 children (about 30 from the Village, rest from the community) focused on early learning, making sure Grade 3 students are prepared for primary education. In Freetown, a kindergarten with Montessori classrooms, crèche, and play areas supports ~332 children.

2. Hermann Gmeiner Primary & Secondary Schools (Academic Education)

Bo school: 6 primaries + 3 secondary classrooms; vocational training in dressmaking, home economics, typing, computer skills; science labs, library, teaching kitchen; capacity ~500–550 students. Freetown school: 12 primaries + 6 secondary classrooms; labs, computer center, arts & crafts, vocational workshop, library, teaching kitchen; serving both SOS children and local students.

3. Vocational & Technical Training

Bo: Vocational school established in 1997 offers dressmaking, textiles, typing, home economics, catering (supported by workshops and labs). Freetown: Dedicated Vocational Training Centre offers CAD, screen printing, lithography, offset printing, letterpress, serving youth ages 16–22.

4. SOS Youth Facilities (Life & Career Prep)

In both towns, youth facilities offer semi-independent living with one educator per facility. Young people typically stay until completing education/training and finding employment (average ~4 years).

5. SOS Social Centers & Community Support

Provide daily meals for students and sometimes parents at schools in Bo and Freetown. In Freetown, a special Social Centre supports children with disabilities through tailored education to foster independence.

6. Active family

Strengthening and community outreach programs identify and assist vulnerable families, helping prevent child abandonment

7. Digital Villages (ICT Access & Skills)

The Digital Village project in Bo equips children and youths with computers, internet, and ICT training to bridge the digital divide—one of many “Digital Villages” worldwide.

Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship

8. Self-Reliance & Empowerment Project launched in March 2023 (based in Freetown) delivers ~40 hours of practical entrepreneurship training over 6 months, including mentorship, startup incubation, investor access, and business skills development. Additional programs like the Youth Innovation Challenge and Youth-Can! (mentioned in hiring notices) support business development and employment readiness. Below are other initiatives by SOS and the village to address educational challenges even at technical and vocational levels:

- Advocacy for girl child education
- Emergency support during War, Covid, EVD etc
- Scholarship to study abroad
- Psychosocial support to children in various empowerment programs (schools, Tec.Voc & Universities) through career guidance

2.1.0 the community support dynamics that affect the effectiveness of NGOs in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans

1. Negative Community Dynamics That Undermine NGO Effectiveness

* Stigma and discrimination

In some communities, orphans—especially those from Ebola, war-affected, or HIV-affected families—face exclusion. This undermines education, employment, and social integration efforts by NGOs.

** Dependency mindset If communities expect NGOs to provide everything without local effort, projects may struggle once external funding ends. This affects long-term socio-economic rights like the right to work, self-reliance, and housing.*

* Weak local governance

Where traditional and local government systems are dysfunctional or corrupt, collaboration breaks down, leading to poor targeting of orphans and duplication of services.

* Conflict and instability

In areas with land disputes, political tensions, or inter-group rivalries, community support fractures—making it harder for NGOs to deliver consistent services.

The Link to Socio-Economic Rights

2.1.1 Community support dynamics directly impact:

Right to education – School enrolment, attendance, and safety often d

Community Support Dynamics and Their Impact on NGO Effectiveness in Promoting Socio-Economic Rights of Orphans

The effectiveness of NGOs like SOS Children's Villages in promoting orphans' socio-economic rights depends heavily on the type, level, and quality of community support. Consider these as to how community dynamics influence their work:

1. Positive Community Dynamics That Enhance NGO Effectiveness

2. Community ownership and participation

When local communities feel they own and participate in programs (e.g. parent committees, village development councils, youth groups), NGOs achieve better reach and sustainability.

Example: Local volunteers or foster families supporting family-strengthening programs make reintegration efforts more successful.

3. Cultural alignment and acceptance

Community endorsement of child protection, girls' education, or vocational training allows NGOs to implement programs without resistance. Example: In Bo, where traditional structures (chiefdoms, religious leaders) collaborate with NGOs, there's greater acceptance of orphans in schools and training centers.

4. Support networks for psychosocial and economic resilience

NGOs often rely on community groups, women's associations, or faith-based networks to deliver services (food, shelter, mentoring). When these are strong, orphan care is more holistic.

Example: Community members assist with monitoring vulnerable children or reporting abuse.

5. Local resource mobilization

Communities that contribute land, labor, or materials (even small-scale) reduce program costs and increase sustainability.

2.1.2. Community support dynamics directly impact children and orphans through

- Right to education – School enrolment, attendance, and safety often depend on whether the community supports orphans' inclusion.

- Right to work/training – Local businesses and mentors provide critical practical training and apprenticeships for orphaned youths.

- Right to shelter – Community cooperation is key for foster placements, reintegration, or group homes.

- Right to adequate living standards – Food security, health care, and social welfare schemes often rely on community involvement

2.1.3 Level of Support to Enhance the Rights of Orphans by NGOs

Global development has made the rights and welfare of orphans a top priority, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential in tackling the difficulties this vulnerable group faces. Due to their frequent lack of parental supervision, orphans are more susceptible to abuse and exploitation and have less access to fundamental human rights, healthcare, and education. Although NGOs have become essential players in promoting and carrying out initiatives to improve the rights of orphans, the quality of support differs greatly between organizations and geographical areas. To assess the scope and efficacy of NGO activities in defending the rights of orphans, this literature review looks at contemporary research and statistics.

The diverse role NGOs play in meeting the needs of orphans is highlighted by many studies. Around 140 million children globally are considered orphans, with South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa bearing the most significant burden, according to a

UNICEF assessment from 2022. NGOs have played a crucial role in delivering necessities like healthcare, education, and psychological assistance in these areas. For example, NGOs in Eswatini have significantly increased orphans' access to education through scholarship programs and the creation of school facilities, according to research by Malinga and Ntshakala (2023). Similarly, in India, non-governmental organizations such as the SOS Children's Villages have received praise for their comprehensive strategy, incorporating community integration and family-based care (Sharma & Gupta, 2023). These initiatives highlight the value of customized treatments that tackle the particular difficulties orphans encounter in various socio-economic and cultural circumstances.

While NGOs in Pakistan have made progress in advocating for orphan rights, their impact is limited by inconsistent funding and a lack of coordination with government agencies; similarly, in sub-Saharan Africa, the lack of strong legal frameworks to protect orphans has limited the effectiveness of NGO interventions (Kipchumba & Wanjiru, 2023). According to a 2023 study by Akhtar et al., NGOs' support level is frequently limited by funding limitations, bureaucratic obstacles, and gaps in policy implementation.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened orphans' vulnerability, underscoring the need for more NGO assistance. According to a Save the Children report from 2023, the pandemic caused a sharp increase in the number of orphaned children as a result of parental fatalities, especially in low- and middle-income nations. In response, NGOs increased their activities, offering remote learning possibilities, mental health help, and emergency relief. For instance, the NGO ChildFund International established a program in Kenya to provide pandemic-affected orphans with psychosocial support and digital learning resources (Mwangi & Ochieng, 2023). These programs show how flexible NGOs can be in reacting to new situations, but they also highlight the necessity of long-term plans to guarantee the ongoing defense of orphan rights.

2.1.5 Impacts of NGOs on Promoting the Socio-economic Rights of Orphans

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic increased the vulnerability of orphans, highlighting the need for further NGO support. A 2023 Save the Children report states that the epidemic led to a significant rise in the number of orphaned children due to parental deaths, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. NGOs responded by expanding their operations and providing disaster relief, mental health services, and opportunities for remote learning. For example, the non-governmental organization Child Fund International launched a program in Kenya to provide digital learning materials and psychosocial assistance to orphans affected by the pandemic (Mwangi & Ochieng, 2023). These initiatives demonstrate the adaptability of NGOs in responding to novel circumstances, but they also emphasize the need for long-term strategies to ensure the continuous protection of orphan rights.

NGOs' emphasis on education, essential to socio-economic empowerment, is one of their main contributions. A 2022 study by Mwangi and Kariuki found that NGOs have considerably raised the number of orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa enrolled by offering scholarships, school supplies, and infrastructure support. According to the study, community-based education initiatives run by NGOs like UNICEF and Save the Children have decreased orphan dropout rates by 30% in Kenya and Uganda. Similarly, a 2023 study from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) highlights how NGO-led programs have helped orphaned children become more literate and numerate, especially in countries plagued by conflict where governmental resources are scarce.

Another crucial area where NGOs have had a significant impact is healthcare access. Due to the lack of parental care and unstable finances, orphans are frequently more vulnerable to mental health problems, infectious diseases, and hunger. According to a 2021 study by Gupta et al., non-governmental organizations have significantly offered orphans medical care, including immunization campaigns, dietary assistance, and psychosocial counseling. For example, groups like World Vision and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have set up mobile health units and clinics in underprivileged communities, significantly lowering the child death rates among orphans. Furthermore, by establishing safe places and support groups to treat trauma and

emotional distress, NGO interventions have improved mental health outcomes for orphans, according to a 2023 World Health Organization (WHO) report.

NGOs have also shown a great deal of effect on economic empowerment. Due to financial difficulties, many orphans are forced into child labor or young marriages. NGOs have put livelihood initiatives into place, intending to give orphans the tools and resources they need to become financially independent. More than 50% of participating orphans have been able to find steady jobs or launch small enterprises because of vocational training programs started by NGOs in Nigeria, according to a 2022 study by Adeyemi and Oluwaseun. Similarly, an International Labor Organization (ILO) report from 2023 emphasizes how NGOs can help prevent child labor among orphans by giving their guardians alternate sources of income.

Notwithstanding these achievements, NGOs still face obstacles in advancing the socio-economic rights of orphans. According to a 2023 study by Ndlovu and Moyo, the success of NGO projects is hampered by problems like budget limitations, a lack of coordination among stakeholders, and cultural hurdles. The study also points out that NGO initiatives' sustainability is frequently jeopardized by their dependence on unexpected donor funding.

2.1.6 Challenges Faced by NGOs in Promoting the Socio-economic Rights of Orphans

Since orphans are among the most disadvantaged groups in the world, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential in promoting and resolving their socio-economic rights. However, NGOs still have many obstacles to overcome in order to promote these rights effectively. This literature review examines NGOs' main challenges, using data and new research to grasp the problem thoroughly.

The lack of funds and resources is one of the main issues NGOs deal with. Many NGOs that work with orphans find it difficult to obtain long-term funding, which limits their capacity to carry out long-term projects, according to a 2022 report by the Global Philanthropy Project (Smith et al., 2022). This problem worsens in low-income nations, where there is frequently little government funding for orphan care. According to research by Mwangi and Kariuki (2023), 65% of NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa mainly depend on donor money, which is sometimes erratic and project-specific, reducing their ability to respond to new needs. The viability of programs like education, healthcare, and livelihood support that try to improve the socio-economic circumstances of orphans is threatened by this financial instability.

The absence of cooperation and coordination among parties is another major issue. NGOs frequently work in silos, which results in redundant work and wasteful resource use. According to a recent study by Johnson and Lee (2023), orphans in Southeast Asia now receive fragmented treatment due to overlapping programs by numerous NGOs, creating serious gaps in care. Furthermore, the lack of solid partnerships with local communities and governments makes implementing holistic therapies more difficult. For example, cultural stigmas associated with orphanhood in some areas make it hard for NGOs to engage with the community and win their trust and support (Akhtar & Hassan, 2023).

The socio-economic rights of orphans are also seriously hampered by systemic problems like weak legal frameworks and corruption; in many nations, laws protecting orphans are either insufficient or poorly enforced; in Eastern Europe, for example, corruption in child welfare systems frequently diverts funds intended for orphans, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and neglect (Human Rights Watch, 2023); NGOs operating in these environments have a difficult time promoting policy reforms and guaranteeing accountability.

Additionally, NGOs face a difficult task in meeting the emotional requirements of orphans. Specialized interventions are necessary for the pain, stigma, and social exclusion that many orphans endure. However, only 30% of NGOs in developing nations have access to qualified mental health specialists, which limits their ability to adequately address these needs, according to a study by Patel et al. (2022). In addition to having an impact on orphans' well-being, this lack of psychosocial assistance also makes it more difficult for them to become socioeconomically empowered.

NGOs prioritize education for underprivileged children in India, but financial constraints limit their reach. Despite universal school enrollment, ensuring quality education remains a significant challenge. Organizations like Pratham address learning gaps by grouping children based on skill levels, resulting in measurable improvement (www.akshayapatra.org, retrieved on 7/09/2024 at 7 am). Additional challenges include school absenteeism, gender disparities, and accessibility for differently-abled children. NGOs work to shift parental mindsets toward valuing education, particularly for girls, who often face cultural and safety barriers to schooling (www.akshayapatra.org, retrieved on 7/09/2024 at 9 am).

In Sierra Leone, NGOs contribute to service delivery, policy advocacy, human rights, and democracy-building. However, the civil society ecosystem remains fragmented and lacks coordinated efforts. A key limitation is the absence of forums for NGOs, policymakers, and stakeholders to address challenges collaboratively. The upcoming NGO Summit 2020, themed “Enhancing NGO Sustainability for Greater Impact,” aims to foster networking, policy dialogue, and capacity-building to improve NGO operations and sustainability. It also seeks to activate the Sierra Leone NGO Council, uniting local and international organizations to address policy concerns and promote effective governance (www.ayvnewspaper.com, retrieved on 20/08/2024 5 pm; 12/08/2024 8 am).

Generally, NGOs face structural, financial, and operational challenges in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans. Addressing these limitations through collaboration, increased funding, policy engagement, and sustainable strategies will enhance their impact.

2.1.7 Measures taken to overcome the sociocultural barriers that hinder NGOs efforts

Diversification of sources for funding NGO programs

In addressing the challenges of funding, NGOs can diversify their funding sources by exploring grants, donations, partnerships with businesses, and fund raising. Building relationships with corporate sponsors and applying for government grants can also help create a steady revenue stream. In addition, developing a clear and compelling narrative about the NGO’s impact can attract donors and sponsors. Sustainable funding serves as a major hindrance to the services of vulnerable communities.

Diversifying funding sources and building strong donor relationships are essential to overcoming financial challenges.

Community Volunteering, Retention and Engagement

In order for NGOs to address the gap and spending hugely on experts, NGOs should train and allow for internship volunteer engagement, NGOs should focus on creating a rewarding volunteer experience. This can be achieved by recognizing their efforts, offering skill-building opportunities, and fostering a sense of community. Providing regular feedback, organizing appreciation events, and sharing success stories can also improve volunteer retention.

Volunteer recognition and a supportive environment foster higher retention and create a dedicated volunteer base.

3. Navigating Regulatory and Compliance Issues

NGOs can stay compliant by setting up clear internal processes for record-keeping, reporting, and audits. Regularly updating compliance documents, establishing transparency in financial reporting, and consulting with legal professionals can prevent legal complications. NGOs should also ensure they are aware of both local and national regulations and adapt their processes accordingly. Streamlined record-keeping and proactive legal advice are key to managing regulatory challenges efficiently.

4. working with Skilled and updated Staff and Resources

NGOs can overcome this by offering internships, collaborating with educational institutions, or engaging professionals on a pro bono basis. Additionally, NGOs can upskill existing staff through training programs and workshops, helping to build capacity within the team without significant financial investment. NGOs create the space to partner with universities to provide internships, gaining access to enthusiastic and talented individuals who contribute meaningfully to projects. Collaborations and upskilling efforts expand the NGO's capacity and bring in new talent.

5. Measuring and Demonstrating Impact on services provided to the vulnerable communities

Implement a system to track and report key performance indicators (KPIs) related to the NGO's projects. Tools like social impact assessment software and regular reporting can help communicate outcomes to stakeholders. Visual storytelling, through infographics and videos, also helps make the NGO's impact more relatable and understandable to donors and supporters. Using data and storytelling to convey impact enhances transparency and encourages stakeholder trust.

6. Community Engagement and Trust-Building

NGOs can build trust by involving the community in the planning and execution of projects. Holding community meetings, inviting input, and addressing concerns make people feel valued and respected. Long-term presence and consistent support also foster a stronger connection between the NGO and the community. Building trust through community involvement ensures long-term project sustainability and success.

7 Communicating Effectively with Stakeholders and constant community engagement

Develop a communication strategy that includes regular updates, newsletters, and social media engagement. Visual storytelling through images, videos, and testimonials makes the NGO's mission and impact more tangible. Engaging donors through impact reports and showcasing the progress of funded projects also keeps them connected to the cause.

Regular communication and storytelling build stronger relationships with stakeholders and create a more supportive donor base.

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Respondents' views. The study was conducted in Bo City, the second-largest city in Sierra Leone and the largest in the Southern Province. Bo City (Bo City Council, 2016). The target population comprised 120 individuals, including orphans, family members, NGO officials, and key informants, particularly social welfare officers, who worked with orphans. From this number, a sample size of 92 respondents was selected using a purposive-randomized sampling technique.

The study used both Primary and secondary data sources. Primary data was collected through structured questionnaires, and secondary data was gathered through E-Books, journals, and other publications of similar studies. The collected data were coded, processed, and analyzed using simple statistical techniques.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings provide a comprehensive overview of non-governmental organizations' roles in promoting orphans' socio-economic rights

4.1. Level of support to enhance the Rights of Orphans by NGOs (SOS Children's Village) in Bo City:

A greater number of our respondents, 80.4%, believed that NGOs and INGOs have attempted to address issues related to promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans in their different jurisdictions. Key organizations supporting this drive include the SOS Children's Villages, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Child Fund, Street Child, UNDP, and

CAFOD (See Figure 1 below). However, 43.5% of our respondents believed that SOS Children's Villages gives the most support in this direction among the study area's organizations.

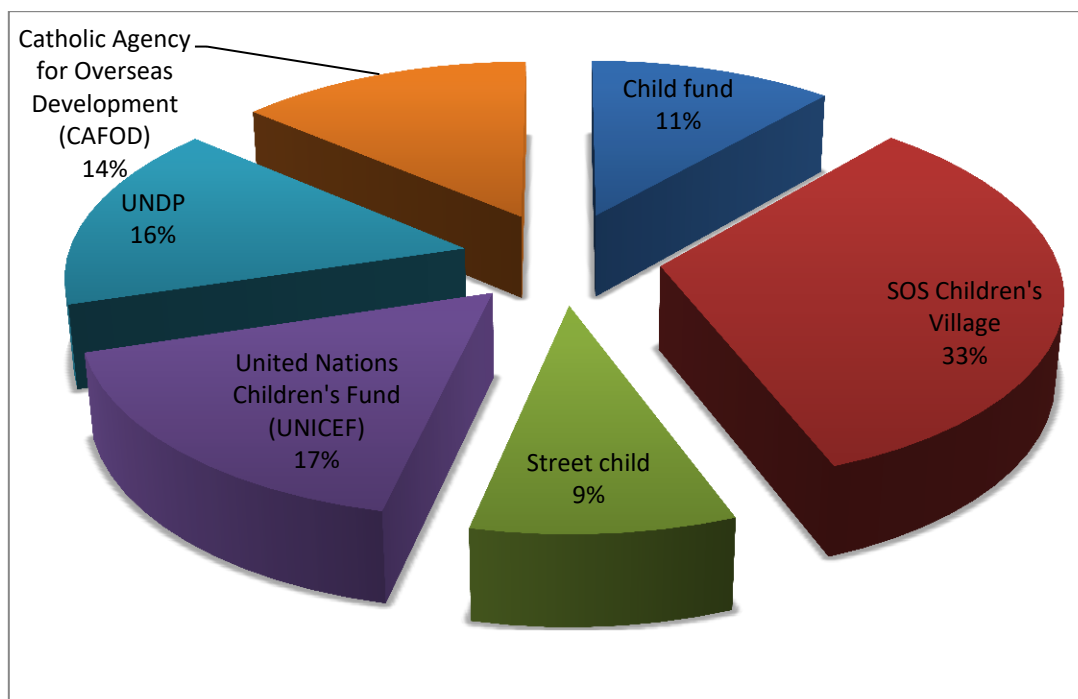


Fig.1: Organizations working to support the socio-economic rights of orphans. Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Support from these organizations includes academic support through scholarships and other educational benefits, financial support, healthcare services, and policy support. However, only 45.7% of our respondents confirmed receiving support from the organizations mentioned.

4.1.2 Impacts of NGOs (SOS Children's Village) in Promoting the Socio-economic Rights of Orphans

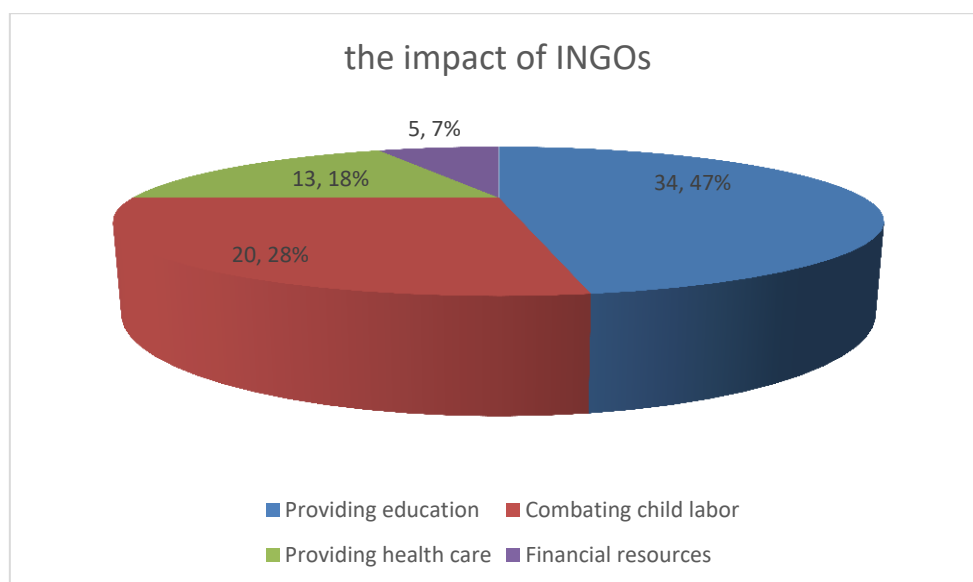


Fig.2: The impacts of INGOs in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans
Source: Field survey, 2025.

The majority of the respondents, 78.3%, believed that SOS Children's Village creates impacts in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans, as against 21.7% who were not sure whether SOS Children's Village creates impacts in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans. The main effects of promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans include providing education, combating child labor, providing health care, and providing financial resources, as shown in Table 1 above.

Nevertheless, 47.2% of our participants disclosed that providing education has a significant impact on NGOs (SOS Children's Village) in promoting the Socio-economic rights of orphans in the study space.

4.1.3 Challenges faced by NGOs/INGOs in promoting the Socio-economic Rights of Orphans:

These non-governmental organizations face a series of challenges in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo. These challenges are limited financial resources, inadequate community support, unhealthy NGO competition, low staff capacity, and sociocultural barriers (stigma and discrimination), as noted in Figure 3 below.

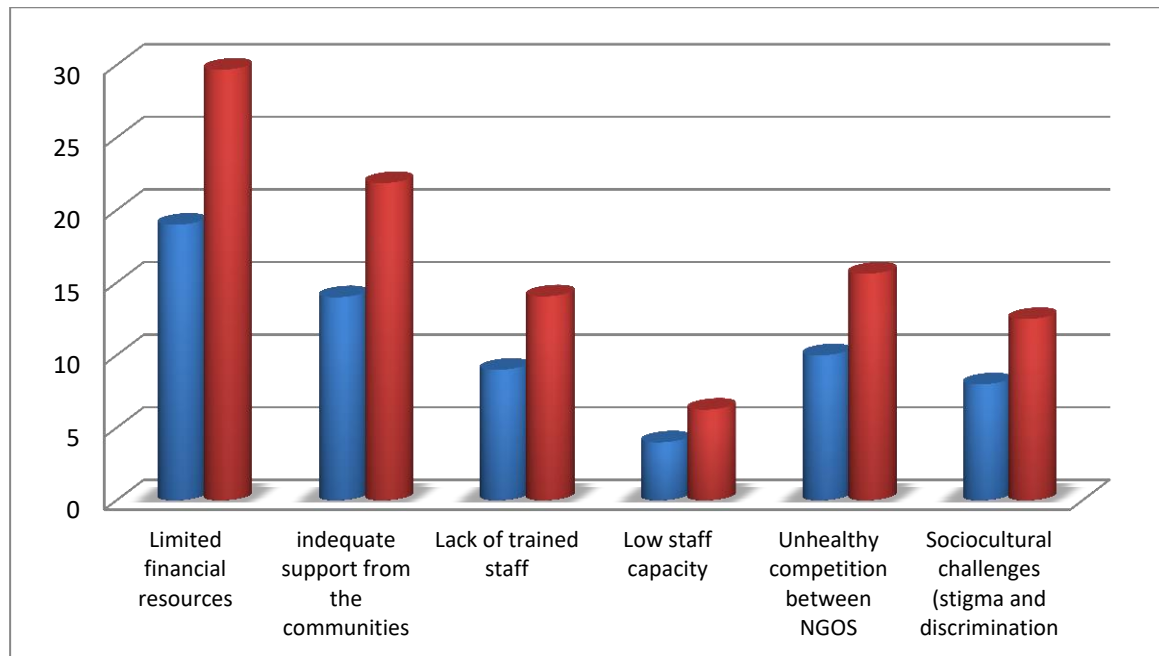


Figure 3: Challenges faced by INGOs/NGOs in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans. Source: Field survey, 2025.

V. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

The study highlights the significant role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo City. SOS Children's Village was highly recognized as the most supportive organization among the many acknowledged organizations in this field. Such support includes academic scholarships, financial aid, healthcare services, and policy advocacy, although less than 50% confirmed receiving such support.

Despite several challenges, including inadequate financial resources, a substantial majority believed that SOS Children's Village positively impacts the socio-economic rights of orphans by providing education and other services. Addressing these challenges could enhance the organization's impact on supporting vulnerable children.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings regarding the support provided by NGOs to promote the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo City. The results show how essential NGOs are in advancing the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo City, especially the SOS Children's Villages. Although their initiatives in education, healthcare, and child labor prevention have been successful, they could do better regarding program reach and structural issues. To maximize their impact, NGOs must secure more resources, foster community collaboration, and tackle sociocultural barriers. This will ensure that their interventions are more inclusive, sustainable, and effective in improving the lives of orphans.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings presented, the following recommendations are proposed to improve the support provided by NGOs to promote the socio-economic rights of orphans in Bo City:

1. **Boost Financial and Resource Mobilization:** By working with foreign donors, businesses, and governmental organizations, NGOs can increase the variety of their financing sources. Cutting-edge fundraising strategies like social impact bonds and crowdfunding should be investigated to guarantee long-term financial support.
2. **Strengthen Community Engagement:** NGOs should fund community sensitization initiatives to increase knowledge on orphan rights and socio-economic development. Involving community-based groups, religious institutions, and local leaders may foster trust and provide a nurturing atmosphere for orphans.
3. **Enhance NGOs' Cooperation:** Provide a structured framework for cooperation between NGOs and INGOs in Bo City so that they may exchange resources and best practices and prevent effort duplication. Working together can increase the effect and guarantee a comprehensive strategy for helping orphans.
4. **Develop Staff Capacity:** Regular training and capacity-building for employees in areas such as project management, child rights, and psychosocial support should be a top priority for NGOs. Collaborations with foreign organizations or academic institutions can improve staff development resources and knowledge.
5. **Increase Educational Support and Fight Child Labor:** NGOs should scale their educational support programs, including scholarships, school supplies, and mentorship initiatives. Additionally, they should work with local authorities and communities to enforce child labor laws and create alternative income-generating opportunities for families to reduce the economic pressures that lead to child labor.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors of this research state that they have no conflicts of interest regarding its publication.

References

1. Ali Akbar Bromideh ----- The widespread challenges of NGOs in developing countries, Sept 2011
2. Akhtar, S., & Hassan, F. (2023). Cultural barriers to orphan care: A case study of South Asia. *Journal of Social Development*, 45(2), 123–140.
3. Caroline Lavelle ----- GOAL protecting children in Sierra Leone (June 4th, 2020)
4. Donald Clark -----Ludwig Von Bertalanffy- General System Theory- 1950 (April 3rd, 2014)
5. Dorcas Nthenya Mutiso- Challenges affecting orphans and vulnerable children in Embu county (2018)
6. Dr. Rose Cardarelli-----NGOs initiative to support children's education (2018)
7. Evelyn Maggie Kasambara-----The role of NGOs in promoting the socio-economic rights of orphans in Malawi (September 2018)
8. Felicity Fitzgerald, Waheed Awonuga, and Daniel Youkee Ebola response in Sierra Leone; The impacts on children
9. Ghana NGOs Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC)- on the Rights of the Child (CRC) report
10. John Holmes-----Losing 25,000 to hunger every day (October 2014)
11. Kevin Watkins and Maria Quattro-----Child Poverty in Africa (August 2019)
12. Krupa Shah -----Child mortality in South Asia (7th November, 2016)
13. Musokwa Emmy Nsangalufu (MRS)-----The contribution of local NGOs/CBOs in the care and support of orphans in Moiji village (July 2005)
14. Niesha Braggs-----Facts about child labor in Sierra Leone September 5th, 2019)
15. www.ayvnewspaper.com----- Sierra Leone NGOs to discuss challenges (January 10th, 2020)
16. www.news.un.org-----The Convention on the Rights of the Child in South Asia (August 30th, 2019)
17. www.nrights.gov.au ----- Protecting and promoting human rights in Australia
18. www.ohchr.org -----The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the UN General Assembly (November 2019)
19. www.un.org ----- General Assembly of the United Nations (23rd NOVEMBER 2020)
20. www.unicef.org-----Sierra Leone approves the National Child Rights Bill (3rd September, 2007)
21. www.unicef-irc.org-----Knowledge for Children in Africa catalogs research on poverty and livelihoods (December 2019)
22. www.wikipedia.org-----The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

23. www.wvi.org-----Child protection approaches
24. www.sos-childrensvillage.org----- They support them while they continue their further education and also provide them with training.
25. Human Rights Watch. (2023). Corruption in child welfare systems: A global perspective. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org>
26. Johnson, R., & Lee, T. (2023). Fragmented services: The impact of NGO coordination on orphan care in Southeast Asia. *International Journal of Nonprofit Management*, 18(3), 89–102.
27. Mwangi, P., & Kariuki, J. (2023). Funding challenges for NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for orphan care. *African Journal of Development Studies*, 12(1), 45-60.
28. Patey, L. (2003). *Non-Governmental Organizations and International Conflict: An Annotated Bibliography*. Queen's Centre for International Relations.
29. Patel, R., et al. (2022). Mental health support for orphans: A global review of NGO capacities. *Journal of Child Psychology*, 67(4), 567-582.
30. Smith, J., et al. (2022). Global trends in NGO funding and sustainability. Global Philanthropy Project. Retrieved from <https://www.globalphilanthropy.org>
31. Adeyemi, T., & Oluwaseun, O. (2022). Vocational Training and Economic Empowerment of Orphans in Nigeria. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, 37(2), 45-60.
32. Gupta, S., et al. (2021). Healthcare Interventions for Orphans: The Role of NGOs. *Global Health Action*, 14(1), 1–12.
33. Mwangi, J., & Kariuki, P. (2022). NGO-Led Education Programs for Orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 89, 102-115.
34. Ndlovu, M., & Moyo, T. (2023). Challenges Facing NGOs in Promoting Orphan Rights. *Development in Practice*, 33(4), 567-582.
35. World Health Organization (WHO). (2023). Mental Health Support for Orphans: A Global Perspective. WHO Technical Report Series, 1021, 1-20.
36. Global Partnership for Education (GPE). (2023). NGO Contributions to Education in Conflict Zones. GPE Annual Report, 1-15.
37. International Labour Organization (ILO). (2023). Combating Child Labor Among Orphans: NGO Interventions. ILO Working Paper, 12, 1-30.
38. Kipchumba, E., & Wanjiru, L. (2023). "Policy Gaps in Orphan Support: A Case Study of Sub-Saharan Africa." *African Journal of Social Work*, 18(3), 89-102.
39. Malinga, T., & Ntshakala, P. (2023). "The Role of NGOs in Enhancing Educational Access for Orphans in Eswatini." *International Journal of Educational Development*, 67, 45-56.
40. Mwangi, J., & Ochieng, R. (2023). "NGO Responses to the Impact of COVID-19 on Orphans in Kenya." *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 112, 104-115.
41. Save the Children. (2023). The Impact of COVID-19 on Orphans: A Global Perspective.
42. Sharma, R., & Gupta, P. (2023). "Holistic Care Models for Orphans: Lessons from SOS Children's Villages in India." *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 32(4), 567–579.
43. UNICEF. (2022). The State of the World's Children: Orphans and Vulnerable Children.
44. Vansi K.R.(2024). top Challenges faced by NGOs and how to overcome them(www.marpu.org)

∴ Cite this article ∴

Munu, I., Mans-Kanu, A. B., Sesay, T. (2025). The Roles of Non-Governmental Organizations in Promoting the Socio-Economic Rights of Orphans: A Case Study on SOS Children's Village in Bo City, An Examination of Programs, Challenges, and Impact on the Community. SK INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH HUB, 12(6), 28–40. <https://doi.org/10.61165/sk.publisher.v12i6.4>