

# Non-Governmental Organizations and the Socio-Economic Wellbeing of Project Beneficiaries

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**Abstract-** Project evaluation in NGOs is mainly conducted within implementation timeframes, which is attributed to availability of allocated resources for the exercise. While NGOs aim at fulfilling donor mandates, there are limited reports describing if the positive influences listed during project exit reports are still in existence. The study used the Caritas Nakuru as a case study to evaluate the influence of projects sponsored and managed by Caritas on the socio-economic wellbeing of project beneficiaries in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study utilized descriptive research design with a sample size of 238 respondents. Data collection entailed questionnaires and interview schedules. The study found that the Caritas education project had a great impact on the social economic wellbeing of street children. The study concludes that achievement of Caritas peace-building projects influences the socio-economic wellbeing of street children, the internally displaced persons and commercial sex workers. The study recommends that the government continues to provide avenues for education for street dwellers who may not want to join the formal education systems. NGO projects stakeholders need to rally for public sensitization on the importance of enabling disadvantaged groups.

**Index Terms-** Non-Governmental Organizations, Socio-Economic Wellbeing, Project Beneficiaries, Education projects, Peace-building projects, Social welfare projects

## I. INTRODUCTION

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are accredited as critical players in the socio-economic development of under-developed countries where initiated projects increase the capacity of the government in providing required services to the public. According to Abdi (2020), in the last two decades, the era has been evidenced by a rapid increase of NGOs and an intensified commitment of these organizations in the process of supporting the society on development issues. The contribution of NGOs has not only become an important policy for lobbying development but has also created relief in leading campaigns for development on societal issues such as debt relief, fight against the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and provision of education for the less privileged (Casey, 2016; Monsiapipe, 2016).

Globally, developed and developing countries have embraced the contribution of NGOs in the society especially where institutions of governance face challenges on limited resources on finances for sustainable development. Though there are challenges faced by NGOs in their operation, their strategies for service delivery have derived success over the projects they have implemented (Bandi, 2014). Many NGOs in the world attribute their success to proper management of projects and evaluation of the project processes. NGOs have been termed useful by providing services where governments seem to be overwhelmed by serving the public. The realization of initiated projects goes through monitoring and evaluation seeking the progress and assessment of development projects in a valued approach. This has found NGOs to be part of societal development in launching humanitarian projects aiming at the transformation of poverty-stricken regions across the world (Monsiapipe, 2016; Ariadi & Saud, 2018).

Focusing on Europe, the development and contribution of NGOs have been widely celebrated with such organizations linked to growth of the society economically, socially, and environmentally. According to UNDESA et al., (2011) and Fritz, (2014), NGOs contribution to social development in modern society cannot be ignored. Since the inception of humanitarian agencies through the European Union (EU), there has been formation of numerous non-governmental organizations aimed at aiding the governments reach to the society. For instance, in France, EU based NGOs have successfully worked on implementation of by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) projects and delivered Grants Programme (GP) that has aided in education development and transforming societal welfare for individuals under different capacities for economic and social wellbeing of communities (Britannica, 2011).

Navarro et al., (2015) ascribe the success of NGO operations in the Western Countries to factors such as effective monitoring and evaluation of projects, political stability, incorporation of stakeholders, and involvement of beneficiaries. The activities of NGOs not only contribute to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but act as a measure of economic wellbeing for the underprivileged. Burchi (2016) and Costanza and Hart (2019) opine that monitoring and evaluation provides a mechanism of people's welfare especially in social development. Essentially, in Middle East in parts of Qatar, Kuwait and Syria the government embraces NGOs as humanitarian agencies which focuses on socio-

economic well-being of the people on the war torn zones. The major project activities involve transformation of livelihoods through offering support on upgrading the quality of people's welfare through the lenses of education, housing, employment, and reducing poverty levels (Costanza et al., 2019; Njoku, 2016). In Africa, NGOs supported by international bodies have grown since the post-colonization era with a foreseeable mission that has widely led to development, especially in marginalized areas. Communities living in imperiled zones have benefitted from humanitarian projects that have supported their well-being in the society. Initiated projects focus on boosting the livelihoods where present governments are affected by weak institutions. According to Monsiapile et al., (2016) projects initiated by NGOs aim at alleviating poverty among citizens. The growth of NGOs has been deemed as the best platform to fight poverty and underdevelopment which was also exacerbated by governments failure to prioritize development in post-independence era. International bodies that offer grants, place emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of these projects to ensure the initiatives benefit the intended persons (Casey et al., 2016 & Otieno, 2016).

In Kenya, NGOs have over time been perceived as preferred agencies to spearhead development particularly in marginalized regions. NGO Coordination Board, (2019) noted that NGOs in Kenya have experienced exponential growth between 2008 and 2012, increasing by 3000 from 5600. This growth has been attributed to coordination by the government and the management of NGOs in order to meet the objectives of such organizations. In 1998, the GOK passed an act of parliament that envisioned all NGOs to work under control of NGO boards which monitors and evaluates the success of projects undertaken by formed organizations. This has seen the success of many NGO-based organizations in the effort to assist governments in reaching out to less fortunate in the society (Kitonga, et al., 2016).

Project evaluation in NGOs is mainly conducted within implementation timeframes, which is attributed to availability of allocated resources for the exercise. While NGOs aim at fulfilling donor mandates, there are limited reports describing if the positive influences listed during project exit reports are still in existence. Initiatives on social economic empowerment of project beneficiaries are also evaluated within implementation timeframes hence difficult to tell whether beneficiaries still reap benefits from the interventions. The major social economic initiatives carried out by NGOs in Nakuru County focus on providing education support for street children to get them off the streets; rehabilitation of commercial sex workers; resettlement of internally displaced persons from ethnic and land disputes; agricultural value chain addition and supporting victims of gender-based violence to rebuild themselves. An existing perception among the players in the development arena depicts that beneficiaries are mainly perceived as recipients of aid and not participators in the process of project development thus negatively impacting the influence and sustainability of projects post implementation period. Caritas, an NGO with presence in Nakuru county has been on the forefront in providing social economic empowerment opportunities to the street children, IDPs and commercial sex workers hence placing it as an ideal organization to inform the study considering it addresses three of the major social economic initiatives. The researcher, therefore, used Caritas Nakuru as a case study to

evaluate the influence of projects sponsored and managed by Caritas on the socio-economic wellbeing of project beneficiaries in Nakuru County, Kenya.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Overview of NGOs role in socio-economic wellbeing*

For decades, NGOs have served a vital role in the community towards enhancing social-economic development for individuals and groups in arid and semi-arid regions across the world. Choto et al., (2020) underscores that NGOs have been on the on forefront in serving the public as entities that are mission driven to the service with a non-financial objective. Basically, NGOs are predominantly established to address humanitarian problems for the social benefit of the community. These entities are also people centered and aim to be accountable to the beneficiaries and funders on the resources at their disposal. Hence, transparency and honesty are core values of development organizations.

The focus of most NGOs is premised on enhancing the social economic wellbeing of vulnerable groups through various levels of engagement. Hamilton et al., (2010) categorized NGOs by their orientation stating that organizations can be charitable, service oriented, empowerment focused and participatory in nature. Charity oriented organizations barely include their beneficiaries in decision making and often focus on providing directly to the needs of the poor by giving food donations, clothes, or medicine. Service oriented organizations are those where the type of service and program is designed by the organization and target beneficiaries are expected to participate in the implementation of the program. Some services rendered in this category include provision of family planning services and education programs (Idahosa, 2008).

For participatory oriented NGOs, beneficiaries are expected to participate through contribution of resources such as labor, money, land or other materials while NGOs provide funding for the projects. Such projects are run by these organizations are referred to as self-help projects. Lastly, Kitonga et al., (2016) states that empowerment-oriented NGOs work in collaboration with beneficiaries on capacity building while overcoming the problems that encompasses political, social, and economic affecting their lives. On the same project strategists make sure projects are achievable through monitoring and evaluation on the progress of the project while addressing the gaps that may cause project failure (Hamilton et al., 2010; Choto et al., 2020).

NGOs in Africa focus on offering solutions to economic crisis which has contributed greatly to the growth of societies. In the last three decades launched projects in most regions with societal and environmental challenges have transformed the livelihoods of the involved communities. Many NGOs prioritize development projects which encompass community mobilization, offering environmental solutions, building health facilities, promotion of child's rights laws, fight against child labor and human trafficking and advancement of sexual and reproductive health education etc. (Idahosa, 2018; Otieno, 2016).

Over time, in various regions in sub-Saharan Africa, NGOs have proved to be more effective in offering services to the minorities and marginalized groups as compared to the government. The rationale behind this argument has been that the

government offers services to a bigger group of people hence unable to decentralize its services to the very last person while NGOs on the other hand can focus on a smaller group of people and concentrate their efforts on them hence able to achieve better results than the government would. Hence, NGOs were seen as preferred agencies to spearhead development by donor agencies (Kitonga et al., 2016; Oyugi, 2014).

The socio-economic role of NGOs has also been acknowledged in Kenya to contribute to sustainable development by supporting vulnerable groups of people to access health services, education support and rural development for underprivileged families (Ariadi et al., 2018), and financial aid for women groups and financial literacy education for the youths (Diriba, et al., 2019). More so, NGOs have been on the front line advocating for equal access to resources with the hope to alleviate poverty and lessen income disparity through women empowerment and community-centered approaches (Oyugi, 2014).

Rotich and Karanja (2020) stress that NGOs in Kenya are drivers of economic growth especially in arid and semi-arid regions where government services seem to be inadequate for sustaining the livelihoods. Their input on the social-economic aspect of development have been anchored in collaborative efforts with the government and society members. Furthermore, the strategic plan for Medium- and long-Term Plan of Kenya Vision 2030 acknowledges that partnership between the state and non-state actors can greatly enhance socio-economic development. NGOs have also been known to greatly support linkages for the vulnerable groups and less privileged in the society to start income generating activities (Madu & Muhingi, 2017).

### ***Success of NGO Education Projects for Street Children***

The influx of children on the streets is attributed to poverty, alcoholism among parents, domestic violence, political instability, orphan hood and child abuse among others (Niboye, 2013). Homeless children are further subjected to tough conditions that deny them access to the necessities of food, education, shelter, water, and healthcare. Research further shows that street children end up having dysfunctional families in future that end up like them thus creating a vicious cycle of poverty and street dwellers (Jianxiu, 2006; Mutua, 2019; Niboye, 2013).

Niboye (2013) further asserts that in African countries, the growth of urban cities has also influenced the influx of street children, who migrate to urban centers with the hope of a better chance at life as compared to the rural areas. To handle this social menace, both state and non-state actors have concerted their efforts to address the various social reasons that contribute to the growth of street families (Jillo & Rambo, 2018). Stakeholders have come to appreciate the importance of having coordinated mechanisms that support sustainable rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and re-socialization programs noting that rehabilitation centers ought to be transitory places for re-uniting children to their families (Mutua, 2019).

Rehabilitation programs for street children are perceived as a complex affair because of the myriad of intertwining challenges that result to homeless children and families (Jianxiu et al., 2006; Jillo & Rambo, 2018; Mutua, 2019). Thus, the success of rehabilitation programs is pegged on the unity of stakeholders in addressing the social ills that contribute to and affect street

families. Non-Governmental Organizations have contributed greatly to mobilizing support for street children to access education, health, shelter, and food, appreciating that street children support program cannot solely be the government's responsibility. As such, NGOs have supported rehabilitation of street children and youth through behavior change programs that aim at re-directing the individual into acceptable societal norms (Mutua, 2019). Rehabilitation programs are all rounded in that they not only offer counselling services, but also offer access to both formal and informal education, trainings on personal hygiene and access to medical services (Mutua, 2019; Niboye, 2013).

Elmenshawy (2015) summarized NGO approaches to rehabilitation into three groupings: those based in the community, those based in the streets, and center-based. The community-based category is a preventive and more sustainable measure applied to prevent future cases of the rehabilitated children finding their way back to the streets by incorporating their parents or guardians in identifying and addressing the reasons behind their child or children opting for the streets. The street-based approach entails NGOs going to the children or youth in the streets and training them from that area. This is considered much better as the beneficiaries feel they are best understood when operating from their area of comfort without being judged. Lastly, the Center-based approach entails having the beneficiaries come to a facility where they reside or congregate during their sessions. The success of this approach depends on how the children or youth were recruited. If done forcefully, they eventually seek a way to return to the streets than if done in a voluntary manner. Strikingly, majority of NGO approaches provide curative measures as opposed to preventative measures (Alem & Laha, 2016).

Empirical evidence on a study carried out in Africa, Asia and Latin America showed that in Africa, street dwellers were categorized as street children, without making distinction of whether they were children, youth or parents. In working with street dwellers, NGOs aim at providing social and economic solutions by complementing what the government has not fulfilled. Regarding the economic approach to empowering street dwellers, research shows that NGOs mainly provide trainings and life skills through vocational trainings without taking the extra mile to find out if the beneficiaries have a way to start up (Jillo & Rambo, 2018). According to vision 2030 strategic plan on Sustainable Development, its goal four agenda advocates for 'inclusive and equitable quality education that seeks to promote literacy levels and create opportunities for all (Ndung'u et al., 2011).' Kenya's education policy as captured in Vision 2030 focusses on the need for provision of education that is both locally and globally competitive, while enhancing individual wellbeing (Lawrence & Orodho, 2014).

The Kenya SDGs status report of 2019 emphasized on the need for providing social support to vulnerable children and prioritizing special needs education (GoK, 2019). The report further noted that CSOs such as Uwezo, VSO Kenya, and ZiziAfrique have played a critical role in bridging the education gap by providing status reports for all pupils lagging on enrollment in schools. Such project initiatives on education have made street children not to be left behind thus curbing absenteeism related issues in schools. While facilitating inclusivity, the government has employed officials to evaluate on success of NGO projects that embraces and enhances learning for street children while

implementing accelerated learning programs in schools to improve learner literacy levels (Lawrence & Orodho, 2014).

An observation made by NGOs Co-ordination Board survey report of 2019/2020 the most prioritized sector for many NGOs operating in Kenya is education dominating at 46.9%. Other sectors followed at 17%, for provision of relief services, 14% on health services and 23.1% on other humanitarian services (NGO Coordination Board, 2019). With the top 20 NGOs having ventured into education sector prioritizing on street children, the poor and orphans, their programmes have received more than 3.3 billion Kenya shillings in the last five years (Alem & Laha, 2016). According to Bandi et al., (2011) on education sector in Kenya, not all education programmes for street children have been successful. Many of the challenges have been evident on reporting and evaluating on the progress of education projects. Some challenges that have manifested in obstructing the growth of NGOs in the education sector are: lack of adequate funding especially with the free education program (Misra et al., 2011); compromised quality of education in rural and Arid and Semi-Arid areas (Muturi, 2021), teenage pregnancies and early marriages that result to school dropouts (Kahurani, 2020).

Free education as stipulated by various government policies is not entirely free as parents have to buy uniforms, books, contribute to repairs in schools and participate in other school projects not funded by the government (Dar, 2014). In Kenya, the Catholic Relief Services in the Coast province utilizes Kes.70 million annually to support orphans and vulnerable children to access education, while in Budalangi, they support vulnerable children through provision of uniforms, learning materials and capacity development of teachers (Otieno, 2016). On the other hand, SNV, Kenya Red Cross, Rockefeller Foundation, and UNICEF have been instrumental in supporting education programs in conflict areas by setting up temporary schools in IDP camps so children cannot miss out on education, while supporting peace building programs (Bandi, 2011).

Researchers do agree that education is a critical component to every country's growth and for it to be effective, it calls for all stakeholders to own it and protect it through legislative actions (Lawrence & Orodho et al., 2014; Mackatiani et al., 2016; Misra et al, 2011; Qasmi, 2016). Caritas offices across the globe have heavily invested in education fundamentally focusing on helping the underprivileged through scholarship programs, working with the vulnerable groups by encouraging them to execute their potential and nurturing the spirit of giving back to the society by placing emphasis on the Catholic Social Teachings (Brewer et. al., 2020).

NGO reports on street children account on rehabilitation and reintegration services within the project period but have no evidence if their interventions still hold post implementation (Alem & Laha, 2016). Such evaluation is hindered by lack of resources due to dependency on donor funded programs. Majorly, reports on success of some of these donor-funded programs focus on the immediate outcomes of behavior change as opposed to long term outcomes on socio-economic development if the beneficiaries (Mutua, 2019).

#### ***NGO Peace-Building Projects for Internally Displaced Persons***

The term peace building has been used across the globe as an all-encompassing cover for all stages of conflict and is aimed

at creating sustainable social change (Mohamed & Abdulrahman, 2014). Sustainable peace building is focused on reconstructing the society affected by conflict in a way that triggers of conflict are addressed and arrested to prevent future conflict (Abdi, 2020). Additionally, sustainable peace building should also factor in socio-economic reconstruction of a society, which is effective in addressing social tensions (Mohamed & Abdulrahman, 2014).

Developing countries that have faced war have also experienced higher crime rates by organized crime groups, internally displaced persons, and also become havens for terrorist groups to recruit (Mohamed & Abdulrahman, 2014). To address such problems, NGOs have taken active roles whenever there is violent conflict by providing emergency humanitarian aid; while in situations where the violence has been contained, the NGOs provide rehabilitation services through dialogue, and eventually support reconstruction by championing development. In Darfur, Sudan for instance, international aid organizations such as Darfur-Australia Network, OXFAM America, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) played an instrumental role in supporting reconstruction through supporting reconciliation programs between Sudan and South Sudan (Mohamed & Abdulrahman, 2014).

Although research shows that NGOs have a critical role in peace building, some scholars dispute this by indicating that the roles played by NGOs -both local and international- is exaggerated (Goodhand, 2007; Justino, 2008; Sanginga et al., 2007; Walton, 2009). This has been premised on NGOs being accused of seeking funding in the competitive donor world while failing to uphold the best interest of the victims of conflict. This was reported in Sri Lanka where national NGOs grappled with accusation bias of failing to take a neutral stand during conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction thus hindering their capacity to not only meet donor objectives, but also effectiveness in carrying out their work (Walton, 2009).

A similar case was observed in a case study conducted in seven countries: Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Liberia, Nepal, and Armenia-Azerbaijan where the impact of NGOs in conflict arenas was evaluated (Goodhand, 2007). From his findings, Goodhand (2007) concluded that effectiveness of NGOs is fueled by their tolerance to taking high risks, innovation in managing conflict and their ability to apply the 'do no harm' approach in implementing their activities, although they are highly affected by the operating political environment especially where politicians have a stake in conflict.

From a socio-economic perspective, violent conflict affects poor people more since they have no sustainable mechanisms to handle livelihood shocks and stressors (Justino, 2008). In retrospect, conflict destroys people's livelihoods, social capital, access to education and health, and leaves them with no room to have preferences. Justino (2008) further notes that research on conflict presumes that the poor are victims since they have no formal social or political organizations. He however observes that evidence is insufficient on the socio-economic depiction of poor people, and their motivations for engaging in conflict. Such a gap implies that NGOs could be supporting an illegitimate cause by failing to adequately understand their context of operation (Goodhand, 2007).

In Kenya, most inter-ethnic conflicts are fueled by disputes over natural resources (Leonhardt et al., 2002). In the management

of resource-based conflicts, research opines that building the social capital of people is effective in managing conflicts, since it cements relationships thus encouraging cohesion (Sanginga et al., 2007). Furthermore, NGOs have come to appreciate the role played by local village councils and elders in spearheading dialogue (Leonhardt et al., 2002). The success of NGOs in peace building is often derived from how well they understand local contexts which calls for customized approaches to conflict management. Sanginga et al., (2007) agree that economic aspects of communities during the reconstruction phase cannot be effectively achieved without building on social capital, citing that the more people feel connected to each other, the more they can build lasting relationships thus minimizing conflicts.

Abdi, (2020) while conducting research on the influence of NGOs in peace building concluded that effective socio-economic interventions during post-conflict phase should not only involve mediation but also use peace education as a platform for sustainability of interventions. Abdi's findings noted that peace education influenced sustainability of initiatives by 61.6%, while (Golicha, 2017) noted that peace education influenced conflict resolution by 77.8%. These findings support what Goodhand, (2007) had observed on importance of training groups in conflict on how to maintain peace.

The contribution of NGOs to peace building has been significant at both national and local levels, especially in the organization of local peace committees that uphold dialogue among conflicting groups and improve relationships that were once deteriorating (Leonhardt et al., 2002). Notably, much focus on NGOs in peace building has been placed on mediation, building intra and inter-personal relationships, improving the relationship between the communities and security forces, with less emphasis on creating self-sustaining people who are less vulnerable to conflict (Goodhand, 2007; Justino, 2008; Leonhardt et al., 2002; Walton, 2009).

### III. METHODS

On the theoretical framework, the study was based on Utilization -focused evaluation theory and stakeholder's theory. The study utilized descriptive research design on both qualitative and quantitative data. The target population was 594 respondents within three Caritas projects comprising of project managers, field officers and community project beneficiaries in Nakuru County. A sample size of 238 respondents was obtained using Yamane sample size formulae. Selection of the respondents was achieved using stratified sampling purposive sampling and random sampling technique. To increase face validity and content validity, research experts in the social science department gave their input through continuous supervision. Data collection was administered through structured and semi-structured questionnaires and interview schedules on different respondents and was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 25). Quantitative data were analysed in the form of figures, frequencies and percentages while qualitative data was analysed using content analysis in thematic form as per the research objective.

### IV. RESULTS

#### *Success of Caritas education projects on the social economic wellbeing of street children in Nakuru County*

The investigator analyzed whether the relief given to the street families had a significant impact on them using a simple bar graph on the respondents' responses. According to the analysis, the families of street children benefitted from the project where 10.46% of them benefitted to a great extent, 44.35% of them benefitted to a greater extent, 34.73% and the remaining 10.46% benefitted to a very great extent and to an excellent extent respectively. This has been well demonstrated in Figure 1.

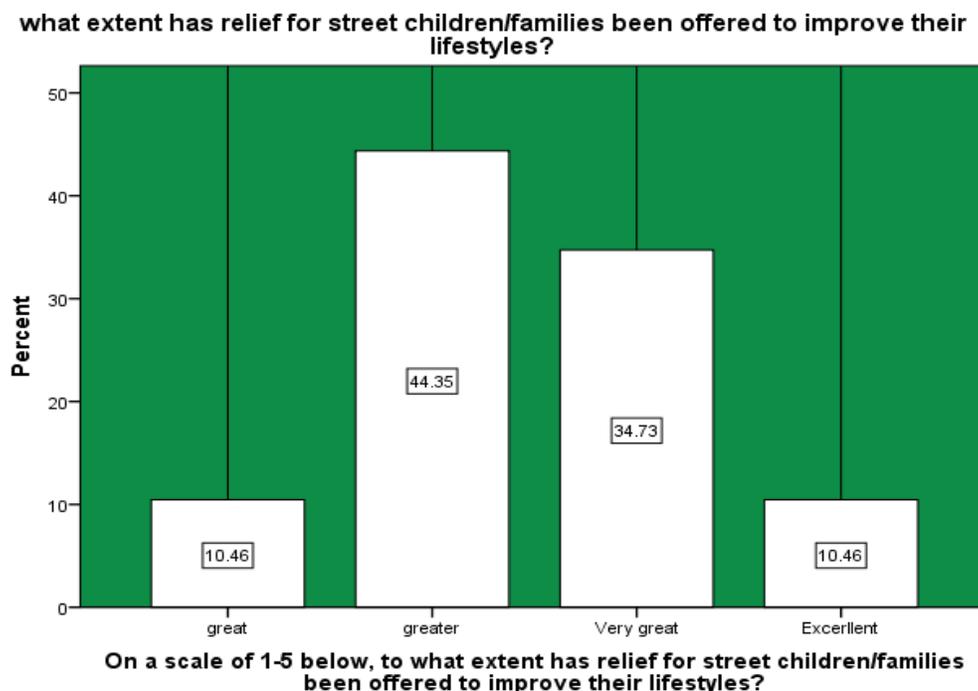
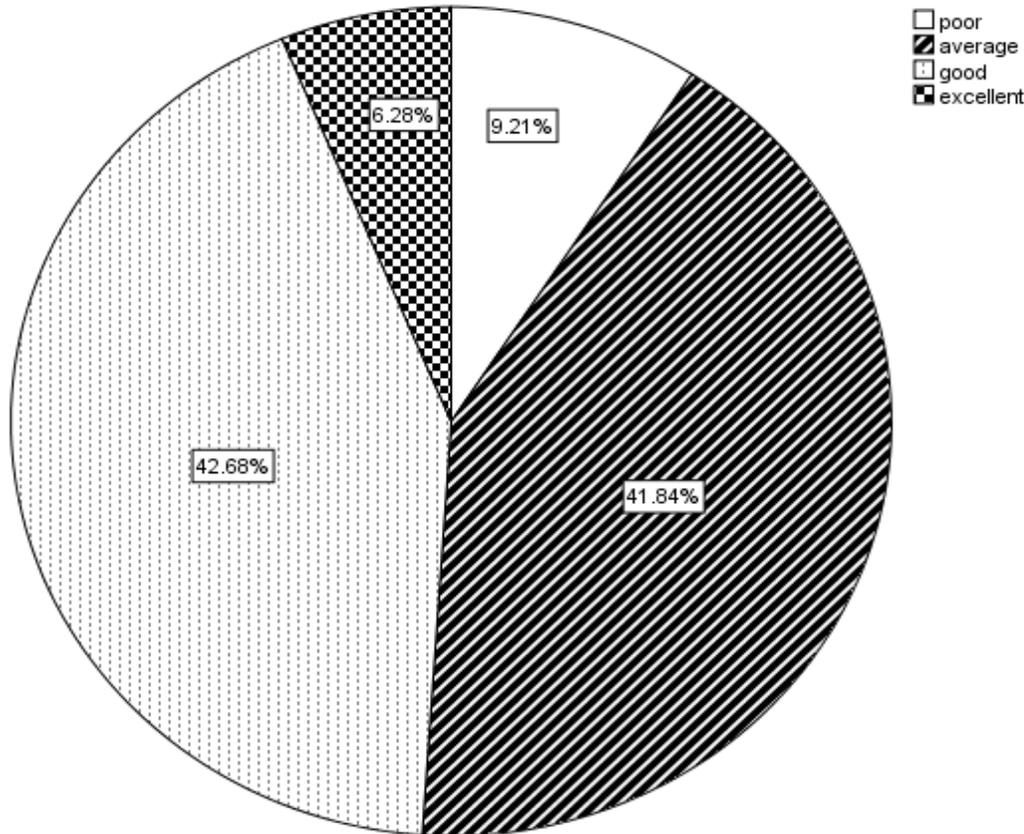


Figure 1: Level of relief for the street children/families being offered

**The extent to which families appreciate the role of Caritas in educating the street children in the region**

The researcher examined the extent that families appreciate the role of Caritas in educating the street children in the region. The results for this examination were presented in Figure 2.

**To what extent have families appreciated the role of Caritas in educating the street children in the region?**



**Figure 2: Extent to which families appreciated the role of Caritas in educating street children in the region.**

Figure 2 shows that approximately 43% of the families appreciated the role of Caritas project in educating the street children in the region to a very great extent, at the same time 42% appreciated greatly while 6% of the population said that the projects had an excellent effect and 9% of the respondents did not appreciate the Caritas project in terms of its role in educating the street children in the region.

**The extent to which the Caritas Project benefits on education empowered the street children and families**

To determine the effects of the Caritas Project benefits towards empowering the street families and children, a multiple response variable table was generated using SPSS that selected the most significant factor as proposed by the respondents. This is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Benefits of Caritas Education project on Street Children**

	Responses		
	N	Percent	Percent of Cases

Families benefited	How families have appreciated the role of Caritas in educating the street children in the region?	Q5_1 To what extent have families appreciated the role of Caritas in educating the street children in the region?	22	71.0%	71.0%
		Q5_3 On a scale of 1-5 below, to what extent has empowerment through skill-based learning been offered?	9	29.0%	29.0%
Total			31	100.0%	100.0%

Table 1 shows that about 71% of the street families appreciated the value of education and the empowerment it had created in the region. Also 29% of the respondents argued that the project had to a great extent empowered the society through skill-based learning that was being offered in the region.

**Extent to which social life has been enhanced through education programs**

Upon doing the examination, the researcher also sought to determine the extent to which social life had been enhanced through education programs. The researcher examined this factor using Table 2.

**Table 2: Extent to which social life has been enhanced through education programs**

1 Poor	2 Average	3 Good	4 Very good	5 Excellent
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	5.4%	57.7%	36.8%

Table 2 shows that 5.4% of the participants were of the idea that social life has been enhanced through education programs to a good extent, a very 57.7% of the participants indicated that social life had been enhanced through education to a very good extent and 36.8% participants suggested an excellent extent. Generally, the social life of the street children and families was to a very great extent enhanced through education programs.

**The achievement of Caritas peace-building projects on the socio-economic wellbeing of internally displaced persons in Nakuru County**

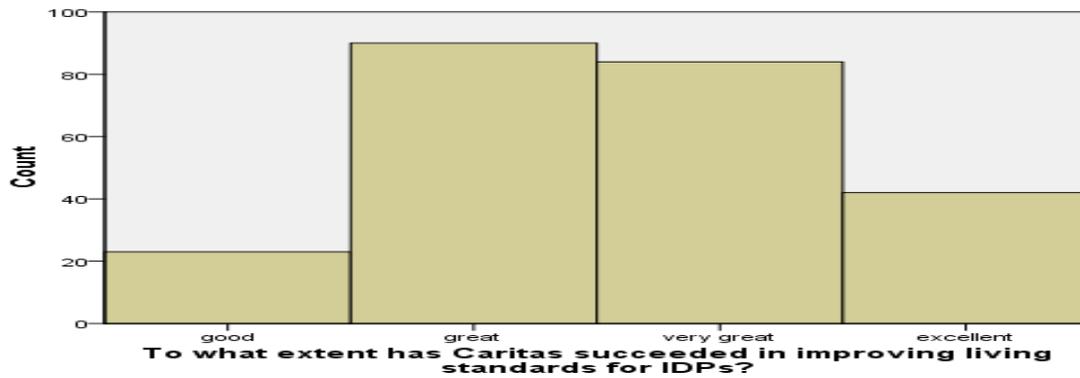
Another fundamental objective of this study was to investigate if the Caritas project succeeded in improving the living standard for IDPs through resolving conflict and campaigning for peace in the region. The results are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Analysis of Data on improving living standards and resolving conflicts in the region**

		Responses		
		N	Percent	Percent of Cases
Successes <sup>a</sup>	Q10_1-conflict resolution	23	92.0%	92.0%
	Q10_3- Peace campaigns	2	8.0%	8.0%
Total		25	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3 shows that Caritas projects is viewed to have improved the life standard of the people by 92%. The projects also helped to resolve the conflict rate and to promote peace in the

region by 8%, therefore the project had a big and great impact to the people in the region. The data was also visualized in Figure 3.



**Figure 3: Level of success of the project in improving living standards of the IDPs**

**The achievement of Caritas social welfare projects on the socio-economic wellbeing of commercial sex workers in Nakuru County**

Another major goal of the project was to investigate whether the project succeeded in its rehabilitation programs that sought to enhance behavioral change and fund vocational skills for enterprise development as well as attaining formal education for beneficiaries. Combining all the three concerns in form of questions i.e., Q16\_1, Q16\_2, and Q16\_3 in a multiple response in Table 4, the researcher managed to make inferences on the achievement of Caritas social welfare projects.

**Table 0: Tabulation of responses on behavioral change, vocational skills and formal education**

		Responses		
		N	Percent	Percent of Cases
\$Reforms_made <sup>a</sup>	Q16_1- Vocational skills	27	67.5%	73.0%
	Q16_2- Behavioral change	12	30.0%	32.4%
	Q16_3- Formal education	1	2.5%	2.7%
Total		40	100.0%	108.1%

Table 4 shows that the Caritas project has helped 67.5% of the people by making it possible for them to attain formal education, also 30% of the target population in the region were of the idea that the project has helped in rehabilitation programs that enhanced behavioral change while only 2.5% of the population suggested that the project only funded vocational skills.

**V. DISCUSSIONS**

The Caritas project worked hard to improve education for disadvantaged groups, including street children, through a variety of means such as providing access to education, supporting the development of educational infrastructure, and promoting educational opportunities. This reflects the postulations in literature by Kitonga, et.al., (2016) on successes of many NGO-based organizations in the effort to assist governments in reaching out to less fortunate in the society.

The extent to which social life has been improved through educational programs is evident to have been considerably improved. The analysis suggest that education can have a significant positive impact on social life, as it can provide individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to participate fully in their communities and society. Thus, the project had a hugely positive impact on the lives of the beneficiaries as argued by Beegle et.al., (2016) who highlight the

merits of NGO-based organizations in the transformation of livelihoods.

The analysis found that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Caritas can play a crucial role in providing rehabilitation programs that aim to enhance behavioral change and support vocational skills development and enterprise creation for disadvantaged individuals, including those who may have struggled with addiction or other challenges. Again, based on the observations made, the analysis showed that Caritas project has aided 67.5% of the population by enabling them to pursue formal education. Additionally, 30% of the population in the region believed that the project had assisted in rehabilitation programs that enhanced behavioral change, while only 2.5% believed that the project had only funded vocational skills as posited by Jillo and Rambo (2018) and Mutua (2019).

Caritas project played a crucial role in improving living standards for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and in supporting conflict resolution and peace campaigns. The results from the analysis implied that people's quality of life has increased by 92% because of the Caritas projects. The initiative also contributed by 8% to the reduction of conflict and the promotion of peace in the area, so it significantly impacted the local populace as reported by Bandi (2011). The analysis revealed similar findings to Justino (2008) as Caritas project helped the region in improving the living

standard of the people as well as resolving the conflicts among the people while advocating for peace.

Education can influence social life, as it can provide individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to participate fully in their communities and society. The analysed results demonstrated that the Caritas project has aided 67.5% of the population by enabling them to pursue formal education. Additionally, 30% of the region's residents believe the project has assisted in trying to rehabilitate programs that have enhanced behavioral change, while only 2.5% of the population believes the project has supported vocational skills. These findings conform to the works of Soko *et al.*, (2021) and Overs (2015).

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concludes that the Caritas education project had a great impact on the social economic wellbeing of street children in Nakuru County and it also revealed that the achievement of Caritas peace-building projects on the socio-economic wellbeing of internally displaced persons in Nakuru County was greatly successful as well as to examine the achievement of Caritas social welfare projects on the socio-economic wellbeing of commercial sex workers in Nakuru County was high. Generally, the success of development projects, including those implemented by NGOs like Caritas, can sometimes be difficult to measure and may depend on a range of factors, such as the specific goals and objectives of the project, the resources and capacity available, the needs and priorities of the target population, and the context in which the project is being implemented.

The study recommends that the government continues to provide avenues for education for street dwellers who may not want to join the formal education systems by making it easier for them to access informal education platforms. Similarly, stakeholders in NGO projects need to rally for public sensitization on the importance of enabling disadvantaged groups who feel isolated or excluded from the mainstream society to have a sense of belonging.

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