

Annual Report 2023



Supporting community initiative to tackle social, economic and environment issues

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What We Do

Sustainable Environment Management Action (SEMA) is a Singida based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which strives to fight poverty and degradation in the rural areas of the poor and marginalized communities of Tanzania mainland. SEMA was registered under the Societies Ordinance Cap. 337 on the 10th March 1998. The organization was also awarded a Certificate of Compliance No. 1594 for Non-Governmental Organizations under Act No. 24 section 11(3) of 2002 on June 2006. SEMA implements an integrated community development projects focusing on Water and Sanitation, Environment and Natural Resources Management, Good governance and Rural (Livelihood) Development in the rural areas of Singida region, paying special attention to disadvantages groups, through facilitating dialogue on issues such as access and ownership of resources, the management and flow of information as well as good governance and human rights. SEMA stimulates and supports the villagers' own initiatives and efforts to solve their problems.

VISION:

A socially and economically empowered society able to manage its environment sustainably

Mission:

Promoting socio-economic and environmental improvement of rural communities through natural resources management, water & sanitation, education and rural development.

Core Values:

Integrity, Commitment, Solidarity Respect, Responsiveness, Faithfulness, Accountability, Motivation



Message from Board Chairman



William Mafwere.

I am delighted to present to you our Annual programs implementation Report for Financial Year 2023. I am grateful to our clients, partners, team members, and other stakeholders for their relentless collaboration to make this happen. We finished the 2023 strongly, serving and improving the lives of about 35,000 poor and disadvantaged groups in livelihoods and health sectors. With these donor funds, hard to reach communities were reached through empowering people and building their capacity to generate income and sustainably manage their environment for present and future generation. Our approach on interventions have been sustainable in poverty reduction and economic development. The funds from our esteemed partners touched the lives of people from pregnancy stage through health promotion intervention and elderly through livelihoods programs. Our expectation for the coming financial year is to start in a very strong position that is ready to serve more people and achieve our longstanding goal of empowering people towards extreme poverty eradication. Therefore, together we can help hard to reach and disadvantaged groups live better lives and support their families in their communities. In conclusion I remain indebted to our partner and the government for investing their resources to reach the end program goal

Message from General Manager



Ivo Manyaku.

Dear valued Shareholders,

The year 2023 has been a remarkable one for SEMA organization, with incredible progress made for this financial year. It is a great honor to share with you the organization's annual report highlighting all that we accomplished during Fiscal Year 2023. In collaboration with our partners, we were able to make big strides towards our focus of helping the most hard to reach and disadvantaged groups to overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We started off the year 2023 with a huge milestone through which SEMA Singida and our esteemed partners signed agreements which facilitated the organization to kick off the implementation of projects. SEMA Singida committed to supporting 35,000 people with access to health services and improving their livelihoods by December 2023, and as we are presenting this annual report we sincerely report that we succeeded to reach 89% of the annual target as we agreed with our partners. In effort to promote livelihoods, health promotion, financial inclusion and climate resilient agriculture projects joint efforts have been our pillar. We are looking forward to continuing empowering the hard to reach and disadvantaged groups in collaboration with our communities, esteemed partners and the government with the focus on contributing to the sustainable wellbeing for the next financial year 2024. Through your continued partnership, we hope to achieve much more, all for the benefit of the hard to reach and disadvantaged groups. Our interventions are focused on improving livelihoods and promotion of health services. I am proud of the progress we have made so far in providing sustainable solutions for our communities around healthcare services, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, livelihoods sectors and community development.

Serving the communities have been more important and I would like to thank each stakeholder for their active support and unshakable trust on our capacities to deliver on our desire goal. You have motivated us to unleash our potential for the next phase of our growth. On behalf of SEMA Singida, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to councils of Iramba, Ikungi and Manyoni, the communities we serve, our partners, supporters and all other friends of SEMA for your valuable support and contribution

Our Achievements

This year we achieved a significant milestone as we completed our 2018-2023 partnership strategic plan with Stromme Foundation East Africa and waiting for the new strategic partnership of 2024-2030 with the focus of inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for marginalized and disadvantaged groups and income generation and job creation for the poor

For the period of twelve (12) months we continued to consolidate our work on improving the lives of marginalized and disadvantaged groups through livelihood improvement, education, agriculture and health programs. In education sector we built early childhood care and education centers and renovated classrooms for primary schools, in livelihood improvement organized community saving groups for loans and credits, in youth programs were supported to create employment opportunities through life skills training and vocational skills and education skills training while for agriculture program we sustainably improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, their households and other value-chain stakeholders through enhanced income generation, novel biochar formulation value chains, market linkages, private sector partnerships and job creation



Livelihoods

SEMA partnered with Stromme foundation in a bid to eradicate poverty among the most rural and disadvantaged communities. Livelihood program has reached more than 6380(1,250M & 5124F) people through livelihoods interventions that includes community saving groups, technical vocational Education and Training, and enhanced livelihood commercial agricultural production interventions

In Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) intervention, a total of 321(154M&167F) marginalized and disadvantaged youth were reached through life skills, business and vocational skills training to enhance the employability skills for income generation activities and business development.

With the Community Managed Saving Groups (CMSG) project that aims at improving the livelihoods of rural and marginalized communities in rural areas of Singida region, it has been used as a vehicle for poverty eradication in very rural areas and marginalized areas that have not been reached by appropriate financial services. Through this intervention a total of 2,148(435M&1713F) beneficiaries through 87 community saving groups which were trained on the saving methodology and business planning and management as a tool for poverty eradication.



Education

SEMA Singida is committed to guaranteeing the right to an inclusive and quality education, "primarily" for children in marginalized and disadvantages areas. The organization's objective in Early Childhood Care and Education program is to improve learning environment of Early Childhood Care and Education centers, standard one classrooms for primary schools and caregivers and teachers' capacity building to ensure children in marginalized areas receive inclusive quality and integrated education based on a safe learning environment and quality services for children.



To achieve this, construct learning centers and renovate classrooms, trains teachers and strengthens the links between families, communities and schools. In education sector with funding support from Stromme foundation east Africa, SEMA is promoting education through ECCE and Bonga program to ensure inclusive quality education.

For Bonga project, the organization promoted inclusive quality education to youth aged 13-19 years old through the provision of life skills training package, vocational skills training and business skills training, as well as provision of education per se training through linkages with education institutions through back to school campaign and inclusion support by linking Bonga adolescents with disabilities to vocational training centers. Therefore, for the year 2023 a total of 371 (133M, 238F) Bonga adolescents were equipped with life skills, entrepreneurship, and vocational skills to enhance workforce-readiness skills for youth to engage in income-generating activities (IGAs) and wage employment which fosters adolescent employabilities.

For ECCE project, through the renovation of 3 classrooms and construction of 1 learning center a total of 3810(1856 boys and 1954 girls) standard I-III pupils from 15 primary schools. The organization also trained 30 (9M&21F) primary school teachers from Iramba, Ikungi, and Manyoni who were capacitated on digital learning and teaching methodologies for inclusive education learning

Health

SEMA with funding support from USAID Tanzania, works in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania, community health workers and other key strategic partners such as JHPIEGO, TCDC and Amani Girls to increase the demand for and use of quality integrated RMNCAH services by women and their families. The intervention is comprehensively addressing all harmful cultural practices and other forms of gender-based violence through transformative gender education at community level that is promoted to all communities within the project areas by the trained community health workers, peer champions and community volunteers

In general the intervention focuses to create the demand on the utilization of RMNCAH services by community members to reduce maternal and newborns materiality rates and the challenges facing adolescents.

With the funding from USAID, SEMA implemented USAID-Afya Yangu Project, a total of 19,084 women, youth and men were reached in 11 wards of Kondoa district council. In USAID-Afya yangu project through Social Behavioral Change and Communication (SBCC) package a total of 10,954 whereby 5,715 were pregnant women, 4,539 were partners of pregnant women and 360 were relatives reached with integrated SBC messages on maternal, newborn health and family planning and 340 clients were referred ANC services with the ultimate aim of improving their health status by transforming socio-economic cultural norms and supporting the adoption of healthier behaviors. On Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) package a total of 8,130 (3,670M & 4,460F) youth were reached through in and out door school clubs, leverages and symposium.



Agriculture



Despite the fact that Agriculture is mainstay of economic development for 85% of people in Tanzania but with the changing climate the production and productivity has been affected tremendously.

For this year 2023 SEMA in collaboration with the strategic partners such Norges Geotekniske Institutt (NGI), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Returkraft and Norsk Gjenvinning (NG) and Climate farming solutions (CFS) with the funding from NORAD implemented an intervention with project titled 'Enhanced Livelihoods for Commercial Agricultural Production (ELCAP)' that aimed at sustainably improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, their households and other value-chain stakeholders through enhanced income generation, novel biochar formulation value chains, market linkages, private sector partnerships and job creation.

Taking a focus of Singida region that is an area of intervention is characterized by semi-arid climate and is primarily dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Smallholder farmers who are dependent on rain-fed agriculture are considered the most vulnerable group to climate change impacts because of their sensitivity to climate variability. The region experiences low rainfall and short rainy seasons which are increasingly erratic due to climate change, with fairly widespread drought in one year out of four

Total rainfall ranges from only 500 mm to 800 mm per annum, with high geographical, seasonal and annual variation. There are two rather well-defined seasons, the short rainy season during the months of December to March and the long dry season from April to November. Despite the dry climate, the cropping area under irrigation is a mere 1.1% of the total area planted.

Numerically in agriculture sector the organization promoted enhanced livelihood commercial agricultural production interventions that reached 3,911 (3,244 female, 667 male) smallholder farmers who received training in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and biochar through their Saving Producer Groups (SPGs).



Areas of Project Interventions

Production and Productivity & Market linkages with private sector

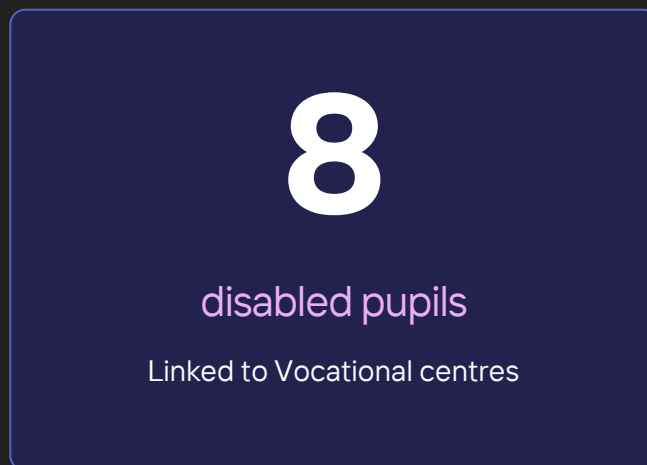
A total number of 3,911 (3,244 female & 667 male) smallholder farmers from 120 saving and Producer Groups (SPGs) have improved production, productivity, and quality of agricultural products. This was achieved through training smallholder farmers on Climate Smart Agriculture that included crop rotation, mulching, making organic pesticides, fertilizer, drought-tolerant, and pest resistant crop varieties and biochar formulations, farming by ripping and basin technologies. This has been made possible through training 80 Lead Farmers (66 female, 14 male) lead farmers and 13 (8F & 5M) extension workers on Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA practices) and biochar technologies from Iramba, Manyoni and Ikungi district councils. This part of intervention was done by the strategic partners; Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) all based in Norway, and Climate Smart Farming Solutions (CSFS) based in Zambia. Furthermore, smallholder farmers from 120 SPGs were provided with 120 Rippers to promote conservation farming, 500kgs of maize, 300kgs of sunflower, 200kgs of sorghum and 100kgs of pigeon peas to promote climate smart agriculture.



Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

Disability Inclusion

In education sector SEMA has created conducive environment to students with disability at Sukamahela primary school, the organization has supported Sukamahela primary school with leaning tools which are tablets, swings, mattress and television Screen as among of the requirement for pupils with cerebral palsy that will enable teacher to schedule properly learning session with session break that will allow pupils to watch different session through television. In total the organization improved the learning environment for 8(5boys & 3girls) disabled pupils. For youth in Bonga program the organization linked 8 adolescents with the colleges offering Saba Saba Rehabilitation Vocational Center in Singida municipal council



Environment and climate change

120(23M, 77F) pastoralist and smallholder farmers were trained on climate change resilience, adaptation and environment conservation as the measures and strategies towards adapting the effects of Climate Change for livelihoods improvement. Foristance, through ELCAP project 1,316(291M, 1,025F) smallholders farmers, 30(18M & 12F) community based facilitators and 13(7M & 6F)ward extension officers were trained on biochar technology as the strategy for dealing with the impacts of climate change to promote soil conservation.



Success Stories

Empowering Inclusive Education

A Transformative Success Story in Kisingu Village

In Iramba DC's Kisingu Village, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) project transformed the lives of marginalized households by establishing a local preschool, eliminating the hazardous 7-kilometer journeys children previously undertook. This intervention increased attendance rates, ensured children's safety, and improved early learning through child-centered teaching methods. Over two years, more than 50 children joined primary school with better literacy and numeracy skills. The project also empowered parents through the Baba Club and income-generating activities, fostering economic stability and community unity. The ECCE initiative, supported by the Stromme Foundation, SEMA, and the local government, stands as a testament to the power of inclusive education in transforming marginalized communities.




Zainab Kaweja Shilla's

Journey to Sustainable Farming

A 46-year-old farmer, Zainab Kaweja Shilla, embraced the ELCAP project to transform her agricultural practices. As a Lead Farmer and CMSG savings group treasurer in her Tanzanian village, Zainab saw the introduction of biochar technology as a chance to revolutionize her farming methods. Integrating biochar into her soil using basin farming methodology, she enriched her land with essential nutrients, retained moisture, and improved soil structure.

Despite financial constraints, Zainab strategically invested a 1,000,000 TZS loan from her savings group into quality seeds, organic fertilizers, and herbicides. Her dedication paid off as her fields flourished with vibrant crops, yielding abundant produce beyond her previous expectations.

Zainab's success inspired her community, encouraging fellow farmers to adopt sustainable techniques. Through the ELCAP project, Zainab's journey became a beacon of hope and resilience, ensuring food security and prosperity for generations in her village.

@reallygreatsite



Neema Wilson

creating job opportunities to youth

Neema Wilson, a 26-year-old from Iramba, transformed her life through the Bonga project. Previously dependent on her parents, Neema joined Bonga to gain self-awareness and confidence. With the skills and startup kits she received, Neema started a catering business with six other youths. This venture not only provided her with a steady income but also allowed her to employ fellow youth, giving them a chance to support their families.

@reallygreatsite

Her success didn't stop there. Neema acquired a plot of land and started a poultry business, further securing her financial independence. Neema's journey from dependency to entrepreneurship has not only empowered her but also created employment opportunities for others in her community, showcasing the profound impact of the Bonga project.



OUR PARTNERS

We are hugely grateful to all of our partners who put their trust in SEMA and enabled us to reach more people than ever, during a year of extraordinary challenges. Thank you.



Stromme Foundation
FIGHTING POVERTY



 Thank you!

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