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Local Non-Governmental Organizations Services and Socio-Economic Development in Rwanda: A Case of Rwanda National Union of Deaf (RNUD) in Kicukiro District

Mr. Deo Gasigwa¹ & Dr. Eugenia Nkechi Irechukwu²(PhD)

¹School of Business and Economics, Master Degree of Arts in Public Administration and Management (Community Development and NGO Management, Mount Kenya University, Kigali, Rwanda

²Mount Kenya University, Kigali, Rwanda

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to examine the role of local NGOs services in socio-economic development of Rwanda with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District. The descriptive research design with a mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative data were used to collect data by use of interview guide and questionnaire. The 153 respondents of the study were selected from the target population of 246 beneficiaries and staffs of RNUD using the Krejcie and Morgan table with a simple random and census method of selecting the sample size. The descriptive results of the first objective showed a strong agreement among the respondents (mean=4.284) regarding the positive effect of local NGOs income generating services on socio-economic development. This finding was further supported by the correlation analysis, which revealed a significant and positive relationship between LNGOs income generating services and improved welfare ($r=0.930$, $sig=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.957$, $sig=0.00$), and improved livelihoods ($r=0.972$, $sig=0.00$). These results indicate that local NGOs' income generating services play a crucial role in promoting socio-economic development in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda. The results of the second objective indicated a strong agreement among the participants (mean=4.279) regarding the positive effect of LNGOs training services on socio-economic development. This was further supported by correlation analysis, which revealed a strong and significant relationship between LNGOs training services and improved welfare ($r=0.966$, $sig=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.993$, $sig=0.00$) and improved livelihoods ($r=0.993$, $sig=0.00$). These results suggest that capacity building, training farmers, increasing job opportunities, teaching new agricultural techniques, and raising awareness through local NGOs' training services contribute to socio-economic development in RNUD, Rwanda. The third objective of this study was to explore the relationship between local NGOs' poverty reduction services and socio-economic development. Its descriptive results indicated a strong agreement among respondents (mean=4.350) regarding the positive effect of local NGOs poverty reduction services on socio-economic development. The correlation analysis further

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supported these findings, showing a significant and positive relationship between LNGOs poverty reduction services and improved welfare ($r=0.952$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.993$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), and improved livelihoods ($r=0.993$, $\text{sig}=0.00$). The study's findings indicate that local NGOs in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda, contribute significantly to socio-economic development through livestock provision, poverty reduction programs, and income-generating and training services.

Keywords: *Local NGOs Services, Socio-Economic Development, Rwanda National Union of Deaf (RNUD), Kicukiro District, Rwanda*

1. Introduction

Despite, the existence of many local NGOs in Rwanda, their role in income generating, training beneficiaries in capacity building and eradicating poverty is very stingy compared to how individuals and the owners perceive and mobilize their activities as the roadmap for socioeconomic development though others take it as the ones that promote dependency syndrome among the people (Abakunzi, et al., 2020). The main purpose of local NGOs is to address the issues hindering the education and health sectors, the issues concerning poor housing and basic needs in case of emergency (Franco, 2021). These priorities and purpose are shared with the government institutions with other stakeholders that are concerned with the well-being of the individuals most in developing countries (Patel, 2015).

Therefore, the local NGOs do not have profit making motive since their objectives are to enhance socio-economic development of local communities through helping the poor from extreme poverty to better standards of living, improved welfare and livelihoods (Tortajada, 2016). However, across the world the people under the line of poverty and extreme poverty are 689 million people that make 9.2% of the world population, 42% of the sub-Sahara Africa living in extreme poverty despite of 8.587 United Kingdom NGOs (World Bank, 2021). In Rwanda, there was 56.9% of population below poverty line, 37.9% of population under extreme poverty despite the existence of over 1213 local NGOs that are concerned with the same issues (NISR, 2018). Though, the current statistics show that the headcount poverty rate was increased by 5.1% in 2021 (World Bank, 2021).

However, there is no single study was conducted to assess the role of local NGOs services in socio-economic development. The fewer studies conducted in this field such as the study of Abakunzi, et al., (2020), Uwandinda and Kamande (2021) have ignored and given less attention the local NGOs services such as income generating, training the beneficiaries on capacity building and poverty reduction services to enhance the welfare, livelihoods, and standard of living of the Rwandan society. It is in this regard the research seeks to conduct this research to investigate the role of local NGOs services on socio-economic development of Rwandan Society with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District.

1.1 Objectives of the study

1.1.1 General objective

The general objective of this research was to examine the role of local NGOs service in socio-economic development of Rwanda with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District.

1.1.2 Specific objectives

- (i) To assess the role of local NGO income generating services on socio-economic development of Rwanda with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District.
- (ii) To evaluate the effect of local NGO training services on socio-economic development of Rwanda with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District.
- (iii) To examine the relationship between local NGOs poverty eradication services and socio-economic development of Rwanda with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District.

2.1 Empirical Review

2.1.1 Local NGO income generating services and socio-economic development.

The previous empirical research conducted by Busienei (2017) concentrated on income generating strategies and financial sustainability in Kenya with descriptive research design and 127 respondents selected by stratified random sampling from the list of NGOs in Nairobi County. He also used questionnaire and interview guide data, and the collected data were analysis with SPSS (Statistical Product and Service Solution) descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings further show that funding strategies had a mean of 11.68, income generating project strategies had 9.62 while cost recovery strategy and capacity building had 8.21 and 5.69, respectively. With R Square of 0.589 (58.9%), the model used in this study was fit. In general, the study found that all variables had convincing evidence that there is a greater association between fundraising and finance sustainability. Most respondents agreed that their sustainability was guaranteed for life as they received substantial grants to support projects. This study recommends that NGOs explore their strategies to ensure sustainability. However, the need for ongoing fundraising is part of what ensures the creativity and innovation of NGOs, while also being a drain on financial and human resources.

The empirical research conducted by Uwandinda and Kamande (2021) focused on the role of NGOs income generating services and rural women empowerment in Rwanda, they adopted descriptive research design where 97 respondents were selected by use of census and simple random sampling. The results of the research showed that showed that 83 (85.6%) of respondents strongly agreed that the Isaro programme offers capacity building through training, 84 (86.6%) of respondents strongly agreed that Isaro program offers access to credit, 85 (87.6%) of respondents that the Isaro programme has group saving scheme as a service offered to rural women, 84 (86.6%) of respondents strongly agreed that Isaro programme offers *mutuelle de santé* as a service to rural women, 76 (42.3%) of respondents before joining Isaro programme saved seasonal average of money from 0 to 10000 Rwf to rural women, 25 (25.8%) of respondents after joining Isaro programme saved seasonal average of money from 40000 to 50000 Rwf to rural women.

The same research of Uwandinda and Kamande (2021) also proved that there is there is a relationship between group saving scheme and participation in family economic development services with ($r=0.731$ and $0.00 < 0.05$), group savings scheme and participation in decision making at family level has ($r =0.822$ and $\text{sig}=0.00 < 0.05$), group saving scheme and livelihood development which has a (r of 0.671 and $0.00 < 0.05$), accessibility to credit and capacity building through training that has a ($r=0.711$ and $0.00 < 0.05$) level of significance. Recommendation of the study was addressed to rural women, Isaro programme and government recommending that rural women should be involved in income generating services and owning assets that becomes the basis of participation in both family and community development services and in decision making process, the programme should

increase training and awareness to ensure capacity building of rural women which results into sustainable empowerment of rural women

2.1.2 Local NGO training services and socio-economic development

The research conducted by Borychowski, *et al.* (2021) focused on farmers training and socioeconomic determinants of small family farms reliance in selected central and eastern European countries in Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Serbia. Using a database of over 3500 farms, the resilience of the farms was calculated, and then the impact of selected factors on that resilience was determined. The research showed that the production scale was the key determinant of the resilience of farms. To achieve higher benefits, increasing production should be combined with strengthening the market integration of agricultural producers. The producer's position in the food supply chain determined the farm's income situation (economic stability). This shaped the quality of life of the family members (social stability). Identifying the effects of those dependencies may provide recommendations for the policy of supporting small-scale family farms in the analyzed countries.

The research of Mutunga (2017) concentrated on job creation and socio-economic development with a survey of young entrepreneurs in Gasabo District of Rwanda. The research targeted 102 entrepreneurs from whom 98 young entrepreneurs. The researcher also used descriptive statistics and IBM SPSS version 21 in the data entry and analysis processes. The findings showed that these young entrepreneurs' jobs are growing day after day and contributing to Rwanda's socio-economic development, with 53.1% of all respondents saying that they contribute to the country's socio-economic development through tax, hiring their peers and others, online service provision and bringing goods and services closer to customers. However, these businesses don't thrive without challenges.

The same research of Mutunga (2017) also revealed that 55.1% of all respondents pinpointed access to capital as the major challenge to job creation noting that it was a challenge for them, and it is today a challenge to youth who want to venture into entrepreneurship. As a way forward to this challenge, young entrepreneurs call for the Government, private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to increase efforts in facilitating access to financial and technical supports, encourage innovation and giving taxes incentives to young entrepreneurs. Hence, based on the results of the study and challenges the researcher recommended the youth not to wait for the government to find job for them to go for vocational training services that are supported for the local NGOs to look for support of going back to school and ensure they attain socioeconomic development.

2.1.3 Local NGOs poverty eradication services and socio-economic development

The research conducted by Suharko (2017) focused on the roles of NGOs in rural poverty reduction, the qualitative research design was used and the 97% of the participants asserted that NGOs played a significant role in promoting sustainable development at the international level. NGOs are going beyond their primary focus on governments and starting to address large corporations. In this vein, NGOs have focused attention on the social and environmental impacts of business activity, helped in part by advances in information and communications technology. Thus, the researchers recommend the NGOs beneficiaries to use wisely the support given by the NGOs to alleviate poverty.

The empirical research conducted by Bhaskar & Geethakutty (2011) using qualitative research design on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Rural Development found that the growth of NGOs over the past few decades has given them an increasingly significant role in poverty reduction and community development. This has led them into forming a distinctive

sector within civil society. This role has been due in part to the belief that NGOs are efficient and responsive to the problems of the poor, weak and vulnerable groups at the grass-root levels.

The study conducted by Thanabalasingam and Asankha (2014) has revealed that that NGO intervention in poverty alleviation programs has led to a considerable development in the living standards of people in Sri Lanka. This research has placed a lot of emphasis on elements such as family income, health and education facilities that have improved because of the introduction of NGO activities. The results of the statistical estimate have in an equivalent way indicated that the academic level of household individuals has an effective impact on the benefits of households in reducing poverty.

2.2 Research gap

Previous empirical research studies have examined various aspects of local NGO activities, such as income generating services, training services, and poverty eradication services, but have given less attention to their direct impact on socioeconomic development. For instance, Busienei (2017) focused on income generating strategies and financial sustainability of NGOs, while Uwandinda and Kamande (2021) explored the role of NGOs' income generating services in rural women empowerment in Rwanda. However, these studies did not specifically investigate the relationship between local NGO services and improved welfare, living standards, and livelihoods.

Similarly, research conducted on local NGO training services and socioeconomic development, such as the study by Borychowski et al. (2021) on farmers' training in selected European countries and Mutunga's (2017) survey of young entrepreneurs in Gasabo District, Rwanda, primarily emphasized capacity building and job creation rather than examining the role of local NGO training services themselves in socioeconomic development.

Furthermore, research conducted on local NGO poverty eradication services and socioeconomic development, such as Suharko's (2017) study on NGOs' roles in rural poverty reduction and the research by Bhaskar and Geethakutty (2011) on the role of NGOs in rural development, focused on rural development, poverty alleviation, and the intervention of NGOs. They did not specifically analyze the impact of local NGO poverty reduction services on socioeconomic development in terms of improved welfare, living standards, and livelihoods.

Therefore, the need for this current research arises from the gaps in previous studies, which have not fully examined the role of local NGO services in addressing issues related to poor living standards, unimproved welfare, and livelihoods. By investigating the direct impact of local NGO income generating services, training services, and poverty reduction services on socioeconomic development, this research aims to shed light on the crucial role that local NGOs play in promoting sustainable development and addressing socioeconomic challenges in the community..

3. Materials and Methods

The research design employed in this study was a descriptive research design, which allowed for a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative approach involved conducting interviews with the staff of RNUD and thematically analyzing the data. The quantitative approach involved administering questionnaires to gather data from beneficiaries and stakeholders, which were then analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

The target population for this study consisted of 246 individuals, including 9 staff members, 8 stakeholders, and 229 beneficiaries of RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda. To determine the sample size, the researcher referred to Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) table, which resulted in a sample size of 153 respondents. This included 9 staff members, 136 beneficiaries selected

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through simple random sampling, and 8 stakeholders selected through a census method. Sampling techniques used in this study included census and simple random sampling. Census method was used for selecting the 9 staff members and 8 stakeholders, while simple random sampling was used to select 136 beneficiaries from the target population.

Data collection methods involved the use of questionnaires and interview guides. The questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data from 144 respondents (136 beneficiaries and 8 stakeholders). The Likert scale with 5-point rating was utilized in the questionnaire. The interview guide was used to collect qualitative data from 9 staff members. Interviews were conducted after quantitative data collection, and the conversations were recorded for later thematic analysis.

Data collection procedures included distributing the questionnaires to all respondents and collecting them after two weeks. Additional time was provided for those who had not completed the questionnaires. For the interviews, the researcher recorded the conversations, and the transcripts were shared with the interviewees for verification. Reliability and validity of instruments were ensured through pilot studies conducted with 10 respondents each round. The content validity index was assessed using Cronbach's alpha, and if it exceeded the standard of 0.7, the instruments were considered valid. The reliability was assessed by checking the consistency and repeatability of the pilot study results.

Data analysis involved descriptive and inferential statistics using SPSS. Descriptive statistics were used to calculate means and standard deviations, while inferential statistics included Pearson correlation and multiple regression analysis to examine the relationships and effects of local NGO services on socioeconomic development. Ethical considerations were followed throughout the study. Participants' identities were kept confidential, voluntary participation was ensured, and the research complied with national data protection laws. The researcher maintained scientific integrity, avoided plagiarism, and provided appropriate references. The participants were informed about the research and gave their consent to participate.

4. Presentation of findings

4.1 Local NGOs Income generating services and socio-economic development.

The results of the study presented under this objective regarding Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGOs) income generating services and socio-economic development is assessed by measuring the participants level of agreement on the effect of LNGOs income generating services on various aspect of economic development. Hence, the correlation between the same was analyzed and the results provided insights on perceived effect and relationship between LNGOs income generating service and indicators of socio-economic development.

Table 1: LNGOs income generating services and socioeconomic development.

Statement	Mean	SD
Group saving scheme enhances socio-economic development	4.271	1.032
Accessibility to credit increase the level of socio-economic development	4.298	0.985
Food security increase socio-economic development	4.271	1.032
Fundraising enhances socio-economic development	4.271	1.019
Small scale businesses improve socio-economic development	4.311	0.960
Overall mean	4.284	

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 1 show that a mean of 4.271 and standard deviation (SD) of 1.032 implies that respondents strongly agreed that group saving scheme enhances socio-economic development. The mean of 4.298 and standard deviation of 0.985 implies that respondents strongly agreed that accessibility to credit increases the level of socio-economic development. The mean of 4.271 and standard deviation of 1.032 shows that respondents strongly agreed that food security increases socio-economic development.

The mean of 4.271 and standard deviation of 1.019 shows that respondents strongly agreed that fundraising enhances socio-economic development. The mean of 4.311 and standard deviation of 0.960 shows that respondents strongly agreed that small scale businesses improve socio-economic development. Hence, since the overall mean is 4.284, it implies that respondents strongly agreed that local NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) income generating services affect socio-economic development taking the case of RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 2: Assessment of socioeconomic development

Measures of socio-economic development	Mean	SD
Improved welfare enhances socioeconomic development	4.258	0.976
Better standard of living supports socioeconomic development	4.311	0.960
Improved livelihoods accelerate socio-economic development	4.311	0.960
Overall mean	4.293	

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 2 show a mean of 4.258 and standard deviation of 0.976 implying that participants of the study strongly agreed that improved welfare enhances socioeconomic development. The mean of 4.311 and standard deviation of 0.960 shows that respondents strongly agreed that better standard of living supports socioeconomic development. The mean of 4.311 and standard deviation of 0.960 shows that respondents strongly agreed that improved livelihoods accelerate socio-economic development. The overall mean is 4.293 which implies that respondents strongly agreed that there is socioeconomic development in RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 3: Correlation analysis between LNGOs income generating services and socio-economic development.

	Improved welfare	Better standard of living	Improved livelihoods
LNGOs income generating services	.930**	.957**	.972**
Pearson Correlation			
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000
N	151	151	151

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 3 show a positive and meaningful relationship between LNGOs income generating services and improved welfare ($r=0.930$ and $\text{sig}=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.957$ and $\text{sig}=0.00$) and improved livelihoods ($r=0.972$ and $\text{sig}=0.00$). Hence, this implies

that local NGOs income generating services have a positive and meaningful relationship with socioeconomic development in RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

4.2 Local NGOs training services and socio-economic development

The results of this analysis regarding the effect LNGOs training services and socio-economic development. This is assessed by participants agreements level on the effect of LNGOs training services on various aspects of socioeconomic development. The results of this objective explore the relationship between LNGOs training services and measures of socio-economic development (improved welfare, better standard of living and improved livelihoods). Hence, the results provided insights into perceived importance and correlation between LNGOs training services and indicators of socioeconomic development.

Table 4: LNGOs training services and socio-economic development

Statement	Mean	SD
Capacity building improves socioeconomic development	4.271	1.032
Training farmers enhance socioeconomic development	4.271	1.019
Increasing job opportunities accelerates socio-economic development	4.284	1.022
Teaching new agricultural techniques improve socioeconomic development	4.298	0.971
Awareness enhances socioeconomic development	4.271	1.019
Overall mean	4.279	

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results from Table 4 indicate that participants strongly agree that LNGOs training services have a positive effect on socioeconomic development. This is because the mean scores for all the statements from capacity building to awareness that enhance economic development range from 4.271 to 4.298 which indicates an important level of agreement (strongly agreed). The standard deviation ranges from 0.971 to 1.032 suggesting some variability in the responses but within an acceptance range.

The mean score of 4.279 further supports the findings that respondents agreed that LNGOs training services significantly affect socioeconomic development. These results indicate that capacity building, training farmers, increasing job opportunities, teaching new agricultural techniques, and raising awareness are all important aspects that affect socioeconomic development in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 5: Correlation analysis between LNGOs training services and socio-economic development.

		Improved welfare	Better standard of living	Improved livelihoods
LNGOs training services	Pearson Correlation	.966**	.993**	.993**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000
	N	151	151	151

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 5 reveal a strong positive and meaningful relationship between LNGOs training services and various aspects of socioeconomic development. The Pearson correlation coefficients indicate an important level of correlation, with values of 0.966 for the one between LNGOs training services and improved welfare, 0.993 for better standard of living and 0.993

for improved livelihoods. All these correlations are significant at the 0.01 level of significance, which suggests a significant and positive relationship between LNGOs training services and socioeconomic development. These findings indicate that as LNGOs provide training, there is a corresponding improvement in welfare, standard of living and livelihoods of RNUD beneficiaries in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

4.3 Local NGOs Poverty reduction services and socio-economic development

This part of the study as the objective indicates focuses on local NGOs, poverty reduction services and socioeconomic development. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with statement related to various aspects of poverty reduction services and socioeconomic development using a Likert scale of 5 to 1 strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Table 6: LNGOs poverty reduction services and socio-economic development

Statement	Mean	SD
Offering livestock accelerates socio-economic development	4.245	1.089
Provision of basics needs improve welfare	4.629	0.762
Provision of health insurance improves standards of living	4.298	0.985
Provision of school fees improves households' livelihoods	4.298	0.971
Provision of business starting finance enhances socioeconomic development	4.284	1.022
Overall mean	4.350	

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 6 show that respondents strongly agreed that offering livestock accelerates socioeconomic development, as shown by the mean score of 4.245 and standard deviation of 1.089. The respondents also strongly agreed that provision of basic needs improves welfare with a mean score of 4.629 and low standard deviation of 0.762. The respondents strongly agreed that provision of health insurance improves standard of living as shown by the mean score of 4.298 and standard deviation of 0.985.

The respondents also strongly agreed that provision of school fees improve households' livelihoods with a mean score of 4.298 and standard deviation of 0.971. The respondents strongly agreed that provision of business starting finance enhances socioeconomic development as indicated by a mean score of 4.284 and standard deviation of 1.022. Since, the overall mean score is 4.350 this implies that local NGOs poverty reduction services affects positively economic development among RNUD beneficiaries in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 7: Correlation analysis between LNGOs poverty reduction services and socio-economic development.

	Improved welfare	Better standard of living	Improved livelihoods
LNGOs poverty reduction services Pearson Correlation	.952**	.993**	.993**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000
N	151	151	151

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Data, 203

The results in Table 7 show a positive and meaningful relationship between local NGOs, poverty reduction services and improved welfare ($r=0.952$ and $\text{sig}=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.993$ and $\text{sig}=0.00$), improved livelihoods ($r=0.993$ and $\text{sig}=0.00$). Hence, this implies that there is a positive and meaningful relationship between local NGOs poverty

reduction services and economic development in Rwanda with a case of RNUD in Kicukiro District.

4.4 Regression analysis results

The regression results are meant to support the above descriptive and correlation analysis results. The same results showed a significant effect of LNGOs on measures of socioeconomic development. The first model revealed that LNGOs income generating services, training services and poverty reduction services significantly contribute to improved welfare, better standard of living and improved livelihoods.

Table 8: Model summary of local NGOs services and improved welfare in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.966 ^a	.933	.931	.25594

a. Predictors: (Constant), LNGOs poverty reduction services, LNGOs income generating services, LNGOs training services

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 8 shows a R square of 0.933 which implies that one unit increase in LNGOs services affect 93.3% variability in welfare improvement among the beneficiaries of RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 9: Analysis of variance (ANOVA) of local NGOs services and improved welfare in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	133.298	3	44.433	678.279	.000 ^b
Residual	9.630	147	.066		
Total	142.927	150			

a. Dependent Variable: Improved welfare

b. Predictors: (Constant), LNGOs poverty reduction services, LNGOs income generating services, LNGOs training services

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 9 show that a calculated significance level is lesser than the standard one (0.00 < 0.05) which implies that a positive and a meaningful relationship between local NGOs services and improved welfare among beneficiaries of RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 10: Regression coefficient of local NGOs services and improved welfare in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.090	.098		.913	.363
LNGOs income generating services	.027	.086	.027	.319	.050
LNGOs training services	.982	.136	.978	7.206	.000
LNGOs poverty reduction services	.015	.140	.015	.107	.015

a. Dependent Variable: Improved welfare

Source: Field Data, 2023

The findings in Table 10 revealed that the LNGOs income generating services had a positive and significant effect ($B=0.027$, $P<0.05$), implying an increase in income generating services provided by local NGOs is associated with welfare improvement. The LNGOs training services ($B=0.982$, $P<0.001$) and LHGOs poverty reduction services ($B=0.015$, $p< 0.05$) showed a positive and significant effect on welfare improvements. Hence, the results show that local NGOs services in terms of income generation, training, and poverty reduction play a significant role in improving welfare in RNUD of Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 11: Model summary of local NGOs services and better standard of living in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	.997 ^a	.994	.993	.07767

a. Predictors: (Constant), LNGOs poverty reduction services, LNGOs income generating services, LNGOs training services

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 11 shows a R square of 0.994 which implies that one unit increase in LNGOs services affect 99.4% variability in betterment of standard of living among the beneficiaries of RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda

Table 12: Analysis of variance of local NGOs services and better standard of living in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	137.484	3	45.828	7596.172	.000 ^b
Residual	.887	147	.006		
Total	138.371	150			

a. Dependent Variable: Better standard of living

b. Predictors: (Constant), LNGOs poverty reduction services, LNGOs income generating services, LNGOs training services

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 12 show that a calculated significance level is lesser than the standard one ($0.00 < 0.05$) which implies that a positive and a significant relationship between local NGOs services and betterment of standard of living among beneficiaries of RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 13: Regression coefficients of local NGOs services and better standard of living in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.007	.030		.223	.824
LNGOs income generating services	.113	.026	.114	4.331	.000
LNGOs training services	.554	.041	.561	13.398	.000
LNGOs poverty reduction services	.557	.042	.550	13.120	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Better standard of living

Source: Field Data, 2023

The findings in Table 13 revealed that the LNGOs income generating services had a positive and significant effect ($B=0.113$, $P<0.001$), implying an increase in income generating services provided by local NGOs is associated with betterment of standard of living. The LNGOs training services ($B=0.554$, $P<0.001$) and LHGOs poverty reduction services ($B=0.557$, $p<0.001$) showed a positive and significant effect on betterment of standard of living. Hence, the results show that local NGOs services in terms of income generation, training, and poverty reduction play a significant role in betterment of standard of living in RNUD of Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 14: Model summary of local NGOs services and improved livelihoods in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	.997 ^a	.994	.993	.07767

a. Predictors: (Constant), LNGOs poverty reduction services, LNGOs income generating services, LNGOs training services

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 14 shows a R square of 0.994 which implies that one unit increase in LNGOs services affect 94.4% variability in livelihoods improvement among the beneficiaries of RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 15: Analysis of variance (ANOVA) of local NGOs services and improved livelihoods in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	137.484	3	45.828	7596.172	.000 ^b
Residual	.887	147	.006		
Total	138.371	150			

a. Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods

b. Predictors: (Constant), LNGOs poverty reduction services, LNGOs income generating services, LNGOs training services

Source: Field Data, 2023

The results in Table 15 show that a calculated significance level is lesser than the standard one ($0.00 < 0.05$) which implies that a positive and a meaningful relationship between local NGOs services and improved livelihoods among beneficiaries of RNUD in Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

Table 16: Regression coefficients of local NGOs services and improved livelihoods in RNUD, Kicukiro, Rwanda

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.007	.030		.223	.824
LNGOs income generating services	.113	.026	.114	4.331	.000
LNGOs training services	.446	.041	.451	10.776	.000
LNGOs poverty reduction services	.443	.042	.438	10.449	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Improved livelihoods

Source: Field Data, 2023

The findings in Table 16 revealed that the LNGOs income generating services had a positive and significant effect ($B=0.113$, $P<0.001$), implying an increase in income generating services

provided by local NGOs is associated with livelihoods improvement. The LNGOs training services ($B=0.446$, $P<0.001$) and LHGOs poverty reduction services ($B=0.443$, $p< 0.001$) showed a positive and significant effect on livelihood improvements. Hence, the results show that local NGOs services in terms of income generation, training, and poverty reduction play a significant role in improving livelihoods in RNUD of Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

4.5 Discussion of results

The current study on local NGO income generating services and socio-economic development in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda is aligned with previous research conducted by Busienei (2017) and Uwandinda and Kamande (2021) but also adds new insights. Busienei (2017) focused on income generating strategies and financial sustainability, while Uwandinda and Kamande (2021) explored the role of income generating services in rural women empowerment. However, these previous studies did not specifically examine the impact of income generating services on improved welfare, standards of living, and livelihoods. In contrast, the current research found a strong positive and meaningful relationship between local NGOs income generating services and improved welfare, better standards of living and improved livelihoods. The results emphasized the effect of LNGOs income generating services in improving socioeconomic development of RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

The current study on local NGO training services and socio-economic development complements the research conducted by Borychowski *et al.* (2021) and Mutunga (2017). Borychowski *et al.* (2021) focused on farmers' training and its impact on small family farms in selected European countries, while Mutunga (2017) examined the role of training in job creation and socio-economic development among young entrepreneurs in Gasabo District, Rwanda. In contrast, the current research revealed a strong positive and meaningful relationship between LNGOs training service and various aspects of socioeconomic development.

The current study on local NGO poverty reduction services and socio-economic development aligns with previous research conducted by Suharko (2017), Bhaskar & Geethakutty (2011), and Thanabalasingam and Asankha (2014). Suharko (2017) explored the roles of NGOs in rural poverty reduction, while Bhaskar & Geethakutty (2011) focused on the role of NGOs in rural development, and Thanabalasingam and Asankha (2014) examined NGO interventions in poverty alleviation programs. However, these studies did not specifically investigate the relationship between local NGO poverty reduction services and improved welfare, standards of living, and livelihoods. In contrast, the current research found a strong positive and meaningful relationship between LNGOs poverty reduction services and socioeconomic development measures. These results emphasized the effect of local NGOs efforts in reducing poverty and potentials to enhance socioeconomic development in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, the first objective of this study was to examine the relationship between local NGOs' income generating services and socio-economic development. The descriptive results related to it showed a strong agreement among the respondents ($\text{mean}=4.284$) regarding the positive effect of local NGOs income generating services on socio-economic development. This finding was further supported by the correlation analysis, which revealed a significant and positive relationship between LNGOs income generating services and improved welfare ($r=0.930$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.957$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), and improved livelihoods ($r=0.972$, $\text{sig}=0.00$). These results indicate that local NGOs' income generating services play a crucial role in promoting socio-economic development in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

The second objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between local NGOs' training services and socio-economic development. The descriptive findings indicated a strong agreement among the participants (mean=4.279) regarding the positive effect of LNGOs training services on socio-economic development. This was further supported by correlation analysis, which revealed a strong and significant relationship between LNGOs training services and improved welfare ($r=0.966$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.993$, $\text{sig}=0.00$) and improved livelihoods ($r=0.993$, $\text{sig}=0.00$). These results suggest that capacity building, training farmers, increasing job opportunities, teaching new agricultural techniques, and raising awareness through local NGOs' training services contribute to socio-economic development in RNUD, Rwanda.

The third objective of this study was to explore the relationship between local NGOs' poverty reduction services and socio-economic development. Its descriptive results indicated a strong agreement among respondents (mean=4.350) regarding the positive effect of local NGOs poverty reduction services on socio-economic development. The correlation analysis further supported these findings, showing a significant and positive relationship between LNGOs poverty reduction services and improved welfare ($r=0.952$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), better standard of living ($r=0.993$, $\text{sig}=0.00$), and improved livelihoods ($r=0.993$, $\text{sig}=0.00$). These results suggest that offering livestock and implementing poverty reduction programs through local NGOs contribute to socio-economic development in RNUD, Kicukiro District, Rwanda.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the results obtained from the study, several recommendations can be made to different stakeholders involved with RNUD, its beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the government:

RNUD Staff: Based on the strong agreement among respondents regarding the positive impact of local NGOs' income generating services, training services, and poverty reduction services on socio-economic development, it is recommended that RNUD staff continue to prioritize and strengthen these services. They should focus on expanding income generation opportunities, providing effective training programs, and implementing impactful poverty reduction initiatives. Regular monitoring and evaluation of these services would also help ensure their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments as required.

The RNUD beneficiaries should actively engage with the income generating services, training services and poverty reduction programs provided by local NGOs. They should take advantage of opportunities and resources available to them through these services to enhance their socioeconomic development. Beneficiaries can participate actively in training programs, utilize income generation initiatives, actively engage in poverty reduction activities to improve their welfare, standards of living and livelihoods.

The stakeholders like other NGOs, community organizations, private sector entities should collaborate with RNUD and local NGOs to support and strengthen their initiatives. They can provide funding, resources, and expertise to enhance the impact of income generating services, training programs, and poverty reduction efforts. Collaborative partnerships can foster synergies and promote sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

The government should recognize the vital role played by local NGOs in socio-economic development. They should support and provide an enabling environment for these organizations to operate effectively. This can include financial assistance, regulatory frameworks that promote NGO activities, and policy support for poverty reduction, income generation, and training programs. In addition, the government should also consider scaling up

successful initiatives and replicating them in other regions to maximize the effect on socioeconomic development at national level.

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