

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Youth commemorating youth day through training workshop on identify digital opportunities and deploy to their work and venture.



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1. Background Summary

SMART Youth Effort for Advanced Community (SMART Youth) is a youth-led organization dedicated to empowering young people and marginalized groups in Tanzania by addressing key socio-economic challenges. With a vision of fostering equity, justice, and empowered communities, SMART Youth focuses on bridging gaps in education, employment, leadership, and social innovation. Through strategic programs, the organization has trained and empowered over 200 youth volunteers, strengthened partnerships with local and international organizations, and implemented initiatives promoting digital inclusion, youth employability, and intergenerational collaboration.

As SMART Youth moves forward, the organization remains committed to expanding its impact by strengthening partnerships, scaling digital inclusion efforts, and advocating for youth-led innovation. With a strong volunteer base and strategic direction, SMART Youth continues to drive positive change and foster socio-economic transformation in Tanzania. In 2024, SMART Youth continued its commitment to youth empowerment, skills development, and social inclusion through various strategic initiatives. The organization focused on digital literacy, capacity building, and strengthening partnerships to enhance opportunities for young people and marginalized communities. Key highlights include,

2. Activities:

2.1 Strengthening older people forum in Shinyanga

In February 2024, SMART Youth, through the SaveElders Tanzania program, conducted a capacity-building session for the Older People Forum (OPF) in Shinyanga Municipality. Supported by the Regional Social Welfare Officer, the training focused on leadership skills, advocacy, and experience-sharing to promote elder inclusivity. There is limited awareness of policies affecting older adults, alongside leadership gaps that require further training. Resource constraints are hindering OPF initiatives, yet there is strong engagement and a clear willingness to learn among participants. SMART Youth will continue leadership training, advocacy efforts, stakeholder networking, and intergenerational programs to strengthen OPF and enhance elder participation in community development.

2.2 Closure meeting on Saveelders program

In early July, SMART Youth held a closure meeting for the SaveElders Tanzania program, bringing together leaders, board members, and members both online and in person at the SMART Youth office in Dar es

Salaam. The organization decided to shift its approach from direct implementation to strengthening Older People Forums (OPFs), aligning with the principle "Nothing About Us Without Us." SMART Youth will empower OPFs to take leadership in elder advocacy and support initiatives. Additionally, many youth volunteers in SaveElders Tanzania are vulnerable and unemployed, underscoring the need for targeted youth-focused programs to enhance their opportunities and well-being. Smart youth will strengthen OPFs through training and resource support. While developing a new youth-led program aligned with the organization's mission. And lastly, we will promote intergenerational programs to foster collaboration between youth and elders.

2.3 Recruiting new youth volunteer

In early September, SMART Youth recruited youth aged 15-24 for the Smart Shule program, aiming to reduce unemployment and increase access to skills as part of the 2025-2027 strategic goals. Over 200 youth registered, and training is now underway. The recruitment call was shared via social media and community networks. There is a high demand for youth empowerment programs, with many participants lacking foundational skills, which necessitates structured training. The referral approach has proven effective in reaching a larger number of youth. However, limited internet access presents challenges for some participants, hindering their full engagement in the programs. SMART Youth will strengthen training content and mentorship programs to enhance youth capacity-building. The organization will expand outreach efforts to ensure marginalized youth have access to opportunities. Additionally, partnerships will be pursued to address internet accessibility challenges, enabling broader participation. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to improve the Smart Shule program's impact and effectiveness.

2.4 Initiate Youth-Led Learning Platform: SMART SHULE

In early October 2024, SMART Youth officially launched the Smart Shule platform, designed to empower and train youth aged 15-24 on essential soft skills for employability and entrepreneurship. Over 150 youth enrolled, with each participant joining sessions at their convenience during free time. The topics covered from October to December included mental health, life skills, customer service, including e-service, and other relevant subjects to enhance employability. The program has generated significant interest, with youth eager to acquire skills that

enhance employability and foster business initiation. Participants are actively engaging in the sessions, dedicating their free time to attend and learn. However, internet access remains a major challenge, particularly for rural youth, which limits their ability to fully participate in the platform's sessions.



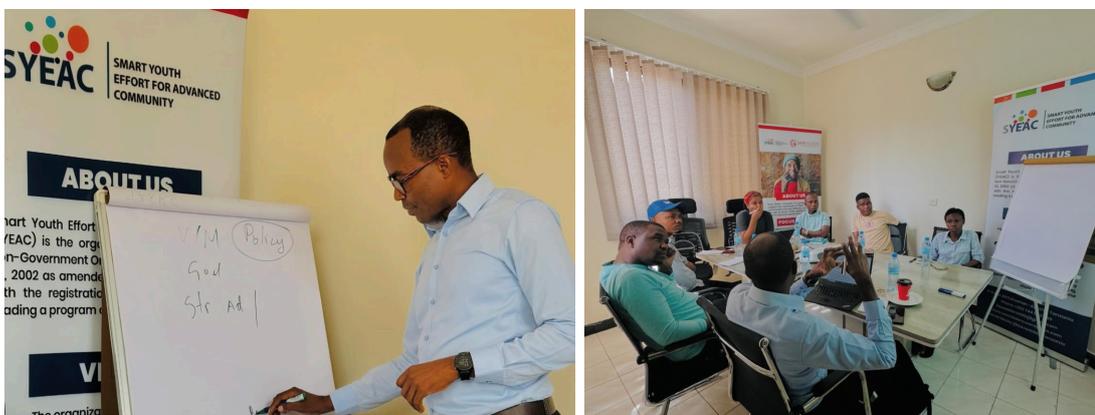
New smart champion youth through smart shule platform join session, where volunteer meet expert Ms Catherine and session on mental health with Dr Edwin.

SMART Youth will improve content delivery by exploring alternative platforms or offline materials for youth with limited internet access. The organization aims to expand outreach by engaging more marginalized youth in rural areas through community-based solutions. To enhance participation, SMART Youth will seek partnerships with organizations that can provide internet access support or data subsidies. Additionally, the organization will monitor and evaluate youth progress to assess the program's impact and continuously refine the platform to meet their needs. The Smart Shule platform is a vital tool for empowering youth with the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce or start their own businesses, and efforts will continue to ensure that barriers to access, like internet limitations, are addressed.

2.5 Conduct a Strategic plan meeting for SMART YOUTH

In early November 2024, the SMART Youth team, alongside external support, collaborated in developing the organization's new strategic plan for 2025-2027. The plan primarily focuses on youth empowerment and engagement to drive sustainable development. The process began with an internal meeting that included the Board of Directors (BOD) and management. In the second meeting, partners and friends from

organizations like Segal Family, Aquafarm, Msichana Kwanza, and Seaweed Cafe were invited to contribute ideas and shape the development of the new strategic plan. There is strong collaboration between internal teams and external partners, fostering diverse perspectives on the strategic direction. Partners are enthusiastic and committed to contributing to the mission of youth empowerment and sustainable development. However, some gaps in communication emerged during discussions, highlighting the need for clearer messaging and better alignment across stakeholders. While the plan is youth-focused, further exploration of intergenerational approaches could enhance inclusivity and impact.



Management team led by Dr Msofe training workshop on revising and developing new 2025-2027 Organization Strategic Plan.

The Way Forward for SMART Youth includes clarifying roles and expectations with partners to ensure smooth collaboration and aligned objectives. The organization will refine the strategic plan by incorporating intergenerational approaches to enhance sustainability and community cohesion. Continuous dialogue with partners and stakeholders will be maintained to adjust and refine the plan based on evolving needs and feedback. Additionally, the implementation of the strategic plan will be closely monitored to ensure it remains adaptable to the challenges and opportunities that arise over the next three years. This strategic planning process will position SMART Youth for greater impact in empowering youth and engaging them in activities that foster sustainable development through collaboration, innovation, and shared goals

2.6 Enrolled members to the center for project innovation course

In late December 2024, SMART Youth signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Center for Project Innovation to provide

full scholarships for individuals within the SMART Youth community. The primary goal of this partnership is to equip youth with valuable project management skills through the Certified Project Officer program, enhancing their confidence, employability, productivity, and social impact. As a result, 10 SMART Youth volunteers successfully enrolled and completed the course. The scholarship opportunity was well-received, highlighting a high demand for similar capacity-building programs. Volunteers who completed the training gained practical project management skills, enhancing their ability to contribute effectively to community development initiatives. However, some participants faced challenges with internet access, affecting their ability to complete coursework on time. While the program boosted confidence and employability, additional mentorship and hands-on experience are needed to maximize its impact.

CENTER FOR PROJECT INNOVATION SMART YOUTH | EFFORT FOR ADVANCED COMMUNITY

MR SELEMANI MNDEME

"I'm thrilled to announce that I've officially begun my project course with the Center for Project Innovation today! This incredible opportunity will provide me with key skills in project development, leadership, and creative solutions.

As a Computer Engineering expert, I will benefit from the course by gaining skills in project management, technology integration, problem-solving, data analysis, and resource allocation. It will also enhance my ability to collaborate, communicate technical concepts effectively, and lead successful engineering-driven projects.

www.smartyouth.or.tz | [smart_youth_effort](#)

CERTIFIED PROJECT OFFICER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CENTER FOR PROJECT INNOVATION

SMART Youth will expand access to similar opportunities by seeking additional partnerships, enabling more youth to benefit from scholarship programs. The organization will establish mentorship and internship opportunities to help graduates apply their newly acquired skills in real-world projects. To ensure equitable participation, SMART Youth will support digital inclusion by exploring solutions for youth facing internet access challenges. Additionally, the organization will monitor the impact of the program by tracking the progress of trained volunteers and assessing how their skills are applied in their careers and community initiatives. This partnership represents a significant step in empowering youth with project management skills, aligning with SMART Youth's strategic goal of reducing unemployment and increasing access to professional development opportunities.

2.7 Commemorating youth day event/Digital training with youth

On August 10th, 2024, SMART Youth, in collaboration with champions from DOT Tanzania, conducted a digital capacity-building session for volunteers, focusing on digital opportunities. More than 15 youth participated in the discussion held at the SMART Youth office. The event's theme, "Click for Progress," encouraged youth and volunteers to leverage technology to search for and apply for opportunities available in the digital space. Youth demonstrated a strong interest in digital skills but lacked awareness of available online opportunities. Limited access to digital resources, including internet and devices, was identified as a key barrier for some participants. There was a clear demand for more practical training on applying for digital jobs, scholarships, and online learning programs. Additionally, the event served as a valuable networking platform, enabling youth to share experiences and strategies for leveraging technology effectively.



Team Smart youth volunteer commemorate youth day and this was highly capacitated by Mr Gerald DOT Tanzania tech champion

SMART Youth will organize regular digital literacy training to equip youth with practical skills in online job searching, applications, and e-learning. The organization will expand outreach efforts to ensure more youth, particularly those from underserved communities, can participate in future training sessions. To enhance access to digital resources, SMART Youth will establish a digital resource hub, providing internet access and training materials for youth. Additionally, the organization will strengthen partnerships with organizations like DOT Tanzania to offer mentorship and more opportunities in the digital space. This initiative reinforces SMART Youth's commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that young people acquire the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.

3. Conclusion

SMART Youth remains dedicated to bridging gaps in access to resources, fostering digital inclusion, and equipping youth with the skills necessary to drive socio-economic change in Tanzania. Moving forward, the organization will strengthen partnerships, refine its training programs, and expand outreach efforts to maximize impact.