



SANYU CENTRE FOR
ARTS AND RIGHTS



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ANNUAL REPORT

2024



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Muhumuza

*Moriah M Muhumuza, Chairperson -
Sanyu Centre for Arts and Rights*

Another exciting year, 2024 has gone and left with us great achievements, challenges, and opportunities, lessons learned paving the way for us for 2025. Coming into Sanyu Centre for Arts and Rights (SARI) as a new board chairperson was exciting. I looked forward to engaging with young people in our communities on a new level. Reaching over 500 young people through our various programs marks our unwavering commitment to transforming young people through Artivism. We are grateful to our partners, young people, SARI staff, and the other stakeholders who have made this possible. We invite you to read our 2024 report. We will be grateful for your feedback through our email and social media platforms.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION


Founded in 2019 and registered in 2020, Sanyu Centre for Arts and Rights (SARI) is a creative and cultural organisation that empowers young people in creative Arts and digital skills for better incomes, health, education, and prevention of violence in Uganda. Our programs encompass Arts, Design and Entrepreneurship, Visual and Performance Arts, and Content Creation. We deliver these programmes through various avenues, including training and skills development, providing start-up capital and kits, participating in art exhibitions, and hosting marketing and entrepreneurship community forums. Additionally, we engage in theatre, media, and advocacy campaigns, storytelling and awareness sessions, and collaborative efforts.

OUR VISION

Transforming young people through ART-IVISM!

OUR MISSION

To empower young people in creative, cultural arts, and digital skills for better incomes, education, health, and violence prevention in Uganda.



OUR CORE VALUES

PARTICIPATION

Through participation, young people can explore their strengths, and abilities and use valuable knowledge to create positive social, economic, and civic change.

INCLUSION

We foster a culture that provides equal access to opportunities and resources for young people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.

TRANSFORMATION

Our work enables positive change among the young people and the society.

CREATIVITY

Creativity is at the core of our work as we explore different ways to use the Arts to influence socio-economic empowerment, physical and mental health, sexual reproductive health rights, and the prevention of violence among young people.

HUMOR

We present our work with humour to connect, engage, and influence wider audiences across cultures.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Partnership
Ganda



ARTS, DESIGN, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In a world where creativity and innovation drive economic growth, our focus on Arts, Design, and Entrepreneurship is a powerful catalyst for change. This strategic direction aims to empower young people by equipping them with the skills and resources needed to thrive in the creative economy.

Over the past year, we have worked diligently to provide opportunities for young individuals to transform their artistic passions into viable businesses. Through training, mentorship, and direct support, we have fostered a new generation of artists and entrepreneurs creating beautiful works of art and securing sustainable incomes. This section highlights the milestones, interventions, and success stories that have shaped our efforts to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit within the arts and design sector.

Through the Arts, Design and Entrepreneurship program, SARI reached 550 young people (466 female and 84 males) through projects including Empowering Youth through Data and Community Development funded by Children's Rights Prevention Violence Fund, Youth Arts and Entrepreneurship Project funded by Australian High Commission, Kenya, Valuing Creatives Preserving Culture funded by Braid Arts and Cultural Fund and Uganda Sewing Project funded by World Mercy Fund.

KEY INTERVENTIONS



Young participant displaying some of SARI arts at the Mwoleso in Lubiri.

Under this program, SARI equipped 269 participants (250 females and 19 males) with knowledge and skills in Arts, Design, and Entrepreneurship for income. SARI engaged participants through various initiatives, including skills training, the provision of start-up kits and capital, marketing and entrepreneurship workshops, assistance with registrations, and a creative savings scheme. These efforts have enabled the production of

items such as bags, garments, wall decorations, craft shoes, jewellery, placemats, and books for income generation. As a result, 20 creatives have established fully operational businesses like bag making, basketry, fashion and design, shoe making, and hairdressing. Notably, four of these businesses are now employing others, thereby contributing to job creation in the community.

Similarly, SARI formed and trained 11 creative savings groups with 281 members (216 females and 65 males). Groups were functional with strong leadership and doing savings mobilising. From September to December, the groups had mobilised 20,186,000 Ugx in savings which members accessed as small loans to invest in their businesses thereby promoting local resource mobilisation. Moreover, 7 groups were supported to get legally registered with Kampala City Council Authority and 1 with Wakiso district. Similarly, groups opened bank accounts to keep and secure their group savings.

CREATIVE VOICES



Mariam in her workshop

Mariam Mirembe has set up business premise where she makes waist bags commonly used by people who work in local markets. Through gaining skills in making bags and business management as well as accessing start-up capital from SARI, Mariam has established her business to now employing 3 more young people. She reported earning at least 200,000 Ugx per month in profit.



Ben shows the different bags he makes

Ben Lwawuga has set up a training center to train youth and women in bag-making incomes. He has enrolled over 100 young people in his training centre. In addition, because he participated in the Mwolese expo in Lubiri, he got contracts to make bags. "Without this participating in the Youth Arts and Entrepreneurship project, I would never have got the opportunity to showcase my products and connect with clients as well as set up a training centre. I am now dream."



Members of Sanyu Kukulakulana Group during of their group meetings

Sanyu Kukulakulana Group is a 60-member group led by young women in Kakiri sub county. The group is an entrepreneurial space where participants come to learn various skills, collect group savings and share knowledge and experiences. In 2024, the members collected 12,700,000 Ugx in savings which they shared out to invest in the different initiatives set out. The group is growing stronger as members continue challenging each other to develop.



Dinah during one of the classes on garment cutting.

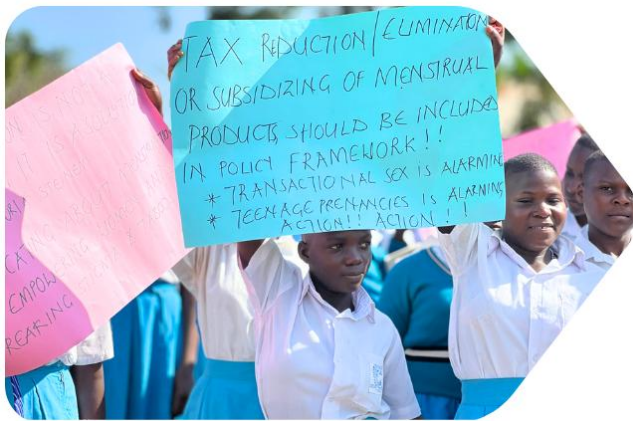
Dinah Naddunga is an aspiring fashion designer with a goal of doing custom-made baby clothes. Before participating in SARI programs, Dinah was selling second-hand clothes and earning less income (300,000 Ugx). Dinah has developed her skills in designing, garment cutting, sewing and embroidery. With the knowledge and skills from the entrepreneurship classes, she has developed a business plan and has set out to get an outlet

where she has set up her business. Her dream is to have baby boutique with custom made baby outfits.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

The power of the arts lies in its ability to inspire, provoke, and communicate. Visual and performing arts provide a unique platform for young people to express their creativity and advocate for the causes they believe in. Last year, our initiatives centered around empowering young people to use visual and performing arts as tools for social change, focusing on advocating for better social services in their communities. From theatre performances to media campaigns, SARI amplified the voices of youth and sparked dialogue on critical issues such as employment, education, and healthcare.

KEY INTERVENTIONS



Girls during the advocacy match on "Period Friendly World."

SARI used visual and performing arts as a tool to advocate for better social services in health and prevention of violence. Under this, SARI ran two campaigns to advocate for increased and timely access to fistula prevention and treatment services as well as other Sexual Reproductive Health services through better community health structures. Through the advocacy campaigns, 43 Village

Health Teams were trained fistula prevention, treatment and referrals as well as general SRHR. SARI reached 152 girls and 48 boys in 3 schools with knowledge and information on better and dignified menstrual hygiene management, prevention of early pregnancy and fistula prevention; 2 school clubs were formed.

In addition, SARI partnered with 15 young people to create a 14-episode audio drama titled "No More Leaks," available in both English and Luganda. Through a collaboration with Star FM, the episodes were broadcast, reaching a broader audience, particularly women and girls affected by fistula. SARI received calls from listeners seeking information, and we were able to provide them with relevant treatment details.

Furthermore, SARI worked closely with Kitovu Hospital, where health workers in charge of the VVF ward shared information about the schedules for fistula repair camps. Community Health Committees, including the Village Health Teams, used this information to connect fistula victims with the necessary treatment services.



SARI and SYRADO team with the health workers at Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) ward at Kitovu hospital.

30 women were referred for treatment in November 2024, while 24 members got the information through radio announcements that SARI put up.

Story From Fistula Victim Survivor



Dianah enjoys a light-hearted moment while discussing her story during an interview at Kitovu Hospital in Masaka district.

In December 2024, Dianah was healed of her fistula after undergoing surgeries at Kitovu Hospital during the periodic camps. In July 2024, Dianah developed a fistula following a C-section that resulted in a hysterectomy. While she was among the few women who survived the birth of her baby, the traumatic experience left her emotionally and mentally drained. She struggled to work and her social life suffered, as she found it difficult to interact freely with others. However, through radio announcements about upcoming media camps at Kitovu Hospital, supported by SARI, Dianah was able to receive three operations, after which she fully recovered. With her health restored,

SARI implemented the campaigns with Slum Youth Rehabilitation and Development Organisation. The Fistula-Free Girls and Young Women Campaign was funded by AmplifyChange. We are Purposeful funded the development and the airing of the episodes No More Leaks drama in Luganda. Through Village Health Team members,

Through Village Health Team members,

Dianah plans to reopen her grocery business and reconnect with her social groups.

CONTENT CREATION

In the digital age, content creation has become one of the most powerful forms of expression and advocacy. Recognizing the potential of digital platforms to reach vast audiences, our third strategic direction focuses on empowering young creators to craft compelling stories and raise awareness on issues that matter. With a target to reach at least 300,000 individuals, we have provided young people with the tools, training, and financial support needed to produce diverse content—ranging from written blogs and articles to podcasts and films. This year, our content creators have harnessed the power of storytelling to shed light on pressing social issues, challenge norms, and drive positive change. This section outlines the interventions that have empowered young content creators to shape narratives and influence public opinion on key issues.

KEY INTERVENTIONS



One of the participants navigating the Advocacy Assembly platform to get information on circumvention tools on internet shutdowns.

SARI equipped young creatives and activists to create content for storytelling, rights awareness, and advocacy. SARI equipped 30 content creators, influencers, and activities with knowledge on circumvention tools for internet shutdowns. To raise awareness on internet shutdowns, participants created content in form of

blogs, podcasts, videos and cartoons reaching at least 100 online. The Circumvention tools for content creators and activists was supported by Small Media Foundation and Advocacy Assembly.





SARI documented its activities through short videos, films, photos, and blogs. These materials were shared on our social media platforms

Participants during the training on circumvention tools for internet shut downs.



EVENTS



Organisational Development

SARI participated in two organizational assessments that played a key role in its growth journey, helping to identify gaps and opportunities for improved performance. In addition, SARI organized training sessions for both the board and staff, focusing on communication and advocacy, resource mobilization and leadership, as well as financial management.



SARI board L - R: Daniel Kintu (Members), Martha Murungi (Vice Chairperson), Esther Namale (Member), Brenda Magezi (Secretary), Moriah M Muhumuza (Chairperson) and Claire Ninsiima (Treasurer).

Our New Board

In April 2024, SARI proudly introduced its new board, a dynamic group of passionate young individuals dedicated to serving youth and the community. SARI is excited to see the innovative contributions this team will bring to the organization and community through their creativity, skills, and expertise.



Dorothy, a SARI staff member, was joined by a team member from SYRADO at the Gathering of Givers event held at the Ndere Centre

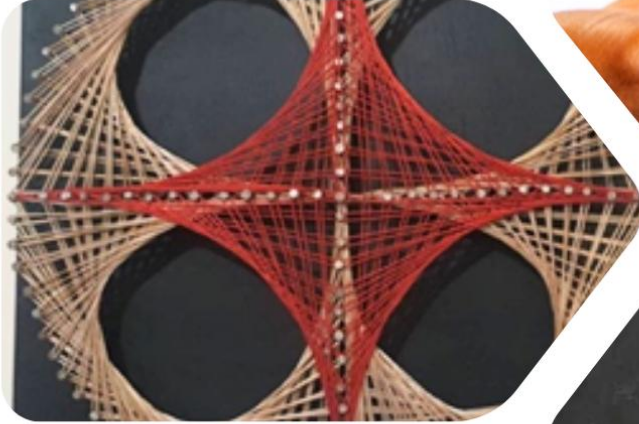
Art Expos

SARI participated in the Mwoleso at Lubiri from 15th to 26th August 2024 where young creative entrepreneurs showcased their art products. Three SARI staff got opportunity to showcase some of our products at Baba TV. We were also part of the promotional campaign at Central Broadcasting Service

which gave us opportunity to connect with clients. On 28th September, SARI also participated in the Gathering of Givers 2024 at Ndere Cultural Centre.

SARI team participated in an art exhibition organized by the British Council, which took place from December 11th to 13th, highlighting the work of local artisans. This event provided a valuable opportunity for creatives to showcase their creations. through this collaboration, SARI offered young creatives the opportunity to display their products and interact with clients. This helped them develop their skills and business acumen.

ART GALLERY



OUR PARTNERS



Australian Government



Child Rights & Violence
Prevention Fund (CRVP-Fund)



SMALL MEDIA 



Fistula-Free Girls
and Young Women

Fistula
and Young



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