



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES TAMALE

REPORT ON THE OLJU GARDEN PROJECT

PERIOD : JULY - DECEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

Gardening is a time-tested local strategy that are widely adopted and practiced in various circumstances by local communities with limited resources and institutional support. It is evident from literature that gardening is a part of the agriculture and food production systems in many developing countries and are widely used as a remedy to alleviate hunger, malnutrition in the face of a global food crisis and supplemental source contributing to food and nutritional security and livelihoods. OLJU Garden Project came as relief to the SOS Children Villages Ghana, Tamale program location at the time that it was most needed. It was a welcoming news when the location took delivery of the various types of seed for planting.

OBJECTIVE OF 'OLJU GARDEN PROJECT'

The laudable initiative of 'OLJU Gardening project' was to benefit the caregivers, children and other people socially, economically and environmentally to mention but a few. Socially it was meant to enhance food and nutritional security , improving family health and human capacity, empowering women and preserving indigenous knowledge and culture. Economically the OLJU Garden project would contribute to income generation, improved livelihoods, and household economic welfare as well as promoting entrepreneurship. Environmentally, it would serve as a primary unit that initiates and utilizes ecological friendly approaches for food production while conserving biodiversity and natural resources.

IMPLEMENTATION

Land preparation: It was exciting that all hands were on deck for the preparation of the land. All the caregivers, some children, youths and the coworkers were all available to get the work done on time for final transplanting.

Nursing of seeds: Seeds were sown in the nursery awaiting the sprouting time. Caregivers visited the nurseries for observation and for 3 weeks there was no sprouting of seed(s) nor seedlings on sight.

Constraints: Although the season was a wet one, the Northern Region of Ghana experienced an erratic rainfall in 2021. Inadequate access to water and high temperature caused the seeds to remain dormant in the soil. SOS CV Tamale location always experience acute shortage of water for domestic use throughout the year.

RESULT: At the end of the project, the objective was not achieved because seeds did not germinate at all.

CONCLUSION: The OLJU project is a good initiative for social, economic and environmental advantage. However, it did not work out in SOS CV Tamale due to water shortage and a very high temperature experienced in the Northern Region of Ghana in 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: The program location will need support to develop a rain water harvesting project to solve the perineal water problem and be able to participate in future OLJU project without any hitches.