

Zone 9a

Victoria Falls, Zambia and Zimbabwe

ZONE 9A HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Benin	2	149			
Botswana	2	239	130		
Cameroon	1	85	10		
Congo DR	18	119	6		1
Gabon	2	14	20		
Ghana	1	75			1
Kenya	2	233	11		2
Madagascar	1	70	70		1
Malawi	1	6			
Mauritius	94	4,769	994	1	1
Morocco	1	24	6		
Nigeria	8	191			1
South Africa	122	7,050	1,656	1	3
Tanzania	1	31	30		
Togo	1	42	5		
Uganda	1	49			
Zambia	2	171		1	2
Zimbabwe	2	23			
TOTAL	262	13,340	2,938	3	12



True love is pure, selfless, free from pride, and is full of bliss. Such love can be got only through love. All worldly attachments are not real love at all. They are transient. The everlasting, pure love arises from the heart.

–Sathya Sai Baba, 27 July 1996



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Benin

As part of Serve the Planet initiative, SSIO volunteers in Benin hosted numerous clean-ups throughout the year. They not only swept and tidied streets but also separated refuse, removing nonbiodegradable products and disposing of them safely. The volunteers also planted trees.

In another well-established programme, SSIO volunteers hosted SSEHV classes for more than 50 children weekly, providing lessons in human values and helping the students develop life skills based on the teachings of Sathya Sai.

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Botswana

In service to the ill and the ailing, the SSIO of Botswana organised two separate blood drives, on 13th August 2017 and 25th March 2018, in all collecting nearly 75 pints of blood. The SSIO further operated a free medical clinic, offering weekly access to a specialised team of doctors, opticians and nurses. The clinic also repeated its annual vision care programme, in which hundreds of school children from surrounding regions are given eyesight screenings. This year, 400 students from 8 schools were welcome recipients of this service.

SSIO members further conducted 47 events in service of the Old Naledi Tuberculosis and Cancer Centre this year. This facility cares for 300 ill as well as 70 orphaned children, and the SSIO's regular visits provided vital medical supplies, toiletries and various useful items. More than 100 students were also given lessons in human values.



Ghana

The SSIO of Ghana sponsored several major service initiatives. This included a blood drive on 22nd July 2017, wherein more than 50 volunteers collected 40 pints of blood and participating in an autism walk on 1st April 2017 to raise public awareness about autism.

On 28th October 2017, more than 100 young adults came together to clean up Ghana's beachfront. Unregulated dumping and littering had ruined the otherwise picturesque beach and rendered it hazardous. The youth, equipped with rakes, shovels and other hand tools, spent the day cleaning and tidying the shore front. A group of volunteers also served breakfast and lunch to local fishermen and needy children.



Botswana



Ghana

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Kenya

In one of the largest humanitarian relief programmes undertaken by the SSIO of Kenya, volunteers brought relief supplies to the drought-ridden region of Kilifi in South Kenya. The SSIO supplied desperately needed food and clothing to seven villages with a combined population of nearly 10,000 affected people. In addition, Sathya Sai Young Adults planted about 2,000 trees in water catchment areas in November 2017 to reduce the impact of droughts in the future.

In Nairobi, volunteers continued to provide an estimated 1,200 children with food, water, clothing and other necessities every Sunday. The children also received SSEHV lessons.

Since its inception in 2001, the Sathya Sai School of Kisaju has excelled in education and service programmes. In celebration of Guru Poornima on 9th July 2017, the school hosted a daylong festival featuring indigenous Maasai dancing and skits on human values. On 20th October 2017, to commemorate Avatar Declaration Day, the school inaugurated a medical clinic to serve the nearby community. On this day, about 100 elderly and destitute villagers were served a hearty meal, treated to a cultural programme by the students and received hampers of supplies and food, some of which was grown in the school garden. In January 2018, another medical camp was held at the school, serving more than 200 children.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Mombasa continued to offer vision care, working with the Lions Sight First Eye Hospital and performing 108 cataract surgeries.



Kenya



Kenya

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Mauritius

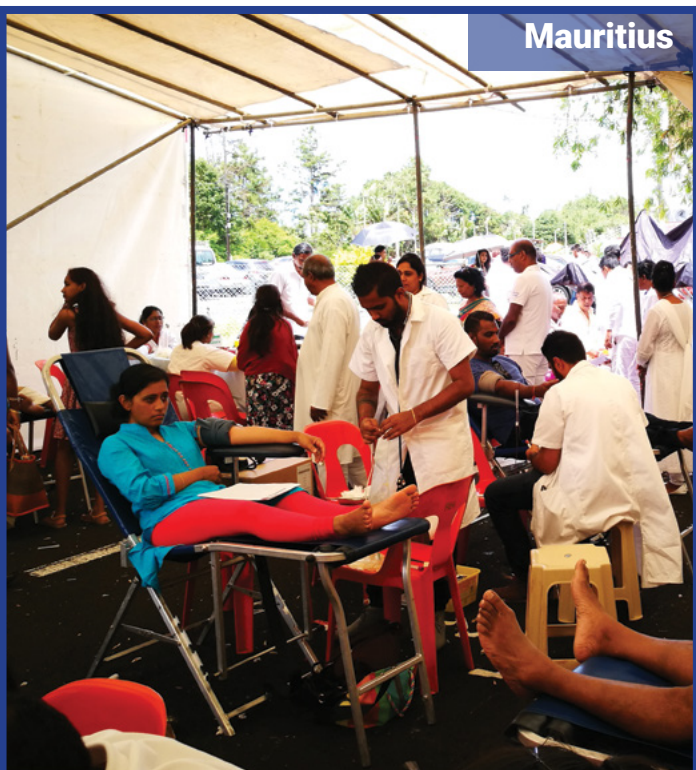
In April 2017, the SSIO of Mauritius held a series of large devotional gatherings across the country. On 25th April, SSEHV students presented a medley of songs at a memorial for venerated Mauritian freedom fighters at the District Council of Quartier Militaire.

In January 2018, Cyclone Berguitta brought devastating floods to much of the island. The SSIO immediately set to work, and between 18th and 19th January supplied home-cooked meals and utility and toiletry items to 400 individuals displaced by the flood.

Blood donation campaigns met with an overwhelmingly positive response in Mauritius, with 53 blood drives bringing in almost 5,000 pints of blood. In addition, more than 800 patients at four major hospitals around the country were supplied with sanitary products, clothing and medicine.

SSIO volunteers in Mauritius also undertook programmes to beautify their island as part of the global SSIO Serve the Planet initiative, including painting colourful murals. Young adults and elders also planted flowers and saplings to beautify the Renganaden Seeneevassen School.

Sathya Sai youth undertook several education initiatives. On 16th July 2017, they worked with the Mauritian Police Force to host an interactive workshop on cyber-crime, at the Sathya Sai Centre of Curepipe.



Mauritius



Mauritius

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Morocco

SSIO volunteers in Morocco have initiated a three-way rotating service roster. On the first Thursday of each month, they serve meals to 110 children at the Lalla Hasna Orphanage. On the second Thursday, the volunteers serve 80 children under the care of the Moroccan Association of Children with Special Needs. Finally, on the third Thursday monthly, the SSIO serves food to 60 elderly residents at a home for the destitute.

Morocco's SSEHV outreach programme continued to blossom, training 12 teachers and 344 primary school students in human values and values-based education. At the Union Privees school in Casablanca, 200 students received SSEHV lessons in a multilingual English and Arabic programme.



Nigeria

Every week, SSIO members served home-cooked meals to 200 senior citizens at the Ajah Center in Lagos and supplied them with useful items to take away. A monthly service of this type also takes place in the Sangotedo village in Lagos, where food is distributed to approximately 300 villagers. The Sathya Sai Centres at Port Harcourt, Ibadan and Abuja undertook similar service activities regularly.

The Sathya Sai School at Lagos imparted values-based education to 189 children, supported by a faculty of 16 teachers and 5 staff.



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South Africa

SSIO members in South Africa undertook a breath-taking array of service activities, highlighted by 107 medical and wellness camps held in Estcourt, Kenville, Ambo, Malagazi, Khayalitsha, Kinross, Kempton Park, Springs, Chatsworth, Umhlanga, Palm Ridge and Tongaat. These camps together served more than 7,700 patients and led to the creation of a national database to facilitate future programmes. Likewise, a Blood Donation Campaign attracted more than 10,000 participants and collected more than 8,000 pints of desperately needed blood, constituting the single largest contribution to South Africa's National Blood Transfusion Service.

Continuing a record of stellar achievement, students of the Sathya Sai School in Chatsworth excelled in South Africa's national matriculation examination, securing a 100% pass rate. The feat is a rare honour, achieved only by very few schools.

Other projects undertaken this year included donating 90,000 large bottles of water to communities in the Western Cape that were suffering from prolonged drought, distributing sanitary kits to vulnerable youth in informal housing settlements and distributing blankets – some of which were handmade by volunteers – to mothers and children in need across the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

South Africa



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Tanzania

More than 100 students with visual and mental disabilities at the Uhuru Mchanganyiko Primary School were served lovingly by members of the SSIO of Tanzania. Throughout the year, volunteers regularly provided meals to the students, assisted in maintaining dormitories and dining facilities and supplied academic material. Building off this experience, the SSIO initiated a Meals on Wheels programme, fortnightly. Another school, the government-run Kigali Primary School, received beneficial services from the SSIO of Tanzania. The school lacked hygienic bathroom facilities. The SSIO constructed a complex of sanitary bathrooms, with 25 toilets. The faculty and students, as well as the Government of Tanzania, were grateful to the SSIO members.



Togo

Volunteers routinely served about 50 children in a local orphanage and also initiated a major SSEHV programme at the same facility. SSIO members continued to visit public hospitals, bringing supplies to needy patients.



Uganda

SSIO members in Uganda continued their tradition of service to the needy, including three programmes supplying food and drinking water monthly to 500 needy children and regular distribution of fruit-bearing plants to help provide food for the future.

SSIO members also joined neighbouring countries in blood drives, donating 32 pints of blood.

When the maternity ward of the Mulango Hospital needed mattresses, SSIO volunteers donated 45 new mattresses for the benefit of new mothers.



Zambia

SSIO members in Zambia have sponsored nearly 70 students in Lusaka, covering not only their school fees but also providing them with daily lunch. Periodic SSEHV classes are also conducted.

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Photo from Sathya Sai Baba's 1968 visit to East Africa

Do not make distinctions between your people and other people. Consider everybody as a member of the universal Divine family. Experience bliss by cultivating the spirit of unity. Do not give scope for any differences whatsoever. Treat each body as a temple and offer your salutations. Have the firm conviction that God is present in all. When you cultivate such noble thoughts, God will certainly become manifest to you.

—Sathya Sai Baba, 19 April 1998