



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
INTERNATIONAL**



GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN APPEAL in response to COVID-19

SOS Children's Villages International calls on the global community to help support families at risk of collapse and to provide the necessary care and protection for those children who do not have parents to stand by them.

With a presence in over 130 countries and territories and 70 years of experience, we know that each child needs someone to be there, to care for them, to listen to and comfort them, and to support them as they grow.

COVID-19 has laid bare the challenges we face in protecting and promoting the wellbeing of children, young people, their families and their communities, especially those living in the most vulnerable conditions around the world.

**"Children need someone
on their side always
and especially in times of crisis."**

- Siddhartha Kaul,

President of SOS Children's Villages International

A child cannot stay at home if being at home is not safe. Children cannot learn if there are no virtual devices or materials for homeschooling. Many parents cannot put food on the table if forced to stay home. A family cannot adopt hand washing routines if there is no clean water. These stress factors can have long term impacts on children's and families' physical and emotional well-being.

The aim of this SOS Children's Villages Global Humanitarian Appeal is to address the specific challenges and hardships faced by the children and families supported by SOS Children's Villages, as well as those who may need our support in the coming weeks, months and years, to overcome the devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SOS Children's Villages is stepping up its efforts around:

- Preparedness and preventing the spread of COVID-19;
- Strengthening families at risk of collapsing;
- Mental health and psychosocial support;
- Education and youth employment.

As a global federation, we are committed to maintaining the quantity and quality of our programmes. With our on the ground expertise, SOS Children's Villages is building on established development programmes to offer support to children and young people without adequate parental care, their families and communities, now and during the extended impact of this crisis.

Our work reaches over 1 million people in more than 130 countries and territories around the world.

FACTS & FIGURES

Global footprint - we are present in over
130 countries and territories

70 years
of demonstrated impact

Over 65 000 children
in our direct care

Over 630 000 people
in our family strengthening & education programmes

Over 500 000 people
in our emergency and health programmes

No child should grow up alone
www.sos-childrensvillages.org

The Scope of this Appeal

The scope of this SOS Children's Villages Global Humanitarian Appeal includes:

- **strengthening** our existing programmes to continue supporting children at risk of losing parental care, their families and their communities, in the face of the pandemic
- **expanding** our reach to accommodate the expected growth in the number of struggling families and children from the wider communities around our programmes.

Families at risk of collapsing

For families that are already under pressure and at risk of falling apart, this crisis will worsen their vulnerable situation. In addition, even more families are likely to fall into hardship and difficulties:

- where the key caregivers have health problems or are in the age group most affected by the disease;
- when they would normally receive social support from the state or their community, but are now isolated or unable to access that support;
- if they are already in vulnerable situations, including refugees and others, who are struggling with the new economic and social realities, facing the risk of poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse;
- when they are struggling to maintain contact with kin and extended family due to a lack of digital technology;
- should they become child-led or if children are separated due to illness or being set away to areas that are not affected by COVID-19.

Protection and mental well-being of children without adequate parental care

Children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental, have often experienced great challenges and trauma. Many of the necessary containment and prevention measures to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, with a lack of authority communication and especially child-friendly messaging, add uncertainty, stress, fear and anxiety for children.

Further, these necessary measures also restrict access to previous support networks (e.g. friends or school, reporting facilities) mental health professionals and established coping strategies (e.g. physical or creative activities, or spending time with friends). This adds additional mental and emotional strain for children and young people.

Disrupted education and unemployment challenges

Access to education is an enormous challenge during this crisis. Virtual homeschooling is often the only solution. However, children in difficult situations often have limited or no access to the necessary resources to continue their education, thus putting their development and future at risk.

In addition, the shorter-term rapid and dramatic increase in unemployment rates with the long-term economic impact of COVID-19, poses a huge obstacle for young people seeking employment as they strive for independence.



Focus on Common Themes

SOS Children's Villages is building on established development programmes to offer support to children and young people who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care, their families and their communities.

SOS Children's Villages aims to step up its efforts around four common themes that ensure the health and safety of children and young people, as well as caregivers and other care professionals (including ensuring children stay in appropriate care setting for the duration of the crisis).



Preparedness and preventing the spread of COVID-19

- Training and awareness raising, with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH). Temporary scaling up existing medical services and facilities;
- Contributing to the delivery of health care services by other competent state and non-state partners and working with them to secure supplies;
- Keeping families facing health issues in close proximity throughout the crisis and preventing the long-term separation of children and family members;
- Raising awareness in communities, with duty bearers and decision makers, of the special vulnerability of children without parental care or at risk of losing it.



Strengthening families at risk of collapsing

- Working with communities and partners to find practical solutions for the delivery of essential services, to support care, health, education and livelihoods, including access to digital technologies;
- Providing cash or material support, including food and non-food items to vulnerable families;
- Supporting alternative care arrangements with the extended family or friends of the family, new or temporary alternative care, or extension of existing care arrangements;
- Ensuring continued monitoring and support for families where the wellbeing of children is at risk, when possible through home visits, in liaison with local authorities or remotely (e.g. messages, calls, etc.).



Child protection, mental health and psychosocial support

- Continued efforts to address psychosocial and mental health issues in ways that respect social distancing by leveraging digital technology;
- Strengthening local child protection committees to raise awareness and direct support for children, young people and their families;
- Delivering mental health and psychosocial activities for children and their families to reduce stress and trauma;
- Enabling children and young people to network, request support, report abuse (e.g. through helplines), and to stay in contact with their family of origin;
- Enabling parents and caregivers to request support, seek advice and coaching through virtual counselling and mentoring, or through a limited number of home visits by specially trained personnel;
- Open up support to other alternative care providers, including foster families who face crisis.



Education and youth employment

- Creating community-based child friendly spaces for day-care and education, in cooperation with relevant service providers; targeting children whose parents need to continue going to work and those whose families are at high risk of collapse;
- Supporting the continued learning of children in their home, through offline and online access to education resources;
- Adapting and extending leaving care and after care support for young people via (digital) mentoring and skills development through existing tools such as YouthLinks (as part of YouthCan);
- Working with corporate and other partners in the months and years ahead to offer mentoring opportunities and new forms of employment support.

Operational Approach

Response actions will safeguard our existing programmes and ensure that SOS Children's Villages continues to deliver quality care. This means **strengthening** our programmes to be better equipped to handle the crisis as well as **expanding** our capabilities, and linking long-term recovery efforts with relief development, to support the changed and increased needs of children, families and communities.

Funds will contribute to variety of interventions, always implemented in a manner appropriate to the local context. SOS Children's Villages will implement two avenues of fund distribution:

1. Fast-tracked and regionally allocated funds for time-sensitive short- to mid-term projects, and
2. Centrally allocated funds for larger, longer-term projects based on highest need (which is reassessed and reprioritised as the global health and economic landscape changes).

Partnerships

When responding to emergencies, at National, Regional and Global levels, SOS Children's Villages participates in working groups and coordination meetings to ensure that synergies are achieved by collaborating with other stakeholders, from local communities and authorities to global humanitarian and governing organisations.

ABOUT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

Established in 1949, SOS Children's Villages is the largest NGO supporting children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care.

Present in more than 130 countries and territories, we work with children, families, communities and governments to help families stay together. When this is not possible or not in the child's best interest, we provide quality care according to the unique needs of each child or young person.

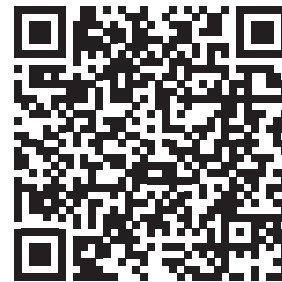
We adhere to our **SOS Care promise** and are guided by the **UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children** and the **UN Resolution on the Rights of the Child focusing on children without parental care.**

[The SOS Care Promise](#)
[Child Protection Policy](#)
[Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#)

We need your help!

Supporting children who have lost or at risk of losing parental care and families who are at risk of collapse will require strengthened efforts from all of us.

With your help, together with our partners, we will work to strengthen the resilience of those who need it most.



Join us, donate and become part of the solution.

#NOCHILDALONE
#CORONA

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