

# INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2018



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
INTERNATIONAL



# SOS Children's Villages

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental organisation focused on supporting children and young people without parental care, or at risk of losing it. Founded in 1949 as a non-denominational organisation, today we have a presence in 136 countries and territories.

Our work is anchored in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. We operate more than 2,600 locally led programmes, directly working with more than a million children, young people and families. We partner with donors, communities, governments and other organisations to reach the children and young people who need support, and we advocate for governments to uphold their obligations with regard to children's rights.

[www.sos-childrensvillages.org](http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org)

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## SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN IN SOS PROGRAMMES

All children have the right to engage in play and recreational activities, regardless of their background. Our summer camp on Lake Caldonazzo in Italy has been providing a place to have fun since 1953. In addition to the attractions of the lake, the camp is also a great opportunity for children and youth in SOS programmes across Europe to spend time together and meet people from other countries and cultures.

# Together, We Can Do More



**Siddhartha Kaul**  
President

**Norbert Meder**  
CEO/COO

All children and youth, regardless of the vulnerable circumstances they may find themselves in, have the right to grow up with the love and support they need to develop to their full potential. This is what our founder Hermann Gmeiner believed. He also believed that the responsibility to make sure this happens lies with us. All of us.

Today, 70 years after our founding, this belief that together we can build a world where all children can realise their potential is held by 140 locally led associations of SOS Children's Villages. These associations are working hard – with children, families, governments and partners – to make sure that children are growing up strong, in a loving and supportive family environment.

In 2018, over 39,000 SOS employees worked in 136 countries and territories to make the world a better place for children: by supporting parents and communities to prevent family separation, by directly providing care to children and youth for however long they need it, by raising funds, and by advocating to make sure governments live up to their responsibilities. We are grateful to the four million supporters and donors who made this work possible.

Looking ahead, we are excited to have discovered new ways of working together to reach more children and youth and to have a deeper impact on their lives. The YouthCan! youth employability programme, for example, is an innovative partnership that offers corporates and their volunteers a way to engage and contribute, and offers young people the chance to unlock their potential and build a brighter future.

There are great challenges facing today's children and families in industrialised and developing nations alike. Read on to learn more about them, about what we have achieved together in 2018 and what you can do. Join us!

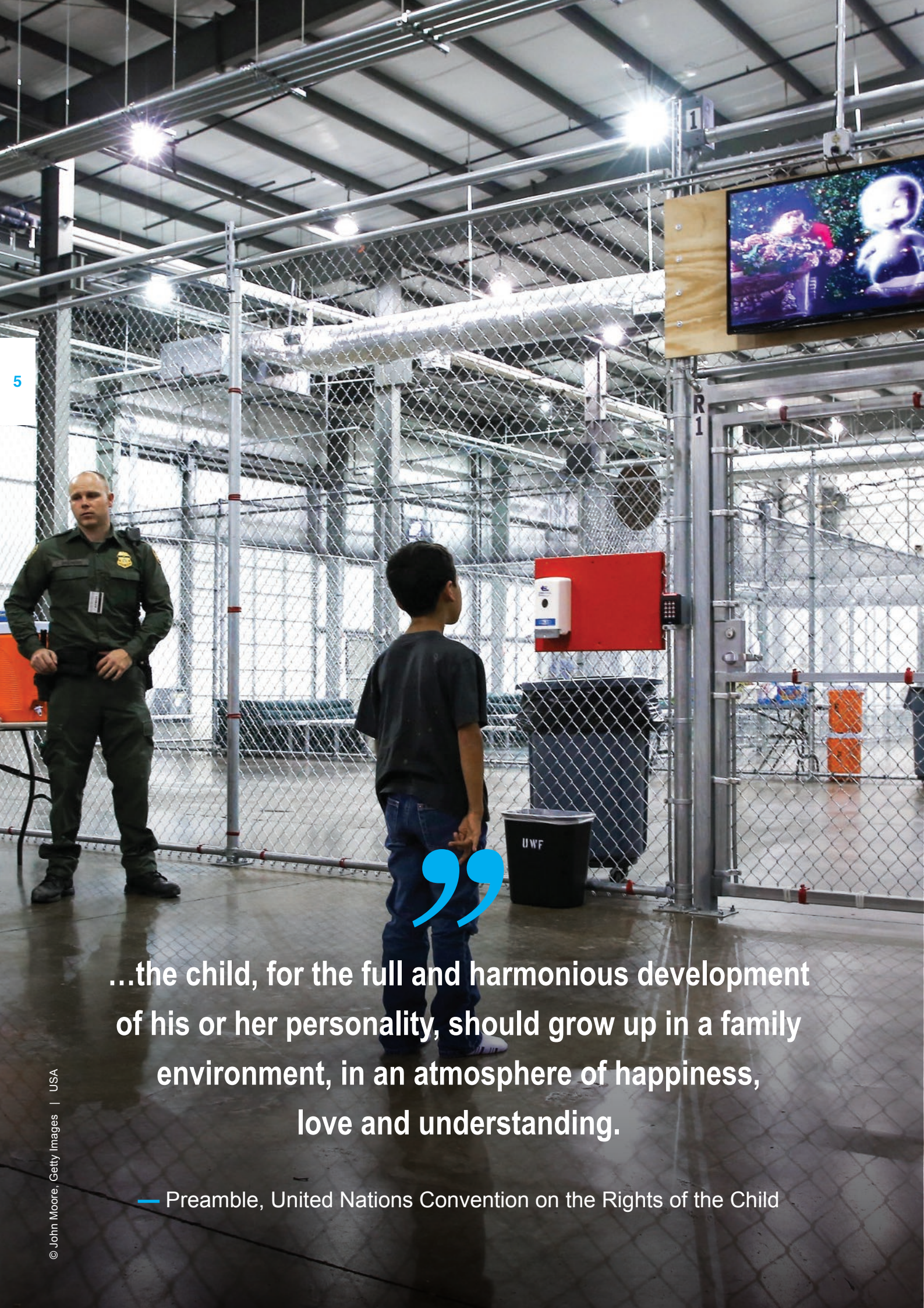
*K. Meder*

*Norbert Meder*



## SOS KINDERGARTEN IN BEN TRE, VIETNAM

All children have the right to quality education and to develop their talents and abilities, regardless of their background. This SOS kindergarten is located in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, which has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country. Since 2000, it has been providing a place for approximately 190 children from SOS families and vulnerable families in the community to develop friendships, play and learn.



# Year in Review 2018

*SOS Children's Villages believes that all children and young people have the right to grow up in a family environment. So do the 196 countries and territories around the world who signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child nearly 30 years ago, committing themselves to uphold this right, among many others, for the children in their communities.*

Yet today, an estimated 220 million children<sup>1</sup>, one in ten of the world's two billion children, are growing up without parental care or stand at risk of losing it. Clearly, children's rights have not been fully realised, but what, if any, progress is being made? What did 2018 look like for children without care and families at risk, and what were some of the global issues and events that affected them?

In many parts of the world today, children's rights and well-being are seriously under threat. Protracted conflicts, political unrest, mass displacement, natural disasters and climate change expose millions of children to family separation and the loss of loved ones, and imperil their rights to education, health and care. In other parts of the world, families are struggling to look after their children because of addiction, financial pressure and gaps in the established social systems meant to protect them.

At the same time, the world seems to have more chances than ever to lead change. Social media has become a powerful platform to connect people to both the problem and the solution. Additionally, two promising trends have emerged in our sector. One is the understanding that if we are serious about realising children's rights, it will only be possible through multi-stakeholder partnerships – reaching across sectors and engaging on the global and local level. The other trend is a new approach, sometimes called co-creating, to include children and young people in the development and implementation of initiatives that truly meet their needs.

In many ways, children's rights have come a long way, but there remains much more to achieve.

## BACKGROUND

Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most ratified human rights treaty in the world. It grants all children (defined as under the age of 18), without discrimination of any kind, the same rights as adults as articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also, with the understanding that children by definition require special safeguards and care, the Convention outlines rights that are unique to children or especially relevant for their development.

For example, there is an overriding principle that the family is the natural environment for a child to grow, and, when a child does not have the care of his or her family, the state has the responsibility to provide suitable alternative care. The document sets forth as basic principles that decisions should always be made in the best interest of the child and that children have the right to participate and share their views on matters affecting them. For children and by extension their families, the Convention thus provides a robust instrument to hold governments accountable for supporting children to grow to their full potential.

But does it matter? Do governments pay attention to this instrument? Indeed, there are indicators to show that they do. For example, in 1989, there were only three countries outlawing corporal punishment of children. Today, that number stands at 54<sup>2</sup>. This is something to celebrate, especially given that research conducted in the last 20 years shows that violence hinders a child's development and may set them up for a violent future themselves.

<sup>1</sup> This estimate is based on available data sources referring to issues that impact children without, or at risk of losing, parental care. For more information, see our 2016 publication, *Child at Risk*.

<sup>2</sup> Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children. Global Progress web page: <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/countdown/>.

...the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

— Preamble, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

## GLOBAL EVENTS

If we take a step back and look at how some of the year's global events affected children's rights – be it the right to a family, protection from harm or the right to development – the picture is bleak.

In 2018, **humanitarian crises** in countries like Central African Republic, Congo, South Sudan and Syria continued or intensified. The painful reality is that more than half the world's children are living in a conflict-affected country, with approximately 357 million living within 50 km of actual fighting<sup>3</sup>, limiting their access to education and sometimes to basic essential services.

The rise of nationalism and the shrinking space for civil society make the work of those trying to defend children's rights and fulfill their needs even more difficult.

In 2018, **global youth unemployment** was on the rise, with an estimated 71 million young people unemployed. There is also a significant gender gap, with approximately 34% of young women not in education, employment or training, compared to 10%

parents at the US-Mexico border. This shed light on the issue of **global migration**, and on the risks children and families face when they flee their home countries. It also put into the global consciousness the trauma that children suffer when they are removed from their families for preventable reasons.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

At the same time, there were many positive developments in 2018 for children without parental care and families at risk. With the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the global community committed itself to ending violence against children by 2030, and significant efforts are now underway to make this a reality.

Child-focused organisations are coming together to address this topic, leveraging their combined capacity, experience and knowledge. Joining Forces, an alliance of the six largest, including SOS Children's Villages, has undertaken a child-led initiative to change cultural and social attitudes towards children and violence. The logic behind this initiative is that legislation matters, but so does awareness raising in local communities.

organisations, including SOS Children's Villages, to develop a model to prevent family separation, with measures to strengthen the capacities of families at risk.

Additionally, countries have been taking a proactive look at their child protection systems and the quality of alternative care. In March 2017, a fire at an orphanage in Guatemala that killed 43 children brought global attention to the sub-standard, even abusive, situations that children living in institutional care may experience. Though heartbreaking, this event served as a wake-up call.

Some countries are undergoing care reform processes to more clearly articulate standards and to formally define the types of care they offer. We work with governments, sharing our experience in providing quality alternative care, to ensure that a range of options is in place to best meet the needs of each individual child. In Ukraine, for example, a strategy has been defined to move away from care that institutionalises children; the government is investing in alternative care services that are either family-like or based in existing families (e.g. foster care).

## RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RESOLUTION

A major event in 2018 that will have implications for vulnerable children and families was the UN General Assembly's decision to focus on children without parental care as the theme for the 2019 Rights of the Child resolution. This significant milestone builds on the 2009 UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and will give even more concrete guidance as to how governments can realise children's right to grow up in a loving family environment.

## IMPROVING DATA

A key aspect in understanding whether children's rights are being fulfilled is collecting and analysing data. Along with other organisations, we have been raising attention to this issue. Without reliable, disaggregated data on children at risk, it is impossible to tell if policies are working and where gaps exist.

A first step toward collecting data is official registration of a child. A simple but extremely effective way to support families at risk is to help

secure birth certificates. In addition to supporting in the collection of data, a birth certificate is a gateway for children and families to access services such as health and education. In countries such as Botswana, Eswatini, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia, SOS family strengthening teams are helping families to access administrative offices so that they can secure a birth certificate for their child.

## CO-CREATING SOLUTIONS

September brought another exciting development for children and young people who need support. World leaders at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly launched a new partnership called **Generation Unlimited** to tackle the global education and employment crisis currently holding back millions of young people. This multi-stakeholder partnership, whose Global Board includes government, private sector and NGO leaders, aims to empower, give access to employment and guarantee education for every young person by 2030.

As a member of the Global Board, we are sharing our expertise in supporting young people at risk. The partnership builds on the great efforts that have been made for children under ten, now recognising that the second decade of life is just as important as the first.

Generation Unlimited includes young people themselves in the design of their own solutions. In the Youth Challenge, for example, they participate in innovation workshops to develop ways to ensure that they have the education, skills and confidence they need. The best ideas in each country receive a small grant, expert advice and mentoring.

The year ended with a powerful example of what **youth participation** can look like. In December, Greta Thunberg, a now 16-year-old climate activist from Sweden, gave a riveting speech at the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland. Simple, brazen and disarmingly honest, she rebuked global leaders for ignoring the climate change crisis and stealing her generation's future. But instead of begging them to do something about it, she warned that change is coming whether they like it or not. Because "the power belongs to the people". Greta Thunberg has since become a lightning rod for the urgent need to act.

”

*I have learned you are never too small to make a difference.*

— Greta Thunberg, 16, climate activist

for males. Also worrying is the lack of quality jobs. As of 2017, 39% of young workers in the emerging and developing world are living in moderate or extreme poverty, despite being employed<sup>4</sup>.

In October, climate scientists and the United Nations Secretary General warned that the world has just 12 years to limit **climate change** in order to hold back floods, drought, extreme heat and mass poverty. Climate change hits vulnerable children particularly hard, since virtually all deaths attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries, with children making up over 80% of those deaths<sup>5</sup>.

But perhaps the most unsettling images from 2018 were the stories of children separated from their

Research on the topic of violence against children is feeding into concrete ways to combat it. For example, SOS Children's Villages has developed a practical guide on positive discipline, which has been used in over 40 countries to help parents and caregivers raise children with a positive parenting approach. Positive discipline sets boundaries with firmness and kindness, respecting children's rights and emotional needs.

## INVESTING IN FAMILIES AND CARE

We see a trend in governments becoming aware of the need to invest more in programmes that support families to stay together. In Ecuador, for example, the country's Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion worked with civil society

<sup>3</sup>Peace Research Institute Oslo (2018), Conflict Trends, 1.

<sup>4</sup>International Labour Organization (2017), Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017.

<sup>5</sup>UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti Insights (2014), The Challenges of Climate Change: Children on the Front Line.

# About SOS

*With beginnings in leading a movement against institutional care in 1949, SOS Children's Villages has evolved from providing family-like care to a handful of children in post-World War II Austria to supporting children, youth, families and communities with a wide range of services in 136 countries and territories today.*

”

**Time has changed everything, and SOS cannot stand still. What was valid 70 or even 50 years ago, must also evolve.**

— Peter Csebits

*Born 1943; grew up in SOS Children's Village Imst*

# Where We Work



SOS Children's Villages is a federation comprised of local member associations working for children and young people in 136 countries and territories. We provide specialist care and support in child and youth development programmes for children and young people at risk of losing parental care or who have lost parental care. We also strengthen vulnerable families to prevent family separation, and provide support for

people in need in the case of natural disasters or acts of war. Globally and nationally, we advocate for the realisation of children's rights.

Member associations work together in the spirit of solidarity, sharing resources and finding relevant ways to support each other to meet our strategic goal of ensuring that many more children have a loving home and an equal chance to succeed in life.

Almost all of the countries and territories in which we work are programme countries; programmes are locally led by committed staff who have the knowledge and expertise to best support vulnerable children and families in their communities.

Another seven countries and territories are exclusively dedicated to raising funds to support other member associations in

the federation. While the vast majority of associations conduct local fundraising, some of our programmes are in fragile countries and would not be able to operate without international funding.

Thirteen countries in our federation conduct both activities: they operate locally led programmes in their communities, and they raise funds for international programmes.

”

**Tear down your  
institutions.**

— Hermann Gmeiner, Founder,  
SOS Children's Villages



In the picture: Helene Didl, Maria Hofer, Hermann Gmeiner & Walter Gstrein

© Hermann Gmeiner Academy Archive | Austria

*“Yes, and here, dear friends, you experience a village of children... All those children whom you see here had nothing to expect but an orphanage or an institute. They were to be punished for their misfortune by segregation... Tear down your institutions and at last use the millions of schillings you expend every year in your institutions to build family villages for these poorest of the poor.” —Hermann Gmeiner*

On 25 April 1949, when Hermann Gmeiner was elected president at the inaugural meeting of Societas Socialis – the organisation that later grew to become SOS Children’s Villages – hardly

anyone could have foreseen that this would not only mean better lives for post-war children in the streets of Austria, but that it would usher in a new era for social welfare internationally.

While Gmeiner’s charisma and leadership were clear, the realisation of the idea was down to the concerted effort of many. It was a group of men and women with courage and entrepreneurial spirit who had a plan: bring vulnerable children back into society, close the reformatories and orphanages of that time and give the children what they needed – a mother, a home, security and love.

This was not well received by the large organisations, such as the church, that ran the orphanages. But the SOS founders took their message directly to the people, through media, cinemas and mailings, and the idea of a loving home for every child became a movement.

In post-World War II Europe, many people saw that if children could just be children, society could heal the wounds of war, and future generations could start building a world of peace. Individually, the children who lost their parents could once again develop close bonds with their caregiver, this time in an

# 70 YEARS *of impact*

4M\* CHILDREN  
& YOUNG PEOPLE



We have helped break the cycle of separation and abandonment. Most of those 4 million children will grow up to be good parents themselves.

90%

of former participants  
are doing well in terms of family relationships and support networks

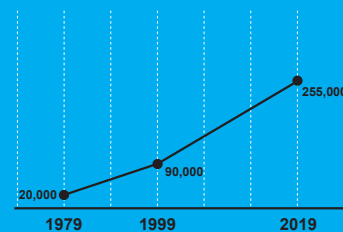
13M\*

lives will have benefited from our work by 2030

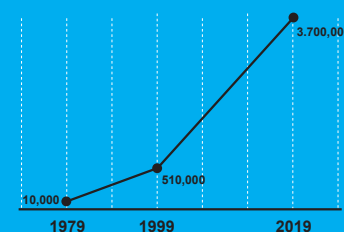
98%

of former participants  
are doing well in terms of fulfilling their parental obligations

Total number of children reached through family-like care since 1949

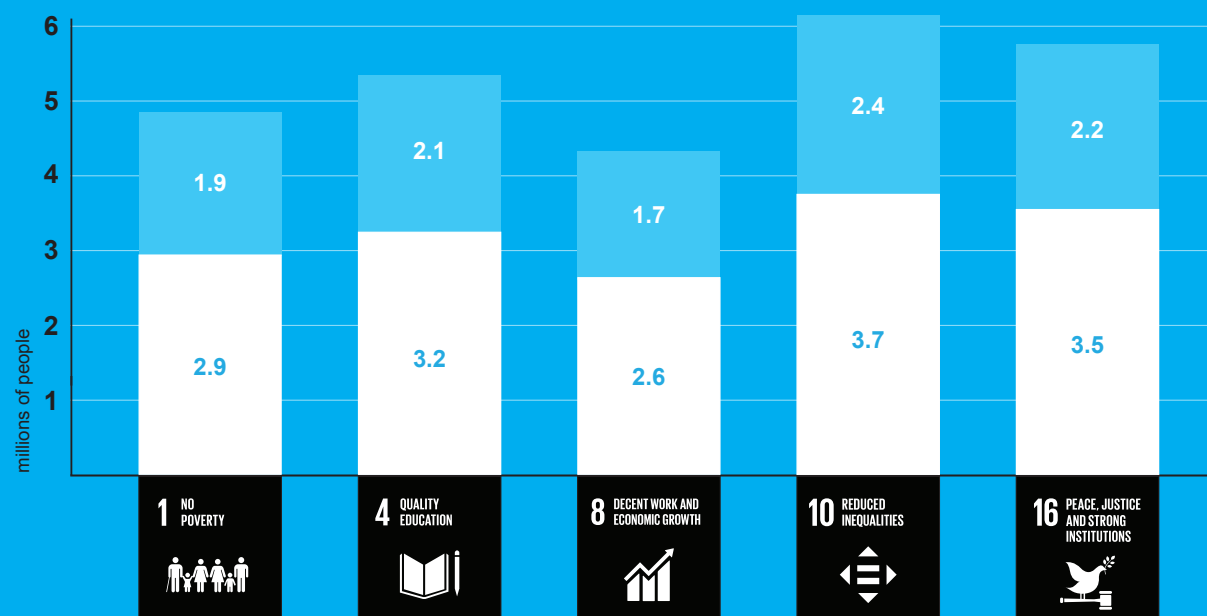


Total number of children reached through family strengthening since 1949



## 2030 AGENDA

Our work is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda and the global commitment to leave no one behind. 2030 projections:



current & former participants 1949-2019 future participants 2020-2030 (conservative estimate)

\* M = million

SOS family alongside their siblings, and develop stable, resilient relationships. And if they were to have families of their own, that upbringing would guide them to be strong parents themselves.

Little did the founders of SOS Children's Villages know that their core concept would apply in so many other situations of social strife for decades to come.

### GROWTH AND EVOLUTION

More wars would come. More trauma and social ills would blight humanity and continue to mean that some children would need alternative care. The need for what SOS Children's Villages provides would persist, and today we know that approximately one in ten children is growing up without parental care or at risk of losing it.

So SOS Children's Villages grew. In 1951, we looked after just a handful of children in Austria; today, our family-like care programmes are provided by local associations around the world and have reached a total of 255,000 children and youth. While staying true to our core, ensuring children can grow up in a loving environment, the range of ways in which we support has evolved. Family strengthening services – supporting parents and children to stay together and therefore prevent separation – came into being in the 1970s. These services expanded rapidly and have now reached a total of approximately 3.7 million children and youth.

Through the years, services also evolved to meet the needs of a changing world, supporting communities more widely through education, health, and emergency response programmes. Building on our field experiences, we became active advocates, engaging with those shaping laws and policies and joining forces in global partnerships.

### QUANTIFYING THE IMPACT

Since our founding in 1949, we have directly reached four million children and young people. Most of those four million will grow up to be good parents themselves, and will likely become parents and grandparents to nine million more. So once those four million children we have directly supported have grown up and had families of their own, by 2030 an estimated total of 13 million people will have benefited from our work.

But impact is more than numbers of children reached; it is about lives transformed in the long term. In recent years, we have interviewed former programme participants in 37 countries to better understand our impact and improve our services. The results have been strong. For example, 90% are able to meet most of their basic needs, such as adequate accommodation, food security and health care.

We also found that former participants are providing good care to their own children – with 98% of family-like care participants and 95% of former family strengthening participants doing well in terms of fulfilling their parental obligations.

This research, published in our 70 Years of Impact report, confirms that investing in quality care breaks the cycle of separation and abandonment and strengthens the next generation of children.

### MEETING GLOBAL GOALS

In 2015, the global community challenged itself to improve peace and prosperity for all – leaving no one behind – by 2030. This commitment, called the

*We dream of a time when we no longer need to exist.*

— Norbert Meder, CEO/COO, SOS Children's Villages International

2030 Agenda, included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many of the goals and targets set in the 2030 Agenda were already being pursued by SOS Children's Villages.

Five SDGs in particular – SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) are central to our work. We also contribute to progress on other SDGs, including SDG 5 (gender equality). With our support, millions of children have been able to improve their lives, as measured against those global goals.

*All measurements of impact mentioned above are explained in full in our report, 70 Years of Impact, available on our international website.*

# Our Programmes

*SOS Children's Villages provides a range of services to support children and young people in difficult circumstances to reach their potential. We advocate for the realisation of children's rights around the world. Guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, we always work in the best interest of the child.*



PROGRAMMES  
IN 2018

2,601



PEOPLE REACHED  
IN 2018

1,085,800\*

\*This figure includes 250,000 people reached through the SOS Mother and Child Hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia in 2018. It does not include people reached through other health care centres or through our emergency response programmes.

## OUR CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENTS

- We create a safe environment for children in all our programmes.
- We do not tolerate any abusive behaviour towards children, whether intentional or inadvertent, anywhere in our sphere of influence.
- We promote child protection in the communities where we work.

# Child Safeguarding

*Woven into the fabric of all of our work is the commitment to do everything we possibly can to keep the children and young people in our programmes safe. This has long been a part of our organisation's DNA, and we remain ever-vigilant to improve our policies and practices.*

Our Child Protection Policy, in place since 2008, focuses on awareness, prevention, reporting and responding. We are accountable for delivering on this policy and, in November, we published our Child Safeguarding Annual Report 2017/2018. The yearly report provides an overview of our achievements and challenges, and identifies areas for learning and improvement. We track all child safeguarding incidents, and the report includes data on critical incidents.

Over the past year, we put new processes in place to ensure that our child safeguarding measures are fit for purpose. This includes applying learnings from the process of attaining external Level 1 certification, awarded to us in 2017 by the international organisation Keeping Children Safe. For example, we are making real progress on implementing a child safeguarding risk management approach into our operations. Our effort to learn from the past also includes our continued work on the Independent Child Safeguarding Review. With the assistance of Keeping Children Safe, the Review is examining historical child safeguarding practices with an eye towards improving existing processes and increasing safety.

There are numerous means for anyone – whether our own employees, those of our partners, members of the community or the individual children affected – to raise concerns, such as through child safeguarding officers on the local, national, regional and international level. A confidential online reporting channel is available on our international website.

We also continue to build the capacity of our workforce, children, young people and families to recognise signs of abuse – and how to prevent it. We teach the use of methods such as positive discipline and protective behaviours, and we work to eliminate harmful cultural practices. In 2018, we also invested in trainings to effectively conduct internal child safeguarding investigations.

# Strengthening Families

*In many places around the world, families experiencing crisis or extreme hardship may have difficulties caring for their children. Beyond receiving sufficient nutritious food or having access to water and health care, children need to feel protected, encouraged and respected by reliable adults who love them unconditionally.*

In order to prevent crises that can lead to family separation, SOS Children's Villages works with vulnerable families, caregivers and communities and empowers them to protect and care for their children by offering various forms of support that strengthen and stabilise families and networks.

## PARENTING CLASSES

Many of our family strengthening programmes offer parenting classes to support children's development and build nurturing and safe homes. In Xatinap V, for example, a community in Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatemala, SOS Children's Villages supports mothers through training sessions on child protection, family life, positive parenting and community organisation. Other forms of support include measures to help curb malnutrition in the community as well as family development workshops which train community members to carry out early childhood development activities and improve access to literacy.

## KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT

When children lose the care of their parents, being raised by extended family, also known as kinship care, offers the possibility of maintaining familial bonds and minimising disruptions in children's daily lives.



© Ilievskia Katerina | Bosnia and Herzegovina

## REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

This single father, a former soldier, struggled to raise his child alone. In 2016, his son was removed from his care because of domestic violence. Today, SOS works with the father and son to improve their relationship to prevent the family from breaking down again.

# 112

COUNTRIES WITH  
FAMILY STRENGTHENING  
PROGRAMMES



# 575

SOS FAMILY STRENGTHENING  
PROGRAMMES

# 91,800

FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
TO STAY TOGETHER

# 496,300

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE  
AND ADULTS REACHED

All measures should be undertaken to support this care option, when it is in the child's best interest. In recent years, especially in Asia, we have begun expanding our services to support these families to stay together and provide good care to their children.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Creating economic opportunity helps keep families together. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, village savings and loans associations make it possible for vulnerable households who would otherwise not be eligible for loans to borrow money. In this community-based micro-financing model, group members themselves pay into the association's funds, making them independent from external lenders. SOS Children's Villages provides basic supply kits, including bookkeeping essentials and safe cashboxes, which enable the self-managed groups to organise and run their association.

## SUPPORT IN ACCESSING SERVICES

In some countries, families need support in accessing basic essential services. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, the provision of services such as health and education is shared between different levels of government and remains inefficient; many families are not covered by health care. At the SOS Early Childhood Development Centre in Sarajevo, social workers show vulnerable households how to work with their children at home to detect developmental issues and how to address these issues at home or seek specialised support from public institutions.

## DAY-CARE CENTRES

In some countries, we run day-care centres to help struggling families better care and provide for their children. In Ethiopia, for example, young children living in extreme poverty in Addis Ababa often end up on the streets as their parents look for work. These children are more vulnerable to poor health, dropping out of school and various forms of abuse or exploitation. The SOS Keranyo Day-Care Centre provides daily nutritious meals, psychosocial support and pre-school education to some 190 children between the ages of two and six years old.

# Alternative Care

*According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to a family environment even when their own family cannot care for them. Our first priority is to strengthen existing families so they can stay together. However, when this is not in the child's best interest or when there is no family to care for them, SOS Children's Villages offers a range of care options, adapted to the local context, to best meet the individual needs of the child or young person.*

© Lighthouse Joris | Uganda

In conjunction with child protection authorities and with the children themselves, we conduct a thorough assessment to determine which care setting best suits them. No matter the length of time of the placement, we always take the long view, building trust with each child and supporting them on their path to independence.

## FAMILY-LIKE CARE

One care option we provide is family-like care in an SOS family. Children and young people experience a reliable caregiver in the form of an SOS parent, as well as a home and a community. Biological siblings live together as long as it is in their best interest, so that the emotional bond between them can remain and grow. There is regular assessment of the child's placement, with an eye toward reintegration into the child's biological family wherever possible.

SOS parents receive ongoing training to best support the children coming into their care, many of whom have traumatic backgrounds. Specialised psychologists and other types of support are also available. The goal is to create an environment where children can experience the value of strong relationships, which helps them in their personal development and in their future relationships with others. In 2018, around 6,500 SOS families cared for over 45,000 children and young people in 559 SOS Children's Villages around the world.

## FOSTER CARE

Foster care implementation is unique to every national context; for this reason we work in different ways. In some cases, we provide support services to foster families, such as counselling or training, or we work with governments to implement quality foster care through knowledge transfer or in the development and distribution of quality training material. In some countries, our SOS parents are registered as foster parents.

## KEEPING SIBLINGS TOGETHER

These twins are growing up in an SOS family. Their father died, and their mother abandoned them. Severely malnourished and unable to walk or speak when they arrived, a year later they are running, playing and beginning to talk.

# 25%

OF SOS ALTERNATIVE CARE PARTICIPANTS ARE LIVING WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL SIBLINGS

### SHORT-TERM CARE

Sometimes, for example during family crises or emergency situations, children need care on a temporary basis, pending family reunification. In our transit homes, we provide an environment that protects them from harm. If it is determined that it is in the child's best interest to return to their family, we facilitate and carefully support this process. If not, we work together with child protection authorities to find the most appropriate care option.

### YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The goal of SOS youth programmes is to equip young people with the skills and confidence they need to realise their potential and stand on their own two feet. We provide individualised support in preparing for higher education, the job market or self-employment. With guidance from their SOS caregiver, the young person actively engages in the leaving care process. In 2018, more than 24,000 young people were cared for in 713 SOS youth programmes.

### LEAVING CARE

Young people from five SOS associations were involved in the European Union co-funded project Prepare for Leaving Care. In 2017 and 2018, they actively contributed to identifying the needs of care leavers, the gaps in the current system and suggestions for improvement. One output of the project is training for care professionals to better support young people as they transition from care to independence. Not only did young people with care experience contribute to the development of the training manual, but 19 of them were also involved as co-trainers.

### ONGOING TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Protective Behaviours is a preventative, life skills programme which empowers people of all ages, but especially children and young people, to deal with risky, unsafe or abusive situations. The two main themes in the development of this skill are: "We all have the right to feel safe at all times" and "We can talk with someone about anything, no matter what it is." Since its adoption at SOS in 2017, 2,054 care professionals and 6,625 children and young people in 24 countries have taken part in the training.

### PLAY THERAPY

Children and young people in alternative care often need specialised, age-appropriate support to help them to cope with trauma they may have experienced.

# 27,000

SOS CAREGIVERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE



# Youth Employability

Young people who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care often find the transition from school to starting a career particularly challenging, as they cannot count on the networks, resources or guidance that their peers may have access to. SOS Children's Villages, together with partners and the young people themselves, has been developing innovative ways to ensure a confident transition into independence.

© Barclay Leonora | Sri Lanka



25

COUNTRIES

1,300

VOLUNTEERS

5,060

YOUNG PEOPLE

## YOUTHCAN!

Young people themselves have taken a strong role in the design of the YouthCan! youth employability initiative. In this global partnership with the private sector, volunteers from our corporate partners share their time, skills and expertise. They plan workshops and trainings, and act as mentors to young people at the start of their careers, both in person and using an online digital platform called YouthLinks. The initiative is tailored to the local labour market and needs of each young person. In its second year of operation in 2018, the initiative welcomed 15 new YouthCan! countries, with a goal of reaching 40 countries total by 2020.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

Developing new skills and learning a trade are key for young people to find work and be able to support themselves. In 2018, we operated 59 SOS vocational training centres, supporting over 18,000 young people and adults from disadvantaged backgrounds. These centres provide specialist vocational training with a leaving certificate or a recognised diploma at the end of the course, enabling young people to find sustainable work or start their own businesses.

## STUDY ON DECENT WORK

Developed in collaboration with University College London Institute of Education, the report "Decent Work and Social Protection for Young People Leaving Care" collates evidence for the first time from across four regions of the world. It details the ways in which young people with care backgrounds cope with the challenges of becoming self-reliant. The report was launched in April 2018 at a multi-stakeholder panel discussion at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, with young care leavers speaking about their experiences.

”

*YouthCan! helped me become a better version of myself.*

— 18-year-old YouthCan! participant from Argentina

# Education

*Every child has a right to education. Yet millions of children worldwide are denied their right because of poverty, discrimination, violence, family illness and other reasons. We promote child-centred quality education across all of our programmes, focusing on the child as a resourceful individual with unique skills and capabilities.*

## KINDERGARTENS

Children who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it are often excluded from adequate early childhood education, yet research shows that the early years of childhood lay the foundation for a child's future. We partner with authorities and communities to provide kindergartens and schools in areas that lack such facilities. In 2018, we operated 217 SOS kindergartens globally.

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION

We empower children and young people to participate in decisions that affect their lives. For example, in 2018, SOS Nigeria established Children and Youth Councils in each of its four programme locations to ensure children and young people have a space to share their views on care, including SOS programmes and activities. The Children and Youth Councils led an evaluation of the SOS youth programmes in Nigeria. Their input will be considered and programmes changed accordingly.

## DIGITAL VILLAGE

The Digital Village project equips children and families with digital skills to improve school grades and employability, support with household tasks, and be part of the global digital community of learning, working and communicating. In 2018, the Digital Village project reached over 8,100 children and young people and 940 caregivers in 57 SOS locations.



## PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

We operate schools where there is a gap so that children from disadvantaged backgrounds can access high-quality education.

# 98,000

CHILDREN REACHED  
THROUGH SCHOOLS

# Emergency Response

*We respond to the urgent needs of children and families in times of conflict, natural disaster or mass displacement. Drawing on our long-term presence in the countries and communities where we work, we are well positioned to understand the needs, identify partners and act quickly. In 2018, we responded to emergencies in 25 countries and territories. Our focus is always on caring for children, protecting their rights and keeping families together. Our vision for children is always long-term.*

© Haj Ibrahim Fares | Syria

## OUR FOCUS



CARING FOR  
CHILDREN



PROTECTING  
CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS



KEEPING FAMILIES  
TOGETHER

## GLOBAL REACH

During the year, we responded to catastrophes in Indonesia and Laos; drought in Ethiopia and Somaliland; and displacement crises sparked by armed conflict or civil unrest. We also helped refugees and displaced people in Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Iraq's Kurdistan Region, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Africa and in Southern and Eastern Europe.

## INDIVIDUALISED CARE

Our child-friendly spaces are core to nearly every emergency response and vital to providing support to children and parents who have experienced traumatic events, such as the loss of loved ones or dislocation. In 2018, there were 49 child-friendly spaces in operation, giving children a safe place to learn, enjoy activities and – along with their parents – have access to psychologists, social workers and other specialised support, contextualised to the local needs. We base our success in challenging situations not in numbers, but in supporting one child at a time and in empowering each family.

## BRIDGING DISPLACED PEOPLE WITH THE COMMUNITY

With record numbers of people fleeing conflict and disasters, we are especially well positioned to support vulnerable children and families in countries of origin, along their journey, and destination countries. We also provide a bridge between the host community and those who have fled their homes. With our local presence in many of the major displacement crises, we have the knowledge and partner network to address the immediate protection and humanitarian needs of children, while also supporting the integration of children into schools and involvement of families in the local community.

## POST-EMERGENCY SUPPORT

This SOS social worker checks in on a family of eight who fled the fighting in Aleppo and found a temporary home in Damascus. The family is receiving psychological support as well as a financial allowance so that the children can go back to school.

# 49

CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES  
WORLDWIDE

# Unique Programmes

*We believe that every child has the right to grow up with the love and support they need to develop to their full potential. When there is an unfilled need in the community, we create a unique programme to fill the gap.*

## SOS PERU'S PRISON PROJECT

One out of four children at the SOS Children's Village in Ayacucho, Peru needs care because their parents are in prison. To maintain the relationship between parent and child, the SOS team developed a partnership with the local prison that includes scheduled children's visits as well as parenting workshops with the fathers and mothers of children in SOS's care. This is the only programme of its kind in all of Latin America.

## SAVING LIVES

The SOS Mother and Child Hospital in Mogadishu has provided life-saving measures to the Somali people for nearly 30 years. Started in 1986 as a small clinic, the hospital remained open even during heavy fighting after the downfall of the government in 1991. SOS Children's Villages was among the few humanitarian organisations left to meet the health needs of the people during the crisis.

## CARING FOR ABUSED BABIES

In Greece, we have partnered with a local organisation to care for and protect babies and infants who have suffered trauma from abuse or neglect. This pioneering programme shelters up to 20 children and offers psychological and social support to their biological parents, with the goal of reunifying the family once there is no further risk of abuse.



© On Screen Productions Ouma Kevin | Somalia

## MOGADISHU

Despite decades of instability, many babies have been born at this SOS hospital. Young mothers have had life-changing surgery to reverse conditions like fistula, and many children and mothers have been saved through the emergency feeding programme.

# 250,000

PEOPLE REACHED  
IN 2018

# Advocacy

*Drawing on our 70 years of programme expertise, SOS Children's Villages speaks out for children's rights on the global, regional and national level. Our advocacy work is designed to change legislation to improve national child and family welfare systems.*

© Eyen Jarle | Norway

We speak up at national and international political forums and provide recommendations to governments and decision makers to promote child-centred and rights-based approaches. Our work is also geared towards youth empowerment and supporting children and young people to speak out for themselves.

## ADVOCATING TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

One of our main objectives is to ensure that decision makers understand that investment in family strengthening can often prevent unnecessary separation of children from their parents, other forms of harm and the need for alternative care placements. Among other efforts, we have engaged with UNICEF during its Executive Board meetings and as co-chairs of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, a coalition of over 60 civil society organisations. The coalition advocates for governments to invest in family strengthening programmes, child protection systems and meaningful child participation.

## ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY CARE

We advocate for quality alternative care services which meet the child's best interest and allow children who have lost parental care to grow up in family-like environments in the community. A major success and historic milestone in 2018 was the UN General Assembly's decision to focus on children without parental care as the theme for the 2019 Rights of the Child resolution.

The UN General Assembly is expected to adopt the resolution in late 2019, providing key guidance for governments to address the rights and needs of children without parental care. SOS Children's Villages had advocated for a focus on children without parental care, also in collaboration with a coalition of 87 non-governmental organisations.

## CHILDREN IN THE BLINDSPOT CAMPAIGN

The work to highlight the situation of children at risk needs long-term focus. This event, "to make visible" the one in ten children growing up without adequate parental care, took place in Norway, in front of the Parliament building in 2016.

# 36

NATIONAL PUBLIC  
POLICIES/LAWS CHANGED  
(2015-2018)

## EXAMPLES OF POLICY CHANGE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

**Benin:** Thanks in part to the leadership in advocacy efforts of SOS Benin through a network of more than 50 non-governmental organisations, foster care guidelines were adopted by the government in 2018. Benin will begin offering foster care for the first time in 2019.

**Ecuador:** The country's Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion worked with civil society organisations, including SOS Ecuador, on the implementation of a new service model to prevent unnecessary family separation.

**Sri Lanka:** The new National Alternative Care Policy of Sri Lanka, presented in July 2018, includes for the first time family-like care in the range of care options available to a child and the commitment to keeping siblings together in alternative care.

## EMBRACING PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering with others strengthens our voice and brings us closer to our objectives. This includes close collaboration with child rights networks, United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, and researchers. We also mainstream the specific needs of children without parental care and at risk of losing parental care in debates with partners on cross-cutting topics such as migration, refugees, disability and development aid.

## EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO SPEAK OUT FOR THEMSELVES

Children and young people have a right to be heard in all decisions affecting them. We empower them to actively participate, to learn about their rights, and to make their voices heard. We believe they can speak out for themselves and thus make vital contributions to finding solutions, including on the political level.

In November 2018, young people with care experience raised their voices at the conclusion of the EU co-funded Leaving Care project in Brussels. They shared recommendations on how to improve the leaving care process with more than 60 representatives from governments, NGOs, youth welfare services and universities. "We were the voice for many young people in the same situation," says Kruno, 25, from Croatia. "There was so much energy and synergy in these groups... I feel like we can change the world."

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Divine, a former SOS programme participant, and her colleague Fouzy unexpectedly took the stage at the 2018 Global Perspective Conference of the International Civil Society Centre. They spoke up about the role of youth in leading change and announced the launch of their Yes4Humanity initiative.



International  
Civil Society  
Centre



# The Movement

*Every child has the right to grow up in a loving family environment. By working together, with donors, partners, like-minded organisations, and with the children and young people themselves, we can build on a movement that makes children's right to quality care a reality.*



CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH REACHED  
SINCE 1949

4,000,000



SUPPORTERS AND  
DONORS IN 2018

4,000,000



SOS EMPLOYEES  
WORLDWIDE

39,160

# In Their Own Words

*This year we would like to share with you the voices of the people who are part of the greater SOS family. Be it a sponsor, a programme participant or an SOS caregiver, they all have something to say about the power of a loving relationship.*



Mamdouh Daghisstani strongly believes in the SOS Children's Villages vision for children, and that is why the 29-year-old became a child sponsor in 2013.

## ***What led you to become a sponsor?***

I was in the mall, and there was a fundraising campaign by SOS Children's Villages Syria. I love donating for a good cause, but the idea of sponsoring a child was entirely new to me. When the SOS team told me about the child sponsorship programme, I said yes immediately. It was a life-changing moment for me.

## ***What effect has being a sponsor had on you personally?***

Usually when I donate, I do not tell people about it. However, that day I was super excited and went back home to tell my family. They all asked me the same question, how can we sponsor a child too? Today, my family and I sponsor nine children from SOS Qudsaya and Saboura. They are part of our family now.

## ***Why is it important for you to give back?***

It is very important for me to give back, especially to children, because I put myself in their place and imagine how hard their life would be without other people's support. If we all help, there will be no cold, hungry or lonely child. What they should feel is happiness, love and care. I feel very sad for what the children of Syria have gone through. They have suffered greatly during the war, and I wish we were able to protect them all.

## ***If you could grant three wishes for the next generation of children, what would they be?***

I wish that children do not lose their families or live without them. It is difficult for an adult, so imagine how it is for a child. I wish that they live a happy life, where their rights are protected and respected. My third wish for them is to enjoy good physical and psychological health that will allow them to enjoy life.

MAMDOUH | CHILD SPONSOR, SYRIA

”

*If we all help, there will be no cold, hungry or lonely child.*



PETER | FORMER PARTICIPANT, AUSTRIA



© Private Archives | Austria

Born 1943, Peter Csebits belongs to the first generation of children who came of age in the first SOS Children's Village in Imst, Austria.

***How did your experience with SOS influence the person you are today?***

I had a very difficult childhood and in 1952, when I was 9½, I came to the SOS Children's Village in Imst. There I experienced real family for the first time. I was able to integrate, which took some time. Above all, I was part of a community, a family, the village, and through that was able to learn important social skills. I have learned to be considerate, to share, to feel like a member of a community. That was very important for me and my life.

”

*I have learned that when you give, much more comes back.*

***Who had the greatest influence on you as a child?***

That would be Hermann Gmeiner, the village director back then. And my SOS mother Käte Feichtinger. Later, the director of the youth house in Innsbruck, Rudolf Maurhard. He had a great influence on me. He stood by me – especially in terms of school when I lost my motivation during puberty.

***What were the challenges of growing up in the care of SOS?***

It was difficult in the beginning. If you have been poked and prodded and moved to different foster setups, then you first have to regain the ability to trust. That took a while. But the siblings in the house and the affection of the mother helped me. The whole environment in the children's village was very positive.

***Is there anything else you would like to share?***

I would like to say that I owe a lot to SOS. Also, that I have found my place. The social skills that I learned in the children's village laid the foundation for my life, for my profession as a teacher, as a trainer, as a musician, as a friend. I have learned that when you give, much more comes back.

Lerato (17)\* is growing up in a township just outside Pretoria, South Africa. She and her biological sister Iminathi (15)\* have been living in their SOS family for three years.

***Lerato, tell us about your sister.***

My sister is someone who is very intelligent. She is good at socialising, unlike me. We both like challenges. We like being recognised. But she speaks what's on her mind and I can't do that. When I do that, I feel like I'm being judgmental.

***What do you like to do together?***

We often help each other in the kitchen when it is our turn to cook. We both play netball at school, so we like to practice together. Also, we like to watch TV together – even though she prefers animation and I like soapies. We can talk about the funny things we see on TV over and over again. But we just like being together, talking and catching up on the day. One of my favourite things is when we sleep in the same bed, and she is really close to me. I will miss Iminathi when I go to university.

***What have you learned from your little sister?***

To go after what I want. That anything is possible.

***If you could grant three wishes for the next generation of children, what would they be?***

I wish them a prosperous and fruitful life – the best in their education and life, and that their wishes may come true. They should dream big; nothing is impossible as long as you believe in yourself and your dreams. I wish to tell them that they should never give up in life no matter what they may be experiencing.

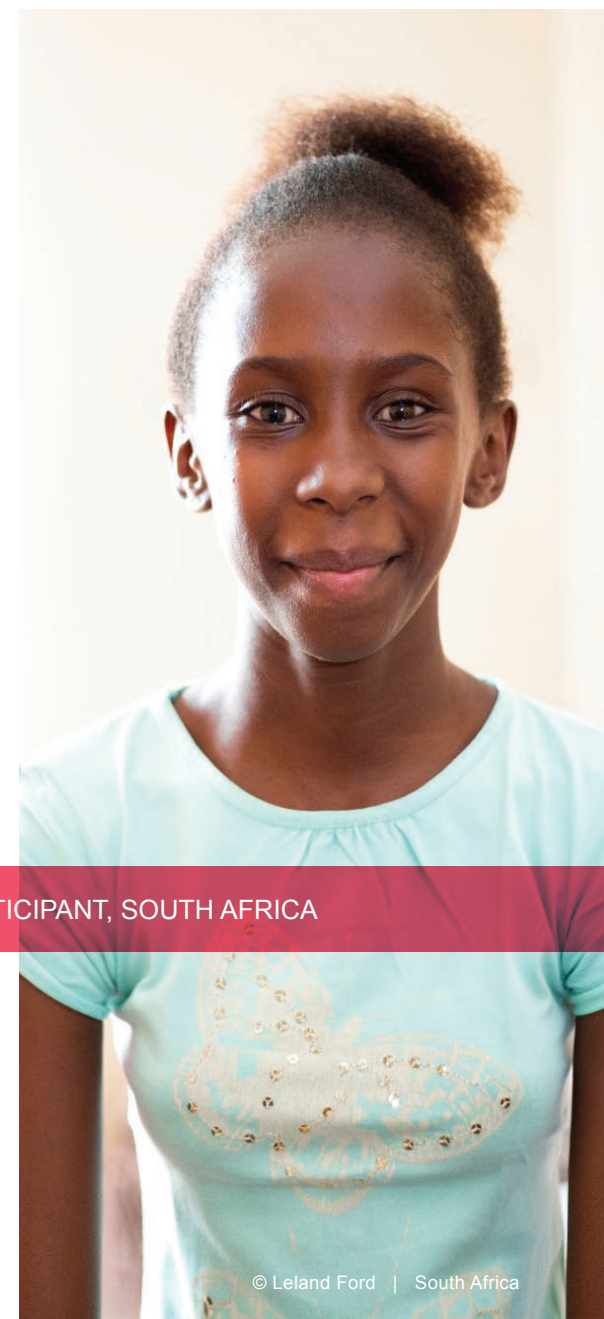
***Is there anything else you would like to share?***

Children growing up in care, we are no different from each and every kind of human being; we are all the same and, you know, the word 'impossible' does not belong in our vocabulary. Everything is possible.

”

*The word 'impossible' does not belong in our vocabulary.*

*\*Names changed to protect their privacy*



LERATO | CURRENT PARTICIPANT, SOUTH AFRICA



© Fuhr Jakob | South Africa



GERVENS | SOS FATHER, USA

Gervens Casimir, 28, has been an SOS father at SOS Children's Villages Florida, USA since 2016. He specialises in caring for teenage boys.

***What led you to this profession?***

I've always liked working with kids, ever since high school. When I heard about SOS I did my research. They were looking for a house parent for kids, someone to be a mentor or a father figure to them. I decided I would take a chance and come to SOS and I've loved it so far.

***What do you like most about your job?***

I like having a positive influence in the kids' lives, being a positive role model, taking them places, like going fishing or to the beach. Just being there for them.

***Can you tell us about a specific relationship you have with a child or young person?***

There was one kid when I first started at SOS. He was 14 at the time. He did not like me much because I was on him about everything – about school, doing his homework. He was not used to that. He hated it. As time went by though, I became his favorite. I became like a father figure to him.

***How did things change?***

I always talked to him. I encouraged him. I told him what he could be if he just stayed in school and stayed focused. Sometimes I would take him fishing and we would just talk about life, about the challenges that he was going through. I earned his trust. It's all about earning trust. Once you earn that trust, the relationship between you and that child will be beautiful.

***How is the boy doing today?***

He's doing well. He lives back with his dad. He calls me all the time, so I know he's doing well.

”

*It's all about earning trust. Once you earn that trust, the relationship between you and that child will be beautiful.*



© Honoré Jens | USA



© Kaiser Alejandra | USA

Jharna Mukherjee, 53, found an opportunity to help children at the SOS Children's Village in Faridabad, India.

***What led you to choose this profession?***

As a youngster, I loved working with little children, teaching them course subjects like sewing and crafts. I must have been in my twenties when I started volunteering at the Missionaries of Charity inspired by the good work of Mother Teresa. Then I came to Delhi to work as a Hindi teacher, and after teaching for a few years, I joined the organisation because I loved their work with children.

***What do you like most about your job?***

To be able to watch children grow and make good choices in their lives, and improve their circumstances is what I love about my work.

”

*It is hard work and overwhelming, but it is incredibly rewarding.*

***Tell us something you have learned from a child or young person in your care.***

Whenever I fret about getting all the pending things finished, my seven-year-old daughter comes and gives me a hug. She explains that she does not like the angry, stressed me. That is when I remember to relax and take it slow.

***If you had three wishes for the next generation of children, what would they be?***

I just want all my children to do well in their lives and make the right choices.

***Is there anything else you would like to share?***

Being an SOS mother is a job only for the generous and big-hearted. Money will not help if your heart is not in the job, and if you do not love children. It is a position of great power to be the only important person in the lives of these children. It is hard work and overwhelming, but it is incredibly rewarding.



© Miller Richard | India



JHARNA | SOS MOTHER, INDIA

© Sandhu Pearl | India

# Hermann Gmeiner Award

*Dr Muruga Sirigere, a physician from India, runs free medical clinics in poor communities. Maria Angelina, an activist from Indonesia, helps the survivors of human trafficking rebuild their lives. What they have in common is they grew up in SOS Children's Villages and both were winners of the Hermann Gmeiner Award 2018.*



The Hermann Gmeiner Award, first started in 1991, honours inspiring women and men who were cared for in SOS Children's Villages and who have gone on to become role models in their communities. The two winners this year were chosen through an open process, in which 71 outstanding individuals from 30 different countries were nominated and 120,000 online votes from the greater SOS Children's Villages community were cast.

"The 2018 winners – Dr Muruga Sirigere and Maria Angelina – work in the spirit of Hermann Gmeiner by serving their communities and the most vulnerable people in society," said SOS Children's Villages International President Siddhartha Kaul.

## RESTORING LIVES AND DIGNITY

Maria Angelina, who grew up in the SOS Children's Village in Flores, Indonesia, helps marginalised women who have suffered at the hands of human traffickers. Through the victim recovery programme of the Good Shepherd Sisters, a Catholic religious order, Angge – as she is called – tries to restore the lives and dignity of Indonesian women who are fortunate enough to have returned to their home villages.

Angge identifies with the women she is supporting. "I'm really grateful to have grown up in an SOS family," she said. "I believe if I didn't live in the SOS Children's Village in Flores, I could have been one of the victims of human trafficking." In the future, Angge wants to build a shelter for survivors of human trafficking, as well as a place to train them so they gain useful skills.

## FOLLOW YOUR HEART

For Dr Muruga, giving back to the community, especially to help children, is not only about being a humane medical professional, it is personal. He knows first-hand what it is like to be in need. Dr Muruga was born into a poor family where, after the death of his father, his mother struggled to raise him and his four siblings. At the age of five, he was brought to live at SOS Children's Village Bengaluru.

Today, Dr Muruga feels a strong calling to give to others. At least once a month he travels with a team of physicians to poor villages in India to provide free treatment and medicine. In the future, Dr Muruga hopes to expand his services to reach more people in need. He wants to inspire young people to do the same. "My message to my brothers and sisters at SOS Children's Villages is to follow your heart, become a better person and always give back to society," Dr Muruga said.

*“Follow your heart, become a better person and always give back to society.”*

— Dr Muruga



# Partnership Philosophy

*We are grateful to have so many partners around the world who are committed to genuine social change for children and young people. Together, we will build a world where every child can grow up in a strong family environment.*

Our partnerships today take shape in a variety of forms and ways. Much of our financial support comes from individuals who make donations large and small. They also donate their time, by raising awareness on social media or volunteering to be a mentor. Prominent personalities are also raising their voices on behalf of children and families in vulnerable circumstances.

We work with governments and institutional funding partners, and with corporates on the global and national level. We partner with universities to conduct research and with other child-focused organisations on advocacy efforts, such as effecting change in child protection systems or improving quality in alternative care.

We are particularly excited about new approaches that are developing, often with the input of the children and young people themselves – approaches that involve multilateral, cross-cutting groups coming together to accelerate progress and find meaningful solutions.

Our 70 years of experience in directly caring for children has taught us a lot about relationships. Trust, which begins with eye-level respect, is essential and takes time to develop. Good relationships also involve listening and learning from each other, whether a father from a child, a mentee from a mentor, or a non-profit from a corporate. In our partnerships, we aim to leverage the powerful potential of good reciprocal relationships built on trust, with both sides giving and receiving as well as benefiting from the realisation of children's rights.

# Featured Partners

*There are many ways to support children, young people and families in difficult circumstances. This year we feature the following innovative partners who share our vision. We are proud to work together alongside these individuals and organisations to build a better world for children.*



## AKZONOBEL

### Corporate partner

AkzoNobel, a leading global paints and coatings company, joined the SOS Children's Villages YouthCan! initiative in 2017 to effect change on the issue of youth unemployment. Through its Let's Colour project, hundreds of AkzoNobel employees across Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe volunteer their time to boost young people's employability and renovate SOS living spaces.

With the partnership's expansion to 10 countries in 2018, AkzoNobel volunteers and trained youth have coloured the lives of over 2,500 people, while 1,000 young people have engaged in employability activities. One of them is Thales Thierry Maravelli Brito from Brazil, who now works as a professional house painter. A graduate of the painter and professional skills training, he says, "I acquired a lot of knowledge in this course that I didn't have. The training taught me to grow in all aspects of life, not only on the professional side."

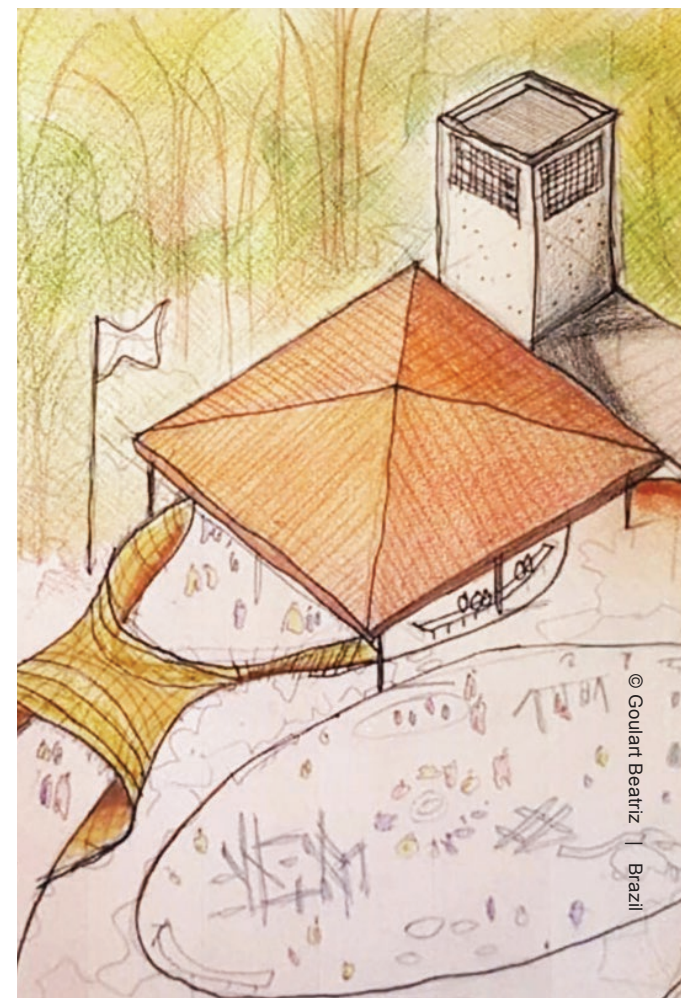
”

*It is the most positive transforming experience I've ever been a part of.*

— Olga Zaytseva, AkzoNobel Russia volunteer



© Ouma Kevin | Somalia



© Goulart Beatriz | Brazil

## ECHO

### Institutional partner

In times of humanitarian crisis, children are particularly vulnerable. The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) provides assistance for countries and populations affected by disasters and humanitarian emergencies, including projects to support children and families.

Since 2001, ECHO has provided funding to our Mother and Child Health Care Programme in Somalia. Partnering with ECHO has allowed SOS Children's Villages to implement emergency measures in the field of health and nutrition, focusing on maternal and neonatal services, as well as protection services for internally displaced people, returnees and host communities in Mogadishu and Baidoa.

These interventions reach over 250,000 beneficiaries every year in the two locations and surrounding areas. SOS Children's Villages is proud to be an implementing partner of ECHO in the achievement of their mandate of providing assistance to people in need.

## MICHAEL HEWITT

### Major donor

Through the generous support of Mr Hewitt we are able to build a community and health centre, complementing one of our family strengthening programmes in Araçoiaba, Brazil. He chose SOS Children's Villages because of our focus on vulnerable children and young people, and because of our strong track record.

This centre will provide medical assistance and community engagement for children and families in need. Mr Hewitt has long been interested in supporting our activities. His donation is in honour of his late wife, Lis Mosekilde M.D, D.Sc.(med), a compassionate doctor and international authority in the field of bone research. The centre is expected to open in 2019.



© Mantier Lydia | Jordan

## YOUTH LINKS

### Digital partnership

Now in its second year and spanning 14 countries, YouthLinks is a digital platform used in the YouthCan! initiative and other programmes. It connects young people in SOS programmes with peers, mentors and SOS staff to empower them around topics such as employability and leaving care. Supported by our global partners, Allianz, Deutsche Post DHL Group and Johnson & Johnson, the platform is a place for sharing experiences and developing support networks.

The online mentoring component of YouthLinks, developed with support from Volunteer Vision and Aflatoun, brings together young people leaving care with volunteers coming from the corporate world, various institutions and other partners. In the five-week programme, participants together with their mentors identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as set goals for the future, thereby building their confidence, self-esteem and employability skills.

## AHMAD JOUDEH

### International Friend

After witnessing a child killed in a battle in Syria, Ahmad Joudeh decided to work for vulnerable children in the war. He joined fundraising activities for SOS Children's Villages Syria and held dance lessons for children in SOS programmes. His involvement with SOS Children's Villages continued when he moved to Europe, where he has contributed with dances and events to raise awareness and funds for children in SOS programmes, particularly those affected by the refugee crisis in Syria.

On why he decided to volunteer his time, Ahmad says, "I had no money, I had no power, I had only dance. Well, I ended up finding SOS Children's Villages. I went there and offered dance classes for the children to help them overcome their traumas."

His advice for children worldwide is to hold on tight to their dreams, to not be discouraged and to continue to believe in themselves. We are very pleased to announce that Ahmad Joudeh decided to take his support to the next level and enter a global partnership with us.



© Mantier Lydia | Italy

## JOINING FORCES

### Global partnership

In 2017, SOS Children's Villages International joined forces with five other child-focused agencies, ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, Terre des Hommes International Federation and World Vision International, to accelerate progress towards achieving the child-relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

This partnership works to deepen political commitment to realising children's rights globally. There are two strands of action: "Child Rights Now", which focuses on advocacy towards policymakers and research, and "Ending Violence against Children", which takes a child-led and bottom-up approach to change cultural and social norms regarding children and violence on the national level. In 2018, this approach was implemented in five pilot countries: El Salvador, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines and Uganda.

In 2019, Joining Forces will launch a global report on the current state of children's rights at the United Nations in New York, which will support high-level advocacy.

## NACCW

### Local non-profit organisation

Responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis as it has affected children, South Africa's National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) developed a community-based care and protection programme, named "Isibindi" – "courage" in isiZulu. We have been an implementing partner of Isibindi since 2013. Home visits are at the core of this collaboration, to encourage quality caregiving and strengthen family relationships for the well-being of children and adolescents, who often live with grandparents or single parent caregivers. The workers in Isibindi are chosen from the SOS family strengthening programme community. They receive training free of charge and get a monthly stipend, a form of income for their families. The qualified care workers live in the communities they serve; they understand the local language, culture, and challenges, which is a big boost towards better reaching families in need.



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ChildFund  
Alliance



Terre des Hommes  
International Federation





# Thank You All

*We can only accomplish what we do for children, young people and families thanks to the generosity, creativity and commitment of partners. Partners, both international and local, support our ongoing running costs and many of our innovative projects. We say thank you to those listed here and to the many thousands of other partners who make our work possible.*

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL & GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

### Government of Austria

Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

### Government of Belgium

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (DGD)

Wallonie-Bruxelles International

### Government of Canada

Global Affairs Canada

### Government of Denmark

Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

### Government of Honduras

Secretary of Development and Social Security

### European Union

European Commission

European Investment Bank

### Government of Finland

Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry for Social Affairs & Health  
Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations

### Government of France

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
French Development Agency (AFD)  
Région Île-de-France

### Government of Germany

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AA)  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

### Government of Iceland

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

### Government of Italy

Ministry of the Interior  
Province of Trento

### Government of Luxembourg

City of Luxembourg  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

### Government of Monaco

### Government of Morocco

### Government of the Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Government of Norway

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Ministry of Health and Care Services

### Government of Spain

Province of Madrid  
Province of Canary Islands

### United Nations

Agencies and funds

## FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Akelius Foundation  
Balder Foundation

Bernard van Leer Foundation  
Big Heart Foundation  
Canada Feminist Fund  
Dutch Postcode Lottery  
Edith & Gotfred Kirk  
Fondation de France  
Fondation de Luxembourg  
Grieg Foundation  
Hellenic American Leadership Council  
Hempel Foundation  
Institute Circle  
Intesa Bank Charity Fund  
Maestro Cares Foundation  
National Lottery Community Fund  
Novo Nordisk Foundation  
OAK Foundation  
Obel Family Foundation  
Stiftelsen Radiohjälpen  
Stiftung Kinderhilfe  
Stiftung zur Unterstützung der SOS Kinderdörfer-Liechtenstein  
SWISS Children's Foundation  
Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need  
The Erling-Persson Family Foundation  
The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust  
The Ousri Foundation  
The Zeitgeist Foundation, Inc.  
Trust of Harry and Carol Goodman

## LEADING LONG-TERM CORPORATE PARTNERS

Adidas  
Aegean Airlines  
AkzoNobel  
Allen & Overy  
Allianz  
AstraZeneca  
Astrid Lindgren / Astrid Lindgrens Värld  
Bechgaard Foundation  
Bel: La Vache Qui Rit®

Bertelsmann  
Bestseller  
British Telecom  
CEWE  
Clarins  
Deutsche Post DHL Group  
Dr. August Oetker  
Dufry Group  
Ecoembes  
Fleckenstein Jeanswear  
Foundation 4Life  
Gekås Ullared  
GodEl / GoodCause  
Hasbro  
Herbalife Nutrition Foundation  
Hilti  
HSBC  
IKEA  
Interquell  
Johnson & Johnson  
Johnson & Johnson Corporate Citizenship Trust  
KFC  
MAN  
Marriott International  
Mars  
Mars Sverige  
Mars Wrigley Confectionery  
MAX Burgers  
Microsoft  
OBOS  
Oriflame  
OTP Group / DSK Bank  
Preem  
Procter & Gamble  
Radisson Hotel Group  
Schmidt Groupe  
SKAGEN Fondene  
Svenska Petroleum Exploration  
Swedbank Robur  
Swiss International Air Lines  
Swisscom  
Transat

Vaillant  
Vodafone Greece  
Vorwerk  
Western Union Foundation  
White & Case

## OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Accountable Now  
Better Care Network  
Child Rights Connect  
Children's Rights Action Group  
Civil Society in Development (CISU)  
CONCORD  
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)  
EDUCO (International NGO Cooperation for Children)  
EU Alliance for Investing in Children  
Eurochild  
Forum Syd  
Fundamental Rights Platform  
Generation Unlimited  
Global Coalition to End Child Poverty  
International Civil Society Center  
IsraAID  
Joining Forces for Children  
NetHope  
Social Platform  
The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children  
The group of Child Focused Agencies  
The NGO Committee on UNICEF  
The NGO Major Group  
Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)



Learn more about our national corporate partnerships.

# By the Numbers

*The following section provides a global overview of our financial results and programme statistics for 2018. These results and statistics represent the combined efforts of local associations in 136 countries and territories.*

€

AMOUNT PAID TO  
FINANCE THE FIRST  
SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGE IN IMST,  
AUSTRIA IN 1949

2,900

€

GLOBAL  
INCOME 2018

1.3

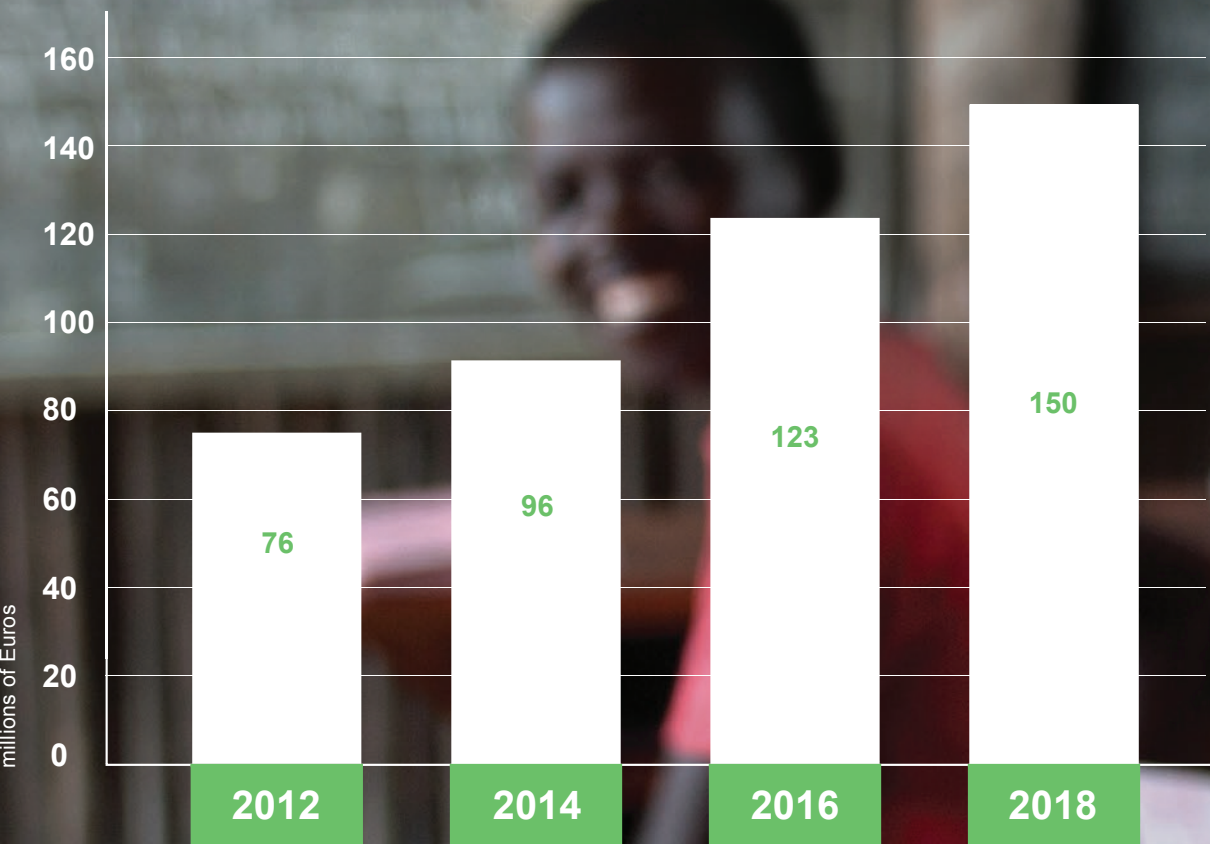
billion

# Financial Report

*SOS Children's Villages is a global federation that is locally rooted. Associations run programmes tailored to the needs of their communities, and, when possible, they raise funds locally to finance their programmes in a sustainable way. An initiative called "Sustainable Path" aims to strengthen this local fundraising capacity.*

## LOCAL INCOME GROWTH

Countries participating in Sustainable Path initiative



### BOOSTING LOCAL INCOME

In 2012, the Sustainable Path initiative was introduced in 33 SOS member associations around the world, enabling them to deepen their local rooting by strengthening their capacity to raise funds locally.

Additionally, by increasing funding from local sources, these associations become financially self-sufficient. This means that they reduce their dependence on international subsidies from other SOS associations and can potentially become supporter associations themselves. For example, in 2014, SOS Poland became the first association to achieve self-sufficiency and today financially supports SOS Cameroon.

Overall, the Sustainable Path initiative has been a remarkable success. Results show that combined local income has doubled in six years, totalling €150 million in 2018. Also, 13 associations have already reached their targets as of 2018, two years ahead of the 2020 goal. Fourteen more will reach them in 2019, with all 33 associations on track to reach self-sufficiency by 2020.

# Financial Information

The financial figures below represent the global, combined total of reports provided by our local associations and by our umbrella organisation, SOS Children's Villages International. These reports are audited annually by independent and esteemed national auditors according to internationally accepted accounting standards.

All amounts in 1,000 EUR <sup>1</sup>

REVENUE	ACTUALS 2017	ACTUALS 2018 preliminary <sup>2</sup>	% CHANGE 2017-2018
Sporadic donors	333,175	302,538	-9%
Sponsorship/committed giving	286,175	299,556	5%
Major donors	28,600	26,391	-8%
Foundations & lotteries	44,074	35,033	-21%
Corporate donors	49,147	48,550	-1%
Governmental subsidies for domestic programmes	403,759	424,436	5%
Institutional funding	23,598	32,346	37%
Emergency appeals	5,081	2,334	-54%
Other income <sup>3</sup>	100,390	89,844	-11%
Total Revenue	1,274,000	1,261,028	-1%

EXPENDITURES	ACTUALS 2017	ACTUALS 2018 preliminary <sup>2</sup>	% CHANGE 2017-2018
SOS Children's Villages, youth programmes, foster families & transit homes	565,740	577,847	2%
SOS family strengthening programmes	113,262	127,578	13%
Education programmes	122,240	116,240	-5%
SOS social centres	9,728	11,241	16%
Health services	10,118	9,013	-11%
Emergency response programmes	18,682	13,988	-25%
Construction & investments	42,944	36,944	-14%
Programme support for national associations	102,570	107,359	5%
International coordination & programme support	44,224	43,992	-1%
Information & fundraising work, costs not directly related to programmes in promoting & supporting associations <sup>4</sup>	203,925	196,313	-4%
Total expenditures	1,233,432	1,240,514	0.6%

## 2018 SUMMARY

It was a challenging year for our mature fundraising markets in Western Europe and North America, ultimately resulting in an overall flat growth in income for the federation. However, there were positive developments, with institutional funding increasing by 37% and committed giving by 5%. Significantly, there was growth in our new and emerging markets, with revenues from committed giving increasing by 12%.

We continue to pursue a diversification of services to meet the changing needs of the children, youth and families we work with, as evidenced by our expenditures across our various programmes. For example, there was strong growth in expenditures in our family strengthening programmes and social centres, 13% and 16% respectively, whereas there was a 2% growth in expenditures in our alternative care programmes.

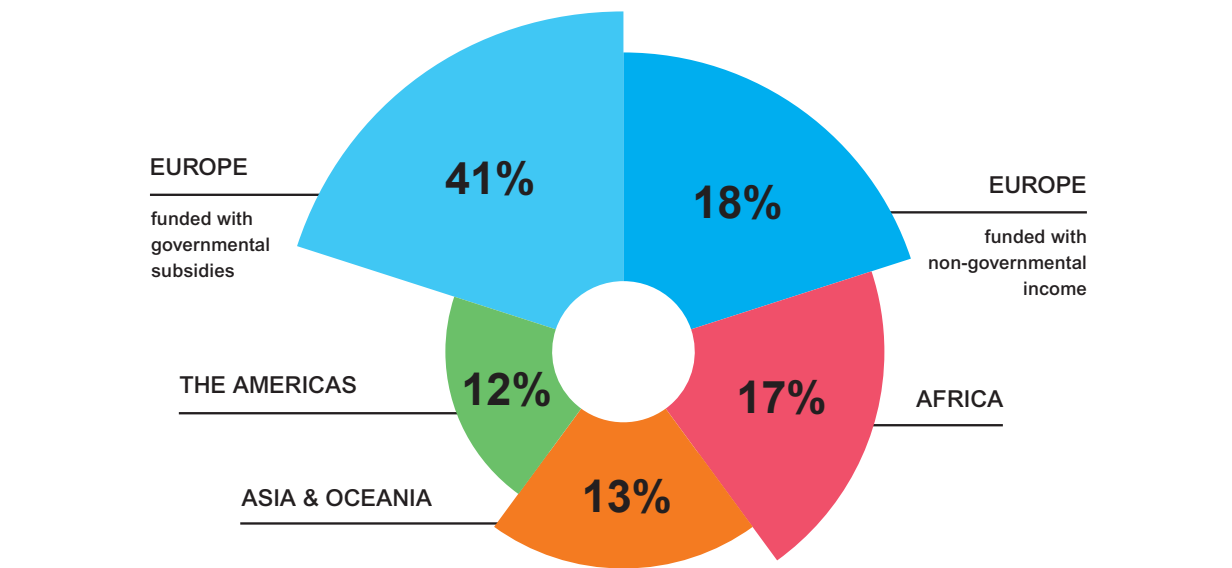
## ACCOUNTABILITY

As a member of Accountable Now and a board member of the International Civil Society Centre since 2012, we take our obligations around management transparency and accountability very seriously. The foundation of our approach is our policy document "Good Management and Accountability Quality Standards", while our activities and progress in this regard are reflected in our regular reports to Accountable Now.



SOS Children's Villages follows a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption. Our Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Guideline aims to support all associations, board members and employees in preventing and managing potential issues of corruption.

## PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES BY CONTINENT <sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, total numbers may not add up exactly.  
<sup>2</sup> Independent external audits have not yet been completed in all 136 countries and territories for 2018 (as of 7 May 2019).  
<sup>3</sup> Other income refers to operational income from facilities, local income from events or merchandising, interest, and other financial income.  
<sup>4</sup> Promoting and supporting associations are associations who raise funds for international programmes; some of them also operate domestic programmes.

# Programme Statistics

These statistics are based on reporting by local associations and represent our programmatic services for the calendar year 2018, as statistically captured on 31 December 2018. The range of services reflects the diversity of needs on the regional level.

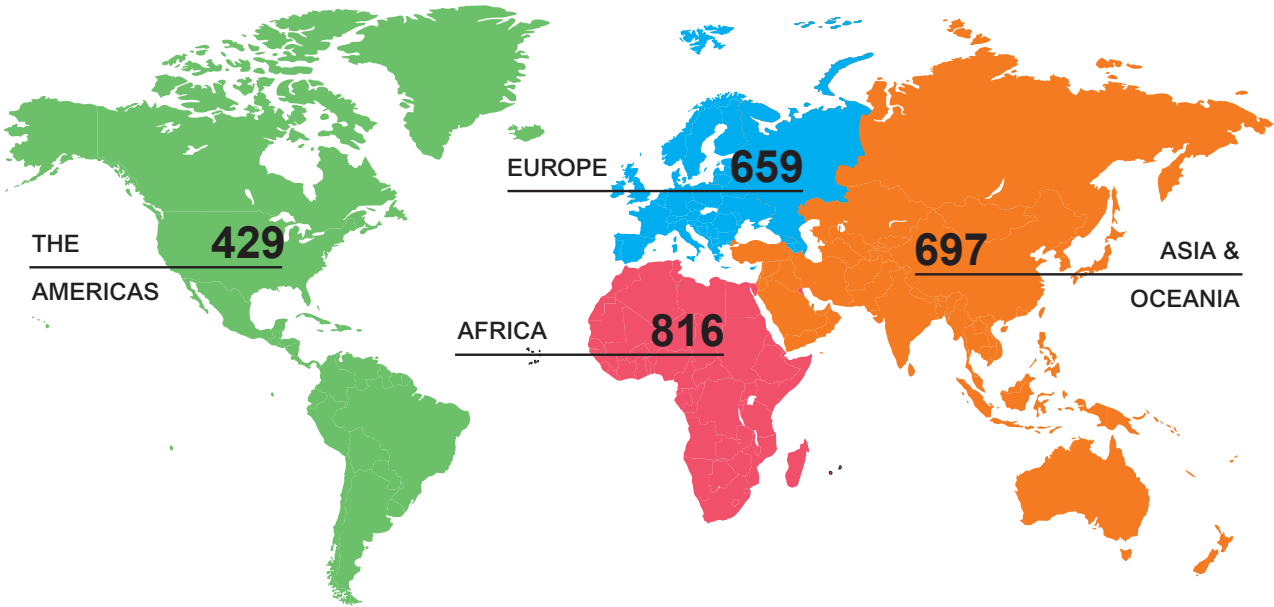
## PEOPLE WE REACHED

	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
CARE PROGRAMMES					
SOS Children's Villages	16,400	7,800	16,600	4,700	45,500
SOS youth programmes	6,900	4,800	7,700	5,000	24,400
Foster families & transit homes	-	700	300	2,900	3,900
SOS family strengthening: children, young people & adults	164,200	87,200	98,500	146,400	496,300
TOTAL	187,500	100,500	123,100	159,000	570,100
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES					
Children in SOS kindergartens	13,000	100	7,400	2,900	23,400
Children in SOS primary & secondary schools	52,000	5,600	40,400	-	98,000
Young people & adults in SOS vocational training centres	8,600	800	3,700	5,200	18,300
TOTAL	73,600	6,500	51,500	8,100	139,700
SOS SOCIAL CENTRES					
Children, young people & adults	99,300	400	8,400	17,900	126,000
SOS MOTHER & CHILD HOSPITAL, SOMALIA					
Children, young people & adults	250,000	-	-	-	250,000
GRAND TOTAL	610,400	107,400	183,000	185,000	1,085,800

	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
HEALTH SERVICES					
Single health services delivered <sup>1,2</sup>	683,100	-	15,100	-	698,200
Health service days delivered <sup>2</sup>	78,000	-	-	-	78,000
EMERGENCY RESPONSE					
Single emergency response services delivered	442,111	-	277,315	458,732	1,178,158
Emergency response service days delivered	28,326	54,690	138,134	8,656	229,806
FAMILIES					
SOS families	1,900	1,100	2,600	900	6,500
Families in SOS family strengthening programmes	44,200	21,100	19,900	6,600	91,800

<sup>1</sup> Single services refer to short-term support – for example, a single treatment at a medical centre.  
<sup>2</sup> People reached through the SOS Mother and Child Hospital in Somalia are included in these figures.

## SOS PROGRAMMES BY CONTINENT



## PROGRAMMES WE OPERATED

	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
CARE PROGRAMMES					
SOS Children's Villages	148	133	165	113	559
SOS youth programmes	140	163	209	201	713
Foster families & transit homes	3	4	2	32	41
SOS family strengthening programmes	180	106	122	167	575
	471	406	498	513	1,888
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES					
SOS kindergartens	114	1	64	38	217
SOS primary & secondary schools	112	8	56	-	176
SOS vocational training centres	17	2	22	18	59
	243	11	142	56	452
SOS SOCIAL CENTRES					
	39	7	36	84	166
SOS MEDICAL CENTRES					
	52	-	7	-	59
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMMES					
	11	5	14	6	36
GRAND TOTAL					2,601

# SOS Children's Villages worked for children and young people in 136 countries and territories in 2018.

Countries and territories in which we operated an emergency response programme in 2018 are shown in **bold**.

Join us!



[www.sos-childrensvillages.org](http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org)

## Africa

Algeria  
Angola  
Benin  
Botswana  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
**Central African Republic**  
**Chad**  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eswatini  
**Ethiopia**  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritius  
Morocco  
Mozambique

Namibia  
**Niger**  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
**Sierra Leone**  
**Somalia**  
**Somaliland**  
South Africa  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
The Gambia  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

## The Americas

Argentina  
Bolivia  
**Brazil**  
Canada  
Chile  
**Colombia**  
Costa Rica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
**Haiti**  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Uruguay  
USA  
Venezuela

## Asia & Oceania

**Armenia**  
Australia  
Azerbaijan  
**Bangladesh**  
Cambodia  
China  
French Polynesia  
Georgia  
Hong Kong, SAR of China  
India  
**Indonesia**  
**Iraq**  
Israel  
Japan  
**Jordan**  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
**Laos**  
**Lebanon**  
Mongolia  
**Nepal**  
Pakistan  
Palestine  
**Philippines**  
South Korea  
Sri Lanka  
**Syria**  
Taiwan, China  
Thailand  
United Arab Emirates  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam

## Europe

Albania  
Austria  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
**Greece**  
**Hungary**  
Iceland  
**Italy**  
Kosovo  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
North Macedonia  
Northern Cyprus  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russia  
**Serbia**  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
**Ukraine**  
United Kingdom