

International Annual Report

2022



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES

As a child, you need someone who truly sees you – who stands by you no matter what. But today, **1 in 10** children and young people are separated from their families, abandoned, neglected or forced to live in an abusive environment, growing up without the support they need to prepare themselves for their future. It happens in every country, rich and poor – in every city and in every community. For the child, the effects often last a lifetime, which can create a harmful cycle that repeats itself from one generation to the next.

We exist to change this.

Truly
bonding
with a **child** has the
power
*to change the **world**.*

Youth message

Jordany, 16, loves football and is a proud owner of an official Costa Rican national team ball signed by "La Capitana" Shirley Cruz. He is also an advocate for children and young people and a member of the National Youth Participation Network of SOS Children's Villages Costa Rica.

My message to world leaders is the following: give yourself the opportunity to listen to the voices of children, adolescents and young people. Consider our opinions and perspectives – what we want and what we think about the decisions that you as adults take and that affect us. Not everyone has the same opportunity to express what they think as I do right now.

We need to be given the chance to learn more actively, to try things and learn from this, to have someone who pushes us to do what we want to achieve in life. It is necessary to promote active participation in society, to promote safe places where we can freely express ourselves. I want to decide freely and to fight for a great future in which I can improve myself, help others, and support younger people when I am a little older, so they know they have examples to follow – good examples. Not like those who do not help them believe they can make their dreams come true. In today's world, we need to be able to interact with adults. We need role models who are good people, who help us advance and improve and believe in ourselves.

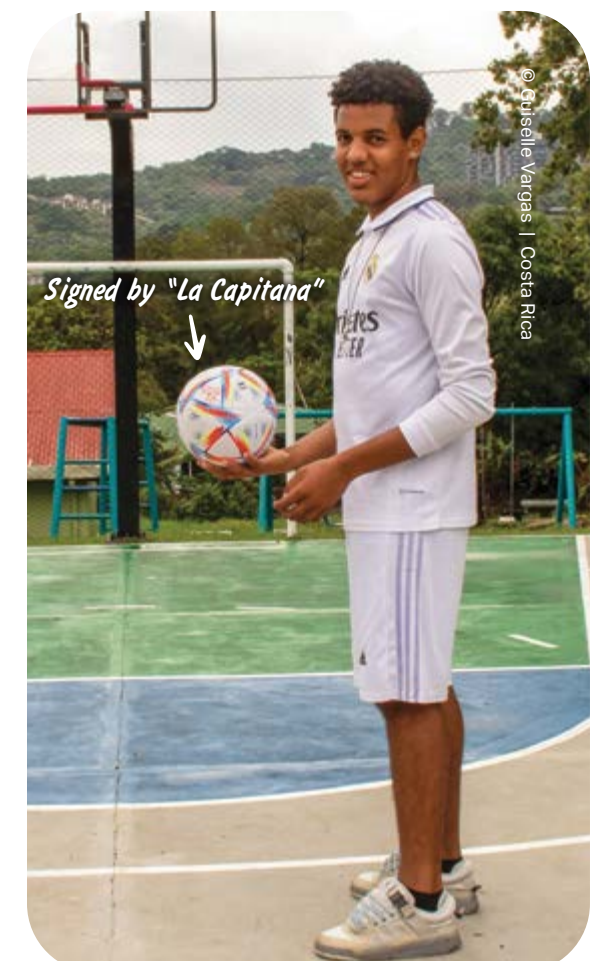
We need policies and programmes to address poverty and inequality. Children and families should have access to the necessary resources to cover their basic needs. I also think we have to fight violence and abuse.

For people of my age, something that cannot be replaced or changed is the family, but one that accompanies us at all times and helps us, a united family. If I think about myself or other people my age, what is most frightening is not having accompaniment or support from their family, or someone else to maybe help while they are learning how to manage money. When you reach the age of majority, adults may no longer be interested in you in the same way. That has happened to others: if I'm not prepared, where am I going to live, how am I going to eat? Those are thoughts some of us may have.

I have had the support of many people and opportunities to participate in courses, but I think that more training is needed for young people to have a clear idea of what we want, and for adults to understand young people, children and adolescents a little better.

”

We need role models who are good people, who help us believe in ourselves.



Jordany | Child rights champion, Costa Rica

Year in review 2022

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic started to abate, but its longer-term impact remained. Even more worrying, new global crises emerged. How did this affect children and young people growing up alone or in families at risk of breakdown? What can we do to support them to cope with the pressures and build resilience?

On 28 October last year, the Financial Times published an opinion piece by the historian Adam Tooze under the headline "Welcome to the World of the Polycrisis." A few days later, Collins dictionary announced its 2022 word of the year: permacrisis.

A year of crisis

Both terms convey the barrage of compounding crises the world contended with in 2022: the human cost of the COVID-19 pandemic and its deepening psychological, social and economic fallout; the devastating war in Ukraine and its knock-on effects on food, energy and fertilizer supply; rising inflation and poverty levels; the alarming pattern of record-breaking droughts, heatwaves and floods. Not to mention continuing conflicts in countries such as Syria, and growing inequality. As these shocks reverse years of progress in implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was already lagging behind, children and young people today face an increasingly unstable, unjust and insecure future. In 2022, for example, the number of children in need of humanitarian assistance rose by 20%.¹



increase in number
of children needing
humanitarian
assistance

But for those without or at risk of losing parental care, crisis unfortunately is nothing new. Losing a caregiver or growing up in a family on the verge of breakdown are uniquely disturbing experiences that can pose a serious threat to a child's development and well-being. The trauma associated with such experiences can last well into adulthood,² and when combined with external stressors – such as conflict or natural disaster – that risk is increased manifold.

When it comes to finding a way through crisis, grief or hardship, the importance of secure relationships and a support network cannot be overstated. Having a trusted person to lean on is crucial to maintaining good mental health and to regular learning, growth and development. As the world continues to be rocked by emergencies and more children and young people are deprived of a stable environment and family, it is vital that other sources of support are made available, especially those that foster trusting relationships.

¹ <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/new-analysis-afghanistan-tops-list-7-countries-where-children-were-most-need-2022>

² Ceccarelli C et al. (2022), Adverse childhood experiences and global mental health: Avenues to reduce the burden of child and adolescent mental disorders.



153,000



unaccompanied and
separated children
worldwide

More children on their own

According to data from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 324.3 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022. This number is estimated to rise. Climate change, violent conflict and worsening economic conditions are major factors causing destruction and forcing people to leave their homes. Globally, more than 450 million children (or one in six) are living in a conflict zone³ and, of the 108.4 million people forcibly displaced worldwide, 43.3 million are children.⁴ And many of them are on their own.

In Europe, for example, as many as 71% of all refugee and migrant children who arrived in 2021 were unaccompanied or separated from their families.⁵ UNHCR estimates that the global figure is 153,000. These children are at risk of violence and exploitation. Additionally, being separated from their caregivers can have a detrimental impact on their emotional and psychological health. But the same holds true vice versa. A recent study on the mental health of unaccompanied minors on the move recorded that regular contact with family and the prospect of being reunified is a crucial factor for mental well-being.⁶

The legacy of COVID-19

In addition to the onslaught of crises seen last year, the effects of the pandemic are still being felt. According to Imperial College London's [COVID-19 Orphanhood calculator](#), by the end of 2022, 10.7 million children globally had lost primary or secondary caregivers to COVID-19. Of these children, around 7.7 million lost one or both parents. Many are now at higher risk of multiple adverse factors including lack of quality care, mental health issues, poverty and worse quality of life in adulthood.

10.7
million children



lost primary or secondary
caregivers to COVID-19

The COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions resulted in a decline in the development of early childhood skills and significant learning losses among older children. Among young people, employment and wage losses measured early on have still not recovered in some countries. When it comes to mental health, the distress caused by the pandemic was felt all over the world, with young people and women among the worst affected groups.⁷

The events of 2022 shaped the focus of our work with children and young people without or at risk of losing parental care. We intensified, for example, our work in humanitarian action, responding to crises such as conflict in Ethiopia, drought in the Horn of Africa, war in Ukraine and mass flooding in Pakistan; we increased entrepreneurship activities with young people; and made mental health a priority across the board. This included establishing a Global Programme Expert Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, which researches and publishes on the topic, among other efforts.

The insidious effects of stress

The damage that extreme, prolonged and repeated stress does to any human being's physiology and psychology is well documented. But it is particularly dangerous to a child. Research indicates that childhood adversity causes a cascade of biological changes that are linked to serious health and social problems well into adulthood, such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, problem substance use, aggression, difficulties in forming social attachments, cardiovascular disease, or obesity.⁸ In fact, in a study conducted in 21 countries, it was found that childhood adversities account for 29.8% of all mental health disorders.⁹

29.8%



of mental health disorders
can be attributed to
childhood adversities

The likelihood that a child or young person in alternative care has gone through such experiences is far higher than the average. Making sure the care they receive is trauma-informed is crucial to their positive development. Through initiatives such as our EU-funded project, "[Safe Places, Thriving Children – Embedding Trauma-Informed Practices into Alternative Care Settings](#)," care practitioners can be equipped with the tools and knowledge required to understand trauma and address the needs of children and young people affected by it.



Intergenerational trauma

Unsurprisingly, the impact of childhood stress is often intergenerational. It can contribute to harmful parenting attitudes. Parents' or caregivers' mental health difficulties can become a source of stressful experiences for their children, perpetuating the cycle of adversity. What is more, a parent's traumatic experiences may cause changes in a child's gene activity before the child is born.¹⁰ Therefore, working with children and young people to mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences helps not only this generation of children, but the next generation as well.

Mental health support in crisis

By March 2022, the war in Ukraine displaced 6.5 million people internally and caused 3.5 million refugees to flee to neighbouring countries. According to UNICEF, 1.5 million of them were children. One of the key focuses of our response was mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Mobile teams of psychologists provided MHPSS services to 17,000 people in Ukraine – both children and parents.

In Poland, we added "[TeamUp](#)" to the range of activities offered. Developed by WarChild Holland, this psychosocial initiative is designed for working with unaccompanied minors in emergency situations, encouraging them to process emotions through play and other movement-based activities. It has already been used successfully by SOS Children's Villages in Greece, Italy and Sweden and this year was adapted in the context of the war, providing structure and a social network to displaced children and young people and thus reducing stress on caregivers.

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/speeches/2022/07/children-affected-armed-conflict-and-violence>.

⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>.

⁵ UNHCR (2022), Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe - Accompanied, Unaccompanied and Separated.

⁶ Derluyn I et al. (2022), Impact of Flight Experiences on the Mental Health of Unaccompanied Minors on the Move. The ChildMove Project.

⁷ World Health Organization (2022), World mental health report: transforming mental health for all.

⁸ Anda R F et al. (2006), The enduring effects of abuse and related adverse experiences in childhood.

⁹ Kessler R C et al. (2010), Childhood adversities and adult psychopathology in the WHO World Mental Health Surveys.

¹⁰ Yehuda R and Lehrner A (2018), Intergenerational transmission of trauma effects: putative role of epigenetic mechanisms. World Psychiatry 17.



Supporting the mental health of parents

What is undeniable is that the more emotionally and mentally healthy the parent, the higher the likelihood the child will have a safe and nurturing environment to grow up in. As Aleksandra Sikorska, SOS Children's Villages psychologist in Poland, explains: "When caregivers are scared or worried, children are scared and worried even more." Every day we see this in action in our programmes – the better equipped parents are to navigate stressors, the less stress and negative experience the children take on.

Building resilience

Protective childhood experiences can have just as much cumulative impact over time as adverse ones. Experiencing unconditional love, having friends, being part of a community and being able to learn in an enriching environment are all examples of factors that can help mitigate the harm of childhood adversity. According to an article published in ChildTrends,¹¹ "research shows the strongest protective factor linked with resilience to childhood trauma is the reliable presence of a sensitive, nurturing, and responsive adult." This is why it is so vital to restore the systems of protection – relationships and resources – that will help both children and adults develop their resilience in the face of trauma.

This holds as true in large-scale disasters as it does in crises occurring at the level of a single person or family. For children and adults who are forced to flee their home, this means providing them with timely access to mental health support and stress-relieving activities and restoring children's access to education and social interactions as soon as possible. For parents who are finding it difficult to provide the care and support their children need, this means access to counselling for unresolved trauma, parenting skills development, or economic supports. For children who can't live with their parents, this means providing supportive, enriching environments where they can form attachments and build trust.

While governments and policymakers can and should address social programmes and other systemic solutions, we can all contribute to restoring and nurturing the relationships that protect the futures of children and young people growing up alone.

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The strongest protective factor linked with resilience to childhood trauma is the reliable presence of a sensitive, nurturing, and responsive adult.

¹¹ Bartlett J and Steber K (2019), How to Implement Trauma-informed Care to Build Resilience to Childhood Trauma.

Together in purpose

Children and young people across the globe are being confronted with multiple and interconnected calamities. From a myriad of armed conflicts to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shocking impact of climate change and dire cost-of-living hardships – the world is living through an unprecedented polycrisis. But this harsh reality affects children the most – especially those who are growing up alone, in fragile family situations or without adequate care. In this context, SOS Children's Villages continues its unwavering commitment to reach as many children and young people as possible, so they can grow in a safe and nurturing environment that supports their holistic development.

In 2022, we worked in 138 countries and territories – with a collective annual revenue of 1.6 billion euros invested in the care and support of children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. We continued to support communities and families living under stress, provide direct care to children and young people, work to reunify families, support young people as they transition into independent life, and provide services in the context of humanitarian catastrophes. Our approach is simple: we strive to ensure suitable care environments that serve the best interest of each child, whether in their own families, in alternative care, or when they are forcibly displaced from their homes.

Responding to polycrises requires strong partnerships, building on each other's comparative advantages, committed to a shared purpose. That is why we continued strengthening our alliances with like-minded organizations and governments, reaching out to partners in the private sector and enhancing our advocacy on behalf of and together with children and young people.

Internally, 2022 remained a year of continued growth and transformation for SOS Children's Villages as we advanced the implementation of policies and actions to enhance safeguarding. The Independent Special Commission, appointed by the International Senate, gave us findings of our past failures with valuable recommendations. We welcome the report, will hold individuals to account, and will take measures to strengthen accountability and compliance to ensure a safe environment across our organization. We especially acknowledge the individuals who came forward with concerns and provided feedback on our work or otherwise contributed to its improvement.

The progress in this annual report could not have been possible without the commitment of our 40,000 employees around the world, our volunteers, partners, advisers, donors and supporters – and most importantly, the children and young people themselves. They are making our programmes stronger, more pertinent and impactful. We owe it to all our stakeholders to continue on this path of growth, and to rigorously address the challenges ahead. We are deeply grateful for your trust and your faith in our mission: to ensure that each child and young person grows up with the support and relationships they need to become their strongest self.



Dereje Wordofa
President



Ingrid Maria Johansen
Chief Executive Officer



Brazil
Dereje paints with children in Rio Bonito during a visit to Latin America and the Caribbean.

© Alex Deitas



India
Ingrid spends time with women's groups at one of our family strengthening programmes.

© Mohammad Ahmed Usmani



Three pillars of action

SOS Children's Villages is dedicated to improving the lives of **children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it**. Our work evolves in response to the specific issues this unique group faces, and as society and our understanding of child and youth development evolve. In recent years, for example, we have expanded our work to include "young people" (ages 15-24) because we have learned how important it is for this age group to have someone by their side as they transition into adulthood.

By "children and young people without parental care," we mean those who are temporarily or permanently growing up without the care of their families: children in residential care, in foster care, children who are living on the street. By "those at risk of losing parental care," we mean children and young people in families that are struggling to stay together and where parents are having difficulty providing the care, stability and connection their children need.

We are passionate about ensuring that children and young people have the support they need to become their strongest selves. We were founded as a practitioner organization in 1949. Today, we leverage our experience for the greatest possible impact. Our efforts are geared toward working directly with individuals, partnering with others to extend our reach, and working to change things for the future. We follow three main pillars of action.



Prevention

Keeping families together and preventing child-family separation

If possible, the best place for children to grow up is within their family. Our activities range from working directly with families and communities, to research on the reasons for family breakdown, to developing and sharing training materials related to parenting and mental health.



Protection

Ensuring care and protection when there is no family or it is not in a child or young person's best interest to stay in the family

Our activities include directly caring for children and young people, also in emergencies; working with partners to train foster parents and with governments to implement care standards; supporting young people to become self-reliant, and much more.



Advocacy

Changing policy and practice to improve the situation of children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it

This pillar of action focuses on systemic change. Among other activities, we work with partners to create platforms for children and young people to bring the issues they face into discussions at the local, national and global level.

Activities 2022

Children have the right to grow up in a supportive family environment. Everything we do is aimed at making this a reality.

The following section presents the challenges faced by the children and young people we work for, as well as activity highlights and individual stories. Our work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Prevention

The problem

For the vast majority of children and youth who are placed in alternative care, one or both parents are living. By investing in strengthening families before they break down, the number of children in need of out-of-home care can be significantly reduced and families better prepared to support children through childhood and as they transition into adulthood. Reducing rates of child-family separation also decreases costs for governments and minimizes strain on public services, ultimately creating an enormous return on investment and stronger society for the future.

Understanding the root causes for family breakdown is crucial for developing solutions that keep families together and for creating long-term change. What we are learning is that the reasons for family breakdown are complex and often interlinked. They vary from country to country and from family to family. It is often a combination of factors.

The reasons for family breakdown include:



Violence,
abuse
and neglect



Death of a
caregiver



Poverty



Forced
migration



Poor physical
or mental health
of caregiver



Lack of
access to
social services



Child marriage
and teen
pregnancy



Our response

If possible, the best place for a child to grow up is in their own family, or extended family where the bonds are strong and when this is in their best interest. We work at the individual, community, national and international level to ensure that families have the support they need to stay together, and that children and young people are cared for and protected.

In our direct work with families and extended families, we offer a range of services, such as livelihood support, parenting workshops, support in accessing social services, and counselling. The aim is always to foster the family's own resilience. Livelihood support may include entrepreneurship and vocational training; seed funding or equipment to start their own business; and direct financial, food or housing support. Parenting workshops are tailored to local needs and include topics such as preventing violence in the family, improving communication with children, and positive discipline. Some parents who have gone through difficult experiences themselves also take advantage of mental health support. Additionally, we work with communities to strengthen existing social networks and structures.

In situations where temporary child-family separation is unavoidable – for example, in emergencies – we work with a view to ultimately reintegrating the child into their family of origin wherever possible and in the child's best interests.

Our overarching goal is to raise awareness about the need for family support services in every country, and we partner with local and national governments to achieve this.

During this year of polycrisis, we made particular efforts to avoid this problem by, for example, providing cash assistance to families affected by war or natural disaster, thus reducing the need for caregivers to leave their children and go in search of other income. Overall in 2022, we reached 512,500 people through our family strengthening services, compared to 455,400 in 2021. This increase is due in part to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, allowing social workers to resume home visits, but it also reflects the growing need for support services as families cope with the ongoing after-effects of the pandemic.

Key data

- 108.4 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes.¹
- 12 million girls are married before the age of 18.²
- A 1% increase in child poverty was found to be associated with an additional five per 100,000 children entering care in the same year.³

¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>.

² UNICEF, Is an End to Child Marriage within Reach? Latest trends and future prospects, 2023.

³ Bennett D L et al. (2022), "Child poverty and children entering care in England, 2015-20," The Lancet: Public Health.

512,500

people reached through
family strengthening

13%

increase in number of
families reached directly

116



countries
with family
strengthening
programmes

1,386,400

people reached through emergency response



Evidence-based briefing paper

[This paper](#) outlines the need to invest in family strengthening across Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We developed it as a tool for policymakers, practitioners and others working in child protection services.



Discussing migration policy to keep families together

As part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, children and young people exchanged directly with policymakers in Germany. One focus topic was changing migration policy to keep families stuck at the EU's border together.



Active fatherhood

In Peru, this workshop aimed at developing protection and caring skills in men to help prevent violence in the home reached 1,316 caregivers in 2022. It promotes a more active and conscious fatherhood and addresses gender equality issues.



Livelihood development

In India, we support families to increase their abilities to sustain themselves financially. In 2022, 14,114 caregivers received trainings in areas such as animal husbandry, bookkeeping and entrepreneurship.



Accessing health services

In the Philippines, we assisted 49% of children in our family strengthening programmes to register for health insurance and connected them with community health care services. As a result, 87% are officially in good physical health.

Prevention

Personal Story

© Chilie Hviid Orloff | Kenya

When parents do not have the resources they need to work through their own trauma, it threatens their ability to care for their children. We offer various services to provide support and strengthen parenting capacities. For Pamela, this included financial aid to secure her children's basic needs and education, as well as counselling and different parenting courses.

99,300

families in our family strengthening programmes

"Now, there is some kind of peace in our home."

Strengthening families

Pamela, Kenya

"I grew up without a mother and a father and then I married an older man. When he passed away, his family kicked me out. That made me bitter. My life was filled with bitterness. When SOS Children's Villages became aware of my situation – that I didn't have anything – that day I cried, and I was so moved that SOS Children's Villages found me.

"I'm really happy and grateful for having had access to different classes. When I returned from the class, I asked my children how they were feeling and what their day had been like. The very first day my son came to me and asked: 'Is it really you that have come home? You seem different.' They laughed at me and said: 'You are not acting like you usually do.' 'No, I'm not.' I said.

"Sometimes we need to be happy. Being angry and constantly arguing is no good for anybody. If I misbehave in front of my children, they tell me what I do wrong, and then we live in better harmony. That is a very positive change. Because of that, my daughter and I have become much closer. Now, she shares her problems and concerns with me. Before, I would start beating her for no reason because I was frustrated. I have left the hard times behind and now I always feel happy in my heart. There is some kind of peace in our home. SOS Children's Villages has done a lot for my mental well-being. If someone in my network needs help, I have learned many things that I can pass on."

Protection

Alternative Care

Highlights 2022

All children have the right to care and protection, even when their own family cannot care for them. Our concern is to make sure this care is of the highest possible quality, and to ensure that all children and young people grow up with supportive relationships, a sense of security and belonging, and the same access to opportunities as their peers.

Crucial to high quality care are services that are tailored to the needs of each individual – especially those who have gone through adverse childhood experiences – and ensuring that children and young people have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. It includes the rights of those in care being championed and extends to the legal protections and support that are in place for young people after they officially “age out” of care.

We care for children directly through a range of programmes, also conducting research to inform policymakers and developing materials and trainings to help others improve their care services. Each child and young person who is placed in our care programmes has an individual development plan and we make sure biological siblings are kept together unless it is not in their best interest. We continuously assess the child’s situation, always with an eye toward reintegration with the child’s family. Even when there are no living relatives, we work towards family- and community-based approaches.

We provide temporary care for children while we work with parents to strengthen their capacities – or, in the case of humanitarian emergencies, until families can be reunified. In fact, in response to a worldwide increase in the need for humanitarian action this year, we expanded our emergency services, providing temporary shelter and psychosocial support to unaccompanied minors. Overall, we reached 792,700 children in crisis (see more in “Humanitarian action”). Whatever the timeframe and circumstances, we endeavour to build trust with each child and support them on their path to independence, encouraging contact with their family of origin wherever possible.

Key data

- 7.7 million children had lost one or both parents to COVID-19 by the end of 2022.¹
- 449 million children are growing up in a conflict zone (2021).²
- GOOD NEWS: In 2022, two more countries prohibited all forms of corporal punishment, including in the home, bringing the total to 65.³

¹ Hillis S et al. (2022), “Orphanhood and Caregiver Loss Among Children Based on New Global Excess COVID-19 Death Estimates,” JAMA Pediatrics.

² <https://www.prio.org/news/2994>.

³ <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/countdown/>.

69,200

children and young people cared for in a range of care options

44%

have regular contact with their families

84%

are doing well in education



25

emergencies responded to with child protection activities: tackling abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children



Tackling peer-on-peer violence

As part of the EU-funded [Safe Behaviours](#) project, 572 professionals and 455 children and young people were trained on how adults, children and young people can prevent, identify and better respond to peer-on-peer violence.



TeamUp for children in migration

This [psychosocial intervention](#) helps those who have experienced conflict and displacement to process their emotions through physical activity. This year it was adapted to address the specific needs of war-affected Ukrainian children.



Sexual and reproductive health awareness-raising

Expert-led sessions provided information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, family planning, menstrual hygiene and sexually transmitted diseases to over 600 children and young people in alternative care in Nepal.



New learning and development approach

SOS Children’s Villages in Tunisia has partnered with L’éducanet, a school management system, to create a digital platform for trainee care practitioners. It will provide easy access to all learning materials via computer or smartphone.



Official recognition of foster families

In Bolivia, we work with municipal governments to further child rights under the *Accionando el Derecho a Vivir en Familia* project. A key success this year was the government’s endorsement of the first four foster families in the country’s history.

Alternative Care

Personal Story

© Martin Hanebeck | Jordan

When COVID-19 started and lockdowns were implemented across the world, children had to find new ways to entertain themselves and cope with the stress caused by the pandemic. 13-year-old Malak discovered a talent for puppeteering. With the help of Najwa, her caregiver, she uses her talent to sensitize other children about difficult topics and encourage them to talk about their mental health.

260

children and young people
cared for in Jordan in 2022

*"When I grow
up I want to
help children
who have
problems."*



Talking about mental health

Malak and Najwa, Jordan

Malak

"When Corona started we just wanted to spend our time with something, so I switched on my camera and started playing with the puppets. I showed it to my mother, she told me I have a talent and started helping me with the puppets. We do activities for children in the village, and I perform puppet shows for them. When I talk to a little child, he or she might get parts of the information, but when I make a story with the puppets, they take on the idea as if watching a cartoon on TV. As I discovered this talent, I knew when I grow up I want to help children who have problems. For example, those who don't listen or have family issues. I want to help them through puppets."

Najwa

"She has the ability to deal with adults and with children, she sits with them, guides them in her way, in a way they can really understand. Children accept guidance from each other. She sometimes helps me at home, when I have a problem, to communicate about complex topics. So she plays and they actually listen. Through playing the message can be understood very easily."

Protection

Self-reliance

Highlights 2022

The transition to adulthood can be a daunting process for any young person. Becoming self-reliant means adapting to the loss of support networks and structures; learning how to cope alone with everyday challenges; entering the world of work and becoming financially independent. This can be particularly challenging for those leaving alternative care (at age 18 or even earlier) and for those in families struggling to stay together, who lack adequate support at home. In both scenarios, it is likely that the young person has experienced a childhood trauma.

We work directly with youth to prepare them for this transition, offering psychosocial support and vocational and social skills training; with partners to set up employability and entrepreneurship initiatives; and with governments to improve aftercare provisions worldwide. We also focus on digital access and learning for young people, helping them to stay connected, build skills for employability and entrepreneurship purposes, and navigate the internet responsibly.

Most importantly, we connect them with mentors and wider support networks to guide them on their unique path. For young people in our programmes, the risk of being out of employment, education or training (NEET rate) remains significantly lower than the global average.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, prospects for young people were worryingly low. Jobs were harder to come by and the mental health of many suffered, resulting in the need for extended support. This year we were pleased to see the rate of self-reliance of people exiting our alternative care improve by 12% (77% compared to 65% at the end of 2021).

Key data

- 1.3 billion people aged between 10 and 19 worldwide; the largest generation of adolescents in history.¹
- 15 years of progress in reducing the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training reversed by the COVID-19 pandemic.²
- One in seven 10-19 year-olds experiences a mental disorder.³

¹ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/overview/>.

² International Labour Organization, Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in transforming futures for young people, 2022.

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health>.

86



associations implement YouthCan! or other employability initiative

12%

increase in self-reliance rate of young people leaving care

29,800

young people & adults in YouthCan! or other employment & entrepreneurship training

69

associations have included specific mental health actions in their national plans



Internet safety tool

In Latin America, the **KOMIK SOS** initiative uses comic art to promote internet safety. Young people have created a digital fantasy world, crafting characters who teach their peers about staying safe online. 2,600 users were reached in 2022.



YouthLinks Community platform

Our central digital space for young people celebrated its first birthday in 2022. The platform connects young people on the road to independence with each other, mentors and opportunities. At the end of the year, 1,370 users were registered.



Youth employability event

In Senegal, young people presented decision makers with a manifesto on solutions to the crisis of youth employability in Africa. 62 people from our programmes took part, also attending workshops and exchanging with stakeholders.



Digital Villages

This project equips children, young people and parents with digital access, training and cyber-safeguarding knowledge to develop their employability and entrepreneurship skills. In 2022, it reached over 30,000 people.



NetHope Global Summit

Young people from our programmes advocated for more meaningful opportunities for youth in the digital arena at this virtual summit. They urged listeners to recognize young people as creative innovators rather than just users of technology.

Self-reliance

Employability initiative



© Claudia Pineda - El Salvador

Bridging the gap between school and work

YouthCan! partnership

According to the ILO, more than 280 million young people worldwide are not in employment, education or training. For those without or at risk of losing parental care, the chances of falling into this group are particularly high; without the support network often provided by a family, it can be difficult to even begin bridging the gap between school and work.

YouthCan! is our global programme for youth employability and entrepreneurship. We work together with partners to provide individualized support to young people preparing to enter the labour market. Employees of our private sector partners share their time, skills and expertise, both online and face to face. These volunteers offer trainings and mentorship sessions and are beside young people as they take their first steps into the world of work. YouthLinks Community, YouthCan!'s online platform, makes all this possible in one centralized digital space and has been growing rapidly since its launch in 2021.

YouthCan! reach 2022

14,300
young people

1,900
volunteers

47
countries

YouthCan! partner spotlight Latin America: Bank Davivienda

Bank Davivienda partners with SOS Children's Villages through YouthCan! in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, supporting young people from vulnerable backgrounds to make the transition to independence.

In Honduras, where the youth unemployment rate is at 17.6% according to the World Bank's latest estimates, almost 300 young people took part in YouthCan! activities in 2022. Of those, 10% received support directly from Davivienda. The support consisted of a training process in four stages: developing self-care skills, building self-awareness, knowing the workplace and creating an individual Occupational Training Plan.

Subsequently, the trainees had access to a range of opportunities, including mentoring, internships, visits to companies and universities, and participation in entrepreneurship fairs.



Advocacy

Introduction

All children have equal rights to care and protection, including the right to grow up in a supportive family environment that fosters their well-being and full development. Along with partners, we defend and promote these rights on a global, regional, national and community level. Our work is designed to change policy and practice to improve national child and social protection systems, including provisions for those who have been displaced from their country of origin.

One of our main objectives is to help decision makers understand that investing in strengthening families can prevent unnecessary separation of children from their parents, other forms of harm and additional alternative care placements. When it is not possible or in a child's best interest to stay in their family, we advocate for a range of high-quality alternative care options. At a minimum, "high-quality" means, for example, employing highly trained care practitioners, maintaining appropriate staffing levels, keeping siblings together, and giving sufficient support to young people after they age out of care.

To achieve this, we work to raise awareness about children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it and to ensure their needs are reflected in high-level conversations. We speak up at national and international political forums and events; contribute to research and reports; generate and share knowledge, and provide technical guidance and recommendations to governments and policymakers to promote child-centred and rights-based approaches.

Children and young people are key voices in our advocacy work. Their meaningful participation brings to light for policymakers the real issues they are facing and that need to be prioritized. When children and young people are involved in advocacy, the result is programmes, practices and policies that are more accurately tailored to their needs.

This year, we continued to advocate for the recognition of the specific needs of our target group in international policy and law. In Europe, we engaged at the national level to ensure their prioritization in the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee, and in Africa we provided technical and financial support to, and were part of the validation of the groundbreaking Continental Study on Children without Parental Care. On the policy change front, we are extremely pleased that France joined the list of countries who keep siblings together when they are placed in alternative care.



105 countries where we worked towards positive change in policy and practice



International Migration Review Forum

SOS Children's Villages brought attention to the needs of migrant children separated from their families in Latin America at this forum attended by representatives from governments, civil society, academia and the private sector.



#SafeSchools campaign

Spearheaded by Joining Forces, of which we are a member, and UNICEF, a [digital campaign](#) in West and Central Africa called on governments to adopt policy change that would better prevent and respond to attacks on schools in the Sahel region.



Pan-African Children's Parliament

Children from our programmes in Zambia and Kenya discussed the issues affecting their lives and futures at the 2022 session. The outcome statement was shared with the African Union Commission for presenting to heads of state in 2023.



Policymaking in Guatemala

In several municipalities in Guatemala, the Municipal Public Policy for the Protection of Children and Adolescents was for the first time drafted with the involvement of young people, including those from our programmes.



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum

Over 100 young people from our programmes spoke up at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, a platform for young people to contribute to policy conversations at the UN and discuss solutions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Examples of policy change achievements

Philippines: Law on range of care passed

Working with partners, we advocated for the passage of The Alternative Care Bill, which became a law in January 2022. The new law recognizes a child's right to a range of care options, including family-like care.

France: Keeping siblings together

Along with partners, we successfully advocated for children not to be separated from their siblings when they are placed in alternative care. A major achievement was the passage of the "Taquet Law," which enshrines this in law.

Ukraine: Simplifying regulations on guardianship

In Ukraine, we raised awareness about the unique situation of children who have lost or been separated from their parents due to war. In response, the government introduced changes making it easier for people who are not close relatives, for example friends of the child's parents, to become guardians.

Advocacy

Personal Story



© Joonatan Ikonen | Switzerland



© Anna Hiltunen | Switzerland

Informing care reform

Joonatan, Finland

"Hi, I am Joonatan and I am 20 years old. I live in Vantaa, which is located near our capital city, Helsinki. I have been volunteering with SOS Children's Villages for many years now, which has been eye-opening for me. I also have personal experience in child protection services myself - like foster care and other services - so I have experiences to share and can discuss these topics with other young people. This has been meaningful.

"Everyone should have the same opportunities for life despite their history."

"Participating in the Universal Periodic Review process [which reviews the human rights progress of a country] was an excellent opportunity to raise topical child rights issues on an international stage. We were able and honored to include messages from young people in the address by SOS Children's Villages Finland. Children's rights are crucial, and this

is something that we should always keep in mind. I think and I truly believe that everyone should have the same opportunities for life despite their history. We should focus our thinking on children and young people's strengths and support them. This is the way they can truly be themselves and find their own place in this world.

"In our statement we focused our attention on mental health services and child participation. I think these topics are crucial at times like these with so many crises all around the world. Nobody should be left alone with their challenges. Our society should help everyone despite their backgrounds. This is something that people should practice - to see other people without prejudices. For me, meeting other people with different backgrounds has helped me to widen my perspective of the world. This is the core of humanity - to see people as they are, not as we think they are."

Joonatan is a peer mentor at SOS Children's Villages, which he represented at the UN in Geneva in August 2022. He spoke to decision makers about issues affecting young people in Finland as part of a Universal Periodic Review pre-session.

16

member associations
engaged in UPR
processes in 2022

Advocacy

Personal Story



© Monica García Zea | Colombia



© Monica García Zea | Colombia

SOS Children's Villages runs workshops in the community where Vanessa lives, aiming to raise awareness about and confront xenophobia. Having taken part herself, Vanessa is now a community youth leader, sharing what she learned with younger children and advocating for equality.

Tackling xenophobia

Vanessa, Colombia

"Emigrating to an unknown country is something completely overwhelming for any child, even for some adults, because it is about leaving behind friends, acquaintances, family and what we all knew as a community.

"We were going through a very deep crisis in our home. We did not have enough food; we did not have the resources that we really needed. So, we decided to go back to Colombia, where we had family, to look for a better future. It was a very difficult change for our family, but the hardest thing was not so much packing up and coming here. The most difficult part was how they received us. Since we came from Venezuela and even though we have our families here, we had other habits, and people told us 'here comes the Venezuelans', even to my younger brothers and sisters. As soon as they started going to school, they suffered a lot of xenophobia.

"Being a community agent means you are the voice of the community. We can have our local protection committee in which we learn about violence against children and the violation of their rights. As community agents, we are the voice of those children who have no voice.

"I always enjoy working with children and young people. We are never alone, there is always a helping hand that will be there, sometimes people forget this, but there will always be someone to show them the right path, telling them that they should not be guided by what is wrong in the world, that vices are bad and that they should never drop out of school and that, if they have problems with education, there is always something in which they can excel."

All children have the right to live free from discrimination. For many refugee and migrant children, this is not the case.

43

million children
worldwide forcibly
displaced by the end
of 2022

Humanitarian action

We respond to the urgent needs of children and families in times of conflict, natural disaster or mass displacement. As in all our programmes, our focus is on caring for children, protecting their rights and keeping families together – but in a crisis context.

In any humanitarian crisis, children are at increased risk of exposure to violence and exploitation, face separation from adult caregivers and suffer from the absence of social structures and protections. Often, they must navigate emergencies entirely alone. For those who spend their childhood in conflict zones or go through distressing experiences at a young age, the chances of long-term trauma and subsequent mental health difficulties are high.

Our interventions cover all phases of the disaster cycle – preparedness, emergency relief and post-disaster recovery – and are tailored to the unique needs of local communities. Intended to support both physical and emotional health, activities can be short- or long-term and range from the provision of cash transfers and hygiene kits to child protection training for communities after displacement and the establishment of child-friendly spaces. For unaccompanied minors, we provide interim alternative care, ensure that their basic needs are met and facilitate reunification with family members wherever possible.

In 2022, the number of children in need of humanitarian assistance worldwide rose by 20%.¹ We responded to a total of 25 crises in 31 countries, including: conflict in Ethiopia, drought in the Horn of Africa, war in Ukraine and mass flooding in Pakistan. Of the 1,386,400 people we reached through humanitarian action, 792,700 (57%) were children under the age of 18.

In Ukraine, we expanded our programmes into neighbouring countries to address the urgent needs of families affected by war. The focus has been on cash assistance, providing shelter to displaced foster families, mental health support and emergency medical aid. In Ethiopia, where severe drought has exacerbated ongoing conflict, meeting essential health and nutrition needs for families with young children is the initial focus. Our response also includes cash assistance for households who have lost their income; the rehabilitation of water points, health and school facilities; and targeted information dissemination on identifying and reporting child protection risks. Such interventions make it less likely that parents will need to go in search of other sources of income or of water, thus decreasing the chances of family breakdown.

SOS Children's Villages collaborates with partners to increase our reach and effectiveness in emergencies. We are a member of the inter-agency Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action as well as the CHS Alliance, which means we commit to quality and accountability in our projects as per the Core Humanitarian Standard.



© Katerina Ilievska | Poland



© Anne Kahura | Ethiopia

2022

in detail

This section gives further insight into how we work in practice, including an overview of financial results and programme statistics, as well as the partnerships that make our work possible.

138

**countries and
territories where
we worked**





Safeguarding —

Everything we do is guided by our commitment to provide a safe, secure and empowering environment for all. Our concept of safeguarding extends not only to the children and young people in our programmes but to everyone who engages with us – including our staff, community members and partners.

Throughout 2022, we continued implementing our 24-point, holistic Safeguarding Action Plan. The most recent report on our progress is available on our international website. The plan includes direct support for those who have been affected by abuse, and we continue to urge anyone with information about wrongdoing to come forward.

We also continued developing an independent mechanism for supporting children and young people who are dissatisfied with how the organization handles their concerns. A global ombuds board is now in place, national ombuds have been hired in three countries so far, and recruitment at the global and regional level is under way. The project brings in full participation of children and young people in establishing the system.

The Independent Special Commission, set up under the Safeguarding Action Plan to address past cases and make recommendations to strengthen governance and accountability, has concluded its work. Its final report was published in June 2023. Its findings and recommendations will help revise the Safeguarding Action Plan and serve as crucial input to improving compliance, internal oversight and risk management frameworks.

We have invested considerable effort in reviewing and strengthening other internal policies and processes to keep everyone who is in contact with us safe. We introduced regulations on misconduct incident management and on investigations which set international standards for handling complaints. We have also adopted a revised Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy and updated our code of conduct. To ensure consistent monitoring and oversight, we are setting up a cross-functional safeguarding unit reporting directly to the CEO.

In line with a holistic view of safeguarding, we have also continued improving systems designed to protect adults, for example through the roll-out of our regulation on the prevention of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. Because safeguarding failures often go hand in hand with other types of misconduct such as corruption, a comprehensive asset protection plan is in progress as well. For more on our efforts, please visit the [Safeguarding Info Hub](#) on our website.

Financial report

Our federation's financial information, detailed on page 46, is based on the global, combined total of reports provided by our member associations and by our umbrella organization SOS Children's Villages International. These reports are audited annually by independent and reputable auditors according to internationally accepted and/or legally required national accounting standards.

Federation revenue

Overall revenue grew by 6% in 2022, due in part to the generous support from our donors for our humanitarian action projects in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Regular and sporadic contributions from individual donors continue to be the financial backbone of our organization, accounting for nearly half of our annual revenue and growing at a rate of 7% in 2022. Governmental subsidies grew by 7%, driven by an expansion in domestic programming and government partnerships in emerging markets outside Europe and North America. Funding from our institutional partners also continued to rise rapidly and reached a total contract value of €120 million in 2022.

While Western Europe remains our largest source of global revenue, countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America continue to develop their fundraising, increasingly covering programme costs with locally raised income.

Federation expenditures

The war in Ukraine disrupted food and fuel supplies on a global scale last year, resulting in significantly increased inflation worldwide. This, combined with unfavourable developments in exchange rates, caused increased costs across nearly all areas. Overall, the year saw total spending rise by 8%. The biggest increase was in the Americas, where total programme expenditures rose by 17%, followed by an increase of 12% in Africa.

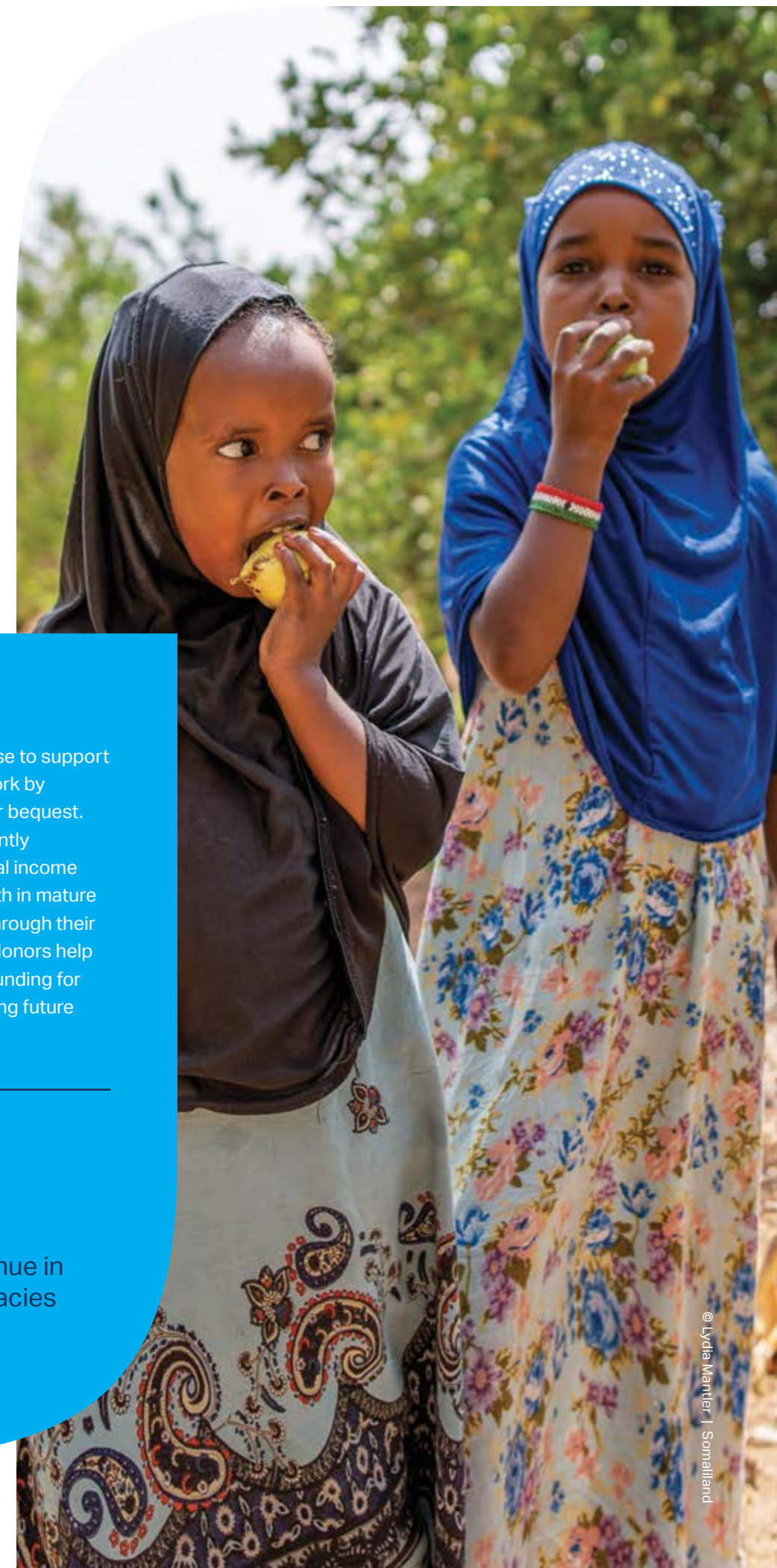
In line with our strategic focus on preventing family breakdown, spending on family strengthening services increased by 14%, mainly in Europe, Africa and the Americas, enabling us to reach 13% more families in 2022. Direct spending on COVID-19 response was only a minor component compared to 2021. Yet overall, there was a significant increase in humanitarian action spending (167%), reflecting a rise in crises facing the children and families we support. Among other places, we funded emergency projects in Ethiopia, Haiti, Pakistan, Somalia, and Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Support that lasts

Increasingly, donors choose to support SOS Children's Villages work by trusting us with a legacy or bequest. This revenue stream currently represents 15% of our total income and continues to grow, both in mature and emerging markets. Through their generous support, these donors help us to ensure sustainable funding for programme work benefitting future generations.

15%

of total global revenue in 2022 thanks to legacies



Financial information

All amounts in EUR 1,000¹

Revenue	Old consolidation logic (cash-flow based)		New consolidation logic² (Profit & loss)		
	Actuals 2020	Actuals 2021	Actuals 2021	Actuals 2022 preliminary³	% change 2021-2022
Sporadic donations & legacies	347,278	387,920	387,804	419,185	8%
Sponsorship/committed giving	312,288	336,913	336,937	360,118	7%
Major donors	28,373	33,289	33,588	36,685	9%
Foundations & lotteries	38,543	41,334	40,628	43,317	7%
Corporate donors	49,748	58,680	58,802	79,715	36%
Governmental subsidies for domestic programmes	463,544	493,011	494,050	526,499	7%
Institutional funding	33,108	37,765	41,745	45,489⁴	9%
Emergency appeals⁵	6,542	3,439	-	-	-
Other income⁶	111,467	119,705	135,179	113,564	-16%
TOTAL REVENUE	1,390,890	1,512,055	1,528,733	1,624,572	6%

Expenditures	Old consolidation logic (cash-flow based)		New consolidation logic² (Profit & loss)		
	Actuals 2020	Actuals 2021	Actuals 2021	Actuals 2022 preliminary³	% change 2021-2022
Alternative care	573,361	610,843	694,087	718,660	4%
Family strengthening	121,222	134,765	145,504	165,357	14%
Education	139,547	143,523	160,834	170,329	6%
Other activities⁷	32,588	46,828	41,300	44,159	7%
Health services	14,191	13,345	15,086	15,924	6%
Humanitarian action	10,624	13,319	14,753	39,398	167%
Construction & investments⁸	40,153	36,679	-	-	-
Programme support in implementing associations	93,945	103,031	109,280	126,275	16%
International coordination & programme support	44,287	48,200	43,623	45,200	4%
Information & fundraising work and administration in promoting & supporting associations⁹	207,369	204,776	203,694	222,188	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,277,287	1,355,308	1,428,162	1,547,490	8%

1 Due to rounding, total numbers may not add up exactly.
2 In 2021, we adopted a profit & loss consolidation logic in our financial reporting. This results in a slight increase in reported revenue and expenditure.
3 These figures, captured on 9 March 2023, are considered preliminary, as final, audited figures from our member associations are available only as of 30 September 2023.
4 This figure represents the grant amount effectively transferred and earmarked for operations; in 2022, members of SOS Children's Villages International managed a total IPD project volume of €120 million.
5 In 2021, this category was deleted as many associations allocate appeals funds to other categories, such as sporadic donations or major donors.
6 Refers to operational income from schools, kindergartens, health and other facilities, events or merchandising, as well as interest and other financial income.
7 Includes community outreach and education on children's rights, integration support, holiday camps and play buses.
8 In 2021, this category was eliminated as these expenditures are considered only in a cash-flow logic.
9 Promoting & supporting associations are associations that raise funds for international programmes; most of them also operate domestic programmes.

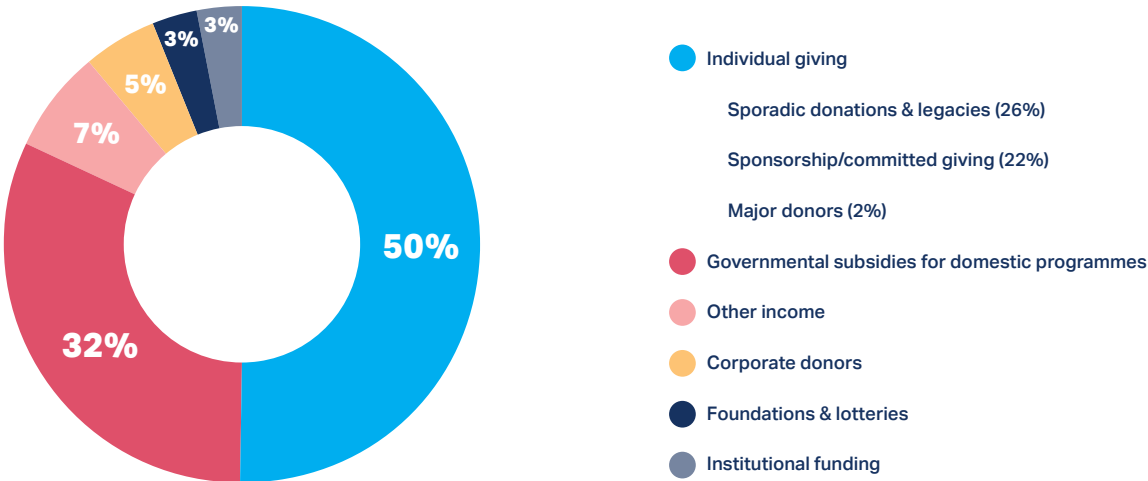
Accountability

As a member of Accountable Now and of the International Civil Society Centre, we take our obligations around transparency and accountability very seriously. The foundation of our approach is our policy document Good Management and Accountability Quality Standards. Our progress in developing accountability practices is reflected in regular reports to Accountable Now, which are publicly available.

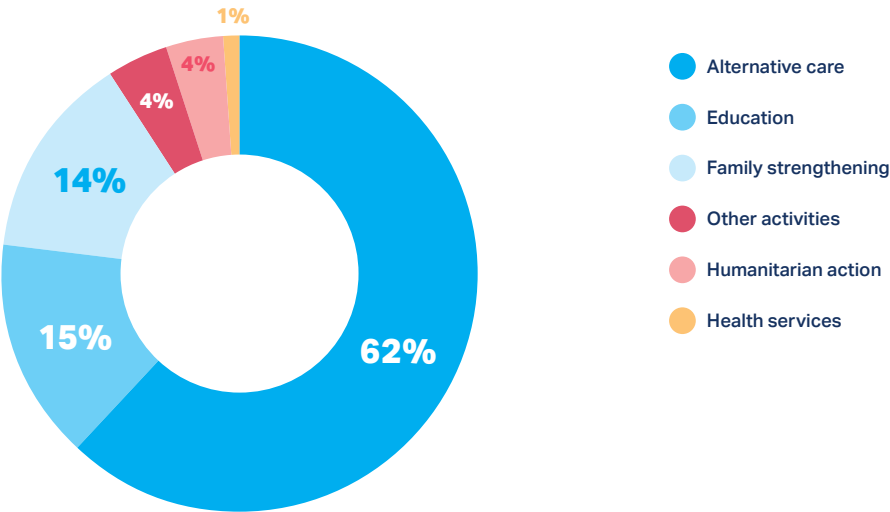


Following a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption, we are committed to continuously improving our asset protection frameworks. In addition to our current Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Guideline, we are introducing an Asset Safeguarding Action Plan that will guide us in strengthening the organization-wide programme to prevent corruption and fraud. The detailed financial audit report of SOS Children's Villages International is available on our international website, along with links to the websites of all our member associations.

Total revenue by type¹



Programme expenditures by type¹



Programme statistics

SOS Children's Villages is a global federation of locally rooted member associations. Our programmatic services, tailored to the unique needs of a community, are designed to support children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. These statistics are based on reporting by our associations and represent our services for the calendar year 2022.

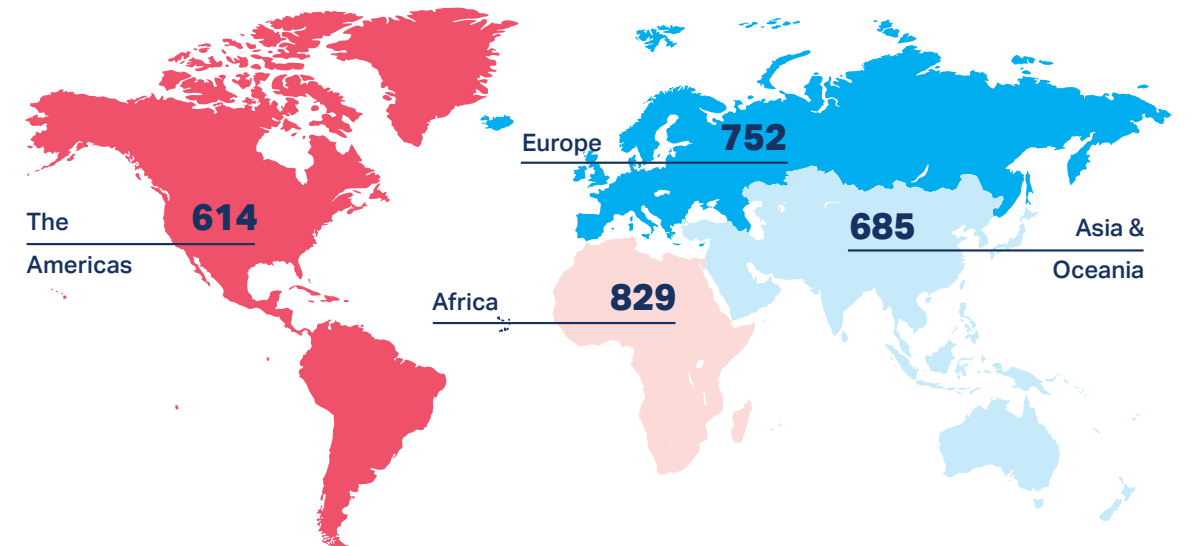
People we reached					
	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
ALTERNATIVE CARE					
Children & young people					
Family-like care	13,600	5,000	15,200	3,600	37,400
Youth care	9,600	2,500	8,200	3,000	23,300
Foster family care	800	1,100	100	3,500	5,500
Small group homes	300	100	100	1,000	1,500
Other alternative care ¹	700	600	100	100	1,500
TOTAL	25,000	9,300	23,700	11,200	69,200
PREVENTION					
Children, young people & adults					
Family strengthening	220,500	33,300	151,200 ²	107,500	512,500
EDUCATION					
Children, young people & adults					
Early childhood care & development	8,700	9,900	4,900	3,500	27,000
Primary & secondary education	42,500	6,100	42,800	61,600	153,000
Employment & entrepreneurship training	8,600	1,700	3,000	2,200	15,500
TOTAL	59,800	17,700	50,700	67,300	195,500
OTHER ACTIVITIES ³					
Children, young people & adults	67,500	7,300	300	2,500	77,600
HEALTH					
Children, young people & adults					
Health promotion & prevention	39,000	100	0	1,200	40,300
Mother & Child Hospital, Somalia	266,900	–	–	–	266,900
TOTAL	305,900	100	0	1,200	307,200
HUMANITARIAN ACTION					
Children, young people & adults	1,123,200	8,100	89,600	165,500	1,386,400
GRAND TOTAL	1,801,900	75,800	315,500	355,200	2,548,400

¹ Includes care in transitional settings for unaccompanied minor refugees awaiting legal decision and support to other service providers to improve the quality of their care.

² Includes 600 people reached through SOS CV (HGFD) funded family strengthening project in Iraq, run by partner (Better World Organization).

³ Includes community outreach and education on children's rights, integration support, holiday camps and play buses.

Programmes by continent



Programmes we operated					
	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
ALTERNATIVE CARE					
Family-like care	150	122	165	96	533
Small group homes	14	18	9	64	105
Foster family care	22	20	1	48	91
Youth care	124	112	208	152	596
Other alternative care	13	36	4	8	61
TOTAL	323	308	387	368	1,386
PREVENTION					
Family strengthening	225	171	136	236	768
EDUCATION					
Early childhood care & development	77	55	62	40	234
Primary & secondary education	83	9	58	28	178
Employment & entrepreneurship	42	21	31	32	126
TOTAL	202	85	151	100	538
OTHER ACTIVITIES					
	14	41	2	23	80
HEALTH					
Health promotion & prevention	16	1	0	3	20
Medical care	24	0	3	0	27
TOTAL	40	1	3	3	47
HUMANITARIAN ACTION					
	25	8	6	22	61
GRAND TOTAL	829	614	685	752	2,880



Thank you all

We are grateful to have so many supporters and partners around the world who are committed to genuine social change for children and young people. We say thank you to those listed on the next page as well as to the many thousands of others who make our work possible.

 **4.4** million donors worldwide in 2022

Much as strong relationships are the key to getting through crisis, they are also the foundation for fruitful collaboration. In a year filled with crisis and uncertainty (see more in the Year in Review), we relied on our partnerships with governments, corporations and institutions worldwide to continue providing high quality services. We significantly extended our reach in line with the increased number of children and families in need of support in 2022. Through initiatives and networks, we collaborated across sectors to find innovative solutions – for example, new fundraising methods – to broaden our impact.

Our partnerships take shape in a variety of forms and ways. Much of our financial support comes from individuals who make donations large and small, and who also donate their time. As well as this, we partner with universities to conduct research and with other child-focused organizations on advocacy efforts, such as effecting change in child protection systems or improving quality alternative care. Whether we are co-creating a new project with a corporate partner, cooperating with other organizations to inform policy briefs, or working with municipalities to improve the situation for children at the local level, we value the expertise, energy and new perspectives our partners bring.

Most importantly, we partner with the children, young people and families we work with – not only on the programmatic level, but also through advocacy and by supporting their ideas for change. This year, we scaled up our digital efforts to foster connection, and continued to prioritize the facilitation of youth participation in policymaking.

Together, we will build a world where every child can become their strongest self.

Solidarity Dental

Blended finance – New fundraising approach piloted

Blended finance is a relatively new approach to fundraising. It attracts commercial capital to projects that contribute to sustainable development by providing financial returns to investors. In 2022, SOS Children's Villages launched a blended finance partnership with Novulis, a social clinic that provides affordable dental care to underserved communities throughout Ecuador. The partnership works as follows: it attracts US dental businesses interested in improving oral health in Latin America, where three out of four people lack access to quality dental health care. These businesses become certified by donating 1% of their revenue to the partnership, thereby opening up various markets in Latin America. In turn, the Solidarity Dental partnership – through Novulis – provides quality dental care to the children and families in our programmes, as well as additional funds for our family strengthening programmes.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

African Union

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

European Commission

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Directorate-General for International Partnerships

Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Government of Austria

Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

State Government of Tyrol

State Government of Vorarlberg

Government of Belgium

Brussels International

City of Brussels

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

Government of Canada

Canada Feminist Fund

Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

Government of Denmark

Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

Government of Finland

Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ministry for Social Affairs & Health

Government of France

Embassy of France

French Development Agency (AFD)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Germany

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

German Embassy

German Federal Foreign Office (AA)

Government of Iceland

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Government of Luxembourg

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Government of Monaco

Department of International Cooperation (DCI)

Government of Morocco

Government of the Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Norway

Ministry of Health and Care Services

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Government of Spain

Madrid Town Hall

Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030

Regional Government of Canary Islands

Government of Sweden

European Social Fund (ESF)

South Asia Initiative to End

Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)

United Nations

Funds and Programmes

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

UN Global Compact

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

UNWomen

World Food Programme (WFP)

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Akelius Foundation

Balder Foundation

Bechgaard Foundation

Bernhard Waldinger Foundation

Big Heart Foundation

Captain Vassilis & Carmen

Constantakopoulos Foundation

Cariplo Foundation

CMGP / Amane Foundation

Costas M. Lemos Foundation
Edith & Gotfred Kirk Christiansen's Foundation

Fondation de France

Fondation Roi Baudouin

Fundación Sus Buenos Vecinos

Fundacja Drzewo i Jutro

Gelsenwasser Foundation

Grieg Foundation

GS Foundation

Harry Hole Foundation

Hempel Foundation

Institute Circle

Intesa Bank Charity Fund

Maestro Cares Foundation

MAPFRE Foundation

National Lottery Community Fund

Nine United Foundation

Nostos Foundation

OAK Foundation

OK Foundation

Orange Foundation

PDFoundation

S&P Global Foundation

Signe Marie Foundation

Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Stiftelsen Radiohjälpen

Stiftung Kinderhilfe

Stiftung zur Unterstützung der SOS Kinderdörfer-Liechtenstein

Subczynski Foundation

Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need

SWISS Children's Foundation

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

The SOL Foundation

The Steele Family Foundation

World Diabetes Foundation

LEADING LONG-TERM

CORPORATE PARTNERS

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UniCredit Bank Austria AG

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Xellia Pharmaceuticals

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Accountable Now

Better Care Network

Central European Initiative

ChildFund Alliance

Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia)

Child Rights Connect

CHS Alliance

Civil Society in Development (CISU)

Comic Relief

CONCORD

Decent Jobs for Youth Initiative

Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA)

Eurochild

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

European Social Network

ForumCiv

Generation Unlimited

Global Movement for Children (MMI-LAC)

Global Responsibility: Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid

Inter-American Children's Institute

International Civil Society Centre (ICSC)

Joining Forces for Children in the SDGs

NetHope

Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees

S4YE (Skills for Youth) Worldbank

Social Platform

The Civil Society Forum to End Violence Against Children (CSO Forum)

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

The NGO Committee on UNICEF

Universidad de Comillas

Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)



Learn more about our national corporate partnerships.



International Senate Members 2022

	Dereje Wordofa Gidda President		Lanna Idriss Germany		Gabi Nahum Israel
	Beáta Juvancz Vice-President		Rakesh Jinsi India		Gordon Nzalo South Africa
	Aishah Ahmad Nigeria		Michael Wandy Karlsson Sweden		Maria Raharinarivonirina Madagascar
	Doris Albisser Switzerland		Susan Kiama Kenya		Mel Senen Sarmiento Philippines
	Daniel Barroy France		Andreas Kovar Austria		Philip Willem van Verschuer Netherlands
	Pedro Paulo Campos Brazil		Maria Grazia Lanzani Italy		Kay Vorwerk Germany
	Kārlis Danēvičs Latvia		Luis Roberto Martins Urquiza Bolivia	Former members	
	Elisabeth Grieg Norway		Lars Henrik Munch Denmark	Petra Horn Germany (Hermann-Gmeiner-Fonds Deutschland) (until June 2022)	
				Nahed Ben Yahia Rajihi Tunisia (until April 2022)	

Governance

SOS Children's Villages is a federation comprising more than 110 national member associations. As members of SOS Children's Villages International, each association is committed to applying the federation's statutes and standards. The General Assembly, which meets every two years, is the highest decision-making body. The International Senate is the overriding policy and supervisory body of SOS Children's Villages International and is elected by the General Assembly. Members of the Senate are the President and Vice-President, and board members from 20 national member associations. The Management Council supports the Senate and Executive Board and consists of representatives from nine member associations, with participation from the International Youth Coalition. Finally, the Executive Board leads the General Secretariat and is responsible for day-to-day operations.

Legislative Level



General Assembly

All member associations



International Senate

President | Vice-President

20 member association board members | Executive Board ex officio



Management Council

Chaired by the CEO

9 member association representatives | Executive Board

Operational Level - Executive Board

Chief Executive Officer

Ingrid Johansen

Chief Programme Officer*

Michael Pörtl (*until October 2022*)

Arian Buurman

(*interim starting October 2022*)

Chief Operating Officer

Steffen Braasch

*Angela Maria Rosales as of April 2023

SOS Children's Villages worked for children and young people in 138 countries and territories in 2022.

Countries and territories in which we responded to a humanitarian crisis in 2022 are shown in **bold**.

Join us!



www.sos-childrensvillages.org

Africa

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
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
Zanzibar
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
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Northern Cyprus
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Spain
Sweden
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United Kingdom

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