

EDUCARE

2022-2023



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES USA



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VILLAGES

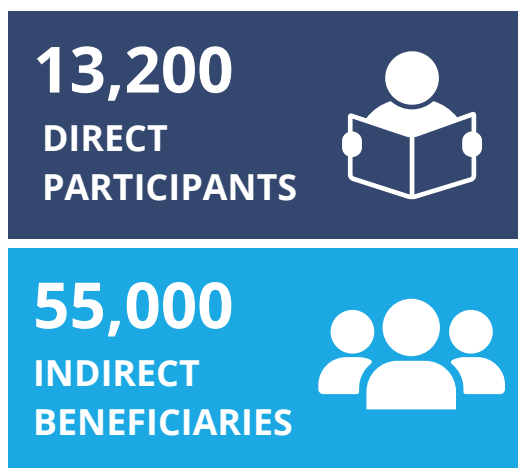
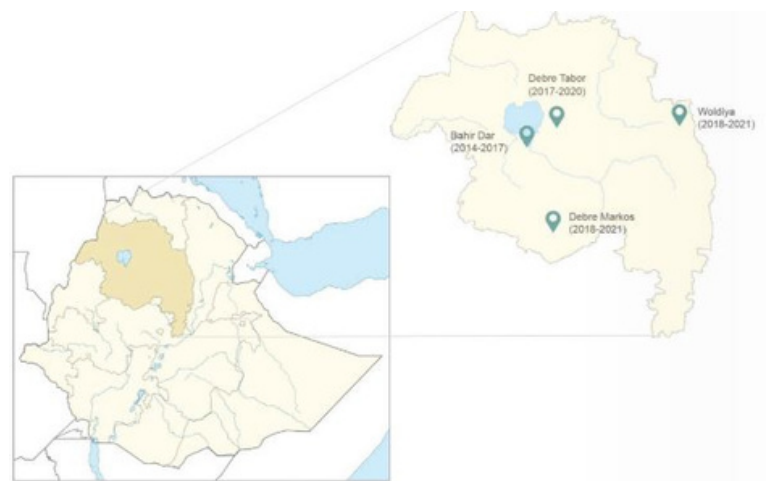
Program Overview

EDUCARE'S INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT APPROACH COMBINES MULTIPLE LAYERS OF SUPPORT TO GIVE CHILDREN THE BEST POSSIBLE START IN LIFE.

In 2012, SOS Children's Villages launched the Youth Education Program with the goal of increasing primary and secondary education completion among previously out-of-school students and children who were identified at high risk of dropping out in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. The project achieved overwhelming impact with **100% of its 450 students remaining in school.**

In 2014, the program was renamed EduCare, adapted and brought to scale in six other cities across the Amhara region. In Ethiopia alone, more than **68,200 people** have been impacted by EduCare's data-driven approach and set of holistic interventions.

EduCare empowers vulnerable children to achieve their full potential through education, and builds more inclusive and resilient societies through family strengthening, livelihood assistance and enhancing the capacity of communities to protect and care for children.



Since its inception in Ethiopia, the program has been adapted and brought to scale in **Tanzania, Somaliland and Rwanda.** Beginning in 2023, SOS USA will pilot EduCare's first initiative in Latin America, testing the model's validity outside of the East African context and establishing its efficacy among new target groups.

Our Approach

EduCare is a 3-year program that reduces school dropout rates through the holistic support of children, caregivers, and communities. Its primary objectives are to:

- **Enable previously out-of-school or at-risk students to continue their education** by addressing economic barriers to education through material assistance with school supplies, access to health services and academic support.
- **Improve educational capacity at public schools** through training and professional development for teachers and by purchasing critical equipment for classrooms and learning spaces.
- **Increase self-reliance of caregivers** by strengthening families economic security through a range of economic empowerment activities including vocational and entrepreneurship trainings and access to start-up capital, income generating assets and social support groups.
- **Strengthen the network of social support for vulnerable children and families** with strong partnerships, training, technical assistance or material support for community-based organizations and local government partners.

Our Goal: Reduce school dropout rates through the holistic support of children, caregivers and communities.

Our strategy: Provide critical supplies, tutoring, and training of students and teachers; income generating assistance and loans for caregivers; and community capacity building to reduce school dropout rates.

Target Population: Local government representatives, schools, community members, and SOS collaborate to select student participants who have dropped out of school within the past two years, and those who are at highest risk of dropping out.



OBJECTIVE 1

Enable previously out-of-school or at-risk students to continue their education through the provision of essential services

OBJECTIVE 2

Improve educational capacity at public primary schools



OBJECTIVE 3

Increase the self-reliance of caregivers

OBJECTIVE 4

Establish and strengthen partnerships to mobilize a network of social service providers



Quality Education

Education is a basic human right that levels inequalities, reduces poverty and ensures long-term sustainable development. High numbers of children dropping out of school is both an acute impediment to a nation's development, and a deeply held personal tragedy for students whose dreams go unfulfilled.

Material Assistance

EduCare equips students of primary and secondary school age with school supplies, uniforms, food stipends, access to primary health care services. The program also delivers individualized assistance for students with disabilities to enable them to stay in school and continue their education.

Capacity Building

To enhance academic performance, students also receive individualized tutoring, life and study skills and child protection trainings.

For teachers and school administrators, EduCare delivers critical trainings to enhance the quality of education and provides equipment for classrooms, libraries, science and computer labs.

The cumulative impact of these interventions is staggering - on average, EduCare students score higher on academic assessments and attend school more regularly than their peers.

WASH in Schools



Create sustainable access to **clean water, sanitation and hygiene** in schools with the installation of boreholes and solar pumps



Construct **gender-segregated latrines** to promote health, privacy and dignity - especially for girls



Support **stigma-free Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)** through the distribution of dignity kits and female hygiene products

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

EduCare also emphasizes WASH in schools because safe and inclusive learning environments require access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

When WASH related needs are identified as a need, SOS Children's Villages may construct boreholes or install water tanks or solar water pumps in partner schools.

Gender-Responsive Programming

WASH is particularly important because of its link to girl's absenteeism. When a lack of adequate facilities or materials for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) prevent girls from attending school, EduCare also constructs gender-segregated latrines and provides feminine hygiene products to restore safety, privacy and dignity.

Family Strengthening and Economic Development

Family Strengthening

SOS Children's Villages takes direct action to strengthen families and communities so that children can develop, grow, and learn in a supportive environment. EduCare empowers families with:



Training in effective parenting skills and **child safeguarding**



Mental health and psychosocial support groups



Individually tailored **family development plans**

SOS offers tailored support to reinforce individuals, families and communities with the skills, resources, opportunities, and support systems they need to unleash their potential and break the intergenerational transmission of poverty, family dissolution and exclusion.

Inclusive Economic Empowerment

Because the majority of the world's poor are women—and women represent the bulk of caregivers who participate in EduCare—the program reduces gender inequality through inclusive economic empowerment activities specifically geared towards women.

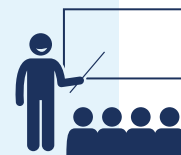
Establish Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS), community-based groups to **promote savings and economic interests**



Deliver advice on feasible **income generating activities and business plans**



Provide **entrepreneurship and vocational** trainings



Startup capital, income generating assets and access to micro loans



Building a Network

EduCare builds sustainable partnerships with community-based organizations, health centers, local government, and the private sector to strengthen the network of social support services available for vulnerable children and families.

Together with local partners, the program establishes and strengthens democratically led **Community Care and Support Coalitions** (CCSCs). Serving as Key Implementing Partners, these community-based organizations are routinely engaged in the program's governance structure and mobilize resources to distribute material and financial support for vulnerable community members.

Throughout each project's cycle, SOS delivers trainings, financial resources, and technical support to enable the gradual transition of responsibility to the CCSCs that eventually become responsible for ensuring the sustainability of outcomes upon each project's completion.

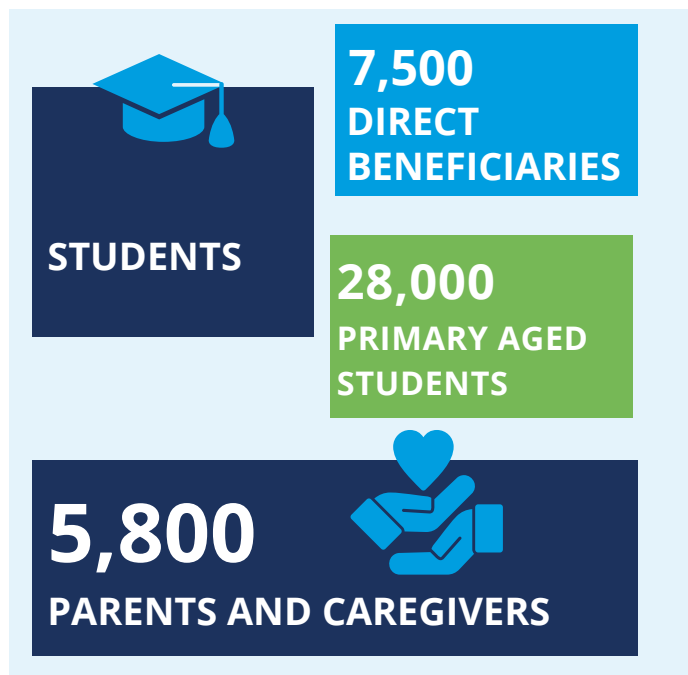
Key Implementing Partners

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VOLUNTEERS AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SUPPORTERS

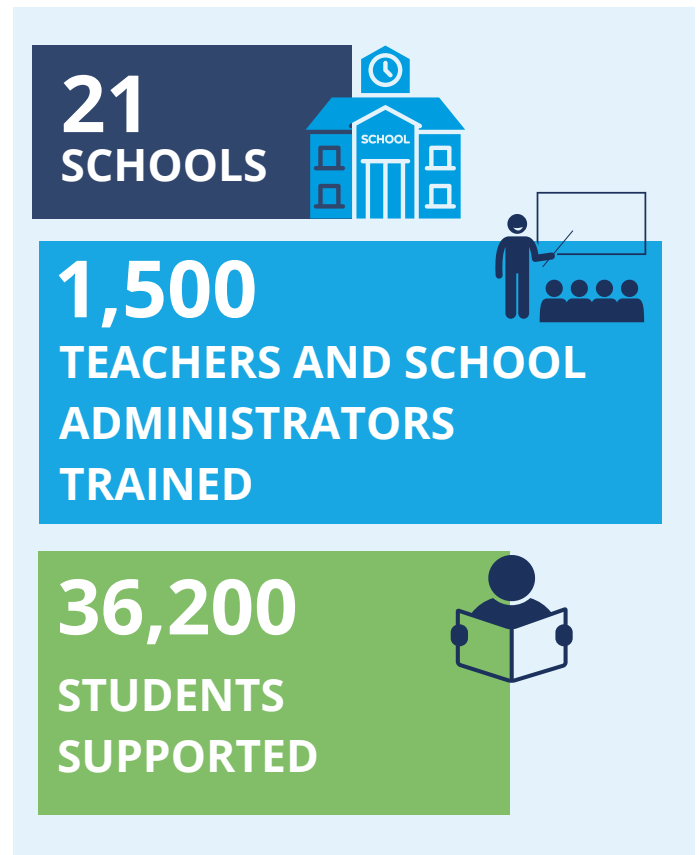
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ESTABLISHED
COMMUNITY CARE AND
SUPPORT COALITIONS

Scaling Impact

Through collaborative partnerships with **21 primary schools**, Ethiopia's EduCare program has enhanced the quality of education for **36,000 students** and enabled **7,500 students** at high risk of dropping out to remain in school and complete their education.



With a volunteer network of nearly **270 individuals** and dedicated partnerships with more than **270 government representatives**, EduCare in Ethiopia has impacted:



Partnership Opportunities

Strategic investments in EduCare empower thousands of vulnerable children and families every day. Together, we can grow EduCare's impact in regions beyond East Africa.

The program's holistic approach can be adapted to specifically address critical needs in a wide range of additional locations. EduCare's integrated development approach is linked to 9 of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The program's outcomes speak for themselves—EduCare works.



QUESTIONS?

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