

# SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES-USA ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**



# SOS Children's Villages

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental organization focused on supporting children and youth who are without parental care or are at risk of losing it. Founded in 1949, SOS works 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. Through more than 2,600 locally led programs, we strengthen vulnerable families to prevent family separation, provide long-term care for children and youth, and empower young people through education and training. We also advocate for children's rights and provide support for people affected by natural disasters and war.

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





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### SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN IN SOS Programs

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 programs across Europe to spend time together and meet people from other countries and cultures.

# Together, We Can Do More



Neil Ghosh  
CEO, SOS Children's Villages-USA

Dear Friends,

Growing up in Kolkata, India, I witnessed terrible human suffering. But I grew up with a mother and father who loved me and showed me the importance of caring for others on a daily basis. I watched as my mother shared our food with those who would otherwise go hungry and as my father mentored troubled children. During my first year with SOS, I quickly realized that breaking the cycle of poverty and neglect for the children in our care requires a similarly generous spirit and the steady guidance of a loving family.

More than 220 million children are at risk of growing up alone. And more than 1 billion suffer physical, sexual or psychological violence every year. In the face of extreme poverty, high youth unemployment and humanitarian crises, we have the responsibility – and the power – to support children in need.

SOS's holistic, comprehensive approach is rooted in four pillars: strengthening vulnerable families (p.15), providing long-term care for children (p.19), educating and empowering youth (p.24) and advocating for children's rights (p.27). We also offer emergency relief (p.33) to help children affected by conflict, displacement, or disaster. In all of our work, the safety of children is our top priority.

Every day, we celebrate the small but mighty accomplishments of the children in our care: from having the courage to speak out in class to falling asleep at night with a full belly for the first time. And we see firsthand how a supportive childhood sets kids up for future success.

Football star Calvin Ridley, who plays for the Atlanta Falcons, arrived at our SOS village in Florida in third grade along with his brothers. With the encouragement of his siblings and his SOS family, Calvin pursued his athletic dreams all the way to the NFL (p.29). Ever since, children at the village have been inspired by Calvin's story, and they believe they can achieve anything.

Children at our SOS villages in Illinois are also inspired to reach for the stars. Every year, they attend an event that highlights people of color in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, boosting their own ambition and sense of self-worth. Through events like this, we combat the social and economic barriers that prevent so many promising young students from pursuing rewarding professions in STEM.

With your support, we have accomplished real change in 2018. Together, we can ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The successes you'll read about on the following pages are only possible because of you. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Ghosh'.

Neil Ghosh  
CEO & Child Sponsor  
SOS Children's Villages - USA

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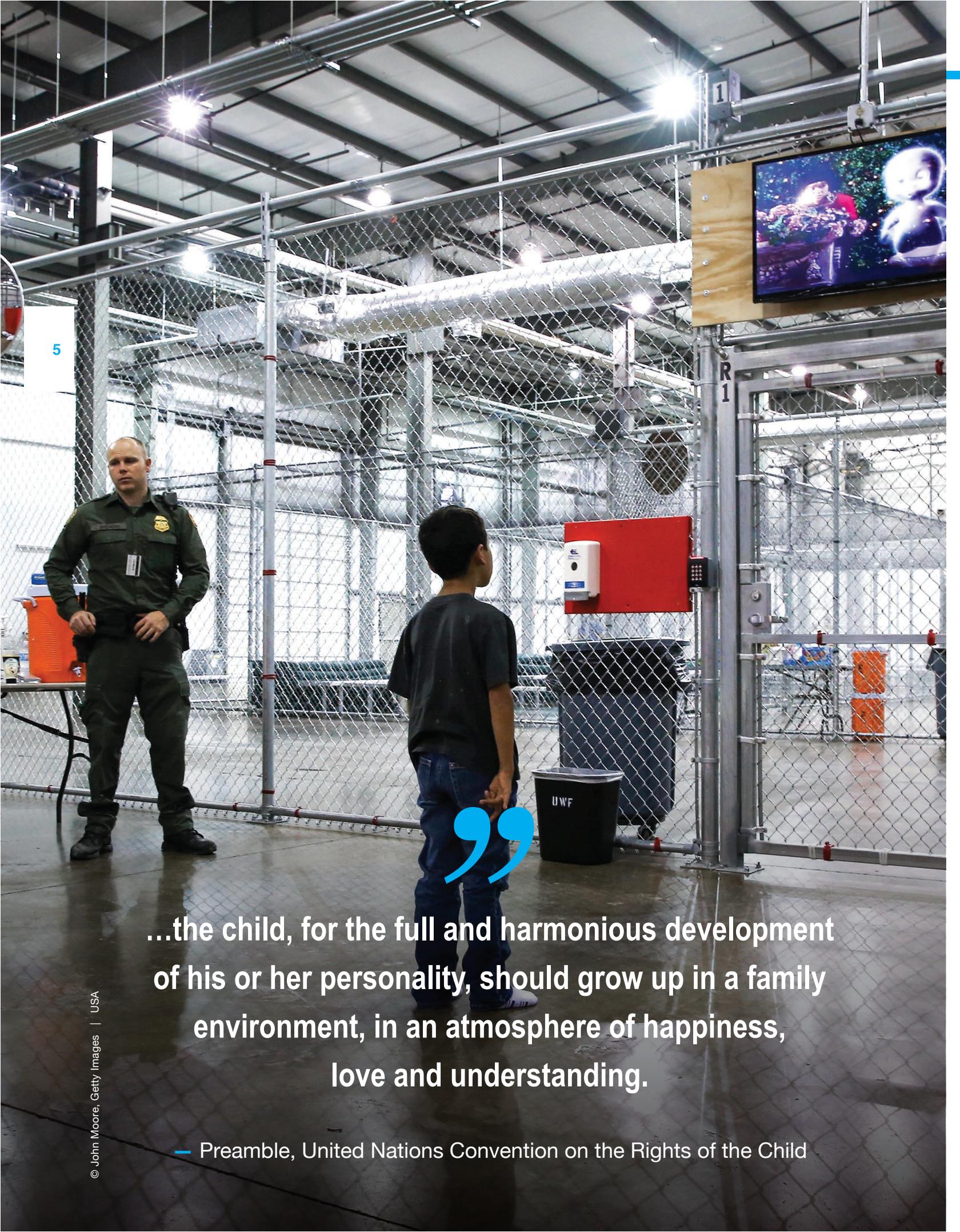
**Brett Rubinson**  
Veritable LP

**Cameron Schmidt**



### 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.



5

...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

# Year in Review 2018

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

Yet today, nearly 30 years after the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted, an estimated 220 million children – one in 10 of the world's 2 billion children – are growing up without parental care or stand at risk of losing it. Clearly, children's rights have not been fully realized.

In fact, in many parts of the world, 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 social systems meant to protect them.

At the same time, headway is being made on ending violence against children, keeping families together, and providing high-quality care for children. Additionally, two promising trends have emerged: One is the understanding that to realize children's rights, we need to create multi-stakeholder partnerships. The other trend, sometimes called co-creating, is to include children and youth in the development and implementation of initiatives that truly meet their needs.

## GLOBAL EVENTS

If we take a step back and look at how some of the year's events affected children's rights – whether 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 of the world's children are living in a conflict-affected country, with approximately 357 million living within 30 miles 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 enrolled in education, employment or training, compared to 10% of young men. Also worrying is the lack of quality jobs. As of 2017, 39% of young workers in emerging and developing countries 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-

<sup>3</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.

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 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 organizations 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. 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

## INVESTING IN FAMILIES AND CARE

We see a trend in governments becoming aware of the need to invest more in programs that support families to stay together. In Ecuador, for example, the country's Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion worked with civil society organizations, 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 endeavoring 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 institutionalizes children; the government is investing in alternative care services that are either family-like or based in existing families (e.g..foster care).

”

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

— Greta Thunberg, 16, climate activist

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.

## 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

<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.

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 realize children's right to grow up in a loving family environment.

## CO-CREATING SOLUTIONS

September brought another exciting development for children and youth who need support. World leaders at the UN General Assembly launched **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, SOS Children's Villages is sharing its expertise in supporting young people at risk. The partnership builds on the great efforts that have been made for children under 10, now recognizing that the second decade of life is just as important as the first.

Generation Unlimited involves young people in designing their own solutions. In the Youth Challenge, for example, young people in different countries 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. Straightforward, confident 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 symbol for the urgent need to act.

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Our Child Protection Policy, in place since 2008, focuses on awareness, prevention, reporting and responding. Our Child Safeguarding Annual Report provides a yearly 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 additional child safeguarding processes in place. This included applying learnings from the process of attaining external Level 1 certification, awarded to us in 2017 by the international organization 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 ways 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 levels. 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 recognize signs of abuse – and how to prevent it. We teach methods such as positive discipline and protective behaviors, and we work to eliminate harmful cultural practices. In 2018, we also invested in trainings to effectively conduct internal child safeguarding investigations.

# Where We Work



-  Country / territory that operates locally led SOS programs
-  Country / territory that raises funds for international SOS programs

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 programs 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 realization 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 program countries; programs 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 programs 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 programs in their communities, and they raise funds for international programs.

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



## 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
- United States
- Uruguay
- 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

# 70 YEARS *of impact*

4M\* CHILDREN  
& YOUTH



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

\$5

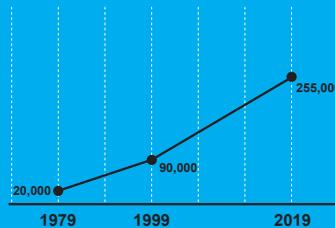
in return benefits to society for every \$1 invested in SOS.

98%

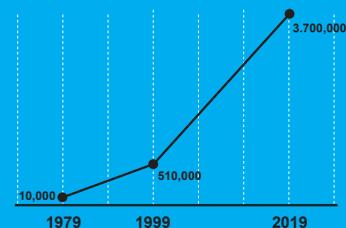
*of former participants*

are doing well in terms of fulfilling their parental obligations

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

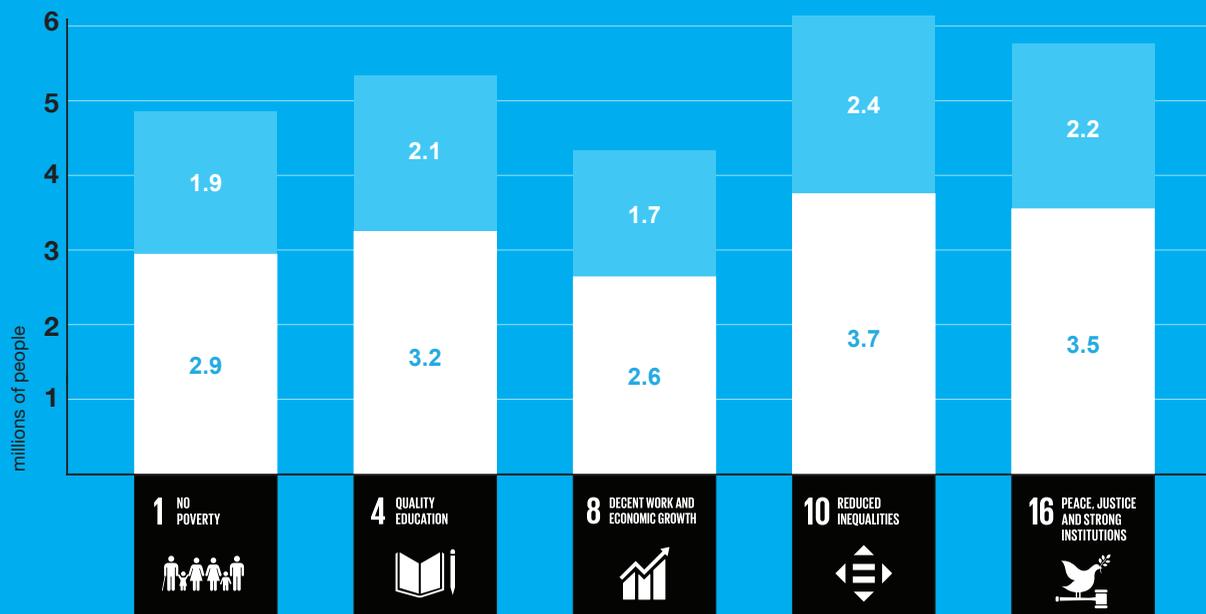


Total number of children reached through **family strengthening** since 1949



## 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

# 70 Years

In 1949, Austrian child welfare worker Hermann Gmeiner was elected president at the inaugural meeting of what would become SOS Children's Villages. His revolutionary idea – new homes and families for children without them – not only brought better lives for post-World War II children in the streets of Austria but ushered in a new era for social welfare internationally. Gmeiner was a true social entrepreneur.

## GROWTH AND EVOLUTION

SOS was founded in response to World War II. But 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 10 children is growing up without parental care or is at risk of losing it.

In 1951, we looked after just a handful of children in Austria; today, our family-like care programs 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 that 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 – 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 programs. Building on our field experiences, we became active advocates, engaging with those shaping laws and policies and joining forces in global partnerships.

## QUANTIFYING OUR IMPACT

Since our founding in 1949, we have directly reached 4 million children and youth. 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 program 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 housing, 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.

## 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 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.

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

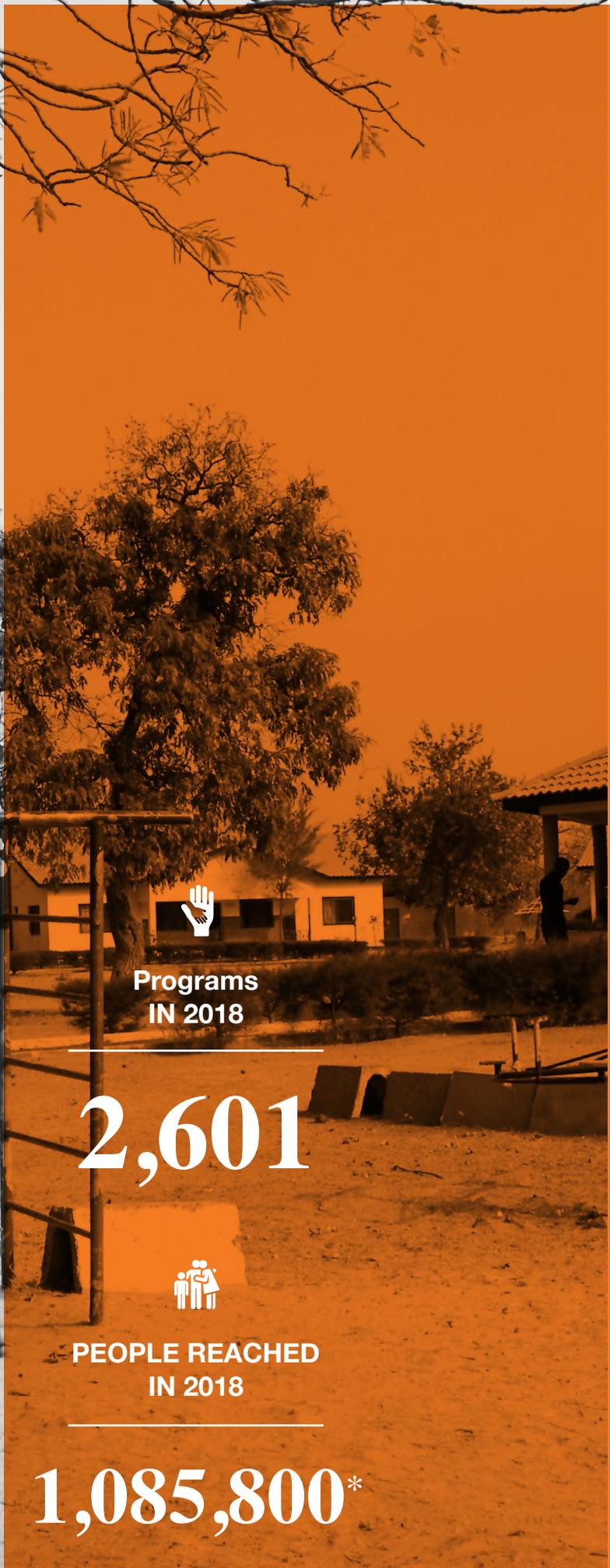
— Norbert Meder, CEO/COO,  
SOS Children's Villages International

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.*



© Ladavicius Claire | The Gambia



Programs  
IN 2018

2,601



PEOPLE REACHED  
IN 2018

1,085,800\*

# Our Programs

*SOS Children's Villages provides a range of services to help children and youth in difficult circumstances reach their potential. We also advocate for 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.*

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\*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 centers or through our emergency response programs.

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# Strengthening Families

*Around the world, families experiencing crisis or extreme hardship may have difficulty caring for their children.*

15

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 stabilize families and networks.

## **PARENTING CLASSES**

Many of our family strengthening programs 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 and positive parenting.

## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES**

Strong communities can be a lifeline for struggling families. We offer workshops for parents on community organizing to help bring communities together. We also implement programs to help curb malnutrition, and we train community members to carry out early childhood development activities and improve access to literacy in their communities.

## **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 minimizing disruptions in children's daily lives. 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.





## 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.

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# 112

COUNTRIES WITH FAMILY  
STRENGTHENING Programs





# 575

SOS FAMILY STRENGTHENING  
Programs

# 91,800

FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
TO STAY TOGETHER

# 496,300

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE  
AND ADULTS REACHED

## 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, association members contribute the funds and control the lending decisions. SOS Children's Villages provides basic supply kits, including bookkeeping essentials and safe cashboxes, to enable the self-managed groups to organize and run their association.

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## DAY CARE CENTERS

In some countries, we run day care centers 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, and various forms of abuse and exploitation. The SOS Keranyo Day-Care Centre provides daily nutritious meals, psychosocial support and preschool education to approximately 190 children between the ages of 2 and 6 years old.

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# 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.*



Alternative care begins with a thorough assessment by SOS, in partnership with child protection authorities and the children themselves, to determine which care setting is most appropriate.

### FAMILY-LIKE CARE

For 70 years, we have been providing children with family-like care in SOS families. Children and youth are nurtured by a supportive, reliable caregiver – an SOS parent – while living in a home and community. Biological siblings generally stay together, so that the emotional bond between them can remain and grow. We regularly assess the child’s placement, with an eye towards 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. Psychologists and other specialists 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. In 2018, around 6,500 SOS families cared for over 45,000 children and youth in 559 SOS Children’s Villages around the world.

### FOSTER CARE

Foster care differs from country to country, so our role changes too. In some cases, we provide support services to foster families, such as counseling or training, or we work with governments to implement quality foster care through sharing our expertise or assisting in the development and distribution of quality training materials. 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. 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 with child protection authorities to find the most appropriate care option.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

The goal of SOS youth programs is to equip young people with the skills and confidence they need to realize their potential and become independent adults. We provide individualized support in preparing for higher education, the job market or self-employment. With guidance from their SOS caregiver, older youth actively engage in the transition process of leaving SOS's care. In 2018, more than 24,000 young people participated in 713 SOS youth programs.

## 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.

## PREVENTING ABUSE

Protective Behaviours is a preventive life skills program that empowers people of all ages, but especially children and youth, to deal with risky, unsafe or abusive situations. The two main themes 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 youth in alternative care often need specialised, age-appropriate support to help them to cope with trauma they 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.*



**25**

COUNTRIES

**1,300**

VOLUNTEERS

**5,060**

YOUNG PEOPLE

SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
RINKA  
SOS: MG



© Barclay Leonora | Sri Lanka

## **YOUTHCAN!**

Young people 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 platform called YouthLinks. The initiative is tailored to the local labor market and the needs of each young person. In 2018, its second year of operation, the initiative welcomed 15 new YouthCan! countries, with a goal of reaching 40 countries by 2020.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS**

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 centers, supporting over 18,000 young people and adults from disadvantaged backgrounds. These centers provide specialist vocational training with a certificate or recognized 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 SOS 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 who have aged out of alternative care 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-centered, quality education across all of our programs, focusing on the child as a resourceful individual with unique skills and capabilities.*

25

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

## DIGITAL VILLAGE

The Digital Village project equips children and families with digital skills to improve school grades and employability, support online shopping for household items, 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

# Advocacy

*Drawing on our 70 years of program expertise, SOS Children's Villages speaks out for children's rights on the global, regional and national levels. Our advocacy work focuses on changing legislation to improve national child and family welfare systems.*

## 36

NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICIES/LAWS  
CHANGED (2015-2018)

### YOUTH PARTICIPATION

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



International  
Civil Society  
Centre





© Eivjen Jarle | Norway

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

### ADVOCATING TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

One of our main objectives is to help decision makers understand that investment in family strengthening can often prevent separation of children from their parents, instances of abuse and neglect and the need for alternative care. Among other efforts, we co-chair NGO Committee on UNICEF, a coalition of over 60 civil society organizations. The coalition advocates for governments to invest in family strengthening programs, child protection systems and meaningful child participation.

### ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY CARE

We advocate for quality alternative care services that meet the child's best interest and allow children who have lost parental care to grow up in a family-like environment in the community. A major success 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 on addressing the rights and needs of children without parental care. SOS Children's Villages had advocated for this focus as part of a coalition of 87 non-governmental organizations.

### POLICY CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018

**Benin:** Thanks in part to SOS Benin's leadership in advocacy efforts 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 organizations, 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, as well as the commitment to keeping siblings together in alternative care.

---

# SOS IN THE USA – Florida





**119**

Children served through our programs and services

**94**

young adults participating in Next Steps after aging out of foster care

### SIBLING FOSTER CARE

Our Village gives foster children the opportunity to grow up with their biological siblings as a family, with a supportive and professionally trained Foster Parent who lives in the home with them. Our homes allow up to six children to stay in a single home until they are old enough to live on their own, providing them with therapeutic, educational, and recreational support resources.

### NEXT STEPS

The Next Steps program offers services to young adults transitioning out of foster care and living on their own for the first time. Services include support with affordable housing, financial literacy, employment, and assistance with college applications and visits. Because of these services, our alumni and foster youth in the community, have a family to turn to and a home to visit, no matter how old they are.

”

*SOS changed my life and helped me get here.*

– Calvin Ridley

### CALVIN'S STORY

In 2006, when Calvin was in the 3rd grade, he arrived at SOS with his three brothers as his family was going through a difficult period. It was at SOS that Calvin's passion for football ignited. Although he had never played, he shared his dream of playing in the NFL with his social worker and she made sure he had the opportunity to play.

Calvin and his brothers spent afternoons playing football in the Village cul-de-sac as well as in the local football league. When the season was over, Calvin's outstanding athleticism and skill earned him an invitation to play on a travel league. He continued to play football at Monarch High School and then at the University of Alabama. In 2018, the Atlanta Falcons NFL team selected Calvin as a first-round draft pick.

When Calvin recently reminisced about his journey from SOS to the NFL, he imagined what his life would have been like in other circumstances and gave thanks for the opportunities he had. Today, his story inspires children in the village to follow their own dreams.





# SOS IN THE USA – Illinois

**138**

families were served through our in-home families program

**501**

Children served through our programs and services

**100%**

high school graduation rate for SOS students – double the 50% national average for kids in foster care.



### **FAMILY SERVICES**

We offer preventative and family strengthening services that include education, awareness, and parent mentoring. Our Fostering Families program focuses on helping biological parents overcome the issues that brought their children into care. In-Home Family Services help families build on their strengths, tackle tough problems, and stabilize to help youth deal with issues related to gang involvement and other areas of risk.

---

### **EDUCATION**

Living in one of our 3 Villages in Illinois ensures that changes in home placement do not affect school district changes or placement in special programs. Keeping children in the same school creates stability and continuity in education and sets each student up for success. Annually, more than 75% of high school graduates from SOS Illinois elect to attend college in pursuit of associate's or bachelor's degree.

---

### **ALISSA'S STORY**

Alissa came to our Chicago Village in 2016 with her two sisters. Her family had experienced major financial instability and brief homelessness before she entered into the foster care system. Upon joining our Village, Alissa displayed notable signs of PTSD and often had difficulty managing anger with peers and adults.

Through working with one of our Clinical Therapists and her Foster Parent, Alissa learned healthy ways of coping with her anger and tools to use when addressing her PTSD.

Today, Alissa loves music and hopes to share her passion for music with the world someday.

# 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 local needs, identify partners and act quickly. In 2018, we responded to emergencies in 25 countries and territories.*

## OUR FOCUS



CARING FOR  
CHILDREN



PROTECTING  
CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS



KEEPING FAMILIES  
TOGETHER





© Inani Salma | Syria

## GLOBAL REACH

In 2018, 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 Southern and Eastern Europe.

## INDIVIDUALIZED CARE

Our child-friendly spaces are core to nearly every emergency response program 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, we had 49 child-friendly spaces in operation, giving children a safe place to learn, enjoy activities and – along with their parents – access psychologists, social workers and other specialized support.

## INTEGRATING DISPLACED PEOPLE INTO THE COMMUNITY

Record numbers of people are fleeing conflict and disasters. With our local presence in many of the major displacement areas, we are especially well positioned to support vulnerable children and families in countries of origin, along their journey, and destination countries. 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 the involvement of families in the local host community.

## POST-EMERGENCY SUPPORT

This SOS social worker in Syria 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



CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH REACHED  
SINCE 1949

---

4,000,000



SUPPORTERS AND  
DONORS IN 2018

---

4,000,000



SOS EMPLOYEES  
WORLDWIDE

---

39,160

# Our Global Family

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

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# 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. Whether a sponsor, a program participant or an SOS caregiver, they all have something to say about the power of a loving relationship.*





Gervens Casimir, 28, has been an SOS father at SOS Children's Villages Florida, USA since 2016. He specializes 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.

”

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

***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.

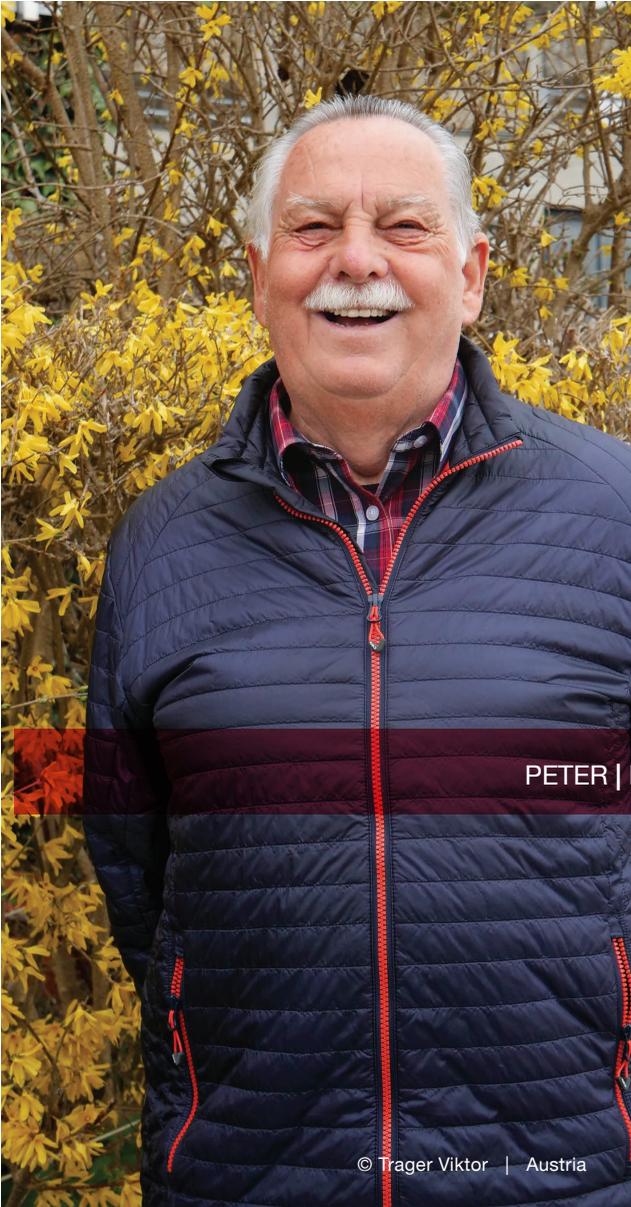
GERVENS | SOS FATHER, USA

***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.



PETER | FORMER PARTICIPANT, AUSTRIA

© Trager Viktor | Austria



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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 socializing, unlike me. We both like challenges. We like being recognized. 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 favorite 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.

LERATO | CURRENT PARTICIPANT, SOUTH AFRICA

***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.

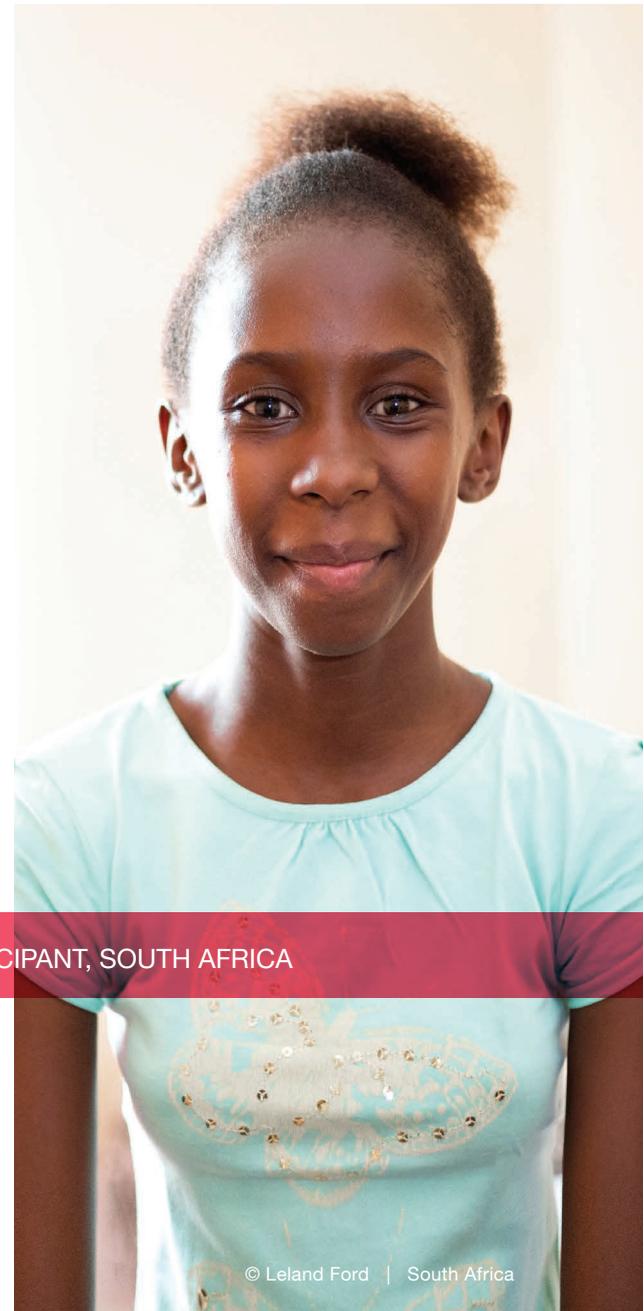
***Is there anything else you would like to share?***

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 privacy



© Leland Ford | South Africa



© Fuhr Jakob | South Africa



© Miller Richard | India

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 20s 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 organization 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.*



© Sandhu Pearl | India

***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 7-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.

JHARNA | SOS MOTHER, INDIA

***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.

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 program, 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.

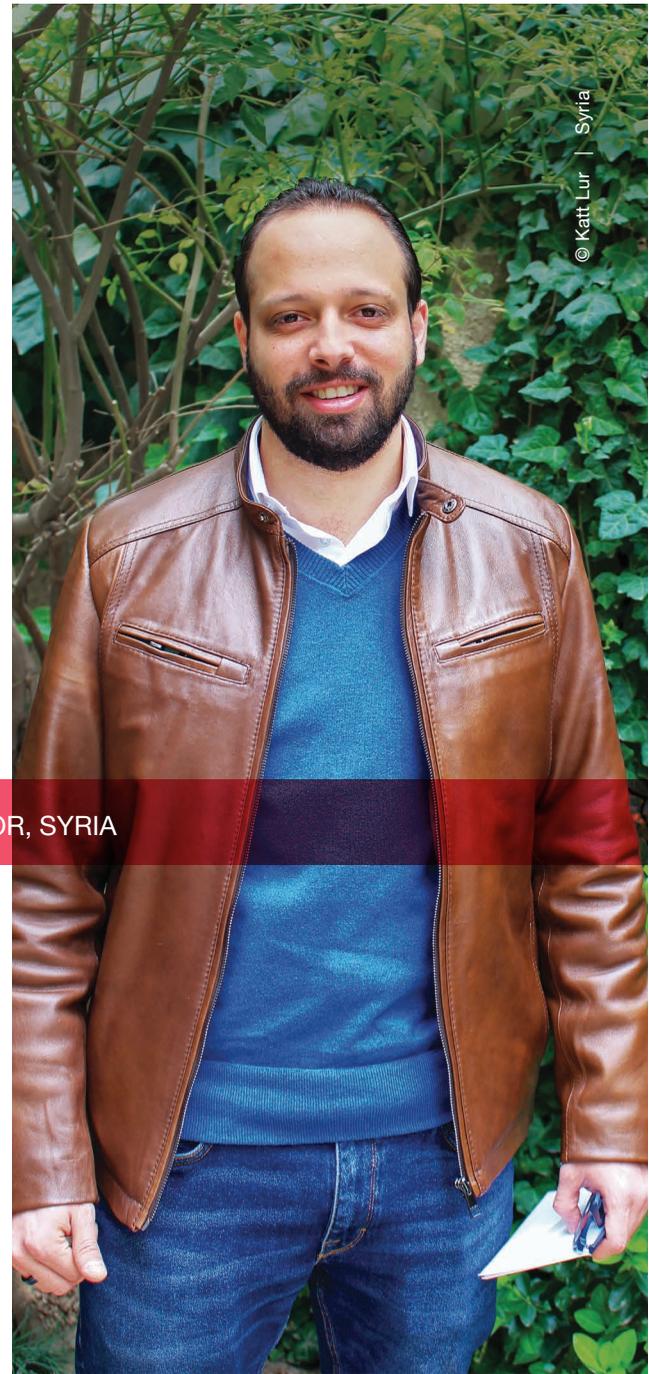
MAMDOUH | CHILD SPONSOR, SYRIA

***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.



”

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

# Partners

*We are grateful to have so many partners around the world who are committed to genuine social change for children and youth.*

Our partnerships take many forms. Much of our financial support comes from individuals, who 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 also work with governments and institutional funding partners, and with corporations at the global and national levels. 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 in alternative care.

This year we feature the following innovative partners who share our vision. We are proud to work alongside these individuals and organizations to build a better world for children.

43

## **HALC**

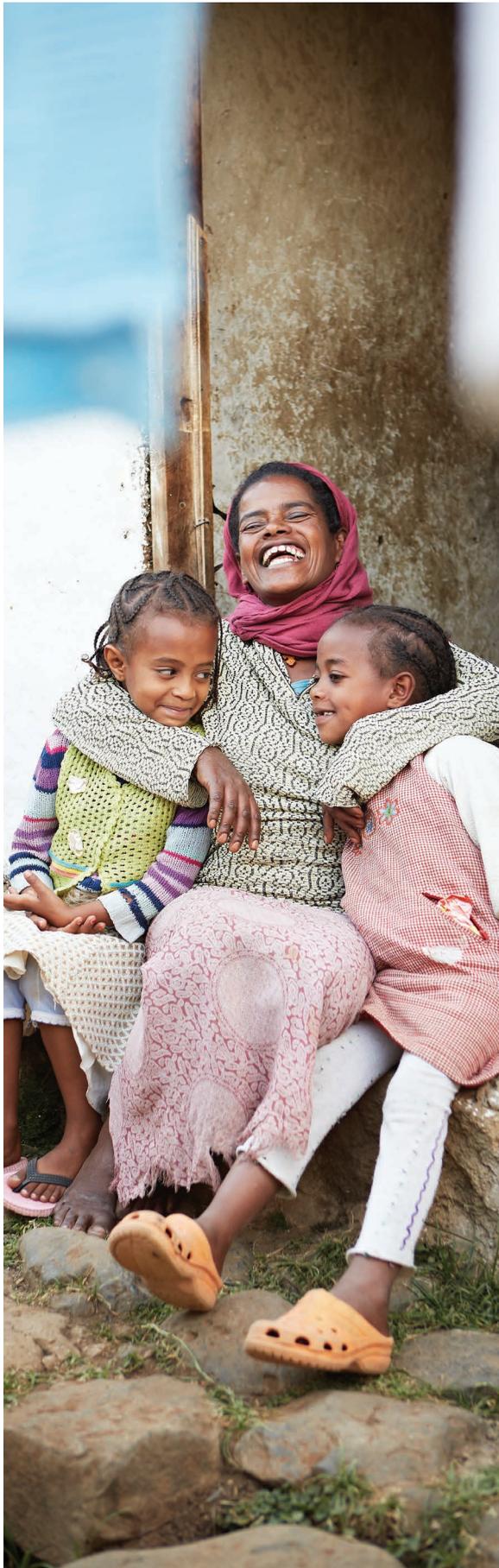
### *Institutional partner*

In the height of the financial crisis, families across Greece struggled to provide for their children. The Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), a network of Greek American community leaders, galvanized the Hellenic community in the United States to provide support to the most vulnerable children and families in Greece.

Since 2015, the partnership with HALC has enabled SOS Children's Villages to build new Social Centers in Peristeri and Ioannina, to feed struggling families and to provide comprehensive support services for vulnerable children. When devastating wildfires swept through the suburbs of Athens in 2018, claiming 99 lives and causing tremendous damage, the home of 17 orphaned children was destroyed. Through HALC's support, SOS was immediately able to provide a safe home, educational opportunities, and psychological support for these children.

SOS Children's Villages is proud to partner with HALC whose commitment to helping others has provided support to more than 5,500 children, youth, and families in SOS programs throughout Greece.





## HELMSLEY CHARITABLE TRUST

### Strategic partner

In 2014, with the support of The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, SOS Children's Villages launched EduCare – a family strengthening program to ensure children's health and well-being through education, essential services, and capacity building of caregivers. The \$10 million initiative will impact more than 50,000 people in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia by 2021.

This year, the first phase of EduCare was finalized, demonstrating significant gains, including:

- Increases in household savings, a new behavior for 84% of families.
- Shifts to new, or more reliable and profitable, sources of income.
- Lower school dropout and grade repetition rates, and higher promotion rates, than other students at the same schools.
- Widespread engagement and support from a strengthened network of service providers.

Read the full case study at [www.sos-usa.org](http://www.sos-usa.org)

”

*Interventions that are holistic in design, combined with robust investments in human capital, most aptly address the multi-dimensional drivers of inequality that prevent so many impoverished families from thriving. For Helmsley, investing our philanthropic dollars in these kinds of solutions, which will lead to a better future for vulnerable communities, is what drew me to SOS Children's Villages.*

— Walter Panzirel, Trustee, Helmsley Charitable Trust



© Mantier Lydia | Jordan

## LINKING YOUTH

### Digital partnership

Now in its second year and spanning 14 countries, YouthLinks is a digital platform used in the YouthCan! initiative and other programs. It connects young people in SOS programs 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 program, participants work with their mentors to identify their strengths and weaknesses and set goals for the future, thereby building their confidence, self-esteem and employability skills.



© Mantier Lydia | Italy

## 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 programs. 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 programs, 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 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.

## JOINING FORCES

### Global partnership

In 2017, SOS Children's Villages International joined forces with five other child-focused organizations – 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 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This partnership works to deepen political commitment to realizing 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 uses a child-led and bottom-up approach to change cultural and social norms regarding children and violence on a 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 organization

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 program named Isibindi – "courage" in isiZulu. We have been an implementing partner of Isibindi since 2013. Home visits are at the core of this program, which encourages quality caregiving and strengthens family relationships for the well-being of children and adolescents, who often live with grandparents or in single-parent families. The workers in Isibindi are chosen from the SOS family strengthening program 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, and they understand the local language, culture, and challenges, which makes them better able to reach families in need.



ChildFund<sup>®</sup>  
Alliance

PLAN  
INTERNATIONAL

Save the Children

SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
INTERNATIONAL

Terre des Hommes  
International Federation

World Vision





# Global Partners

*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**

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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  
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)



# SOS USA

## Partners & Supporters

### Humanitarian Circle - \$500,000+

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley  
Charitable Trust  
Johnson & Johnson

### Guardian Circle - \$250,000+

Hasbro, Inc.

### Visionary Circle - \$100,000+

Foundation 4Life  
Hellenic American Leadership Council  
The Ousri Foundation  
The P&G Fund of The Greater Cincinnati  
Foundation  
Subczynski Foundation  
Western Union Foundation  
The Zeitgeist Foundation

### Community Circle - \$75,000-\$99,999

Gertrude Regenspurger Memorial Trust  
Hamilton Trust Company Limited

### Leader Circle - \$50,000-\$74,999

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Linda Gregory  
HSBC Bank USA, N.A.  
Mr. Brett Rubinson  
In Memory of Honorata Wanda Polak  
Skolimowski and Janusz Thomas  
Skolimowski

### Investor Circle - \$25,000 - \$49,999

Mr. George Fraise  
Mr. Stuart and Mrs. Flora Grant  
Ms. Kathy Kladopoulos and Dr. Ernest  
Megdanis  
Mr. Lars and Mrs. Quan Nielsen  
Mrs. Sharon Prince  
Ray and Janet Scherr Foundation

### Champion Circle - \$10,000 - \$24,999

Mr. Leroy Albert  
Mr. Robert P. Baird, Jr.  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Mr. Phil Brown  
Ms. Elizabeth Cooke  
Ms. Sandra Davidson  
Mr. Richard Ermeti and Ms. Agnes Bezerra  
Mrs. Mary Ruth D. Hord  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Landegger Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Leandre A. & Angele F. Contat Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pincus  
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Amanda Reinken  
Mr. Marc Rollins  
The Sayer Family  
Mr. Cameron and Mrs. Natalie Schmidt  
Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity  
The Spurlino Foundation  
Mr. Case and Mrs. Lisa Swenson  
The Thayer Family Charitable Fund  
Mrs. Sonia and Mr. Christian Zugel  
Anonymous

### Global Advocate Council

Mr. Mohamed Ousri  
Mr. Marc Rollins  
Ms. Erin Stuart-Cayot

### Bequests

We are deeply grateful for the  
gifts from the estates of the  
following individuals:

Ms. Mildred E. Barhorst  
Ms. Edith Grupp  
Mr. Vernon E. Gundelach  
Ms. Patricia Kappas  
Mr. John Lozar  
Mrs. Terry L. Pruitt  
Mr. Frank Rose  
Ms. Marie Steiner  
Ms. Janina Wachsberger

### Founders Circle - Lifetime Giving Over \$1,000,000

Bonne Volonte Charitable Trust  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Genworth Foundation  
Hasbro, Inc.  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
Johnson & Johnson  
Jolie-Pitt Foundation  
The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley  
Charitable Trust  
The Trust of Harry and Carol Goodman



€

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

---

2,900

€

GLOBAL  
INCOME 2018

---

1.3

billion

# By the Numbers

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

# Financial Information

The financial figures below represent the global, combined total of reports provided by our local associations and by our umbrella organization, 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 programs	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%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,274,000</b>	<b>1,261,028</b>	<b>-1%</b>

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

## 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 programs. For example, there was strong growth in expenditures in our family strengthening programs and social centers, 13% and 16% respectively, whereas there was a 2% growth in expenditures in our alternative care programs.

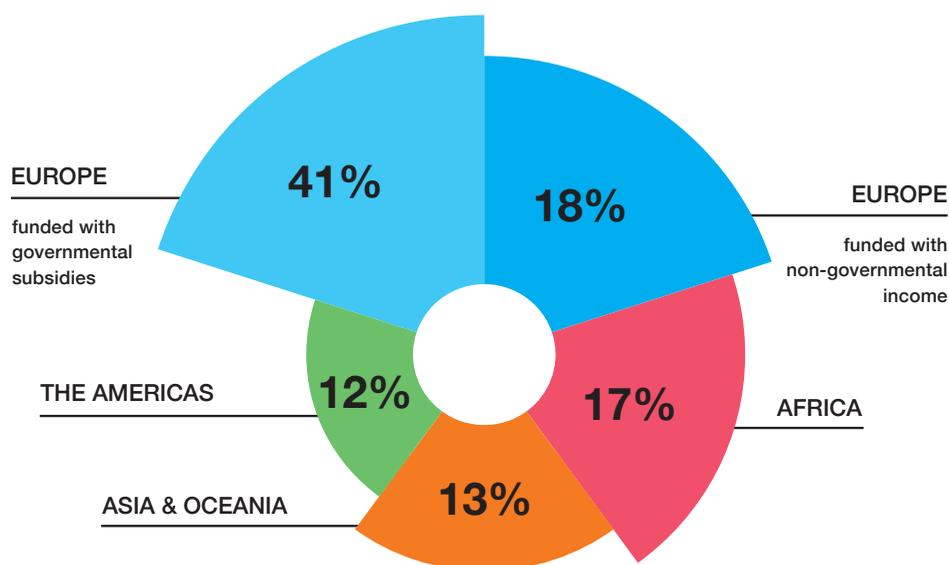
## ACCOUNTABILITY

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.

## PROGRAMS EXPENDITURES BY REGION <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 May 7 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 that raise funds for international programs; some of them also operate domestic programs.

# Program Statistics

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

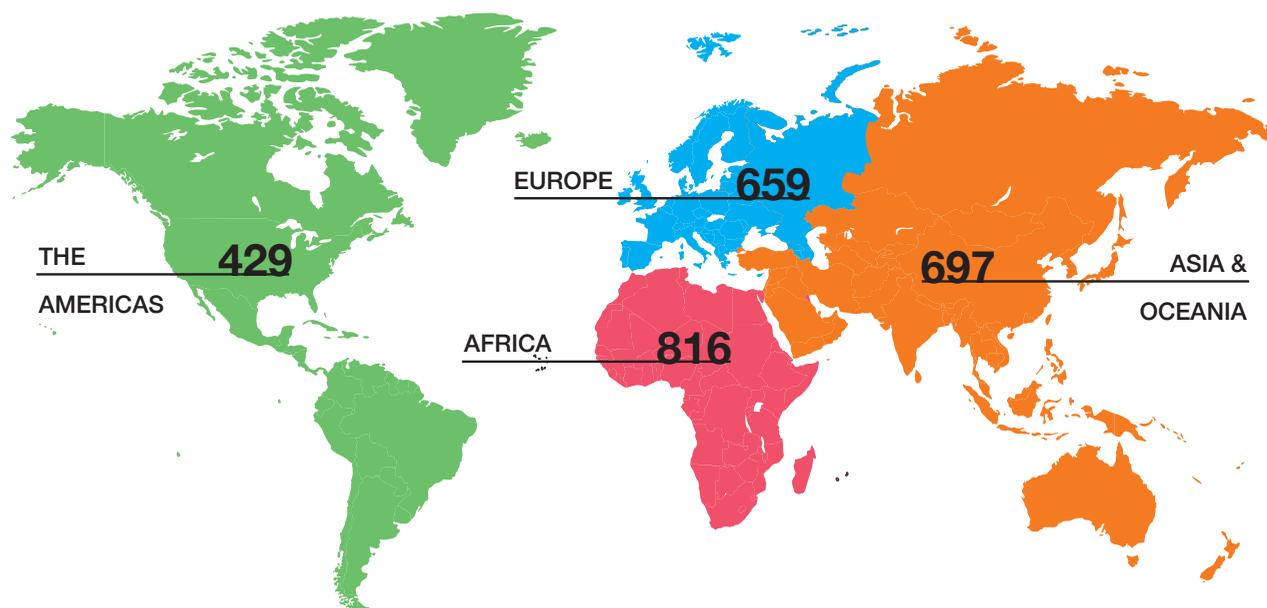
## PEOPLE WE REACHED

	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
<b>CARE PROGRAMS</b>					
SOS Children's Villages	16,400	7,800	16,600	4,700	45,500
SOS youth programs	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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187,500</b>	<b>100,500</b>	<b>123,100</b>	<b>159,000</b>	<b>570,100</b>
<b>EDUCATION PROGRAMS</b>					
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,600</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>139,700</b>
<b>SOS SOCIAL CENTERS</b>					
Children, young people & adults	99,300	400	8,400	17,900	126,000
<b>SOS MOTHER &amp; CHILD HOSPITAL, SOMALIA</b>					
Children, young people & adults	250,000	-	-	-	250,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>610,400</b>	<b>107,400</b>	<b>183,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>1,085,800</b>
	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
<b>HEALTH SERVICES</b>					
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
<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>					
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
<b>FAMILIES</b>					
SOS families	1,900	1,100	2,600	900	6,500
Families in SOS family strengthening programs	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 center.

<sup>2</sup> People reached through the SOS Mother and Child Hospital in Somalia are included in these figures.

## SOS PROGRAMS BY REGION



## PROGRAMS WE OPERATED

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

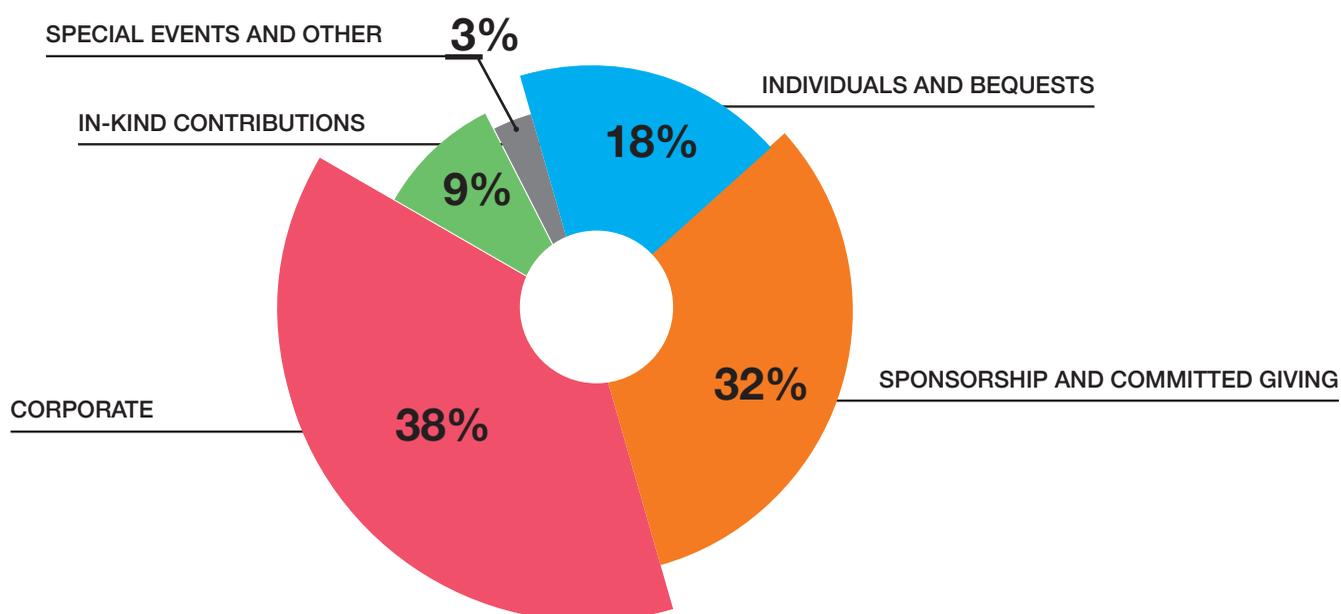
## 2018 SOS-USA Financial Information

All amounts in USD

REVENUE	2018	2017
Total Contributions	\$10,403,120	\$10,119,003
<i>Individuals and bequests</i>	1,918,323	2,661,117
<i>Sponsorship and committed giving</i>	3,462,585	2,437,886
<i>Corporate</i>	4,089,785	3,382,849
<i>In-kind contributions</i>	932,427	1,637,151
Special Event Income	93,773	71,552
Other income	238,002	169,507
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>10,734,895</b>	<b>10,360,062</b>

EXPENDITURES	2018	2017
Programs	10,257,773	8,620,204
<i>Villages and programs</i>	8,293,871	6,335,506
<i>Education and advocacy</i>	1,963,902	2,284,698
Management and General	800,222	1,561,560
Fundraising	1,224,399	1,901,560
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>12,282,394</b>	<b>12,083,324</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets*</b>	<b>-1,547,499</b>	<b>-1,723,262</b>

NET ASSETS	2018	2017
Beginning of Year	2,584,067	4,307,329
Total expenditures	1,036,568	2,584,067

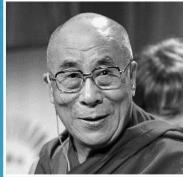






“SOS Children’s Villages provides the foundation for life to children who need a place to call home.”

- Nelson Mandela  
Civil Rights Leader & Philanthropist



“The splendid work done by SOS Children’s Villages is charity where deeds speak louder than words.”

- Dalai Lama  
Spiritual Leader of the Tibetan People



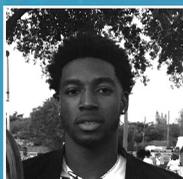
“The SOS model of providing care for children without parental care is one of the best. We hope more people learn about their programs and give them support.”

- Angelina Jolie  
UNHCR Special Envoy



“I love that SOS delivers real results. Their model is comprehensive and they help children thrive. By working with organizations like SOS that focus on prevention, long-term care and youth empowerment, we can give children a strong foundation that lasts a lifetime.”

- Kevin Bacon  
Actor, Musician & Philanthropist



“SOS changed my life and helped me get here.”

- Calvin Ridley  
NFL player & SOS Florida Alumnus



“I realized as I got older that I was in survival mode...SOS gave me hope, SOS gave me confidence, and SOS restored my hope in myself, that I actually had a future and that I could be something.”

- Kandice Hart  
SOS Florida Alumna



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**

**SOS Children's Villages - USA**

**1620 I Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006**

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