



G U A R D I A N S

# Gratitude Report



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES

*\*Children's names changed to protect privacy.*

# A message from our CEO



Children and young people today face an increasingly unstable, unjust and insecure future. Around the world, we continue to see the devastating effects of armed conflict, prolonged inflation and rising poverty levels, alongside an alarming pattern of record-breaking droughts, heatwaves and floods.

Children are uniquely vulnerable in times of crisis, and emergencies pose serious threats to a child's short-term well-being and long-term development. The trauma associated with such experiences may extend into adulthood and can be worsened by external challenges, such as continued conflicts or additional natural disasters.

As a member of our SOS Guardians' family, you're helping a child find their way through crisis, grief and hardship. As the world continues to be rocked by emergencies and more children and young people are deprived of a stable environment and family, guardians like you are vital sources of support.

## **Thank you.**

Thank you for your compassion and action in shielding children in crisis. Caring, generous people like you helped provide over one million children and families with immediate, life-saving resources like safe shelter, nutritious food, clean water, trauma-informed mental health support, professional medical care and so much more.

But your impact doesn't end there. You deliver long-term support that helps children and families heal, recover and build a brighter future.

Thank you for your commitment. Together, we are ensuring no child is left behind in a crisis!

For the children,



Jill Nosach

*Chief Executive Officer and Child Sponsor*



# Anna is healing, thanks to you

A dropped book, a slammed door, a burst of laughter—any loud, sudden sound and Anna\* would dissolve into uncontrollable trembles.

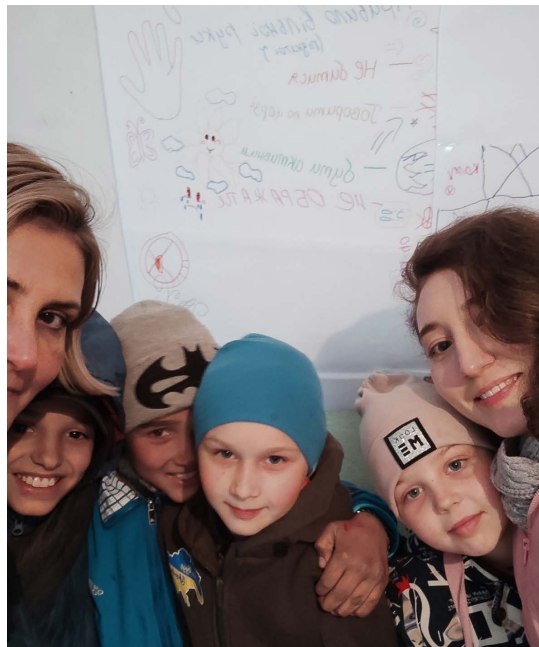
The ten-year-old girl felt consumed by anxiety and dark memories from one year ago. In her hometown of Kupyansk, Ukraine, she witnessed her family suffer brutal acts of violence and a bomb reduce her neighbor's home to rubble.

Although she and her family were now safe in Kharkiv, she struggled to function past the trauma she experienced. Tension knotted her muscles, and she refused to close her eyes at night—terrified bombs would fall while she slept.

But, because of generous friends like you, Anna wasn't left to endure the trauma alone. Your partnership ensures Anna—and children like her—have access to the critical, trauma-informed mental health support needed to recover from the horrifying experiences of war.

A psychologist with SOS Children's Villages mobile mental health clinic, Natalia, noticed the young girl's

debilitating anxiety and approached Anna's mother, suggesting one-on-one counseling sessions.



*Anna (blue hat) and friends at the mental health clinic*

*"It didn't take long for Anna to open up about her fears of explosions, darkness and violence..."*

**"It didn't take long for Anna to open up about her fears of explosions, darkness and violence, loss, mistakes and loneliness," Natalia said.**

In a peaceful, quiet setting, Natalia helped the young girl process the trauma she experienced through counseling, art therapy and breathing exercises. This mental health support also helped Anna develop coping mechanisms to help her heal and increase her resilience for future stressful situations.

**"Her mother shares she sleeps through the night now," Natalia said. "She is calmer, more grounded and more optimistic about her future."**

Including Anna, more than 507 children and families accessed mental health services through the mobile mental health unit in Kharkiv, and 90% of participants reported improved mental health!



Reached  
**more than  
400,000 children**

and families with life-saving resources.



Created



**child-friendly spaces**

where children can continue their  
**education** and receive the **psychosocial support**  
they need to thrive.



Offered immediate relief—like

**food, supplies,  
psychosocial  
support and  
evacuations**

—to more than **2,800 children and  
their foster parents** supported by  
SOS Children's Villages Ukraine.



Welcomed over **600 children**  
**without parental care** into a

**safe home and  
loving family.**

**In Ukraine,  
your support**



Ensured

**health care support**

for children overcoming injuries sustained in the  
conflict, including providing technological  
resources so they can **continue their education**  
while they heal in a hospital.



Delivered

**financial  
assistance**

so families who lost everything  
can care for their basic needs.



**Provided psychological and  
mental health  
services**

to children and families recovering  
from the trauma of war.

### Did you know?

One in five individuals living in conflict zones experience mental health disorders. Yet only 1% of the world's health budget is dedicated to mental health.

But with your guardianship, SOS Children's Villages supports children's mental health with trauma-informed care and mental health care professionals. We prioritize the mental well-being of children and their communities, so every child has the resources they need to heal.



# Rebuilding from rubble: Omniya's new home

When Omniya\* closes her eyes and imagines the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that rocked Aleppo, Syria in 2023, terror threatens to consume her.

"The loud noises and screams outside woke me," she remembers in a quiet, sad voice. "Everything was shaking and falling apart. We ran, not knowing what to do. The buildings [collapsed] into rubble."

Her home now demolished, Omniya silently cried as she led her family to a nearby mosque to stay with other displaced families and children.

The earthquake leveled much of the city—businesses, homes, schools. Whatever schools weren't destroyed were used as shelters for earthquake survivors, causing a large gap in children's education.

Plus, the sudden demand for housing caused prices to skyrocket, and Omniya couldn't afford the expensive rent for a home or apartment.

She felt helpless and scared for her children's futures. But thanks to compassionate people like you,

Omniya's story didn't end here.

SOS' emergency response team connected with Omniya and delivered immediate, life-saving aid like food, clothing and financial assistance.

We know rebuilding after crisis requires holistic, sustainable support. SOS continued to support Omniya and her family, providing regular therapy sessions to help them heal from the trauma of the natural disaster and helping her acquire what she needed most: a home.

**"Thanks to the SOS team, who helped us rent a house when we were desperate to have one again, we have a roof over our heads!" Omniya celebrated.**

Thank you for sharing your time, finances and heart with families like Omniya who have lost everything. Together, we're helping children and families rebuild, recover and thrive after emergencies!



*Omniya and her son*

## Our response in the 2023 Syria earthquake:

Provided critical assistance, including **health care, nutritious meals, education, legal support, rent** and more to **180 families in urgent need.**

Delivered essential supplies—**hygiene, newborn & school kits**—to **3,930 people who lost everything.**

**Empowered children** with safety trainings, **teaching 148 children** about child protection efforts and their rights.

Strengthened families through **positive parenting & discipline awareness** sessions for **90 parents and 16 teachers.**

Helped rebuild livelihoods, **training 70 families** in **income-generating activities** to create a reliable and sustainable source of income.



# Your impact on the future

As an SOS Guardian, your support is sending swift life-saving aid to children and families in crisis—providing essentials like shelter, nutritious food, trauma-informed mental health support, medical care and so much more.

But the impact of your support lasts far into the future for the children and families you help, like Tenneh's.

From 2014 to 2016, the Ebola epidemic ravaged Western Africa, including Tenneh's home country of Sierra Leone.

Tenneh's son and his wife both passed away from the virus, leaving their four children in Tenneh's care. But food prices soared as the health crisis spread, and Tenneh couldn't afford to feed her four grandchildren.

With the support of generous friends like you, SOS Children's Villages was there—delivering critical aid and providing long-term recovery services.

Now, a decade later, families like Tenneh's are thriving.

**"I can provide enough food for my grandchildren, and they're all going to school," she said. "SOS Children's Villages came to my aid when I really needed help. I am so grateful to them for the support. They have made a big difference in our lives."**

It's only because of compassionate people like you that we're able to help families like Tenneh's survive a crisis and thrive after.

Thank you for saving lives and changing futures as a kind, generous SOS Guardian.

## A study conducted in 40 countries from former SOS Children's Villages participants showed:



**92% have strong relationships** with friends and family and feel they give good care to their own children, passing down the quality of care they received to the next generation.



**59% have received education and skills** and feel they are succeeding in the job market and earning a decent living.



**72% feel they are doing well** in providing for their basic needs.



**82% feel they are experiencing social and emotional well-being** and are safe from discrimination and other harm.

*Thank you!*



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