

# Annual Report

2021



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
USA

As a child, you need someone who truly sees you – who stands by you no matter what. But today, **one in 10** children and young people are separated from their families, abandoned, neglected or forced to live in an abusive environment, growing up without the support they need to prepare themselves for their future.

It happens in every country, rich and poor – in every city and in every community. For the child, the effects often last a lifetime, which can create a harmful cycle that repeats itself from one generation to the next.

**We exist to change this.**

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



# Youth message

*Duangchai, 23, grew up in family-like care in Laos. In 2021, she graduated from a university and founded her own business, refusing to let the challenges of the pandemic stop her. She also represents Laos as a member of the SOS Children's Villages International Youth Coalition.*

"The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the world. For many ambitious young people, life came to a halt; we started losing hope as our education, internships, every aspect of our life was badly affected.

The first fear was to remain safe from the coronavirus, but there was always an anxiety about what next? How will we complete our education, when will we see friends again, how will I survive without a job? I was trying to put a lot of things together because I realized how important it is to have my own savings. Coming from an alternative care background and living in a semi-independent arrangement, I was assuming my future would be dark.

Nevertheless, I was always a creative person and during the lockdown I decided to give wings to my ideas: I am now the founder and CEO of an eco-printing business.

I promote my company through Facebook and put up stalls to increase my sales. To support myself financially, I secured a job in the hotel business after receiving skills training on CV writing and applying for jobs from SOS Children's Villages in Laos. I aim to give back some percentage of my profits to them as I always received immense support from my village, especially my SOS mother. I also want to give training on eco-printing to my siblings there.

All this turmoil made me realize how important it is to have a passion. It is equally important to learn some employability skills so that you can support yourself at a time of adversity.

I invite all organizations working with young people to prepare us better for independent living. Start identifying passion in children from an early age and extend support. Provide entrepreneurship training so that we can bring change in our lives as well as in the lives of other young people. Improve the coping and self-management skills of young people and increase our general awareness about society and community. Make us civically empowered so that we can transition smoothly to independent living.

I hope my story can make some young people believe in themselves more and encourage them to do just a little bit more because hard work pays off and with those extra efforts you can reach your goals."

*“Start identifying passion in children from an early age and extend support.”*



# Year in review 2021

*For a second straight year, the pandemic and its associated consequences added mental, physical and financial stress to many people around the world. The effects were even harder on families already struggling to stay together and for children and young people growing up without the care and support they need for their full development.*

## Mental health

Mental well-being is the foundation for parents being able to connect with a child and provide them with care and a sense of security. Poor mental health of both children and caregivers can lead to increased tension or neglect at home and is a common contributing factor to child-family separation.

Fortunately, there are things that can be done to improve mental health. Regular communication with loved ones, engaging in recreational activities and overall social support are important strategies for children to cope. As part of our family strengthening programs, we held parenting workshops online, with many of them dedicated to handling the stress of lockdown – promoting the use of positive, non-violent discipline, providing guidance on self-care and exploring how to enjoy family time and maintain structure for children at home.

## Increased need for care and protection

We are supporting children who have lost caregivers due to COVID-19, including addressing trauma and mental health issues.

## Forced migration rising

In 2021, we supported families hit by catastrophes in Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nicaragua and the Philippines; food insecurity in Ethiopia, Somalia, Somaliland and Sudan; and refugees, displaced people and host communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Greece, Niger, Palestinian territories and Ukraine.

## Violence against children

About half the world's children are subjected to corporal punishment at home.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 1.8 billion children live in the 104 countries where violence prevention and response services have been disrupted due to COVID-19: a particular concern due to the rise in domestic violence during pandemic lockdowns. In addition to the harm it causes to children, violence in the home can also lead to child-family separation.

## Youth participation in high-level forums

In April 2021, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum took place online. Attended by more than 19,000 young people from over 190 countries, it was the largest, most inclusive and diverse gathering of young people hosted by the United Nations. It provided a platform for youth to contribute to policy discussions by sharing their ideas, experiences, good practices and challenges with fellow young people, government representatives and others.

## Growing inequality and reduced access to services

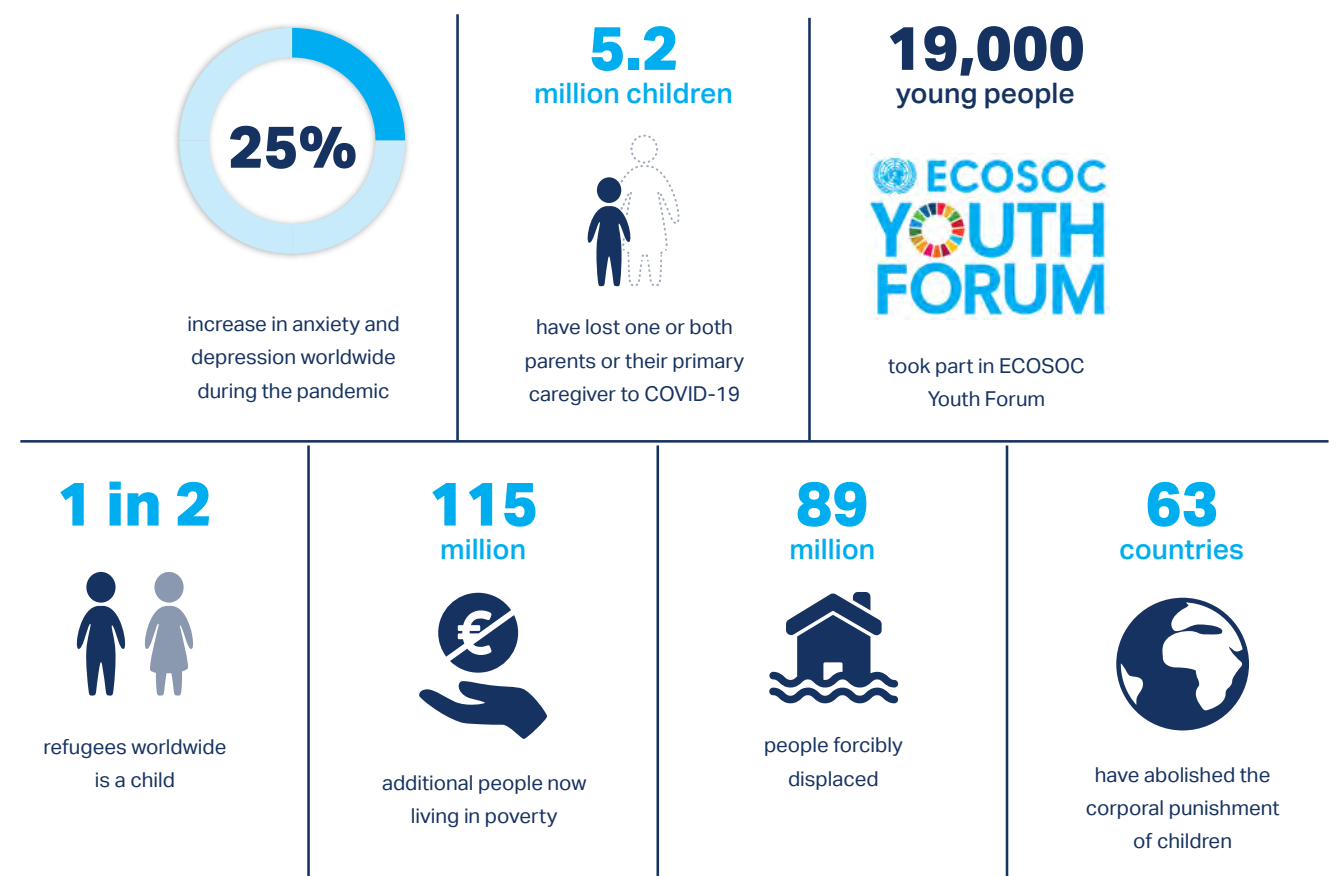
Poverty is one of the main drivers for children losing the care of parents.

## Ending corporal punishment

Working toward the abolition of corporal punishment of children, Colombia and the Republic of Korea were added to the list – bringing the total to 63 countries. SOS Children's Villages in Colombia was deeply engaged in the process. The new law – Law 2089 – prohibits physical chastisement and cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment as ways of disciplining children and young people, in favor of positive child-rearing based on the protection of the fundamental rights of the child. We are now working with the government and partners to develop a national strategy that provides parents with positive alternatives to physical punishment.

## Evolving our understanding of parenting

We worked to change attitudes toward childhood, child rights and parenting. For example, our positive parenting workshops equip communities, parents, teachers and care professionals with new tools to create safe, loving, supportive environments for children. Luis Chamarro, a father from Peru, explained the benefits of the workshop when he spoke about the challenges of raising a family during the pandemic at the UNICEF Global Forum for Children and Youth: "We got more involved in the lives of our children, so the union in the family became stronger."



# Reconnecting and transforming

In 2021, the world began to slowly emerge from the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools reopened, and families and friends reconnected. But for millions of children and young people, the effects of the pandemic continued. By October 2021, more than 5.2 million children had been orphaned or lost a caregiver to COVID-19. Millions more are at increased risk of losing parental care due to major setbacks in global development, such as the rise in extreme poverty. Other issues, like the climate crisis, economic hardship and conflicts, are forcing a record number of people to migrate, making it harder for families to stay together. In our programs, including our response to emergencies in countries like Ethiopia, Haiti, Pakistan and Ukraine, we remain focused on the core of our work: keeping families together, reunifying them when they are separated and protecting children when they are alone.

This year, we responded to these concerning global trends with a renewed emphasis on preventing the loss of parental care and working with partners and governments to ensure there is a range of high-quality care options in place when children cannot remain in their families. Within our own programs, we achieved a 14% increase in people reached directly through our family strengthening services and further expanded innovative livelihood projects. We also intensified our research and advocacy efforts with partners, and we celebrated that more countries formally recognized prevention services and enacted policies that ensure a child's right to be free from violence.

It was a pivotal year for us internally. The release of the Independent Child Safeguarding Review accelerated a transformation that was already underway. We had commissioned the review of past safeguarding failures in order to improve our safeguarding practices. In June 2021, our General Assembly anchored a new goal into our federation's strategy: "We ensure and live safeguarding in our daily actions." Today, we are fully focused on ensuring support for anyone who has been harmed, and overall, creating an environment of safety, respect and well-being for everyone who engages with us.

At the heart of this transformation lies our commitment to include the voices of children and young people in all that we do: program design, advocacy efforts and more recently, in our federation governance. Through challenging times, we are grateful to our staff, volunteers and our 4.4 million donors and supporters who continue to share our commitment to children and young people who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it. We look forward to working together – along with children and youth – to respond to changes in the world around us and to strengthen our organization.



**Dereje Wordofa**  
President  
SOS Children's Villages International



**Ingrid Maria Johansen**  
Chief Executive Officer  
SOS Children's Villages International



**Vietnam**  
Hung, a student at the Hermann Gmeiner School in Hanoi, plays Dereje his song "New Happiness."

© Đàng Mạnh Dung

**Poland**  
Ingrid meets colleagues and Ukrainian foster families at SOS Children's Villages in Siedlce.

© Katerina Ilievska



# Three pillars of action

SOS Children's Villages is dedicated to improving the lives of **children and young people without parental care or those who risk losing it**. Our mission is to build families for children in need, help them shape their futures and share in the development of their communities.



## Prevention

Keeping families together and preventing child-family separation

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



## Protection

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

We directly care for children and young people, including in emergencies; work with partners to train foster parents and with governments to implement care standards; support young people to become self-reliant; and keep siblings together whenever possible.



## Advocacy

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

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

## The problem

For the vast majority of children and youth who are temporarily or permanently placed in alternative care, one or both parents are living. By investing in strengthening families before they break down, society can significantly reduce the number of children who need out-of-home care. Such investment also serves to create stronger families overall, who are then able to provide better support to their children as they transition into adulthood. Understanding why families break down enables us to develop responses for the families we reach directly and inform our work with partners and governments to address the root causes and create long-term change. The reasons for family breakdown listed here are not exhaustive and illustrate that multiple factors can cause a child to be separated from their parents.

## Reasons for family breakdown



Violence, abuse and neglect



Death of a caregiver



Poverty



Forced migration



Poor physical or mental health of caregiver



Lack of access to social services



Child marriage and teen pregnancy

### Key data

- 80% of children in alternative care have at least one living parent.<sup>1</sup>
- 75% of children and young people in care have had an experience of trauma.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly 37 million children have been forcibly displaced from their homes.<sup>3</sup>

## Our response

If possible and in their best interests, the ideal place for a child to grow up is in their own family or extended family. We work to prevent family breakdown and to ensure that families have the support they need so that children and young people are better cared for, protected and able to transition confidently into adulthood. We work at the community, national and international levels and adapt our response to the local context.

We work directly with families who are at risk of breaking down, their communities, local municipalities and national governments to prevent children from losing parental care and stabilize families. We develop trainings and resources that are available to the wider public, and we conduct research to further inform our own work, policymaking and practice.

We offer a range of services for families, such as livelihood support, parenting workshops, support in accessing social services and counseling. Livelihood support may include entrepreneurship and vocational training to help them become financially stable; seed funding or equipment to start their own business; and direct financial, food or housing support. Parenting workshops include topics such as preventing violence in the family, improving communication with children and positive discipline.

We work to ultimately reintegrate separated children into their family of origin whenever possible. This might involve supporting extended family to provide short-term care while working with parents to improve their parenting capacities.

Beyond this, we work with communities to strengthen existing social networks and structures. Our overarching goal is to raise awareness about the need for family support services in every country, and we partner with local and national governments to achieve this.

In 2021, we continued to make many of our services available online, uploading resources and conducting virtual training sessions for parents. We also provided equipment to help children attend school virtually. And through our humanitarian action, we supported those affected by natural disasters, food insecurity and displacement in countries like Haiti, Ethiopia and Greece.

**88,800**

families supported to stay together

**14%**

increase in number of families reached directly

**116**



countries with family strengthening programs

**192,400**

people reached through emergency response

<sup>1</sup> Csáky, C., (2009) Save the Children.

<sup>2</sup> Jaritz, C., Wiesinger, D., & Schmid, M. (2008). Trauma & Gewalt 2(4).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

# Prevention

## Personal Story

© Alejandra Kaiser | Mexico



### Accessing social services

Estrada family, Mexico

Carlos and Marcela migrated from Guatemala to Mexico over 20 years ago. Despite all seven of their children being born in Mexico, they have been unable to register them there, which means they do not have access to education, healthcare or government social programs. Carlos has been working in construction, in restaurants and in the fields, but being undocumented means poor employment conditions with long working hours and low day rates. He sees one of his best options as returning alone to Guatemala for his identity documents, which would give him better job prospects – but this would mean being separated from his wife and children.

*“I have lived like this for 40 years,” says Carlos. “I was born in a poor family and have always lived in poverty. But my hope are my children, that they receive a proper education and thrive.”*

For a while, the children attended the only school in the area – a 45-minute walk – but could join only as passive listeners. They did not receive uniforms or school supplies, nor were they beneficiaries of the government’s projects for students, such as the distribution of food baskets. “This made my

children feel bad,” says Carlos. “After all the effort to get to school – the risks on the road and the time – when the year ended, the children were not recognized to go up to the next grade, so they stopped going.” Similarly, the family has not been part of the local government’s social projects, like the provision of construction material to enhance their homes. Financial worry and isolation from the community are both external pressures which can feed into increased tension at home.

SOS Children’s Villages has been working with families in the Chiapas region of Mexico for more than 16 years. 82% of the population there does not have access to social services and 80% lives in poverty. Our team focuses on strengthening parenting skills and helping families to register with the authorities. Last July, the Estrada children had a doctor’s appointment to verify their ages, which means they will finally be able to get birth certificates and enroll in the upcoming school year with their peers.

The ability to access services is an important part of keeping families together, especially for those on the move.

# 24%

of children entering our family strengthening programs do not have a legal identity document available



# Prevention

## Personal Story

© Federico Varasso | Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the number of children without or at risk of losing parental care is distressingly high, we work with families at risk of breaking apart to help them stay together and integrate into the community. This can include livelihood support, vocational training and education on child rights.

# 1,000

families supported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

*"I feel that we are finally seen as human beings."*

### Strengthening families

Ziraji and Ishara, Democratic Republic of the Congo

#### Ziraji

"I am Ishara's mother. My name is Ziraji. I am a widow and mother of five. Four of my children are still in school, one already has a diploma. When I lost my husband, life was really difficult. If you become a widow here, you become a beggar. But SOS Children's Villages has helped to cover the costs [of education] of two children. And I continue to take over the costs of the other three children. We have a group now with whom we run a dye house. That works very well. Ishara has already learned the dyeing technique. I bring the clothes here and she helps me iron them. This is how we have grown."

#### Ishara

"In the family we are five children: three boys and two girls. I am the oldest daughter. I am 20 years old. In 2019, the family strengthening program included us in one of its children's rights committees. We were able to participate in an exchange of experiences in Burundi, Cibitoke. It made me get so far. I didn't know if I would ever be able to study. But thanks to this support, I did. I didn't know if I would count in society. Whether I would find my role. But now I feel I count. I am able to study. We also got some goats that we can sell when they are grown. And with the money, Mama can buy clothes. I feel that we are finally seen as human beings. And I am very grateful for that."

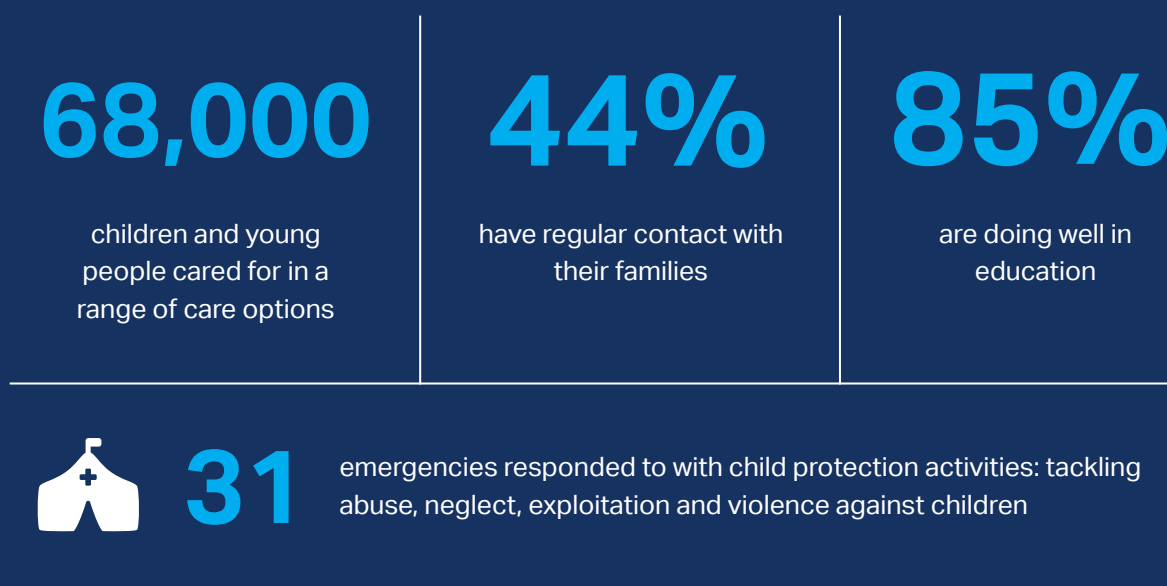
## Alternative Care and Safeguarding

### Alternative Care

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

High quality care means services that are tailored to the needs of each individual person, context and situation. It means keeping siblings together when it is in their best interests. It means children having a say in the decisions that affect their lives and caregivers being trained about particular needs and backgrounds, such as children who have experienced trauma. It includes championing children's rights and extends to the legal protections and support for young people after they officially "age out" of care.

We work directly with youth to prepare them for the transition to adulthood, offering psychosocial support and vocational and social skills training; with partners to set up employability initiatives – for example, YouthCan! (see page 24); and with governments to improve aftercare provisions worldwide. Our International Youth Coalition ensures that the perspectives of young people are considered in the development of our programs. We also facilitate networks of care leavers who support one another and lobby for improvements in care. This year, we made housing available for care leavers who needed to come back temporarily and increased our focus on mental health.



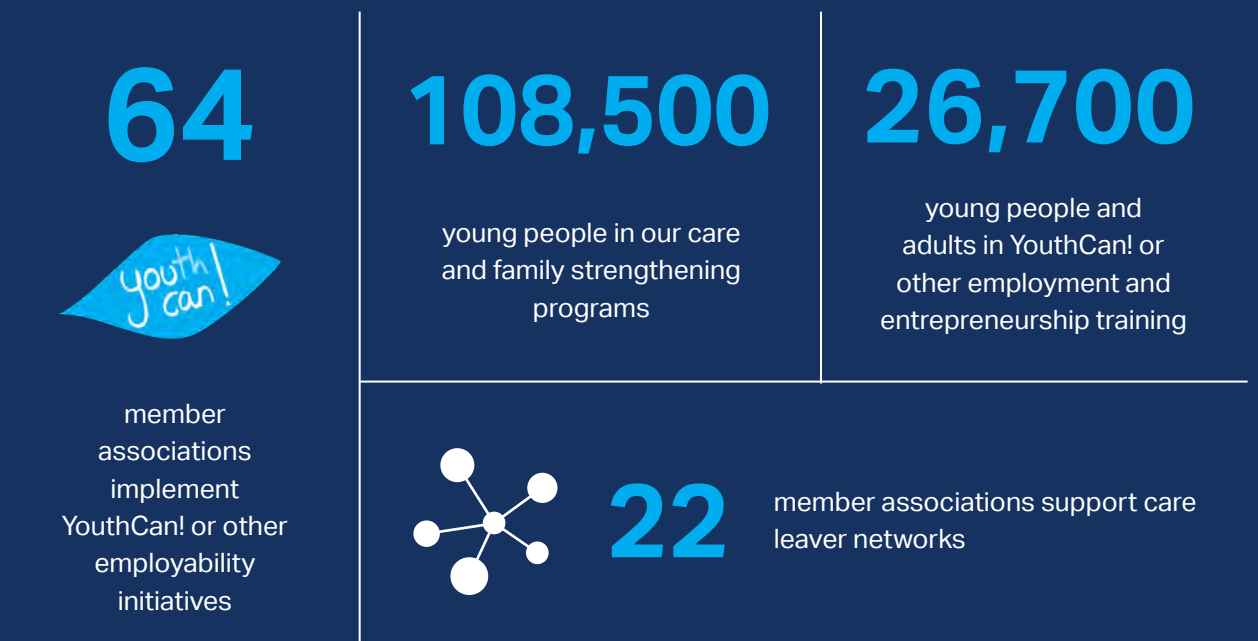
### Safeguarding

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

In June 2021, we published the Independent Child Safeguarding Review (ICSR) report, which was a major turning point for our organization. We commissioned the review to learn from past child safeguarding cases and improve our practices. The resulting report underscored the importance of taking a holistic approach to safeguarding by strengthening our culture and addressing the root causes of past failures.

Through our commitment to holistic safeguarding, we ensure that everyone understands safeguarding, reduces opportunities for harm to occur, reports promptly and responds when concerns are raised, takes accountability for our failures and supports anyone who has been harmed. We also address program quality and asset safeguarding.

In response to the ICSR report, we developed our Safeguarding Action Plan, which is comprised of 24 actions to be implemented over a four-year period (2021–2024). Our first progress report, covering eight prioritized actions, was published in October 2021 and the second one followed in April 2022. Our immediate focus has been on providing individual support to those affected by historical safeguarding failures. We are also working hard at transforming norms, values and attitudes that have contributed to past safeguarding failures at all levels of leadership.



# Protection

## Personal Story

© Johfráh Lefebvre | Belgium

The best way to improve the quality of care for children is to ask for their input. Roberto was 10 when he was placed in youth care and separated from his brother. As an adult, he was connected with SOS Children's Villages in Belgium through Cachet, a care leaver-run organization working to ensure children in care are better protected. This year, his testimony was presented during a hearing on a law giving siblings in care the right not to be separated. The law was passed in May 2021.

# 72

member associations work with advocacy partners to improve quality of care

*"I sometimes felt more like a number rather than a human being."*



### Keeping siblings together

Roberto, Belgium

"When I was separated from my brother, I felt powerless and alone. I especially missed the little things: knowing my brother slept in the room next to me, playing together... I often thought: who am I going to get into trouble with now? Who am I going to argue with now? You can argue with your siblings. But at the end of the day, when they will not be there anymore, you have lost a piece of yourself. I can understand that it is legally and practically difficult to keep children together. But I sometimes felt more like a number rather than a human being."

"I want to speak out for the next generation. I hope things can be different for other children in care. So that there would be less damage added to a situation where there is already a lot of damage. Some children never go looking for that connection again, when they leave care. It is a closed chapter for them. Fortunately, I still have a good relationship with my brother and we are still learning so much from each other. We are very grateful that we found each other back."

# Protection

## Personal Story

© Jakob Fuhr | Kenya

Wairegi was six years old when his father began physically abusing him. The experience led to feelings of isolation and depression which he kept bottled up for years. Through our family strengthening program, he was connected with a counselor who has helped him talk about his childhood and work through his trauma.

# 35

member associations strengthened their mental health measures in 2021

*“The burden I was carrying was something to be carried by someone who was older than the age I was in.”*

### Addressing childhood trauma

Wairegi, Kenya

“My dad, at times he was a good guy, but let’s say most of the times he could not tell me to do something, like, telling me to do something. It was all the shouting. All the shouting. All the harshness that comes with it. And the beating was terrible. When you compare it to the things I had done, I don’t think I deserved that. The burden I was carrying was something to be carried by someone who was older than the age I was in. When someone is harsh to you from the age of 10 to 15, to 16, you’ll start feeling it. And you’ll feel like you are rejected. I didn’t have the sense of belonging in my family. And I felt like my family was kind of different than the others. It was hard to express to my mom what I felt. I’ll just give the bits. Here and there, I give a bit here. A bit here. A bit here. But she knew, something was not ok. I don’t know how it happened but mom told me, maybe there is something that could change. Maybe I could talk to a person who would understand me. That’s when we came to SOS Children’s Villages.”

“They showed me that, with all that I had gone through, life was not all about harshness. I had a smile. They have understood me. And they have changed my life because they have impacted how I do my things now. You know, when I have that load off my back, I can now be free. And freedom is what I’m going for.”

# YouthCan!

Employability initiative

## Bridging the gap between school and work

### YouthCan! employability partnership

YouthCan! is our global partnership for youth employability, aimed at tackling the specific problems young people without or at risk of losing parental care face when preparing to enter the labor market. We work with corporate partners to provide mentoring, practice opportunities and individualized training, all of it locally-led.

Employees of our private sector partners share their time, skills and expertise, both online and in person, and are there to support young people as they take their first steps into the world of work. For example, Sneha learned how to cope with disappointment during the job-hunt: "I used to overthink it and often felt ashamed to talk about it. My mentor then said: "Rejection means you still have something to learn." The corporate volunteers also report feeling enriched by the partnership. Roger, who came on board two years ago, says: "I learned many new skills, to be more empathetic and understanding and to always convey optimism."



### YouthCan! reach 2021<sup>1</sup>

**14,500**  
young people

**1,800**  
volunteers

**42**  
countries

### 2021: Going digital

Since the beginning of 2020, the disruptions to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have forced many schools and organizations to take their activities online.

YouthCan! has done the same, not only managing to keep training and practice activities for young people running, but also scaling up digital efforts via the YouthLinks Community: an online platform providing virtual mentoring and networking opportunities.

What initially grew as a crisis response has become an integral part of the program. In 2021, 44% of activities were conducted entirely online and 10% had at least some virtual element.

This allowed us to drastically increase our reach. Compared to the previous year, more than double the number of young people received practical support, training or mentorship through YouthCan!, including those living in rural areas beyond the cities where corporate volunteers are often based.

<sup>1</sup>For more information, see the [YouthCan! Facts and Figures report](#).

## EduCare's reach<sup>1</sup>

**81,000**  
people impacted

**44,400**  
children with increased  
educational access and quality

**25**  
schools with improved  
educational capacity

## Empowered to thrive

EduCare has been life-changing for 17-year-old Liya and her mother, Selam, from Ethiopia. Before participating in EduCare, Liya didn't go to school and Selam struggled to earn enough money to support her family's basic needs.

An EduCare volunteer helped the family set goals and regularly assisted their progress. Liya received scholastic materials, and she and Selam learned about preventative health. Selam also participated in trainings about child protection, positive parenting, dairy farming and business management. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the family received food assistance, masks and hand sanitizer and were able to visit a local health facility free of cost.

Three years later, Selam has a stable income and bought her family a new house—and not only does Liya attend school, but her academic performance is improving significantly!

## A holistic approach to sustainable development

### Building a path toward self-reliance

EduCare is a three-year program that reduces school dropout rates through the holistic support of children, caregivers and communities. The program empowers vulnerable children to achieve their full potential through education and builds more inclusive and resilient societies through family strengthening, livelihood assistance and enhancing the capacity of communities to protect and care for children. Since its inception in Ethiopia in 2014, EduCare has been adapted and brought to scale in Tanzania and Somaliland.

EduCare's integrated development approach gives children the best possible start in life. It offers tailored support to equip individuals, families and communities with the skills, resources and opportunities to unleash their potential and break the intergenerational transmission of poverty, family dissolution and exclusion. To achieve this, EduCare builds sustainable partnerships with community-based organizations, health centers, local government and the private sector to strengthen the network of social support services available for children and families.

<sup>1</sup>Since program began in 2014. For more information, visit [www.sos-usa.org/EduCare](http://www.sos-usa.org/EduCare)

# Advocacy

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

One of our main objectives is to help decision makers understand that investing in strengthening families can prevent unnecessary separation of children from their parents, other forms of harm and additional alternative care placements. When it is not possible or in a child's best interest to stay in their family, we advocate for a range of high-quality alternative care options.

To achieve this, we speak up at national and international political forums and events; contribute to research and reports; and generate and share knowledge and provide technical guidance and recommendations to governments and policymakers to promote child-centered and rights-based approaches.

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



**61** countries where we contributed to positive change in policy and practice

## Examples of policy change achievements

### Colombia

Corporal punishment abolished. SOS Children's Villages provided technical guidance on Law 2089 of 2021: Law against physical, humiliating or degrading punishment of children and adolescents.

### Belgium

Keeping siblings together. Along with partners, we successfully campaigned for passage of the "Siblings Law," which enshrines in law the right of children not to be separated from their siblings when they are placed in alternative care, as long as it is in their best interests.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Recognition of prevention services. As part of a state working group, we successfully influenced that family support work is recognized as a social service in a new draft law. Formal approval is expected soon and the development of quality standards is on next year's agenda.

# Advocacy

## Personal Story

© Lama Qattush | Palestine

18-year-old Maya is a member of the Palestinian Children's Council. Her advocacy journey started at SOS Children's Villages, where she attended information sessions on child protection and safeguarding. She dreams of becoming a lawyer and is a fierce campaigner for child rights, especially improving girls' opportunities in education and employment.

# 1,900

young people engaged in advocacy in 2021

*"When decision makers hear our concerns directly from us, they value it more."*

## Raising young people's voices

Maya, Palestine

"Every day, girls and women still experience discrimination, disadvantages and gender-based violence. No country has achieved gender equality. Girls in Palestine face many challenges, like deprivation of their right to participation and to express their opinions. I could get my high school degree and study at a university, but others do not have this opportunity."

"Access to education, health services and the right to participation must be equal for all. We should reach children equally, regardless of their gender, otherwise we will harm them psychologically and affect their future. As a member of the Palestine Children's Council, I participated in the 'Safe Schools Declaration' that calls for ending violence and bullying and encourages girls' and children's education. I would like to see all girls in my society enjoying their right to education and having access to the opportunities that will help them develop themselves and achieve what they wish. Also, I think it's good that we, as children, meet and talk to decision makers because I feel that when they hear our concerns directly from us, they value it more."

# Financial report

Revenue		All amounts in USD		
	2019	2020	2021	
Total Contributions	10,218,825	8,353,744	7,404,604	
Other income	773,019	502,236	473,876	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>10,991,844</b>	<b>8,855,980</b>	<b>7,878,480</b>	

Expenditures				
	2019	2020	2021	
Programs				
Alternative Care and Programs	7,549,329	7,580,275	6,212,128	
Education and Advocacy	1,774,568	411,213	641,338	
Management and General	1,173,590	795,467	572,498	
Fundraising	1,183,923	970,114	761,088	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>11,681,410</b>	<b>9,757,069</b>	<b>8,187,052</b>	

Net Assets				
	2019	2020	2021	
Change in Net Assets	(689,566)	(901,089)	(308,572)	
Beginning of Year	1,036,568	347,002	(554,087)	
End of Year	347,002	(544,087)	(862,659)	

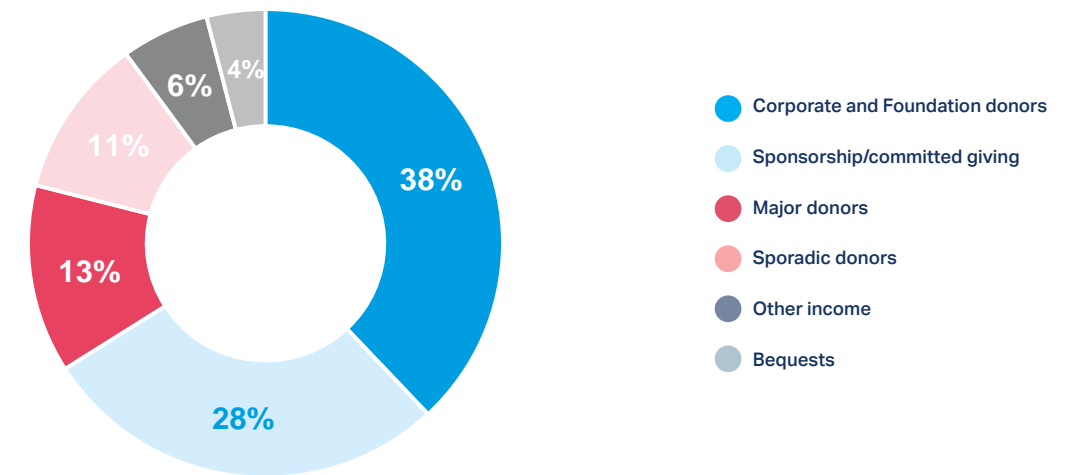
## Accountability

As a member of Accountable Now and of the International Civil Society Centre, 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. Our activities and progress in this regard are reflected in our regular reports to Accountable Now, which are publicly available.

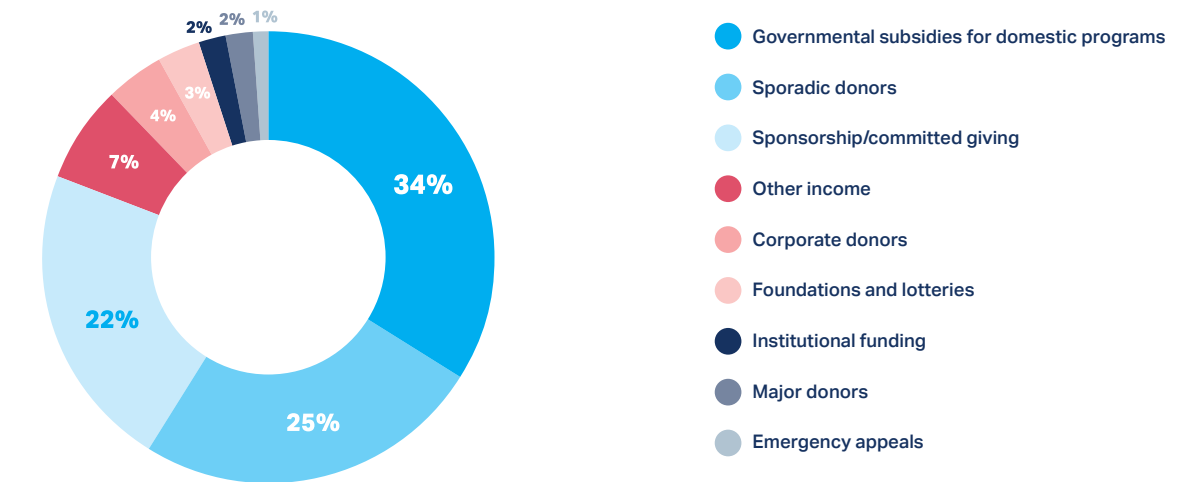


SOS Children's Villages follows a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption. Our Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Guideline aims to support all associations, board members and employees in preventing and managing potential issues of corruption. The detailed financial audit report of SOS Children's Villages International is available on our international website.

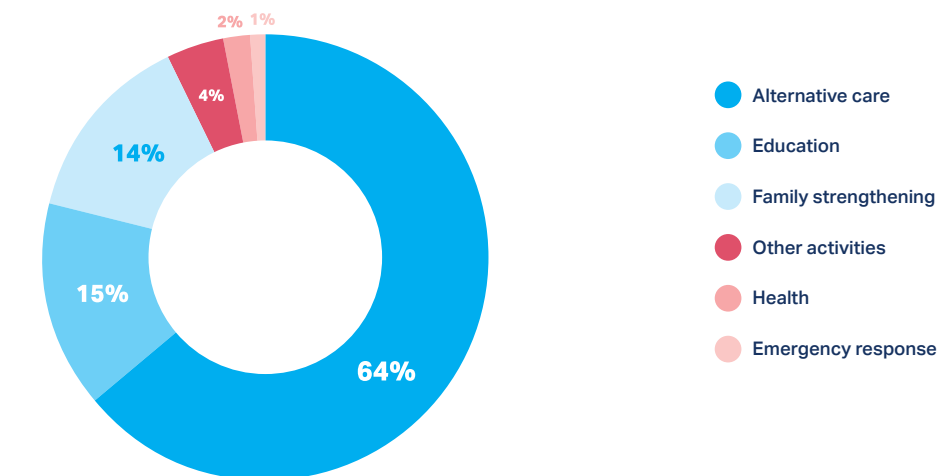
## Total revenue by type - SOS Children's Villages USA



## Total revenue by type - SOS Children's Villages International



## Program expenditures by type - SOS Children's Villages International





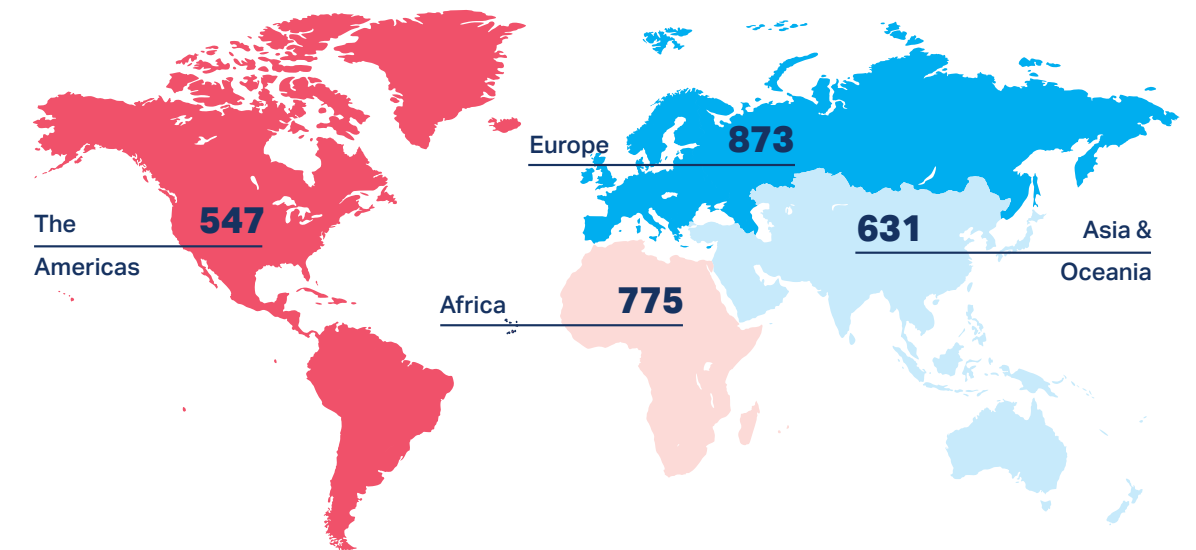
# Program statistics

SOS Children's Villages is a global federation of locally rooted member associations. Our programmatic services, tailored to the unique needs of a community, are designed to support children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. These statistics are based on reporting by our associations and represent our services for the calendar year 2021.

People we reached					
	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
<b>ALTERNATIVE CARE</b>					
<i>Children &amp; young people</i>					
Family-like care	13,700*	5,100	15,700	3,800	<b>38,300</b>
Youth care	8,400	2,500	8,200	2,900	<b>22,000</b>
Foster family care	800	900	0	3,300	<b>5,000</b>
Small group homes	300	100	100	1,100	<b>1,600</b>
Other alternative care <sup>1</sup>	300	600	100	100	<b>1,100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>68,000</b>
<b>PREVENTION</b>					
<i>Children, young people &amp; adults</i>					
Family strengthening	214,100	33,400	124,400 <sup>2</sup>	83,500	<b>455,400</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
<i>Children, young people &amp; adults</i>					
Early childhood care & development	8,900	10,600	5,200	3,500	<b>28,200</b>
Primary & secondary education	54,600	6,400	44,300	57,300	<b>162,600</b>
Employment & entrepreneurship training	3,800	1,700	2,500	4,200	<b>12,200</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67,300</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>203,000</b>
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES<sup>3</sup></b>					
<i>Children, young people &amp; adults</i>					
	51,800	3,300	-	2,300	<b>57,400</b>
<b>HEALTH</b>					
<i>Children, young people &amp; adults</i>					
Health promotion & prevention	43,700	0	0	1,100	<b>44,800</b>
Mother & Child Hospital, Somalia	256,000	-	-	-	<b>256,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>299,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>300,800</b>
<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>					
<i>Children, young people &amp; adults</i>					
	138,300	12,700	3,800	37,600	<b>192,400</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>794,700</b>	<b>77,300</b>	<b>204,300</b>	<b>200,700</b>	<b>1,277,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes care in transitional settings for unaccompanied minor refugees awaiting legal decision and support to other service providers to improve the quality of their care.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes 1,000 people reached through SOS CV (HGFD) funded family strengthening project in Iraq, run by partner (Better World Organization).  
<sup>3</sup> Includes community outreach and education on children's rights, integration support, holiday camps and play buses.

## Programs by continent



Programs we operate					
	AFRICA	THE AMERICAS	ASIA & OCEANIA	EUROPE	TOTAL
<b>ALTERNATIVE CARE</b>					
Family-like care	151	124	165	99	<b>539</b>
Small group homes	13	12	8	64	<b>97</b>
Foster family care	19	20	1	43	<b>83</b>
Youth care	118	103	206	276	<b>703</b>
Other alternative care	4	38	4	11	<b>57</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>1,479</b>
<b>PREVENTION</b>					
Family strengthening	202	147	136	234	<b>719</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Early childhood care & development	74	45	10	41	<b>170</b>
Primary & secondary education	85	9	58	27	<b>179</b>
Employment & entrepreneurship	35	17	28	37	<b>117</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>466</b>
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>					
	11	25	4	29	<b>69</b>
<b>HEALTH</b>					
Health promotion & prevention	14	1	1	3	<b>19</b>
Medical care	33	0	8	2	<b>43</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>					
	16	6	2	7	<b>31</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>2,826</b>

# SOS Children's Villages worked for children and young people in 138 countries and territories in 2021.

Countries and territories in which we operated an emergency response program in 2021 are shown in **bold**.

Africa	The Americas	Asia & Oceania	Europe
Algeria	Argentina	<b>Armenia</b>	Albania
Angola	Bolivia	Australia	Austria
Benin	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Belarus
Botswana	Canada	<b>Bangladesh</b>	Belgium
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Chile	Cambodia	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Burundi	<b>Colombia</b>	China	Bulgaria
Cabo Verde	Costa Rica	French Polynesia	Croatia
Cameroon	Dominican Republic	Georgia	Czech Republic
<b>Central African Republic</b>	Ecuador	Hong Kong, SAR of China	Denmark
Chad	El Salvador	India	Estonia
Côte d'Ivoire	Guatemala	Indonesia	Finland
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>Haiti</b>	Iraq	France
Congo	<b>Honduras</b>	Israel	Germany
Djibouti	Jamaica	Japan	<b>Greece</b>
Egypt	Mexico	<b>Jordan</b>	Hungary
Equatorial Guinea	<b>Nicaragua</b>	Kazakhstan	Iceland
Eswatini	Panama	Kyrgyzstan	<b>Italy</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Paraguay	Laos	Kosovo
Ghana	Peru	Lebanon	Latvia
Guinea	Uruguay	Mongolia	Liechtenstein
Guinea-Bissau	USA	Nepal	Lithuania
Kenya	Venezuela	Pakistan	Luxembourg
Lesotho		<b>Palestine</b>	Netherlands
Liberia		<b>Philippines</b>	North Macedonia
<b>Madagascar</b>		South Korea	Northern Cyprus
Malawi		Sri Lanka	Norway
Mali		Syria	Poland
Mauritius		Taiwan, China	Portugal
Morocco		Thailand	Romania
<b>Mozambique</b>		United Arab Emirates	Russia
		Uzbekistan	Serbia
		Vietnam	Spain
			Sweden
			Switzerland
			<b>Ukraine</b>
			United Kingdom

# Thank you all

Thank you for the enormous impact you have had on the world's children this year!

- You helped children and families stay together amidst war, poverty and turmoil and kept them strong with mental health support.
- When children lost their parents or caregivers, you brought them into new, loving homes at SOS Children's Villages where they grow up with their siblings and receive a quality education.
- Your generosity advanced local, national and global policies for children and ensured that their voices were heard by lawmakers.

You can feel proud of the achievements you helped accomplish.

- You enabled the continued success of our holistic EduCare program in Ethiopia that reduces school drop-out rates by supporting children and strengthening families.
- In our YouthCan! program, you equipped young adults leaving our care with specialized vocational training so they can embark on their journey to independence.
- And you helped us redouble our commitment to child safeguarding at all levels of the organization.



As Chair of the Board of Directors of SOS Children's Villages USA, I have been deeply engaged since 2014, visiting many of our programs, introducing my own children to the children of the world and working with inspiring people like you. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

*Schmidt*

**Cameron Schmidt**  
Chair of the Board



As the new CEO of SOS Children's Villages USA, I am dedicated to the children and families we serve. I look forward to working with you to provide a loving home for every child. You can reach me at [JNosach@sos-usa.org](mailto:JNosach@sos-usa.org). Thank you for your commitment to the children.

*Jill*

**Jill Nosach**  
Chief Executive Officer

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 Laura Maness, *Chair of Marketing & Communications Committee* · Bill Reese, *Chair of Finance Committee*  
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