



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2009

A loving home for every child

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THE NEED FOR GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Life as a child is about playing in the sandpit, chasing butterflies, climbing the very highest tree in the whole world...but that's just one side. The other side is poverty, the loss of parents, disease, malnourishment, domestic abuse, child labour, violence, child soldiers, juvenile refugees. While SOS Children's Villages strives to care for children in need through its programmes, enabling them to grow up in a protective, supportive and loving environment, far too many children suffer from the lack of a family, of security and perspectives.

- Millions of children all over the world are forced to grow up without parental care, whether as full orphans or without one of their parents, or because their families are unable to care for their children. Children without adequate parental care are especially vulnerable to any form of **discrimination, abuse and exploitation**.
- There is no reliable overall figure for all the orphans in the world, but UNICEF offers a rough estimate of **163 million children** who can be considered orphans. However, this also includes children who still have one parent with whom they often live. In many countries there are no statistical surveys at all relating to children without parental care, which in itself indicates that these children receive either inadequate support - or none at all.
- In developing countries, more than one-third of all children live in **poverty**. In far too many cases where children are either abandoned or lose parental care, poverty and its associated effects on families are directly or indirectly the determining factors. Through adequate psychosocial counselling, material support and strengthening of social networks, public services and communities, many of these children could stay with their family of origin.
- Tens of millions of children have lost one or both parents as a result of **HIV/AIDS**. These children are at a high risk of insufficient access to education, health care and nutrition and often suffer isolation, stigmatisation and neglect.
- Millions of children are **refugees**, asylum seekers, stateless and internally displaced by conflict, violations of their human rights, and natural disasters. These children are extremely vulnerable and in need of special care and protection.
- Millions of children all over the world have to cope with **domestic violence** - be it neglect, physical or mental punishment, emotional or sexual abuse.
- Twenty years after the ratification of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, the situation of children in the world has improved in many areas. At the same time, there is no reason to be complacent. There are still many children without parental care. In many countries, frequently the sole response to the loss of the biological family is in the traditional form of institutional care of children in homes or orphanages - often with a serious lack of adequate infrastructure, qualified staff and child protection measures.



THE POWER OF CHANGE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SOS Children's Villages reached the dignified age of 60 in 2009 – at a time when the financial crisis was all around us, an anniversary of this kind prompted mixed feelings. In the meantime, the downturn of the economy seems to have slowed. But has there been a noticeable change to the system that only a few benefit from and which excludes most of the world's population? The effects of this man-made, preventable crisis are felt first and foremost by those who are already at a disadvantage and require all of our support – the children. And when catastrophes like the Haiti earthquake occur, the dramatic consequences for already impoverished people multiply.

Nevertheless, a look back at the development of SOS Children's Villages can also offer us encouragement and spur us on to bring further change. In 1949, when our organisation was founded, the need was no less great; on the contrary. Through SOS Children's Villages, Hermann Gmeiner attempted to provide a response to what at the time appeared to be hopeless circumstances. And then, something astonishing happened. People who often had very little themselves took a personal interest in the fate of children, making small donations that had a large impact. To this day, it is the individual donors who make the difference.

SOS Children's Villages grew from year to year – from one village in 1949 to 500 in 2009; from a handful of children who found a home in the Austrian town of Imst to the hundreds of thousands of children and families that benefit in various ways from our

support programmes; from a few hundred donations and sponsorships to the financial and moral support of millions of people. This growth has been accompanied by a strengthening and expansion of our social activities. Today, providing alternative care for children and support for families in crisis go hand in hand.

Our wish is to see a decline in the number of children and families who need our help. Unfortunately, this number remains high. We must therefore continue to do everything humanly possible to ensure the welfare of children. We cannot allow children to be abandoned, ill-treated or abused, to be denied the chance of developing healthily and attending school, or to go unheard or unseen by society.

This has been the mission of SOS Children's Villages for the last 60 years and we will remain committed in future to ensuring that all children are able to enjoy the protection of a loving home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Helmut Kutin'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

HELMUT KUTIN
President
SOS Children's Villages

COMMITTED TO 'A LOVING HOME FOR EVERY CHILD': A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



Defying the crisis

In 2009 we were faced with great challenges. The financial crisis that caused a global recession made it very clear to us, as an international NGO, how the underprivileged and poor are affected by economic slumps. For many families, if they lose their already modest source of income, if the prices of basic commodities are too high, or if there are cutbacks to social services, it can mean that their children have to stop going to school, that there won't be enough food, that they can barely afford medical care. They may lose all basic care and fundamental rights.

This is something that we have observed in the families that we support. Unfortunately, in some cases we exhausted the budgets for SOS Children's Villages programmes as a result of the rising costs of living, so we had to put on hold projects we had planned and take cost-saving measures.

But despite fears that there would be a decrease in donations because of the difficult economic situation, our donors and friends have shown great loyalty. They have retained their commitment and undiminished confidence, enabling us to further improve the quality of our work. They have also allowed us to increase the number of children and families that we care for and support.

International Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

November 2009 saw a real milestone. After years of effort, and coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a UN General Assembly resolution officially welcomed the "Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children". SOS Children's Villages made a significant contribution to the development of these international guidelines, working alongside other NGOs and experts on children's rights.

These guidelines aim to ensure that children stay with their families. Only when all other options have been ruled out should a child be placed in alternative care. It is a last resort. The guidelines help us to give these children a voice, and to continually evaluate and improve our work.

The guidelines also address the situation of children in natural disasters and wars. Not even two months after the UN resolution was passed, dramatic events clearly showed how vulnerable children are in such situations. After the devastating earthquake in Haiti, a large coalition of NGOs made a collective appeal to the international community to apply the UN Guidelines in protecting children in the extreme conditions of Haiti.

Rebuilding Haiti for the children

The fates and futures of the children of Haiti were central to a conference organised by UNICEF, SOS Children's Villages, Save the Children, Plan International, Oxfam and World Vision in March 2010. Without the active involvement and consideration of the younger generation of this country in ruins, Haiti cannot really be rebuilt. The emergency relief and reconstruction programmes presented SOS Children's Villages with another large humanitarian challenge, which will keep us busy in the coming years, just like after the tsunami disaster. Central to our efforts is the care of children without parental care, the support of particularly disadvantaged families, the reconstruction of school and medical infrastructure as well as the guidance and support of the state authorities that are responsible for children's issues.

A massive amount of funds were raised for our Haiti programme, which aims to reach out to up to 40,000 children, and we would like to thank our donors and the others who support us for the very impressive solidarity that they have shown with a country that was already considered to be the poorest country in the western hemisphere prior to the earthquake.

Continuous learning and development within SOS Children's Villages

In 2009 we implemented important measures to move towards greater quality assurance and extension of our programmes. This includes the global implementation of our Child Protection Policy, which is applied in all areas of our work. We also approved the SOS Children's Villages Programme Policy, which enables us to be flexible and tailor our support to the needs of individual children and communities.

Just as for the UN Guidelines, our work is to strengthen families and local resources to ensure that children stay with their families of origin. If this is no longer an option, we place the child concerned in the care of

an SOS Children's Village or in another form of out-of-home care.

Different programmes are in place in many different countries to continuously improve our work with children. Since 1993, scientific studies have provided us with encouraging results on the quality of SOS Children's Villages' facilities. SOS Children's Villages Spain has, for example, been working with the Education Sciences faculty of the University of Oviedo for more than ten years.

The studies show where there are weak points and where improvements are needed. The "Tracking Footprints" study was another project aimed at raising the standards at SOS Children's Villages and SOS Youth Facilities, conducted from 2006 to 2009 in 55 countries. A total of 2,406 adults in all continents, aged 28 on average, were asked about their experience with SOS Children's Villages and life since then. The results of the study help us continually develop ourselves and our work, and they show how we can learn. "Tracking Footprints" shows us that we are on the right track, but for a global organisation such as ours there are no global quality assurance standards, and even more needs to be done to tailor our work to specific cultural and socio-economic conditions.

As 2009 was such a hard year and the start to 2010 so dramatic, the loyalty of our sponsors, donors and partners is invaluable to us. With this support, even in tough times and 61 years since SOS Children's Villages was set up, we can continue in the future to honour our promise to help the child at risk. And that is our promise: to treat them with great respect, and ensure they have a family and a loving home.



RICHARD PICHLER
Secretary-General
SOS Children's Villages International

REVIEW 2009





ADVOCACY IN ACTION

In November 2009, the United Nations announced its welcoming of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.

Over the last five years, SOS Children's Villages has been a leading organisation in supporting the development of these Guidelines and promoting them towards adoption.

Whilst the Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2009, there remains a pressing need for guidance in implementing the convention for millions of children worldwide who are without, or at risk of losing, parental care. These children suffer countless infringements against their rights to be cared for, to education, and to health care. They can also face significant discrimination and stigmatisation, both as children and as adults.

The Guidelines stress first and foremost that all efforts should be made to strengthen vulnerable families, with a view to keeping the child with his or her existing family. Only if such strengthening efforts are not successful or not appropriate, should children be placed in alternative care. The Guidelines discuss a range of options including foster care, other

family-based environments, or small group residential care, from which the option chosen should meet the best interests of the children in each specific case. Recognition by the UN General Assembly gives the Guidelines political weight, thereby strengthening the ability of NGOs that work with and for children to demand that children's concerns be heard and rights respected.

"The Guidelines are a long overdue necessity. They are intended to ensure adequate responses to the often highly complex and delicate situation of children who have lost, or are at risk of losing, parental care. The implementation of the Guidelines will ensure that children are listened to and receive specific attention for their particular situation and needs. Furthermore, the Guidelines will help us to speak out for those children and to constantly monitor and improve our own services."

Richard Pichler,
Secretary-General
SOS Children's Villages International

“Doing good and spreading good across the world is, at the end of the day, not a question of methods, but a question of compassionate love and shared responsibility that we feel towards others.”
Hermann Gmeiner

OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1949, Hermann Gmeiner built the first SOS Children’s Village in the Austrian town of Imst to provide orphaned and abandoned children with an environment as closely resembling traditional family life as possible. Today, SOS Children’s Villages is helping children and families in need in 132 countries and territories.

The founding of the first SOS Children’s Village meant a new standard for the out-of-home care of children. More than ever, we are convinced that help can only be effective if every child can grow up in a caring family or in a family-like environment. In 2009, we opened the 500th SOS Children’s Village worldwide in Cali, Colombia, which is now home to over 120 children. In the past 60 years, some 59,000 children have grown up in SOS Children’s Villages all over the world. Today over 70,000 children and youngsters live in SOS families and youth facilities. The growth in numbers over the decades went hand in hand with constant diversification and improvement of our social services in order to respond to the current

and individual needs of every child in the best way possible. In the last ten years, we therefore stepped up our global efforts for disadvantaged families and families in crisis to ensure that children remain with their biological families if it is in their best interest.



1960s - Challenging times in Asia during and after the Vietnam War



1964 - First SOS Children’s Village in Latin America in Ecuador



1971 - First African SOS Children’s Village in Côte d’Ivoire



1990s - Expanding activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



LONG-TERM AID THE TSUNAMI ZONE

SOS Children's Villages continues to work in the area of South Asia most devastated by the 2004 tsunami that claimed over 230,000 lives.

With many children in need of support following the tsunami, SOS Children's Villages continues to have an important role to play in rebuilding these children's lives.

In 2009, SOS Children's Village Phuket was opened in Thailand. It is one of the six villages that have been built in the region since the disaster, and thanks to donations it was possible to finance not only the construction of the SOS Children's Village in Phuket but to cover its running costs for the next decade.

Since the tsunami, new SOS Children's Villages were also set up in India and in Indonesia, and a number of programmes were established for families in need. Around 23,000 people received direct support in the form of different types of emergency relief, and over 2,200 family houses and several multi-purpose centres have been built, including two schools.

In Sri Lanka, SOS Children's Villages rebuilt a school destroyed by the tsunami. The school in Kalmunai, 300 kilometres east of Colombo, was re-opened in early 2009 and is now being attended by over 1,500 pupils.



"We are overjoyed to see this school functioning again! After the tsunami destroyed it, we almost lost hope. Ever since 2004, educating our children in this region was nearly impossible. This troubled part of Sri Lanka owes a lot to SOS Children's Villages for taking on the mammoth task of investing in the region's future."

Member of the local community,
Kalmunai, Sri Lanka

OUR FINANCIAL RESULTS 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

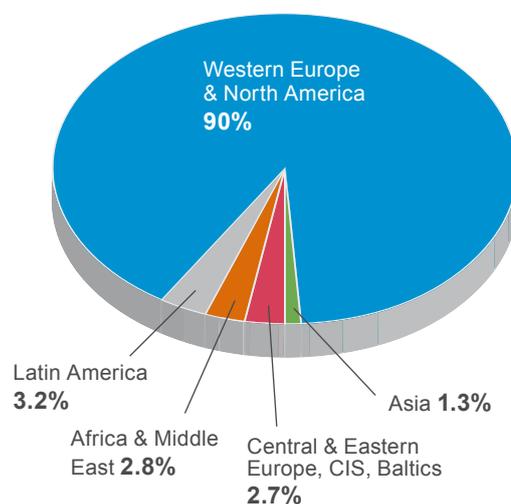
- In 2009 our total income amounted to 807.0 million EUR, an increase of 7.4% over 2008.
- We have plans for growth, budgeting for an increase in income of 5.7% in 2010.
- Even in the midst of a global economic recession, our income from individual donors, sponsorships and other types of giving increased by more than 35 million EUR (more than 8%).
- The proportion of expenditures that go to family strengthening programmes increased from 10.1% in 2008 to nearly 12% in 2009.
- We are planning for spending on family strengthening programmes to grow extensively in 2010; we have budgeted for an 11 million EUR increase over 2009.

INCOME by Continent

Funds in Western Europe and North America, representing 90% of the organisation's income, are raised by the SOS Promoting and Supporting Associations there. The fundraising efforts of these 18 national SOS Children's Villages organisations not only guarantee the continuity of our international work; many of them also operate SOS facilities and programmes in their own country.

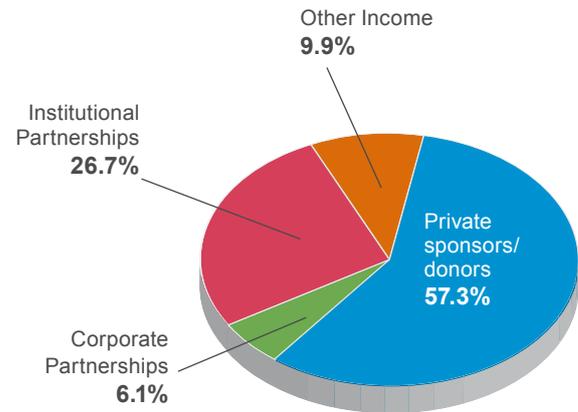
The SOS Promoting and Supporting Associations are:

SOS-Børnebyerne Danmark, SOS-Kinderdorf e.V., Hermann-Gmeiner-Fonds Deutschland e.V., SOS Villages d'Enfants France, SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde asbl. Luxembourg, SOS-Kinderdorpen, Stiftelsen SOS-barnebyer Norge, SOS-Kinderdorf Österreich, Stiftung SOS-Kinderdorf Schweiz, SOS-Barnbyar Sverige, SOS Children's Villages UK, SOS Village d'Enfants Belgique aide le monde asbl., SOS Children's Villages Canada, Asociación Aldeas Infantiles SOS de España, SOS-Lapsikyläsäätiö/lapsikylä ry, SOS Barnaporpin, Associazione SOS Italia Villaggi dei Bambini ONLUS, SOS Children's Villages USA Inc.



INCOME by type of donor

Nearly 60% of our income comes from individuals, and we have private sponsors and regular donors throughout the world. More than 92% of our global Institutional Partnership support is raised in Western Europe and North America, which includes: development cooperation grants from public authorities, philanthropic foundations and domestic institutional funds from national governments to existing SOS Children's Villages facilities in their own countries.

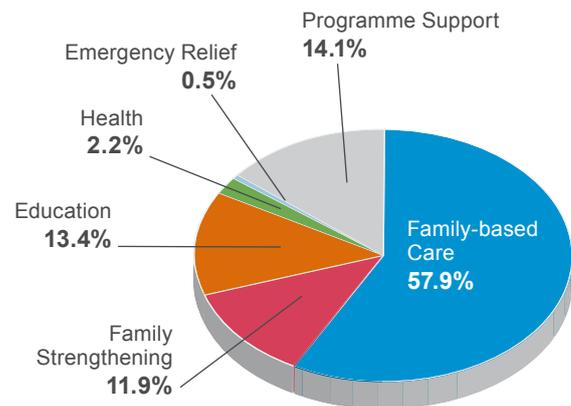


EXPENDITURE

• by programme

The chart on the right summarises our spending in developing countries.

Spending on family strengthening programmes amounted to a total of more than 31 million EUR, an increase of nearly 8 million EUR in 2008, reflecting our increased focus on this area.

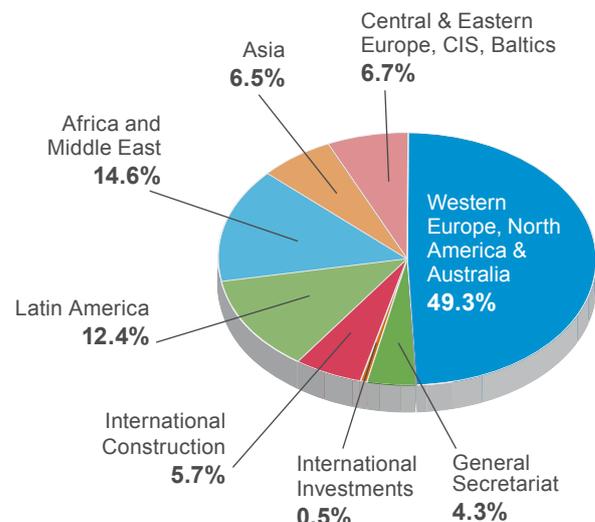


• by geography

Less than 50% is spent in Western Europe and North America (although 90% of our global income is raised there). In 2010, operational expenditures will continue to grow in all geographies. This will include an increase of more than one-third spending over 2009 figures in Africa and Middle East.

Overall, in 2009, 13.9% of total global expenditures was spent on information work and fundraising while 5.4% was on administrative costs. Each member association of SOS Children's Villages is audited by local independent and recognised auditors.

In accordance with the statutes of SOS Children's Villages International, the finances of the umbrella organisation were subject to a separate annual audit. As in the previous years, Ernst & Young gave SOS Children's Villages International its preliminary auditor certificate for 2008. The audit certificate for 2009 will be available in September 2010.



INCOME by type of donor

	Actuals 2008 audited	Actuals 2009 unaudited
all amounts in 1.000€		
Source of Revenues by continent		
Latin America	18,252.7	25,794.1
Africa & Middle East	20,911.2	22,554.6
Asia	10,330.7	10,283.8
Central & Eastern Europe, CIS, Baltics	21,221.9	21,919.5
Western Europe, North America & Australia	679,124.9	725,175.8
General Secretariat(GSC) ¹	1,710.8	1,316.2
Total Revenues	751,552.1	807,044.0
Development in %		+7.4%
Source of Revenues by segment		
Committed givings, sporadic donations, international sponsorships	426,893.0	462,130.0
Corporate donors	50,507.1	49,464.5
Institutional donors	200,198.7	215,698.7
other income ²	73,953.2	79,750.8
Total Revenues	751,552.1	807,044.0
Operating expenses (= Running costs of SOS Programmes) by programme type		
Family-based Care*	139,840.9	150,906.9
Family Strengthening*	23,920.1	31,803.8
Education*	30,461.1	35,757.1
Health*	5,519.4	5,958.6
Emergency Relief*	1,603.4	1,368.8
Programme support*	35,292.6	37,440.3
Western Europe, North America & Australia domestic projects	320,273.6	323,025.1
General Secretariat	24,127.7	28,232.0
Total Operating Expenses of SOS Programmes³	578,038.8	614,492.6
Operating expenses (= Running costs of SOS Programmes) by continent		
Latin America	70,528.2	81,152.2
Africa & Middle East	80,563.4	95,744.4
Asia	36,818.4	42,394.7
Central & Eastern Europe, CIS, Baltics	45,727.6	43,944.1
Western Europe, North America & Australia	320,273.6	323,025.1
General Secretariat ¹	24,127.7	28,232.0
Total Operating Expenses of SOS Programmes³	578,038.9	614,492.6
Total Investments in SOS Programmes	12,651.2	3,394.5
Total Construction of SOS Projects	35,999.4	37,678.5
Administration, Information Work & Fundraising Costs in Promoting / Supporting Associations	115,483.8	124,982.4
Total Expenditures	742,173.3	780,548.1
Overall Result (= already committed to programmes 2010)	9,378.8	26,495.9
Administrative Costs	40,387.0	41,976.8
in % of total expenditures	5.44%	5.38%
Information Work and Fundraising Expenditures	95,767.7	108,752.6
in % of total expenditures	12.90%	13.93%

¹ GSC revenues and expenditures include all Regional and Continental Offices, and the International Office.

² Other income refers to project, financial and other income

³ Not including financial autonomous SOS Associations in South Korea, Pakistan as well as in Madagascar and Tibetan Associations in India

* Outside Western Europe, North America and Australia



OUR OPERATIONS

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES AT A GLANCE

SOS Children's Villages was founded in 1949 in Imst, Austria. We have been active in Latin America since 1960, in Asia since 1963, and in Africa since 1970.

SOS Children's Villages operates in 132 countries and territories.

- **Total Facilities and Programmes** **2,018**
- **Total Beneficiaries** **1,058,600**
(children and adults)
- **Facilities under construction** **80**
(by January 2010)

ALTERNATIVE CARE

SOS Children's Villages	508
<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>59,100</i>
SOS Youth Facilities	383
<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>17,300</i>



In 2009, the UN welcomed the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, to which SOS Children's Villages made a significant contribution. The Guidelines define the rules and standards for a high-quality, child-oriented alternative form of care outside the family of origin.

In reality, however, alternative care is miles away from these standards in many areas. Far too many children have no home or carer at all; far too many forms of alternative care do not respond to the needs of the individual child. We strongly promote that first all possible efforts must be made to keep the child in its family of origin. If these efforts fail, the best solution must be found for each child, be it a foster family, adoption, or institutional care in whatever form. We believe stable relationships and a child-friendly environment are essential for the healthy emotional and physical development of every child - we are convinced that this can be achieved best in a family-based setting. When it is in the best interest of the child, it can be given a place in an SOS family.

THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD IN THE CENTRE

After an extensive assessments process in close cooperation with the welfare authorities in the respective country, the final decision is always made by the legal custodian of the child, usually the State. The entire care period in an SOS Children's Village - the admission process, the life in an SOS family, the move to a youth facility and the transition phase to an independent life - is developed and monitored together with every child and youngster. Our approach is holistic: Every child is supported emotionally, materially and in terms of education and vocational training. One of our main aims is that siblings are not separated but live together in one SOS family. And we see it as an essential factor that the caregivers - an SOS mother, an SOS father or an SOS couple - are experts in education but at the same time fully dedicated emotionally.

Some 59,000 children have grown up in SOS Children's Villages around the world. We supported and accompanied most of them from their early childhood to adulthood and today many of them maintain strong relationships with their former SOS family. Today, we

STORY ALL IN ONE FAMILY



Five siblings, ages five to ten, live together at SOS Children's Village Keila in Estonia. They had lived for a year in an orphanage, where they didn't see much of each other, despite being in the same building. Fifteen to twenty children of similar ages lived in one room and could see others only occasionally in the playing room. And when the eldest was becoming too old for the orphanage, they were about to be broken up. But siblings need to be together. Fortunately, five places in a new SOS house opened up, and they moved in with their SOS mother Maire. At home, they follow their mother everywhere she goes, making her feel 'like a locomotive with five wagons following me.' Yet they are always looking out for each other, supporting each other when they have problems outside the home. When Maire gives sweets to the youngest, she asks, 'What about Eidi? She also wants sweets, and the others want some, too!'

care for more than 70,000 children and youngsters in SOS Children's Villages and youth facilities around the world. In addition to the long-term care in SOS Children's Villages, we also offer short- and midterm care in some countries. This can be a transit home for babies, temporary accommodation and support for families in an acute crisis or a living community for children with the aim of family reunification. SOS Children's Villages' programmes have always included care for children with disabilities. While in the past, special facilities were established for these children, our policy today puts the weight on an integrated approach in its SOS families and any other SOS facility and programme.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Facilities and Programmes <i>(child day-care, community support, counselling and psychological support, training workshops, family strengthening)</i>	566
Beneficiaries	299,900



Our first priority is to try and keep children within their existing family, whether it consists of their biological parents, their relatives, or others. When living conditions are difficult, or during crises, parents often find it simply impossible to care for their children appropriately.

The reasons for which families come in danger of falling apart vary from one case to the next, but are mainly a result of poverty, domestic violence, disease or disability, natural disasters, armed conflict or ethnic discrimination. Many parents lack basic necessities - money to pay the doctor or the school, proper living conditions, regular work, or perhaps strength, health, and faith in the future.

The SOS family strengthening programmes are designed to enable families to support themselves in the long-term and cope with life independently. In this way, the support provided ensures that children are not left to fend for themselves but can stay with their families of origin.

BUILDING SAFETY NETS

We cooperate with the various local authorities concerned and other local partners to support disadvantaged families in every part of the world. Local communities, for instance, are a direct source of support for vulnerable children and their families and that is why the setting up of community safety nets is a central part of family strengthening programmes. At the same time, governments and other duty bearers are encouraged to meet their obligations, to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children.

In Latin America and Asia, for example, single mothers and their children form the main target group. In Sub-Saharan Africa, supported families are primarily those affected by HIV/AIDS. In European countries, single-mother households also represent a significant target group as there might also be immigrant families, parents with histories of alcohol or drug abuse - in general, socially and economically disadvantaged families and families in crisis situations. Our family strengthening efforts are tailored to the needs of every family and can comprise counselling in mat-

STORY EMPOWERING MOTHERS



Aziza is a 33-year-old widow and mother of three. She lives with her children and mother in Zawya el Hamra, a poor Cairo neighbourhood, in a rented house. Her husband earned a living selling vegetables. But after his death Aziza lost everything, including the family home and a small piece of land.

Aziza receives 240 Egyptian Pounds (44 USD) per month from the local mosque, out of which she pays rent, electricity, water, food, and other basics. Every day, she queues for hours to buy bread. But bakeries often run out, and supermarket bread is expensive. Other basic foods such as rice and lentils have increased rapidly in price, making them unaffordable for many. Aziza could no longer afford to feed her family in the same way that she did in the past. But for the past two years she has participated in the SOS Family Strengthening Programme in Cairo. With SOS Children's Villages' help, Aziza has kept her children in school rather than force them into child labour. Next year she will start training to start a micro business, to enable her to feed and care for her family in the long-term.

ters of health and education, psychosocial counselling and support; parenting workshops; day-care centres; community support; self-help groups; material support etc. SOS Children's Villages currently runs 566 of these programmes, helping almost 300,000 children and adults.

EDUCATION

SOS Kindergartens	228
SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools	191
SOS Vocational Training Centres	64
Beneficiaries	154,600



Around 86% of all children of primary school age worldwide attend school. Only 60% of children of secondary school age currently attend a secondary or higher school. The remaining 40% either attend a primary school or do not go to school at all. And yet, millions of children do not receive any primary education, many of them in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia.

SOS Children's Villages strongly believes in quality education as the means to break the cycle of marginalisation, poverty, violence and family breakdown. Education helps children develop the necessary capabilities they need to live a life in dignity, with respect, and empowered to participate actively in their society. We therefore ensure the access to quality education for all children in our SOS Children's Villages, youth facilities and family strengthening programmes, regardless of gender, ethnicity, faith, abilities, health or any other attribute.

We advocate both free compulsory primary education for all children in our target group and the principle of inclusive, relevant, quality education. Together with partners and other stakeholders, we enhance the capacity of public kindergartens and schools attended by children within our programmes. And we support disadvantaged families through giving children access to education by providing financial assistance to pay for school fees, classroom material and school uniforms.

Elsewhere, in places offering no public education facilities, SOS Children's Villages operates kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and vocational training centres. The goal of the SOS kindergartens is the development of children's social and cognitive skills in a playful learning environment. The teaching methods are based on the educational theories of Friedrich Fröbel and Maria Montessori, while taking into account the local culture. Many of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools are seen as exemplary models in their respective countries; all are state-recognised and teach within the national curriculum.

We also support parents in their role as primary responsible care-givers and educators of their children. They are important partners for teachers in the devel-

STORY HUNGRY FOR SCHOOL



Despite the constant political unrest and threat of violence in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, SOS Children's Villages' facilities there, including a hospital and a school, are fully operational. Musa Ibrahim Dugow, the principal of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner Primary and Secondary School, says:

"We currently have 500 students at the school, with more than 500 others on a waiting list. There have been requests that we start afternoon lessons and I support the idea. The students are hungry to learn, very hungry. And they're willing to learn. The way they are willing to listen to you makes it hard to imagine that these children live in a war zone. Students always come to school, regardless of the fighting. They don't want to run away, they come and wait for you to teach them. When they are there, they are ready. Students get access to all the facilities at almost zero cost, \$10 per term, \$2.5 a month - no other school in town offers all these facilities, including the best teachers from Kenya, at such a low price".

opment process and schooling of their children, particularly in early childhood. We therefore support parents in understanding the value of child-centred education, empower them to claim their children's right to quality education, and encourage and support parents to ensure that their children are able to attend school (be it public or an SOS School) for as long as possible and in accordance the child's capabilities and interests.

HEALTH

SOS Medical Centres <i>(mother-child clinics, HIV/AIDS treatment and counselling, counselling in child nutrition and hygiene etc.)</i>	68
Beneficiaries	398,100



Every day approximately 26,000 children die before they have reached their fifth birthday. Very young children are at most risk from unhygienic living conditions, such as inadequate access to clean drinking water or poor sanitation.

In vulnerable areas, we build SOS Medical Centres near SOS Children's Villages, specialising mainly in the care of women and children. These centres provide inoculation, maternity beds, and advice on hygiene, nutrition, and first aid. We also support mental, social and spiritual health and therapeutic mentoring for children and youngsters in our care.

FOCUS ON: HIV/AIDS

In Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS is one of the main reasons for the rise in numbers of children who have lost one or both parents and/or are suffering from neglect. In some Asian countries, the stigma still attached to HIV/AIDS is depriving children of basic social services, or resulting in children being taken in by institutions.



In the SOS Medical Centres in Africa and Asia, the fight against the immune-deficiency disease plays a central role. SOS Children's Villages invests in education, prevention, and lifting taboos across the world, and helps those children who have to accept responsibility for their siblings following the death of their parents.

We also help women disadvantaged by HIV/AIDS who have higher infection rates than men. In many areas, education on HIV/AIDS is nowhere near adequate, and the SOS Medical Centres give families affected by HIV/AIDS counselling, testing, and antiretroviral therapy.

STORY REGAINING HEALTH



Mr Bernard Chituwi* is 52 and has a wife and ten children. He lives near SOS Children's Village Lilongwe, Malawi. In August 2004 he fell ill with fever, dizziness, and lethargy. He had heard about the services provided by the SOS Medical Centre and decided to visit the clinic. He was eventually found to be HIV positive. The clinician said he was immediately eligible to start taking anti-retroviral therapy. He was then educated on the implications of taking anti-retroviral drugs, what improvements (and side-effects) he might expect, as well as the regime he would need to follow for taking the drugs.

He can now protect himself from re-infection and from infecting others, and follows principles of good nutrition. Mr Chituwi says: "I appreciate very much what the SOS Medical Centre and its staff have done for me. They have saved my life. Without them I would have been six feet under ground and forgotten. Now I am able to work, feed my family, and pay school fees for my children. I can participate in the community, and can go to football matches and weddings. I really appreciate everything that has happened since I first visited the clinic."

**For privacy reasons, we have changed the name of the patient.*

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Programmes 10
*(e.g. in Chad, Sri Lanka, Somalia,
Ethiopia, Pakistan etc.)*

Beneficiaries 129,700



Over the past 20 years, SOS Children's Villages has carried out more than 100 emergency relief programmes around the world. During and after conflicts, natural disasters and any other kind of emergency situation, our main concern is helping affected children and their families.

Through our global presence, comprehensive infrastructure and locally established partnerships with authorities and governments, we are in the position to react rapidly in case of emergencies. In 2009, SOS teams:

- provided temporary shelter to unaccompanied children from the war-torn northern part of Sri Lanka and worked to reunite them with their families;
- supported severely traumatized refugee children from the Sudanese province of Darfur with psycho-social therapy in a refugee camp in Chad;
- provided basic food and other supplies after floods in Senegal and Burkina Faso and food due to drought and famine in Ethiopia;

and continued numerous other already existing emergency activities as well as launching new ones.

FOCUS ON: THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Just five years after SOS Children's Villages carried out its largest emergency relief and reconstruction programme in the aftermath of the tsunami catastrophe in South Asia, the impact of another devastating catastrophe called for our immediate response - the earthquake which hit Haiti on 12 January 2010.

The first few weeks of work in Haiti was made all the more difficult by the fact that all the Haitian SOS co-workers and their families had been affected by the earthquake. This exceptional situation made it necessary for SOS co-workers from other countries to support the SOS Children's Village in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding communities. In spite of huge challenges, SOS Children's Villages managed to put together an emergency relief team with national and international members who are continuing their work to this day. The focus of this effort is to provide holistic care for unaccompanied children as well as the distribution of food to thousands of children through community centres and the offering of medical services

if required. At maximum capacity (probably reached in late 2010), some 40,000 children will be provided with food in different areas of Port-au-Prince and involved in a variety of activities. The long-term rebuilding programme of SOS Children's Villages is planned to stretch over ten years and focuses mainly on the reconstruction and construction of schools as well as the transfer of knowledge and training in the education sector, the setting up of small medical centres, the broadening of family strengthening programmes, stocking up community resources, lobbying for child protection and children's rights and the creation of family-based child care for children who have been orphaned by the quake.

The SOS Children's Village in Santo in Port-au-Prince has become the central coordination point for all the emergency activities as well as a temporary home for unaccompanied children. Many children were reunited with their families. But for many children, it is still not clear who will take care of them in the long run, whether or not they have any relatives who can take custody of them or whether they have been orphaned completely. Other children were brought into the SOS Children's Village by relatives unable to provide adequate care. Currently, up to 20 children are being looked after in the existing SOS families, instead of the usual eight to nine. More temporary houses are being built to cope with the sheer number of children. Some children were seriously malnourished and dehydrated on arrival. All of them needed a safe environment and adequate nutrition. Many also required psychotherapy.

In March of 2010, SOS Children's Villages, Plan International, Save the Children, Oxfam, World Vision International and UNICEF came together to highlight the importance of involving the Haitian people in the rebuilding of their country. More than 200 representatives from NGOs, UN agencies and governments attended the conference, entitled "A Haiti Fit for Children" at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York. Representatives of the six child-focused organisations raised several crucial issues: child protection and children's needs, the urgency of strengthening the government and public institutions of Haiti, possible future emergencies and the accountability of governments and the civil society towards the citizens of Haiti.

WHY WE NEED FRIENDS

Having worked globally for over 60 years, our approach to helping the child at risk is hugely effective. However, in order to improve, develop what we do, and make ourselves even more effective, we need the continuous support of our existing friends and to make new ones.

We have made a strategic commitment to gain one million new friends – people supporting our work – including through financial contributions.

We are also pursuing a number of exciting projects with corporate and institutional partners.

Numerous projects are being planned for the near future and we depend upon the generosity of our donors to be able to complete them.

The global recession has affected everyone. Despite it, however, we have been enormously gratified to see that donors have continued to help us and appreciate the great generosity that has been shown, even at times of personal financial stress on the part of our donors. Without this generosity, the work we do simply could not happen.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

SOS Children's Villages needs regular support from friends, corporate partners, governmental organisations and foundations to help us do our work all over the world.

SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS

Sponsorships are available for individual children or villages. You can register as a sponsor or make a donation at www.sos-childrensvillages.org, or visit the website of the SOS Children's Villages Association in your country.

LEGACIES OR BEQUESTS

These are types of giving that really make a difference for the future. Contact the SOS Children's Villages Association in your country. For contact details, visit www.sos-childrensvillages.org or send an e-mail to info@sos-kd.org.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

A number of companies support the work of SOS Children's Villages through sponsorships, cash donations or gifts in kind. Many of them also help raise funds by involving their customers. If you are interested in an international partnership, contact us via www.sos-childrensvillages.org.

FOUNDATIONS

SOS Children's Villages is primarily financed through individuals. By diversifying and broadening our donor base we will increase our resources and improve the lives of more children. We aim to engage more and more with foundations, as building partnerships with them will help us make our programmes more and more sustainable.

"I wish I could do more. But I know that SOS Children's Villages can do wonderful things with only a few euros a month."

Carmen F., Spain

"Funding a child through SOS Children's Villages has allowed my husband and I the privilege of watching our 'child' Arjun grow up as our own children grow up."

Philippa F., UK

"By becoming a sponsor our family has grown."

Helmut T., Austria

"I love the idea of creating families and keeping children in their own culture. Thanks!"

Linda C., USA

SOS Children's Villages helps children and their families in 132 countries around the world:



Albania	Denmark	Laos	Rwanda
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Latvia	Senegal
Angola	Ecuador	Lebanon	Serbia
Argentina	Egypt	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Armenia	El Salvador	Liberia	Somalia
Australia	Equatorial Guinea	Lithuania	Somaliland
Austria	Estonia	Luxembourg	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Macedonia	South Korea
Bangladesh	Finland	Madagascar	Spain
Belarus	France	Malawi	Sri Lanka
Belgium	French Polynesia	Mali	Sudan
Benin	Gambia	Mauritius	Swaziland
Bolivia	Georgia	Mexico	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Mongolia	Switzerland
Botswana	Ghana	Morocco	Syria
Brazil	Greece	Mozambique	Taiwan
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Namibia	Tanzania
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Nepal	Thailand
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Netherlands	Togo
Cambodia	Haiti	Nicaragua	Tunisia
Cameroon	Honduras	Niger	Turkey
Canada	Hungary	Nigeria	Uganda
Cape Verde	Iceland	Northern Cyprus	Ukraine
Central African Republic	India	Norway	United Kingdom
Chad	Indonesia	Pakistan	Uruguay
Chile	Israel	Palestinian Territories	USA
China	Italy	Panama	Uzbekistan
Colombia	Jamaica	Paraguay	Venezuela
Democratic Republic of Congo	Japan	Peru	Vietnam
Costa Rica	Jordan	Philippines	Zambia
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Poland	Zimbabwe
Croatia	Kenya	Portugal	
Czech Republic	Kosovo	Romania	
	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	

OUR ROOTS - What we are

- We take action for children as an independent non-governmental social development organisation.
- We respect varying religions and cultures.
- We work in the spirit of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- With the SOS Children's Village concept, our organisation pioneered a family approach to the long-term care of orphaned and abandoned children.

OUR VISION - What we want for the world's children

Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security.

OUR MISSION - What we do

We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures and we share in the development of their communities.

OUR VALUES - What keeps us strong

- COURAGE – We take action
- COMMITMENT - We keep our promises
- TRUST - We believe in each other
- ACCOUNTABILITY - We are reliable partners



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
INTERNATIONAL

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