



SOS Children's Villages
the world's largest orphan charity



In 1949, the first SOS Children's Village was founded in Austria to help children who had lost their homes and families during the Second World War.

Today, SOS Children is the world's largest orphan charity.

Our main role is helping children whose parents are not there for them: Aids orphans, street children, child soldiers and children orphaned by war, poverty, illness or natural disasters.

Traditionally, we provide children with a home, a family and a new mother in a purpose-built local village, where they can stay until they are ready for independent life, or move to one of our Youth Homes as an intermediate step.

We currently run **450 of these unique SOS Children's Villages, and 342 Youth Homes, caring directly for over 60,000 children in 123 countries worldwide.** To support these children as well as those in the local community, we also run 242 nurseries and 190 schools, ensuring that they gain the education and knowledge they need to become successful members of society.

“ In total one million people benefit from our community programmes ”

In places where there is a high rate of child abandonment, we also run programmes to help strengthen vulnerable families and keep them together.

We currently run a wide variety of community development programmes in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, which aim to prevent the abandonment of children.

We support families and communities with child care, counselling, vocational training and medical support. By working with local communities to develop necessary resources and programmes, we aim to ensure that vulnerable children and their families receive the education and skills they need to be successful and contributing members of society and help keep families together.

“ The SOS Family has been at the heart of our work for over 50 years ”

SOS Kindergarten Mamelodi, South Africa

The SOS Children's Village

The SOS family has been at the heart of our work for over 50 years, giving children without the care of their own family the security they deserve.

Our villages provide every child with a mother; brothers and sisters; a house and a village. Girls and boys of different ages live together with their SOS mother in the SOS Children's Village, which provides a permanent home for a happy, positive childhood. An average of 15 family homes form the children's village, which is an integral part of the wider community.



SOS Children's Village
Leon, Nicaragua

Education

SOS Children builds and runs nursery, primary and secondary schools, which are open to children in our care and to those from the wider community. SOS Children offer scholarships to poorer students whose families could not otherwise afford to pay for their education.

The SOS Secondary School, Yantai, China is the largest we've built to date and was constructed in response to an urgent appeal from the provincial authorities in 1993.



SOS Children's Village
Cisnadia, Romania

Emergency Relief Programmes

Thanks to our strong local rooting, SOS Children is often one of the first NGOs to offer assistance in times of war, crisis or disaster. Our long-term support to families in tsunami-affected countries, as well as families affected by the ongoing Middle East Crisis continues long after the cameras have gone.

Following the devastating earthquake that ravaged Pakistan-administered Kashmir in 2005, SOS Children was given legal guardianship of all unaccompanied children. Many children have been reunited with their families; others have found a new home in an SOS Children's Village.

“ Thanks to our strong local rooting, SOS Children is often one of the first NGO's to offer assistance in times of war, famine or disaster ”



SOS School Yantai, China



SOS School Tema, Ghana



SOS Emergency Relief Programme
Muzaffarabad, Pakistan



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SOS Family Strengthening Programme Flores, Indonesia

Community Programmes

Working with the community, we aim to offer the skills and support vulnerable families need to provide for themselves and be able to care for their children.

Community Development Programmes and Family Strengthening Programmes offer specific assistance to some of the most disadvantaged members of society including child and grandparent-headed families, and those affected by HIV/Aids. Through skills, training, education, counselling, micro-loans and improved nutrition, families are better able to provide for their children and stay together through difficult times.



SOS Vocational Training Centre Bindura, Zimbabwe



Child soldier, Sudan

“ Families are better able to provide for their children and stay together ”

Our child soldier rehabilitation programme in Malakal, Sudan, provides children with an education and counselling sessions to help them recover from the trauma of war. Family retraining programmes, which reunite child soldiers with their families, have been 96% successful.

In the Ukraine, drug abuse and alcoholism are widespread and the HIV prevalence rate is the highest in Europe. SOS Children runs a Family Strengthening Programme which works with local communities providing food packages and counselling services to at-risk families to help prevent child abandonment



SOS Medical Centre Sucre, Bolivia

“ Providing communities with not just immediate medical treatment, but also preventative and palliative care ”



SOS Medical Centre Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo



SOS Social Centre Lusaka, Ghana

This page: SOS Medical Centre Bakoteh, The Gambia

Medical Centres

In areas where medical support is scarce or non-existent, SOS Medical Centres provide communities not just with immediate medical treatment but also preventative and palliative care. For example, SOS Medical Centre, Mogadishu, Somalia is Somalia's only fully functioning Obstetrics/ Gynaecology clinic – giving care to over 30,000 mothers and babies. The centre, which includes 19 treatment rooms and an operating theatre, provides essential medical support in one of the world's most troubled countries.



SOS Emergency Relief Programme (Tsunami) Akkampettai, India

SOS Children

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Reg. Charity No: 1069204

Our outreach projects offer love, practical support and give hope to over half a million children like Margaret, Albert and Artur.

Artur* in Belarus

Artur was born into what was a happy family in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Artur's mother's health was deteriorating: she was incurably ill as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. When Artur was just four years old his mother could no longer stand the pain and committed suicide.

Artur's father could not cope following the death of his wife. He turned to drink, lost his job and paid no attention to his son. Apart from his elderly grandmother, he had no one to take care of him. Social services did their best to help the family, but very soon Artur's father died in an accident. Artur was just five years old.

Now seven years old, Artur lives at SOS Children's Village Marina Gorka near Minsk, where he once more has a happy family, a caring mother and brothers and sisters who he loves to draw pictures for.

Margaret* in Swaziland

Margaret is eight years old and was identified as a vulnerable AIDS orphan by SOS Children. Since the death of her parents she has been living with her aunt who couldn't afford to send her to school.

Thanks to the SOS Family Strengthening Programme in Mbabane, Swaziland, which works to empower families and prevent child abandonment, Margaret was able to return to school. "We registered her in a public school at the start of the new school year in September. We provided her with books, stationery, a school uniform and a brand new pair of school shoes; we also paid her school fees. Now, she is a regular pupil and works hard in her studies", said the coordinator of the programme. SOS Children has given Margaret a chance to break out of poverty and make a future for herself.

Albert* in Malawi

Albert was born out of wedlock. He is now eight years old. When his mother died of AIDS his grandmother tried to care for him but did not have the income to provide food and medication for him.

Albert is HIV positive, had tuberculosis and was severely malnourished with a swollen face. He did not attend school and urgently needed medication. After two months of love and care from SOS Children's Villages Albert is happy and healthy, receiving anti-retroviral treatment and attending school.

**names have been changed to protect privacy*

**SOS Children is the working name of SOS Children's Villages UK.*



SOS Children's Village Borovljany, Belarus



SOS Children's Village Nhlngano, Swaziland



SOS Children's Village Lilongwe, Malawi