



SOS Children in a nutshell



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

...giving children a family for life



Mother and child from the SOS Children's Village in Sucre, Bolivia



A family for life

Many people ask us where our children come from and how they are selected. Sadly, the increasing number of families in dire poverty means that frequently children are brought to us, especially by single parents or relatives who may be ill and lack any resources to bring up a child. For the good of the child, and when there is no alternative, the parent is prepared to relinquish their child into our care.

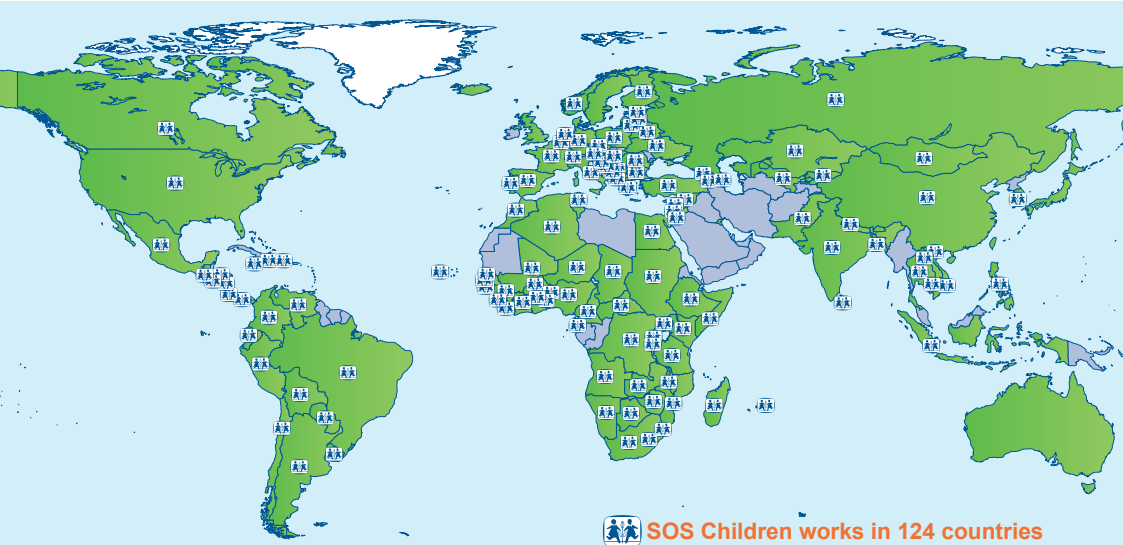
Before we introduced our Family Strengthening Programmes, we focused on giving these children a home, when the local social services could not accommodate them. Now we recognise that a more effective approach long term is to help the parent to look after the child themselves. We do this by

giving key support like food parcels, school fees, day care, training and microloans. This has the double benefit of keeping the natural family together, and strengthening the wider community.

This is the vision for our future work. We will continue to provide a Village home for those children with no one, and help prevent the breakup of families and child abandonment, enabling more children to grow up in a loving home, as they deserve.

Andrew Cates
Chief Executive Officer
SOS Children UK

Where we work



SOS Children works in 124 countries



What we provide



500 Children's Villages

Clusters of 10 to 20 family houses give 78,000 children a family home



416 Schools and Nurseries

SOS Schools and Nurseries provide over 100,000 children with a quality education



575 Community Programmes

Outreach work with local communities strengthens families and benefits 450,000 children and adults



5,200 mothers

SOS mothers are carefully chosen and specially trained to care for traumatised children



61 Vocational Training Centres

New skills and practical training are provided to more than 15,000 individuals



Emergency Relief Programmes

Immediate disaster relief and long-term support is provided in crisis situations



400 Youth Homes

More than 12,000 SOS teenagers share independent Youth Homes



65 Medical Centres

SOS Medical Centres provide nearly 500,000 treatments every year



Children from the SOS Children's Village in Morelia, Mexico



The SOS Children's Village

The SOS family has been at the heart of our work for more than 60 years. SOS Children's Villages give orphaned and abandoned children the support and security they need for a happy, positive childhood.

Our Villages provide every child with:

- a **mother** - fully dedicated SOS mothers create loving homes
- **brothers and sisters** - each family has up to ten children, including boys and girls of different ages; natural brothers and sisters are never separated
- a **house** - in the local architectural style
- a **Village** - a safe community in which to grow up.

Children remain in the Village until they are self-sufficient and ready for independent life.

SOS mothers and families are guided and supported by the Village Director, while SOS aunts help out with childcare responsibilities and daily life in the Village.



The first SOS Children's Village in Imst, Austria



Mother and child from the SOS Children's Village in Bakoteh, The Gambia



Mother and child from the SOS Children's Village in Nong Khai, Thailand



A family from the SOS Children's Village in Bethlehem, Palestine



The mother and her children

Trained in childcare, each SOS mother forges a close relationship with every child entrusted to her. Each mother lives with her children, guides their development and runs her own household.

SOS mothers are local to the countries in which they work, and recognise and respect each child's family background, cultural roots and religion.

Many of the children in our care have suffered traumatic experiences which can often affect their behaviour or health. The SOS mother becomes **an emotional constant** for her children, giving them the ability to trust and to feel safe. SOS mothers and SOS aunts receive special training and support to provide

the individual care needed for each child and help them overcome their difficult start in life.

Natural brothers and sisters are never separated and children stay within the same SOS family, building ties that last a lifetime - just like any family.



*A mother and child from
the SOS Children's Village
in João Pessoa, Brazil*



Teenagers at the SOS Youth Home in Bethlehem, Palestine



Youth Homes

SOS Youth Homes, sometimes located near the Children's Village, offer SOS teenagers a **stepping stone to independence**. SOS youth leaders support the children as they learn to take responsibility for their own time, school work, household tasks and money. The teenagers regularly return to visit their SOS family and share in Village celebrations.

Teenagers stay together in the Youth Homes until they have completed their education and are **fully independent**.

SOS Youth Home, Bethlehem, Palestine

There are currently 29 teenagers living in the three SOS Youth Homes in Bethlehem, which opened in 1986. They study at SOS

Vocational Training Centres or universities and find jobs in the summer holidays. Many former SOS youths now work in and around Bethlehem as teachers, engineers and university staff.





The SOS Secondary School in Khulna, Bangladesh



Children from the SOS Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya



Children from the SOS Nursery in Blantyre, Malawi, with their home-grown carrots



Education

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

Well-qualified teachers, almost exclusively from the local area, teach according to national curricula in all SOS schools.

Academically able children are supported to achieve their potential through further education, either locally or abroad. For example, 100% of the students who graduate from the SOS International College in Tema, Ghana, go on to university.

SOS Secondary School, Yantai, China

The SOS secondary school in Yantai, near Beijing in China, is the largest SOS school built to date educating over 3,000 children. Recognised as one of the best schools in the region, it has consistently high academic results.





Electronics class at the SOS Vocational Training Centre in Viet Tri, Vietnam



Trainee farmers at the SOS Vocational Training Centre in Vontovorona, Madagascar



Nurses training at the SOS Vocational Training Centre in Anangpur, India



Vocational Training Centres

SOS Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) equip people of all ages with the **practical skills** they need to earn a living and **lead independent lives**. The courses taught are tailored to match local and regional job prospects.

Our VTCs work in partnership with local employers to give students practical work experience. VTCs conduct research into the local job market and offer **career advice** and **microloans** to support graduates in starting their own business.

SOS Vocational Training Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi

The SOS Vocational Training Centre in Lilongwe offers 140 students, including

those with disabilities, a practical education. Currently 63% of the students are girls. Courses available include: IT, agriculture, electrical appliance repair, metalwork, home economics, textiles and construction. The students are also trained in commercial awareness to help them apply their skills effectively.



A tailoring class at the SOS Vocational Training Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi



*SOS Mother & Child Clinic
Ambulance in Bakoteh, The Gambia*



Checkup at the SOS Medical Centre in Da Lat, Vietnam



*Mother and child at the SOS Medical
Centre in Panambi, Paraguay*



Medical Centres

In areas where medical support is scarce or non-existent, SOS Medical Centres provide communities not just with immediate **medical treatment** that can mean the difference between life and death, but also **preventative** and **palliative** care.

Run by local professionals, the SOS Medical Centres help to **improve the general health** of the community by offering:

- immunisation and child nourishment programmes
- ante- and post-natal care
- support for HIV/AIDS-affected families
- education programmes.

SOS Medical Centre, Mogadishu, Somalia

30,000 mothers and their babies receive care

at Somalia's only fully functioning Obstetrics/ Gynaecology clinic. The centre, which includes 19 treatment rooms, a delivery room and an operating theatre, provides essential medical support in one of the world's most troubled countries.





Beneficiaries of the SOS Family Strengthening Programme in Pingyao, China



Community support

Working with the wider community enables us to reach beyond the children in our Villages and help many thousands more vulnerable children. We offer the skills and support that families need to be able to care for their children appropriately over the long term.

Family Strengthening Programmes (FSPs) offer specific support to some of the most vulnerable members of society, including child- and grandparent-headed families and those affected by HIV/AIDS. Our community development programmes, such as the Mobile Playbus, offer practical training, literacy classes and basic education. Others offer counselling and advocacy, improved nutrition, social support, microloans and emergency

assistance, so that families are better able to provide for their children.

By helping people to help themselves, we aim to support communities' long-term development, reduce poverty and strengthen families to **prevent the abandonment of children.**





Children at the temporary SOS School in the town of Mianzhu, China, following the 2008 earthquake

Emergency relief

Thanks to our **strong local presence**, SOS Children is often one of the first NGOs to provide immediate **emergency assistance** in times of conflict, crisis or disaster, eg, the recent Bolivian floods, Asian tsunami, African political upheavals and Chinese earthquakes.

SOS Emergency Relief Programmes support children and communities by:

- ensuring the safety of any unaccompanied children
- providing safe shelter, blankets, medication and food
- tracing families and aiding reunification
- offering trauma therapy to children
- helping people regain their livelihoods through the provision of new equipment and retraining
- giving long-term support through rebuilding of new homes, schools and clinics.

Kashmir Earthquake

Following the devastating earthquake that ravaged Pakistan-administered Kashmir in October 2005, SOS Children was given **legal guardianship of all unaccompanied children**.

Many children have been reunited with their families, while others have found a new home in an SOS Children's Village. Many more, initially cared for in an emergency shelter in Rawalpindi, will live in two new Children's Villages and three new schools.





Children from the SOS Children's Village in Chiang Rai, Thailand



Why support SOS Children?

We are dedicated to helping generations of children enjoy a better life. We do this by nurturing **lasting relationships** with our donors, our staff and the communities in which we are rooted.

Since 1949, we have built a foundation of trust and cooperation with donors, governments and other partners. Our greatest responsibility is the well-being of children, which we strive to ensure through high standards of care. In doing so, we are committed to using all funds and resources wisely, with **consideration** and **full accountability**.

We can **guarantee** that **100%** of restricted donations are allocated to the chosen project; nothing is deducted for administration.

Unlike many other international NGOs, SOS Children is **run by local people** with a specific knowledge and understanding of their region. They are, therefore, directly responsible for the development of their own communities.



Beneficiaries of the SOS Family Strengthening Programme in Bucharest, Romania



SOS partners Tottenham Hotspur supporting World Orphan Week



Euro Tandem 2009 cyclists support SOS Children



British 10K runners in 2009



You can support SOS Children

Join us in our efforts to give a million more children a family for life by 2016.

- **Sponsor a child or a Village** - See the impact your donation has, both on your sponsored child and/or on the SOS Village where they live. Or, endow a sponsorship and secure a lifelong family for a child.
- **General donations** - However much you can afford, a regular, direct debit or one-off donation is vital to continue and expand our work.
- **Funding something specific** - Donations can also fund the construction or running costs of a particular Village or programme, or purchase a specific piece of equipment.
- **Sign up to payroll giving** - Make a regular tax-free donation direct from your salary.
- **Legacy** - Help us give more children a family for life; leave a gift to SOS Children in your will.

- **Corporate partnerships** - Support a specific Village or programme and create a lasting partnership between your organisation and SOS communities across the globe.

Get involved

- Organise an event in aid of SOS Children: quiz, dress-down day, tennis tournament...
- Get sponsored to: bike to Paris, shave your head, lose 10lbs, climb a mountain...
- Ask for donations instead of presents for your birthday, wedding or retirement.
- Make SOS Children your school, club or company's chosen charity.
- Raise awareness: link to our website, put a footer on your emails, speak about our work...

Contact the fundraising team for any assistance: ft@soschildren.org

Edward's story

Edward and his two young brothers from Zimbabwe found themselves alone after their mother and father died in 2007. This meant Edward, who was aged just ten, was left to look after his two brothers - aged eight and four - alone. Edward struggled to find enough money to feed his family and caring for his little brothers meant he was unable to attend school.

Thankfully, Social Services soon placed Edward and his brothers in the care of SOS Children's Village Bindura and the three boys were welcomed by their new SOS mother, Patricia, in 2008. Under Patricia's care, they have found a safe and loving family. Edward is delighted he is able to attend the SOS Primary





School in the Village, *"I'm very happy to be in a home with my two brothers and SOS family members - I'm also happy to be back at school after so long!"* he says.

Child-headed households are an increasingly common occurrence in Zimbabwe, particularly due to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Children often end up caring for themselves and their siblings.

SOS Children's Village Bindura, Zimbabwe, has fifteen family houses which provide a home for up to 180 children, many of whom are AIDS orphans.



Edward and his brothers at the SOS School in Bindura, Zimbabwe



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*This page: Children from the
SOS Children's Village in
Visakhapatnam, India.*

*Front cover: An SOS family from
the SOS Children's Village in
Arusha, Tanzania.*

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