



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
NORWAY

CHILD CARE FOR DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
STRATEGY 2015 – 2020



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Publisher
SOS Children's Villages Norway
Cover photo
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Layout
www.stigandersen.no

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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY 2015 – 2020

INTRODUCTION

SOS Children's Villages Norway's (SOS Norway) Development Cooperation Strategy (2015–2020) aims to ensure the protection of, and care for, children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care. This Strategy is aligned with the SOS Norway's Strategic Plan 2009-2016, the SOS Children's Villages International's (SOS CVI) "ONE Half" Strategic Plan 2009-2016 and with the discussions in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The Strategy is divided into two parts: the first part addresses children's need for protection and care, and introduces the SOS CVI's organisation and approach; and the second part presents SOS Norway's international programmes four strategic objectives for the 2015 – 2020 work period.

THE FOUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ARE:

- 1. To secure the right to quality care and protection
for children and young people**
- 2. To promote children and young people's right to quality education**
- 3. To secure gender equality and equal rights for girls and boys**
- 4. To increase relevance and quality of programmes**

A close-up photograph of a young boy with light brown, messy hair. He has a visible red, linear injury on his right cheek. He is holding a small black and white cat with green eyes. The cat is looking directly at the camera. The boy is wearing a dark sweater with orange and white stripes on the sleeves. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

CHILD CARE FOR DEVELOPMENT

THE NEED FOR CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND CARE

SOS CVI works with communities, organisations and authorities to improve the lives and opportunities of children who have lost or at risk of losing parental care. SOS CVI provides long-term family-based care to children who are without parental care, and works with families and communities to strengthen their capacity to care for children and thereby prevent children from losing parental care.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989) states that children are entitled to protection and care. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure children's rights, safety and development. However, many child rights are not fulfilled. Roughly 151 million children around the world have lost one or both parents¹, whilst millions of other children are at risk of losing parental care. It is estimated that 24 million children live in some form of alternative care environment², including residential, community, and family-based care. Worldwide, alternative care services are severely undersupplied and often of poor quality or even harmful to children. Multiple and complex factors cause children to lose

their parental care, including illness such as HIV/AIDS, conflict, migration, natural disaster, domestic physical and sexual violence and abuse. Poverty is often the underlying factor that can lead to family breakdown and children being separated from their families. Even in relatively well resourced countries, economic recession leads to cuts in vital child protection services³.

Children and young people who are temporarily or permanently deprived of a family environment are exposed to multiple risk factors that can hinder their physical, psychological, and social development. Without targeted support, children who lack or are at risk of losing parental care, typically lag behind the general population in terms of education, health, employment, and social integration⁴. They are also more vulnerable to discrimination, abuse and exploitation. Many lack basic identity documents and their living conditions and well-being often go unmonitored by governments. Estimates suggest that about 230 million children worldwide lack a birth registration⁵.

1 UNICEF, Child Info, April 2013: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women - Orphan Estimates

2 EveryChild, 2009, Missing: Children without parental care in international development policy

3 *ibid*

4 SOS CVI, 2014, A solid investment: Integrating children without parental care into the Post-2015 Development Framework

5 UN, 2014, The Millennium Development Goals Report 7th of July



The protection of and promotion for children's well-being are closely tied to the societies development. The breakdown of the family unit leading to child abandonment has a negative impact on the child's emotional and physical development and has social and economic consequences for the entire community. Ultimately, the breakdown of the family negatively affects progress towards global development goals.

SOS CVI's can draw on its long-term experience to mitigate, and even reverse, the negative impacts of family break down by implementing early preventative interventions and as a last resort by providing, children who have lost parental care, quality care in a protective family-like environment.

There is an urgent need to advocate for, and scale up, measures to prevent the loss of parental care and to make the concerns of children and young people without adequate care a top priority on the international development agenda.

SOS CVI Structure

SOS Norway is a Member Association of SOS CVI. SOS CVI has its headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria. SOS CVI supports and coordinates programme operations globally and develops international policies.

The SOS CVI federation has 33,000 employees working to protect children's rights in 133 SOS Member Associations around the world.

Regional SOS CVI Offices support and monitor the work of the SOS Member Associations across five continents.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

Who we are

SOS CVI is an international non-governmental organisation focusing on families at risk and children without parental care. Our vision is that “Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security”.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2009) form the basis and guide the work of SOS CVI.

SOS CVI's interventions are guided by four principles Children's development is best realized:

- in a caring family environment
- when supported by strong social networks
- when decisions and actions are based on the best interest of the child
- when children are involved in finding solutions to the challenges they face in their lives

The SOS CVI's target group

Children who are at risk of losing parental care

These are children whose basic material, emotional, health and educational needs are neglected or who are abused, because their caregivers lack the capacity or commitment to adequately care for them.

Children who have lost parental care

These are children who, for any number of reasons or circumstances, are not living with a parental caregiver.

Our approach

PUTTING THE CHILD FIRST

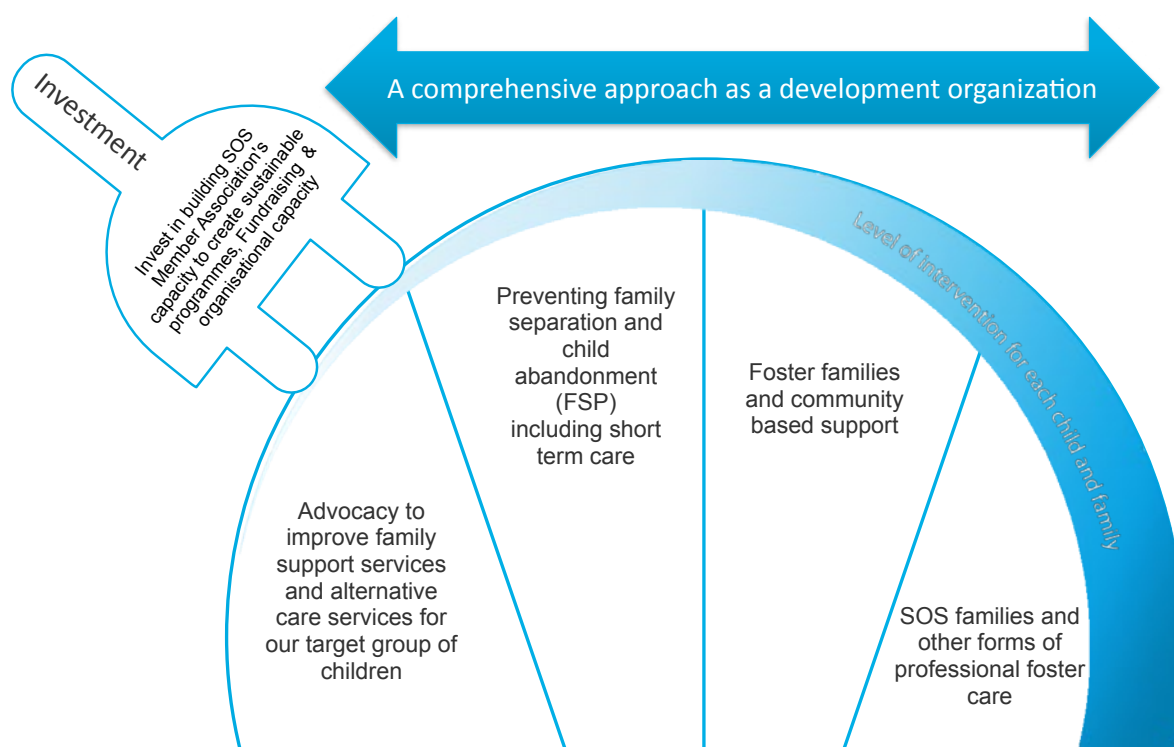
SOS CVI's 65 years of experience working with children has shown that quality care in a stable family environment is vital to secure children their individual development, access to education and health services. SOS CVI works to find the best possible responses to each specific situation with the best interest of each child in mind. SOS CVI invests in quality education and health care, as these are essential factors in breaking the cycle of exclusion, poverty, domestic violence and the break up of the family.

SOS CVI supports the child towards independent living in order to increase their possibilities to complete an education, secure a job and establish personal relationships. The goal is for every child to become independent, self-sufficient and be able to participate as active members of society.

PREVENTION AND CARE: A RANGE OF OPTIONS IN THE SOS CVI PROGRAMME

Children have the right to quality care that provides them with positive, empowering and stable relationships. To secure this right SOS CVI works with governments, local and national authorities, communities, UN agencies, NGOs and other relevant partners.

Prevention and care in the work for vulnerable children



Advocacy to improve family support and alternative care services

Through promoting improvements in the policy and practice of child and family support services at national and international level, SOS CVI works for the long-term development of mechanisms to prevent the loss of parental care and in the provision of alternative care options.

Prevent family separation and promote family reintegration

Over the last decade SOS CVI has expanded its focus from providing direct care to children that have lost parental care to also working on the prevention of family separation and promotion of family reintegration.

The SOS Family Strengthening Programme works with families who are at risk of becoming unable to provide care for their children and finds ways of empowering them to enable them to keep the children in the home. The type of interventions carried out as

part of the Family Strengthening programme include parental skills training, legal rights awareness, income generating activities and sensitization on children's rights. SOS CVI also promotes and facilitates the reintegration of children in alternative care into their families of origin.

Foster families and community based support

SOS CVI implements different approaches to alternative care, such as foster care. This type of support can include traditional foster care where foster families live in their own homes, or alternative forms of foster care supported by the government or child-care organisations like SOS CVI. Foster families are supported with parental skills training, counselling support and child development plans.

SOS families

In line with the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care, SOS CVI believes that removing a child from his/her family should be a last resort. Children whose biological family is unable, even with additional

support, to provide adequate care, are illegible for SOS CVI family based care in an SOS family. If a child is placed in an SOS family, whenever possible, biological siblings stay together. The family based care work of SOS CVI is conducted in partnership with communities and social welfare authorities. SOS families can be described as professionally guided and supervised foster families.

Emergency response

Although SOS CVI's primary mandate is to provide long-term support to children, families and communities the organisation also responds to the needs of children who are victims of war, conflict and natural disasters. A global network, local presence and extensive experience working with marginalized children enables SOS CVI to effectively and efficiently support children in emergency situations.

Adapting to changing needs

SOS CVI operates 1.170 family- and youth programmes around the world, providing care, education and health services to a total of 82.000 children and youth who lack parental care. The traditional SOS children's villages are in the process of being "re-innovated" to adapt their activities to the changing needs on the ground and to ensure better integration of SOS families within their local communities.

In order to prevent child abandonment, SOS CVI runs 483 Family Strengthening Programmes benefiting more than 328.000 children and their families (SOS CVI Facts and Figures 2013).

What we do

SOS CVI works with communities, partner organizations and authorities to protect and care for vulnerable children, as well as to support struggling families to prevent child abandonment.

- We prevent family break down and child abandonment by supporting families at risk and by strengthening social support systems to empower communities and enable families to care for their children
- We provide long-term, stable care in a foster family or SOS-family to children who cannot remain with their biological family, and for whom family-based care is considered the best option
- We promote the reintegration of children, adolescents and young people whose families have made positive changes to their once vulnerable situation, and are able to assume permanent responsibility for their children
- We ensure equal opportunities for girls and boys to access all levels of formal and informal quality education in close cooperation with local communities and community based organisations
- We provide children and families at risk with access to affordable health care, including reproductive and maternal health care, and nutrition services
- We support youth in their transition from childhood to independent living
- We advocate for and work with governments to help them fulfill their obligations to children without parental care, or at risk of losing parental care. We focus on working with decision makers and other actors to support the improvement of care systems and related family support services
- We work to protect and care for children in emergencies by preventing family separation, supporting family reunification and providing necessary care arrangements



SOS Children's villages Norway

SOS Norway, established in 1964, plays a significant role in programme- and policy development within the SOS CVI and it is one of the major financial contributors to the international organisation's work. SOS Norway advocates for children's care and protection in Norway and supports advocacy initiatives implemented by SOS Member Associations. We inform the Norwegian public on the rights of vulnerable children and their need for protection and care, as well as how the SOS Children's Village model of family based care benefits children.

Since 2008 SOS Norway has been running a SOS Children's Village in Bergen, which places a special focus on keeping siblings together. The children in the SOS Children's Village have been identified by the Norwegian welfare system.

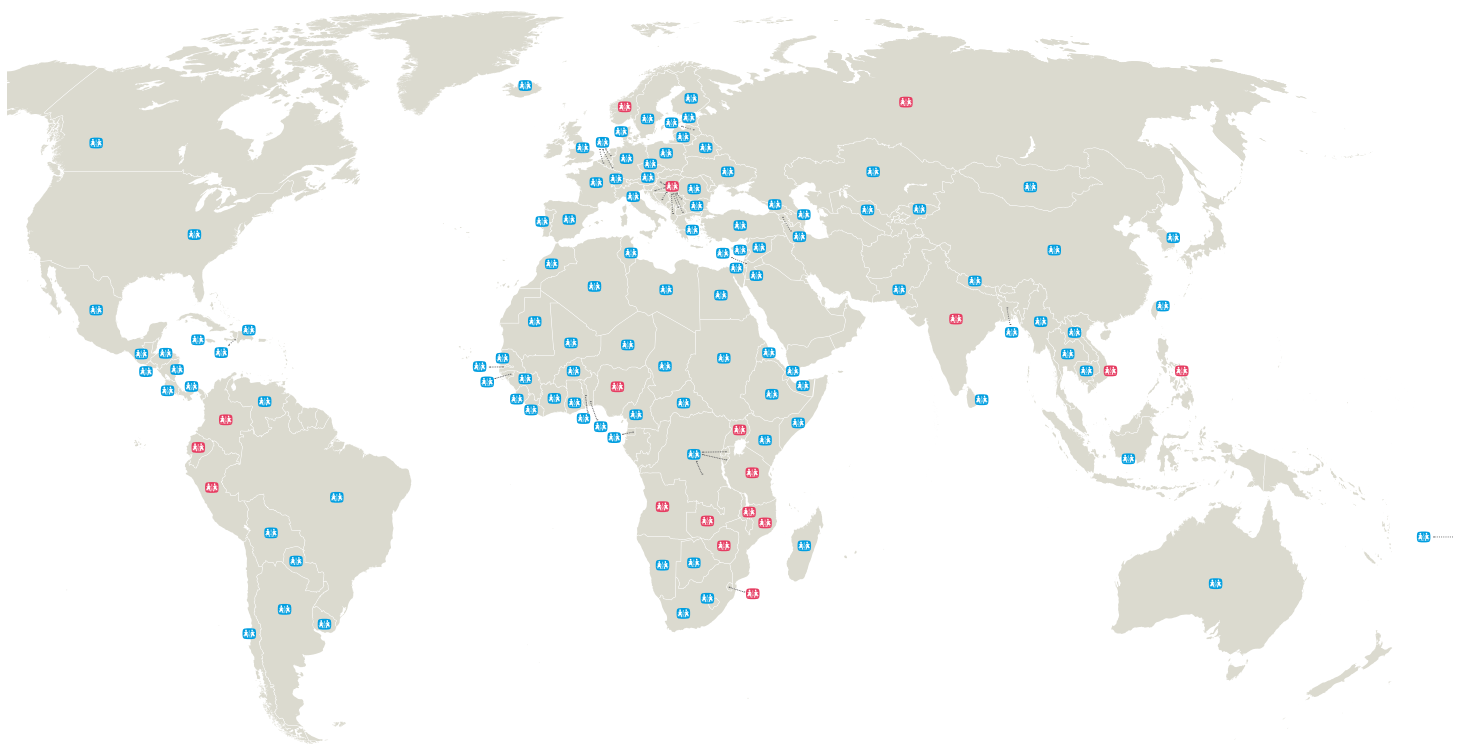
SOS NORWAY'S PRIORITY PARTNERS

By investing in SOS Member Associations' institutional capacity and ability to implement sustainable programmes, and by working in partnerships with various organizations, SOS Norway facilitates and builds alliances between groups that work towards poverty reduction and advocate for children's rights.

In 2013, SOS CVI went through a streamlining

process, which lead to a concentration of the programmes supported by SOS Norway to fewer countries. As part of the streamlining process SOS Norway has prioritized partnerships with 17 SOS Member Associations in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. These partnerships have been chosen based on both the needs of children on the ground, and by giving preference to countries where SOS Norway enjoys a long-term and well-established partnership. In addition, SOS Norway supports a number of other SOS Member Associations through its sponsorship programme.

The SOS Member Associations are national independent entities responsible for the coordination and implementation of programmes in their respective countries. They have extensive knowledge of the local context and how it affects children in our target group. They have long-term presence on the ground, have well established cooperation with relevant partners in the communities where they work, as well as with local and national authorities. As such, SOS Member Associations are well placed to identify needs, set priorities for the programme activities and advocate on behalf of the SOS CVI's target group. SOS Norway participates in programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, initiates capacity-building activities in prioritized areas, gives advice, facilitates experience exchange between its partners and contributes with funds. SOS Norway will continue to be a predictable and reliable partner to SOS CVI and its Member Associations.



SOS NORWAY'S PRIORITY PARTNERS (AS OF JANUARY 2015), MARKED IN PINK;

Latin America: Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Africa: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Europe: Kosovo and Russia. Asia: India, Vietnam and the Philippines



SOS NORWAY'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2015 – 2020

To ensure the protection of, and care for, children in the SOS CVI target group, SOS Norway will focus on the following four strategic objectives during the period 2015-2020:

1. Secure the right to quality care and protection for children and young people
2. Promote children and young people's right to quality education
3. Secure gender equality and equal rights for girls and boys
4. Increase relevance and quality of programmes



1 Care and protection

SECURE THE RIGHT TO QUALITY CARE AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Globally, the large number of marginalized children places a huge burden on informal care arrangements. Unregistered providers are caring for a large number of children and functional governmental monitoring systems are often non-existing¹. Many countries lack social welfare systems that can identify vulnerable children and are able to meet the demands for high quality alternative care. Inadequate informal care, large institutions, frequent placement moves and lack of follow up when leaving care are factors that seriously challenge child protection obligations. In addition, many children suffer from lack of access to health care services, neglect and inadequate care within their families of origin.

Children with disabilities constitutes a particularly vulnerable group within SOS CVIs target group. Children with disabilities often have to rely on the support of others to ensure their basic needs are met. They are at greater risk of discrimination, abandonment, abuse and exploitation than their peers.

¹ CELCIS / SOS Children's Villages International / University of Malawi, 2014, Drumming together for change, A child's right to quality care in Sub-Saharan Africa

A PROMOTE QUALITY CARE AND PROTECTION

SOS Norway will:

- support and encourage the development of policies and activities in SOS CVI that strengthens the capacity of families to adequately care for their children
- ensure that the views, opinions and perspectives of children and youth are included in SOS CVI's policy- programme- and advocacy work
- enable SOS partner organizations to advocate for national reforms that will improve quality standards for children in alternative care and strengthen children's protection structures
- support the reintegration of children into their biological families when it is both possible and in the best interest of the child
- raise the awareness of the Norwegian government and other development actors on the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and the needs of SOS CVI's target group
- support the development and implementation of more integrated family based care models and community based foster homes as alternative care options in the countries we work in
- cooperate with relevant partners to build awareness on the special needs of children with disabilities
- advocate for an increasingly inclusive programmatic approach to children with disabilities within SOS CVI that is in line with SOS CVI's policy on inclusion of children with disabilities (2008)
- ensure that SOS Norway's funded programmes include child protection measures
- support our partners in facilitating access to health care services for our target group
- in line with the SOS Emergency Policy (2012), strengthen our focus on emergency response
- and respond to emergency appeals launched by SOS CVI

B SECURE YOUNG PEOPLE A SAFE TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

Leaving home and starting life as an independent young adult can be one of the most challenging steps in any young person's life. Youth which are leaving care institutions may lack social and psychological coping strategies. Moreover, they often do not have adequate life skills or supportive networks in the communities. Many young people leave alternative care ill equipped to compete in the labour market and consequently they become trapped in a cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

Research² shows that those who have been supported in the transition towards independent living, have a far better chance to be educated, to be employed and to have their own home. For a successful transition to independent living it is important to consider the maturity of the child when leaving care, level of counselling and support in the transition from care to aftercare needed, and the ability to maintain positive relationships after having moved out of alternative care. More attention needs to be paid to the challenges young people face when leaving alternative care.

SOS Norway will:

- support individually adapted after-care services for youth in the SOS CVI programmes, including counselling and other forms of relevant support
- contribute to strengthen the leaving care system within SOS CVI
- enable partners to advocate for a well-functioning leaving care system that prepares youth for their independence and supports them in the transition phase to ensure they are able to integrate fully into the community
- support the employment of young people by focusing on quality education, vocational training, entrepreneurship and through supporting the enhancement of social skills needed to become competitive in the job market
- promote youth participation in decisions affecting their lives

² SOS Children's Villages, 2013, When Care Ends, Lessons from Peer Research

② Quality education

PROMOTE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION



Education is a human right that brings long-lasting benefits for children, families and communities. Education enhances gender equality and democratic participation. Despite global efforts to promote free access to primary education, 10% of the world's children are currently denied their right to education, often due to poverty¹. Children without parental care are 22% less likely to go to school than those living in a family environment².

In many parts of the world, girls and women continue to be disadvantaged in both education and income generating activities. Indeed girls are denied the right to education more often than boys. Girls' education may be hindered by early marriage and teenage pregnancies or because they are forced to drop-out from school to contribute to the family's income.

Inequality in access to education is also particularly high for children with disabilities mainly due to lack of resources, limited knowledge within the family and lack of recognition of their special needs.

SOS CVI works to secure education for the most marginalized children and youth. In several partner countries a process of handing over SOS education facilities to the government has started. It is, however, crucial to continue to work with national and local authorities, as well as with communities, in order to ensure the provision of quality education, secure access to education for vulnerable children, prevent school drop-out and to create safe learning environments.

SOS Norway will:

- work to increase the focus on quality education within SOS CVI
- identify context-specific educational challenges, opportunities and priorities with selected SOS partners and ensure that programmes are developed to respond to these
- support our SOS partners efforts to promote early childhood care and education
- support vocational training programmes at the community level for young people within our target group
- support our SOS partners advocacy work towards local and national authorities to ensure children in our target group have access to, and benefit from, quality education
- promote the importance of education for girls and young women and support programmes that facilitate the re-instating of girls into school after they have dropped out
- promote inclusive education in the SOS CVI to reach children who are excluded from education due to disabilities
- create awareness among the Norwegian authorities about the importance of access to quality education for children in our target group

¹ MDG report 2013

² Better Care Network and UNICEF (2009) Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care

③ Gender equality

SECURE GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS



Gender can determine whether children and young people have a voice and control over their lives and the extent to which they can realize their rights. Gender inequalities can make children more vulnerable to losing parental care. In many parts of the world, girls and women continue to be disadvantaged in essential areas of life as they are more likely than their male peers to drop-out from school, marry at an early age, face early childbearing and be subjected to violence.

The SOS CVI Gender Equality Policy (2014) focuses on redressing inequalities that women, and girls in particular, experience because of their gender. SOS CVI recognises that gender-based inequalities also affects boys and men, and strives to protect both sexes from gender-based disadvantages among staff and amongst children and youth in our care. Both men and women play a role in addressing inequality and promoting equality. Addressing gender inequalities is important in order to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the SOS programmes, as well as to fulfill the obligations of upholding the rights of those we work with.

SOS Norway will:

- take a leading role within SOS CVI to champion the rights of girls and women and promote the role of men as caregivers
- make gender mainstreaming and the pursuit of gender equality an integrated part of all SOS Norway funded programmes by including the subject in all cooperation agreements, strategies and monitoring frameworks
- invest in SOS staff internationally to ensure that the knowledge and skills are in place at all levels of the organisation to deliver on the Gender Equality Policy (2014) and to support international efforts for gender equality
- support the implementation of the SOS Children's Villages Gender Equality Policy
- build partnerships with donors that explicitly factor in resources for gender equality





4 Programme quality

INCREASE RELEVANCE AND QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES



Successful programmes bring about lasting change for the target group. Flexibility and innovative approaches are needed for SOS CVI to reach its targets and ensure the relevance of its programmes. To address identified needs, results must be monitored and programmes evaluated. Moreover, SOS is obliged to ensure that resources spent reach the intended beneficiaries.

A SECURE SUSTAINABILITY

Capacity building activities aimed at increasing competencies and self-reliance of SOS implementing partners and communities are crucial to secure sustainable programmes. SOS Norway's partners contribute to build the capacities of Community Based Organizations' (CBOs) on topics such as child care, gender, environment, income generation, advocacy and good management. Through CBOs, communities are empowered to take care of children that have lost,

or are at risk of losing, parental care. Sustainability is reached when families and communities through established social support systems are able to ensure children's protection and care without the support of SOS CVI.

SOS Norway will:

- be a predictable partner focusing on long term programmes
- strengthen SOS partners' capacity to implement quality programmes and to advocate for children's rights locally and nationally
- through SOS partners, support families' in the SOS programmes to become financially self-reliant
- strengthen the financial sustainability of SOS partners by supporting fundraising initiatives carried out by SOS Member Associations. This

includes providing financial and technical support to the SOS CVI's "Sustainable Path process" which aims to ensure self-sustainability among SOS Member Associations in middle income countries by 2020 maximise the impact of SOS programmes by strengthening local communities' and local CBO's capacity to take an active role in the development of their own community

- take an active part in re-designing programmes (see box p.8) to ensure programmatic relevance and efficiency
- ensure that clear and feasible exit strategies for families and communities are formulated as part of the SOS Family Strengthening Programmes
- build resilience through supporting environmentally friendly measures as part of SOS CVI interventions

(2010), as well as the Norwegian government's ethical standards and zero tolerance for corruption

- promote openness and transparency by publicly disclosing corruption cases that might emerge in SOS financed programming
- be a strong voice in promoting SOS CVI's Child Protection policy (2008) and support the process of implementing the newly developed child protection reporting structures within SOS CVI

B SECURE GOOD MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SOS Norway is committed to spend funds and resources in a sound and accountable manner. To ensure cost-effective programmes and a solid, predictable operation, SOS CVI strives to implement good management practices, strong child protection reporting structures and to foster organizational learning through knowledge sharing and transparency.

SOS Norway will:

- together with SOS CVI develop and support the implementation of a unified Result Based Management system (RBM) governing all levels in the organisation
- monitor systematically and evaluate regularly the relevance and effectiveness of our programmes in order to identify possible actions for improvement
- encourage the improved and systematic mapping and analysis of data on vulnerable children and children in alternative care in order to enable informed decisions leading to the identification of the best ways to support individuals in the target group
- take a lead role in ensuring that SOS Norway and its partners conform to the SOS CVIs Good Management and Accountability Standards (2013), the Anti- Fraud and Anti- Corruption Guideline



Following up the strategy

SOS Norway's Development Cooperation Strategy will guide the organisation's annual strategic planning processes towards 2020. Priorities set by SOS Norway's management- and governance structures will be in line with this strategy. Progress made in implementing the strategy will be reported to SOS Norway's board on quarterly- and annual basis.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

After care: Professional support to young people after they have left care. This might include services such as psychosocial support, assistance with housing, education, vocational training and employment opportunities.

Alternative (Child) care/out-of-home care: Temporary or permanent full-time arrangement where a child is looked after (day and night) by a care provider other than a biological parent. Alternative care includes a wide range of care options, for instance: informal fostering by a family member or non-relatives, formal foster care, other forms of family-based or family-like care placements (such as with an SOS family), emergency child care, transit centres in emergency situations, short and long term residential care facilities (including group homes and supervised independent living arrangements for children) and institutions.

Children: A child is any person under the age of 18, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children at risk of losing parental care: Children whose basic material, emotional, health and educational needs are neglected because their caregiver lack the capacity or commitment to provide adequate care and/or children who are abused in the home.

Children who have lost parental care: Children and adolescents who for any reason do not live with, or are in the care of their biological parents. Within this category, there are orphans, separated children, unaccompanied children and abandoned children.

Community based care: the community works together to provide services and support to enable families need to stay together (for example; mothers provide baby-sitting for other mothers, community members provide free services in financial planning or legal advice).

Early childhood care and education: Refers to the provision of education to children during the period from birth to eight years old, which lays the foundation for subsequent learning and development. Early interventions attend to health, nutrition, security and learning and should provide for a child's holistic development.

Family based care: Form of alternative care in which the child is placed with a family other than his/hers biological family. SOS CVI considers SOS families as a form of family-based care.

Foster care: The placement of a child by a competent authority in the domestic environment of a family other than his/hers own biological family. Formal foster care is authorized and arranged by welfare authorities or child-placing agencies following a legal order. The foster family is selected, qualified, approved and supervised in the provision of such care.

Foster care may be short-or long-term and can take a variety of forms, depending on the child's situation and best interest.

Informal care: Any private arrangement provided in a family environment, whereby the child is looked after by relatives or friends (informal kinship care) or by others at the initiative of the child, his/her parents or other person without this arrangement having been ordered or supervised by an administrative or judicial authority or a duly accredited body.

Institutions: Type of residential care that takes place on a larger scale, where a large number of children are accommodated. Institutions are also often referred to as orphanages.

Leaving care: The process when young people living in alternative child care reach the age of legal majority and leave care to start their lives as independent adults.

Orphan: A child whose biological (or legal) parents have died. Some countries refers to children who have lost one parent as orphans.

Quality care: When children experience the positive, empowering, stable and loving relationships that they need to ensure their full personal development.

Quality education: A healthy, supportive and safe learning environment that is gender-sensitive, provides satisfactory resources and is housed in adequate facilities. Education content reflects relevant curricula by well-trained teachers who use child-centered teaching approaches. Education outcomes encompass knowledge, skills and attitudes and are linked to national goals.

Re-integration: The process of a child without parental care moving (back) to live with their biological parent/s and usually their community of origin. Other forms of re-integration include moving into another form of family-based care that is intended to be permanent.

Residential care: A full-time alternative care arrangement whereby small groups of children are placed in a group setting which is not family based. Care is provided, often in rotating shifts, by paid staff or volunteers. Some times the residential care is considered the same as institutional care, but others interpret residential care to be small family-type group homes with a more intimate feel than what is experienced in larger institution.

Sustainable path: A process that aims to ensure self-sustainability among SOS Member Associations in middle-income countries within 2020.

Social support systems: A strong social support system is when the community can effectively respond to the situation faced by vulnerable children today and in the future.

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SOS Children's Villages supports children and their families in 133 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	Japan	Peru	Vietnam
Congo	Jordan	Philippines	Zambia
Costa Rica	Kazakhstan	Poland	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	Portugal	
Croatia	Kosovo	Romania	
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	

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

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