

# family matters

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SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES

A loving home for every child





# Welcome

From Meryl Davies,  
Director of Fundraising,  
SOS Children

**All too often the first victims of famine and rising food costs are children and families already living in poverty. Similarly, malnutrition has long-lasting effects on children's health and development. With food poverty and famine so prominent in the news, in this edition of *Family Matters* we turn our attention to the importance of food in the work of SOS Children and the ways that we are working with families to make sure that children get the right things to eat.**

Children who grow up in poverty and do not have enough to eat suffer more persistent, frequent and severe health problems. Babies born into poverty have a low birth weight, which is associated with preventable mental and physical disabilities. Not only are these poor infants more likely to be sickly, they are also more likely to die before their first birthday or be abandoned by their parents.

The complex relationships between families, food and poverty mean that SOS Children must provide carefully targeted support – from emergency food relief in Niger and farm projects in Ethiopia to cookery classes in Laos and food for school children in Kenya. You can read more about these on pages 6 to 12 along with news about other work that is helping families and communities to combat food poverty and give children the best possible chances in life.

We are fortunate to have generous supporters who are finding innovative ways to support more families, such as the founders of The Extra Guest project, which features on page 13. Meanwhile on page 14 there is news about our training partnership with UK hairdressers, along with updates on what your fellow SOS Children supporters have been doing recently to raise funds. We really do appreciate everyone whose active fundraising and donations make such a difference.

As ever we include some highlights from around our world on pages 4 and 5. And of course, you can always keep up to date via our website, eNews and social media pages.

Whatever brings you to SOS Children, we very much hope that you will enjoy this food-focused edition of *Family Matters*. As the stories in this issue will illustrate, your support is helping children and families around the world in very practical ways and bringing about real change for the better.



> *Haiti school children enjoy hot porridge at an SOS social centre.*

# Keep in touch

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to see how your support for SOS Children is helping children worldwide. You can always keep up to date via our website and pages on Facebook and Twitter. As well as *Family Matters*, which is published twice a year, you can sign up for monthly eNews updates about the children and families we support at:

[www.soschildren.org/subscribe](http://www.soschildren.org/subscribe)

> *An SOS mother prepares fresh vegetables for an evening meal.*



# News from around the world

## Beating the odds to become a role model

Amrita Gyawali was three years old when the rest of her family died in a traffic accident and she became bound to a wheelchair for life. At five, she moved to SOS Children's Village Jorpati in Nepal. Despite often missing classes due to poor health, Amrita passed her final exams with top marks. Having grown up in the Children's Village, she moved to the nearby SOS youth home and then went on to graduate from college. Amrita had always dreamt of becoming a model and her SOS family supported her ambition. So she approached a modelling agency and hasn't looked back. She is Nepal's first wheelchair model and a keen advocate for disability rights. She said: *"I wanted to make a change so started campaigning for equal rights for people with disabilities."*



> *Amrita speaks up for people with disabilities.*

Amrita is also studying for a degree and hopes to qualify as a psychologist – quite a role model to inspire anyone with the odds stacked against them.



> *SOS families face tough times amid the conflict.*

## Mali fighting forces children to flee

Around 700,000 people could be displaced by the current conflict in Mali, according to the UN. When the fighting intensified in January, students at our SOS school in Mopti had to escape to the south, while families from the SOS Children's Village in nearby Socoura were evacuated to safety. SOS teachers and staff were given the option to travel south for their own safety but many chose to stay to protect SOS Children's facilities. Thankfully they were unharmed. Sadly, it is children who have been particularly affected. Mohamed, one of the evacuated children said: *"We talk about the children who are going to lose their parents in the war and this makes me sad. I pray that this stops soon."*

## Stepping up support in Syria

While civil war rages in Syria, families are falling apart. When shells fell in front of his house, Amjad, aged 12, had to escape to safety. He said: *"I will never go back home. I used to hide on the kitchen floor, closing my ears with my fingers so I didn't hear the shelling and shooting. We were so scared."* Amjad is just one of the 1.5 million people made homeless in Syria. Thousands of people in Syria have fled to neighbouring states such as Jordan, leaving home without enough supplies or money to provide for their children. Two-thirds of refugee camp residents in Jordan are children. Through the SOS emergency relief programme, displaced families like Amjad's receive shelter, food, medical care and education. Children like him also receive psychological care to help come to terms with their trauma in 'child friendly' areas in refugee camps.



> *War in Syria has left countless children as refugees.*



# Safe homecoming in Somalia

Despite all the difficulties of operating in one of the world's most dangerous cities, SOS Children has maintained its presence in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, throughout the violent conflict. In 2011, when the SOS Children's Village found itself on the frontline of fighting, there was no option but to temporarily evacuate the community and nearby SOS hospital. After six months the rented temporary shelters also became too dangerous and the ten SOS families had to move again.

But the rebel retreat late in 2012 made the area around the SOS Children's Village accessible again. The Village had been ravaged by the fighting and occupied by soldiers and took two months to repair. After a turbulent 18 months away, the children were delighted to at last return to their family houses and school in December 2012.

> *An SOS mother and child return to their home in Mogadishu.*

## Birth of a new nursing scheme

Every day around 60 women die in Ethiopia from childbirth complications – deaths that could easily be prevented if more skilled health personnel were available. So SOS Children has set up a nursing and midwife scholarship programme in partnership with Johnson & Johnson. It is giving young people who have been supported by SOS Children the chance to pursue a career in nursing and midwifery. In October 2012, the first students arrived at the SOS nursing school in Makalle. Genet, 19, from SOS Children's Village Addis Ababa is a student on the course. She said: "SOS Children has been my family since I was two years old. I was keen to become a nurse and to help the community just as the charity has helped me." If successful, the pilot programme will be replicated in other African nations.

> *Scholarship students learn key life-saving skills.*





# Focus on food: The big picture

**From immediate emergency relief to family strengthening programmes that promote long-term food sustainability, in this issue we see how SOS Children tackles the challenges around food security to help families break out of the hunger trap and develop the means to feed themselves.**

**Some of the world's poorest countries have benefited from economic growth in recent decades. Yet millions remain trapped in poverty perpetuated by rising prices, conflict and climate change. Children, for instance, can't learn on an empty stomach, but without a good education, their chances of earning a living to feed the next generation are severely diminished. And in the worst-case scenarios, children are abandoned when parents cannot afford to feed them.**

*> Above, a small girl learns how food fits into life in the SOS family.*

# Combatting food poverty

Each day 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes – mostly from common illnesses that their weak bodies can't fight. About 850 million people are undernourished, while nearly one in three chronically hungry people will die early or develop disabilities. Here we highlight how SOS Children helps families to cope.

1. Emergency food relief	2. Promoting food sustainability	3. Nurturing healthy nutrition
<p>When starvation is an imminent threat, whether due to war, crop failure or natural disaster, we step in with emergency food relief to save lives and reduce suffering.</p> <p><b>Providing food vouchers</b> When food is scarce and price inflation high, we can negotiate deals with local stores to accept food vouchers in lieu of payment, an approach adopted in Somalia and Kenya. <i>"We have seen a tremendous rise in prices,"</i> said Ruth Okowa, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Kenya. <i>"But the price situation is so bad that we can only fix prices for two weeks then make a new agreement with the stores."</i></p>	<p>We ensure that short-term interventions are part of a long-term strategy that enables communities to become more self-reliant and able to meet their sustenance requirements.</p> <p><b>Supporting self-reliance</b> The 2004 tsunami hit local fishermen in Sri Lanka extremely hard, affecting their ability to support their families. So we helped local people to form a cooperative and provided boats, nets and fishing equipment. The group has evolved into a strong community-based organisation that is encouraging a saving culture and investing in assets that can be managed by local people for community benefit.</p>	<p>Tackling chronic undernourishment is the most effective investment to fight infant mortality, promote healthy development, keep children in education and improve life chances.</p> <p><b>Lessons in nutrition</b> SOS health workers educate mothers with advice on breastfeeding, prevention of sicknesses such as diarrhoea and how to feed children a balanced diet. Around the world, in places like Indonesia, where nearly one in every five children is underweight, we work with government agencies and local health centres to deliver nutrition workshops and practical lessons in preparing affordable healthy meals for children.</p>

## Managing home economics

With rising food costs SOS mothers worldwide need to continually review their weekly food budgets while still providing nutritious meals. One mother from SOS Children's Village Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso said:

***"Every week I buy rice, sugar, milk, oil, pasta and eggs, sometimes meat and fish, but the cost of maize and sugar have increased by 45%. Now I need more money for my weekly food basket and have had to make changes. The price of eggs has increased by 65% so the children now have them four times a month instead of eight times not so long ago."***

To prepare them, SOS mothers attend nutritional science and food budgeting classes as part of their two-year training programme. They are also encouraged to share food production, for example, by using household gardens to grow crops.

## Cultivating good food skills

Older children in SOS youth homes learn about a good diet and how to cook healthy meals so that they can cater for themselves when they leave our care. Many SOS vocational training centres go a step further. At Bagerhat in Bangladesh, for example, young men are learning how to fish, milk cows, feed goats, plan the yearly crop cycle and repair their own farming tools as part of a four-year farming skills programme. Student, Imatz, aged 22, who grew up in SOS Children's Village Bogra said:

***"I was a slow learner and didn't want to pursue further studies."***

Yet now he dreams of running his own dairy farm. Thus equipped, Imatz should always be able to provide food for his family in the future.

> *A student with the catch of the day.*



# Emergency food relief



**Although the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s drove the world to take action, food disasters have continued – costing hundreds of thousands of lives in Somalia, the Horn of Africa and now in the Sahel. Here we see how SOS emergency relief is delivering food aid while helping people escape the cycle of famine.**

## Starvation in the Sahel

With 17 million people – one million of them children – at risk of malnutrition, SOS Children launched an emergency appeal for the Sahel region in 2012. Drought, very low and erratic rainfall, poor harvests, lack of pasture and fast-rising food prices have combined with devastating effects in places like the Madaoua area in Niger, the world's second poorest country.

> *Above and below, people in Niger queue for emergency food aid.*

## Weathering the worst

*“Everything depends on the rains!” stresses Moussa Moudi, a local village chief. The previous year there was no harvest at all in the village. “We have gone through a bad time. We had to sell our livestock to buy grain at premium prices. Without money from villagers who work as migrant labourers in neighbouring countries such as Nigeria, we would have died,” he explains. Millet, the most important staple in Niger, is so expensive that many can barely support themselves. Hamissou Karaou, Director of SOS Children’s Villages Niger, says it is desperate: “Many people have got into so much debt that they cannot escape the hunger crisis.”*

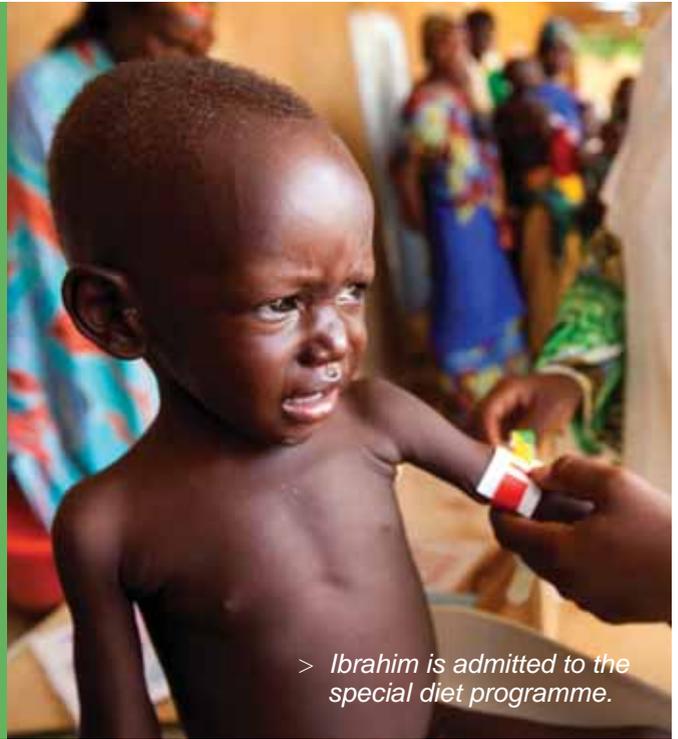
## Surviving the food shock

To survive, families are eating cheaper foods and fewer meals. But especially worrying is that some people are eating the crop seeds needed for planting in the next rainy season just to get through the leanest times. Rapidly rising cereal prices in local markets have put the cost of replacement seed even further out of reach. Added to this many families have sold the ploughs, spades and bicycles they need to cultivate the future crops. Thus, they become even more vulnerable.



## The impact on children

No group is more vulnerable than the under-fives. Dangerously underweight children like two-year-old Ibrahim are why SOS Children has extended its support in the region. As a last resort, his grandmother has brought him to a health clinic. When the SOS nurse checks, he weighs just 7.2kg – half what a child his age should weigh. The measuring tape she wraps around his weak arm confirms that he has serious malnutrition. His lower eyelids are white due to lack of a proper blood supply. He also has a hunger oedema on his foot and anaemia. The nurse puts a red tape round his little foot, signalling that he needs to be admitted immediately to the special diet programme. This will include treatment with medicines and food supplements including high-energy, protein intensive ‘plumpy nut’ and vitamins to deal with vitamin deficiency diseases.



> Ibrahim is admitted to the special diet programme.

## Our approach

Collaborating closely with local leaders to prioritise needs, the SOS emergency relief operation in the Madaoua area has focused on:

- Delivery of emergency food relief
- Strengthening families
- Providing life-saving medicines
- Monitoring long-term requirements.

We have extended the provision of food aid via our network of SOS Children's Villages and family strengthening programmes to support more of the most vulnerable children with monthly food packages and cover the worst shortfalls between harvests. For the most needy families, whose grain reserves are empty, emergency maize and millet have been a lifeline. Hamissou Karaou added:

***“SOS emergency relief food supplies have reached thousands of people so far, with over half going to children.”***

The aid also includes provision of drugs, special therapeutic foods such as peanut butter and cereal bars for malnourished children.

## Planning for the future

We have recommended practical measures that could improve food security in the area, including:

- New boreholes, wells and safe water supplies
- Better food storage facilities to cut food losses
- Supporting farmer households with fertilisers, seeds and plant care products.

## Investing in grain banks

To curb the uncertainty caused by food price instability, one initiative already underway is investment in grain banks. This will reduce the problems caused by large price fluctuations, by buying grain straight after harvest at a low price and storing it in grain banks.

If prices rise and famine returns, the villagers can buy grain and seeds from these banks at the reduced cost, ensuring that they can afford food and better weather the crisis during the most difficult times. If more measures like this can be successfully implemented, fewer children like Ibrahim will find themselves on the brink of starvation.



> A local boy carries food for his family.

# Promoting food sustainability

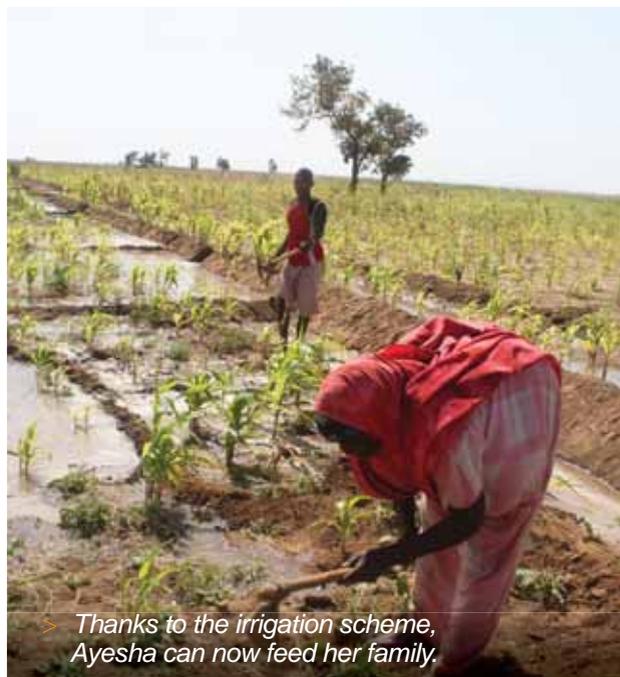
**Following on from emergency relief measures, the next step for SOS Children is to facilitate small-scale projects whereby local people can produce food for themselves and their communities in a more sustainable way – as illustrated by the people of Gode in eastern Ethiopia.**

## **Sowing the seeds of an idea**

The 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa had a disastrous effect on hundreds of thousands of people, including the residents of Gode, where there is an SOS Children's Village and family strengthening programme (FSP). Although the town is surrounded by hot, arid land, the nearby Shebelle river rarely runs dry. Here water is the most precious commodity, but getting water from the river is time-consuming and dangerous, with crocodiles never far away.

## **Channelling the right support**

Local residents knew that if the water could be transported from the river, the ground could be cultivated to grow crops, even during the dry seasons. So when 48 participants of the local FSP proposed an irrigation scheme, the SOS coordinator helped secure 30 hectares of land 2km from the river. The FSP funded five small pumps, farming tools, seed and fuel to pump the water up the steep riverbanks via man-made channels and into the fields to irrigate the plots. Two groups were formed to manage split planting phases so that there would always be a crop growing. In November 2011 the first seeds were sown, which by January 2012 had grown into shoulder-high maize plants.



> Thanks to the irrigation scheme, Ayesha can now feed her family.

## **Ayesha's turn for water**

Ayesha, a widow with eight children, had always found it difficult to feed her family. But as a member of the Gode irrigation scheme, she now has a maize plot and two dairy cows, selling any spare milk to buy food. Every 15 days a small generator pumps water from the river to give her plot a hefty soaking. With the materials provided by SOS Children and her colleagues working as a team, Ayesha should be able to maintain her plot for the foreseeable future. By building up her long-term food security, when the next drought comes, as it surely will, she will have food to keep her going.

## **Sustainability in action**

As with all FSP programmes, the ultimate aim is to enable families and communities to become self-reliant. The local people formed an irrigation committee that is now running the project day-to-day. FSP funds have been allocated to buy pump fuel until the villagers can buy it themselves. With sustainability at its core, the strategy demonstrates how, given the right tools, communities can begin to help themselves, even in the wake of a severe food crisis.



> In Gode, water is the most precious commodity.

> *Rahmo, 12, waits with her donkey to collect water for her mother Ardi, pictured below with four of her six children.*



# Donkey carts lead road to recovery

**At 4.30, beneath the scorching afternoon sun, the local water source from the Shebelle river near Gode town is crowded with children and donkey carts. Rahmo, 12, and her younger brother are there helping their mother, Ardi, by collecting a barrel of water for the family to use. Like Ardi, many people make a living by collecting and delivering water, but to do so they need transport, such as a donkey cart, which is highly versatile but expensive to buy.**

Mustafa Haji, Director of SOS Children's Village Gode, explains how an emergency has three distinct stages: the emergency, recovery and rehabilitation. Once Gode reached the recovery stage, donkey carts were funded to give the most vulnerable families in the local FSP a chance to generate some income. According to Mustafa, local people value a donkey cart more than any possession, even ahead

of a house or a latrine. Once they have an income, they can build the house and latrine.

Ardi, a divorcee, has sole responsibility for her six children aged 5 to 12. As one of the first recipients of a donkey cart, she can fetch water five times a day and sell it for a small profit. Rahmo and her younger brother attend school in the morning, when Ardi collects and sells the water herself, then after school Rahmo takes over. The income from water sales enables her to feed the donkey and a single cow, which provides milk for the family. The income also pays for necessities like feeding and educating her children. Ardi explains:

***“Before I had the donkey cart, I couldn’t buy school books for my children, but now that I have an income I can.”***

By enabling Rahmo and her siblings to go to school, Ardi is giving her children the education that will enhance their chances of escaping food poverty in the future.

# Nurturing healthy nutrition

**Hungry children, whose growth is stunted by poor diets, are less immune to illness, tend to start school later, if at all, drop out sooner and learn less when they do attend, locking families into systemic poverty. Here we report on work being done to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.**

## Lessons from Laos

Laos is still suffering the effects of the Indochina War. Unexploded bombs claim hundreds of innocent lives a year and 37% of the land is contaminated. This prevents access to agricultural land and puts major constraints on efforts to reduce poverty – keeping many Lao people poor, sick, uneducated and less employable. Consequently, the high child malnutrition rate is a key factor that perpetuates poverty.

## Intensive care

In 2011, SOS Children set up an intensive nutritional programme to treat severely malnourished children in the deprived area of Samneua. Two-year-old Thao weighed less than 8kg when he joined the programme. After first being treated for worms, Thao received a healthy balanced diet, vitamin supplements and vaccinations. He stayed for five months before returning to his family. Every three months he goes back to SOS Children's Village Samneua for a check-up. We also help his mother



> *Child malnutrition in Laos perpetuates the poverty cycle.*

to pay for healthy food and vitamin supplements. At his latest check-up, Thao was healthy and developing normally for his age.

## The value of health education

The SOS medical centre Samneua provides first aid, healthcare for pregnant women and vaccinations for young children. As well as workshops on healthy eating, cookery lessons and sanitary education for the parents of children like Thao, we teach families about practical, affordable steps they can take to prevent future malnutrition.

## Feeding an appetite for learning

When the drought in East Africa left two schools in Marsabit, Kenya unable to buy food to feed their students, SOS Children helped out with emergency rations. A girls' school with 420 pupils, and boys' school with 650 pupils, were both hit hard when the students' parents, mostly pastoralists who had lost their livestock, were unable to pay their fees. Both schools received enough food via our family strengthening programme to tide them over for a single term – just long enough to get their finances and food stocks back in order while the children continued their education.

Mr Njogi, Head Teacher of the boys' school, could rebuild the school food stocks, start to repay his debts and increase school attendance. "This programme is a big relief to us," he said. SOS Children also supplied his school with two 20,000-litre water tanks while the school constructed



> *School lunchtime in Kenya.*

guttering for rain to flow off the roofs into the tanks. With the tanks ready for the next rainy season, the children of Marsabit will once again have enough to eat and will not have to worry about their learning being interrupted.

# Food and fundraising

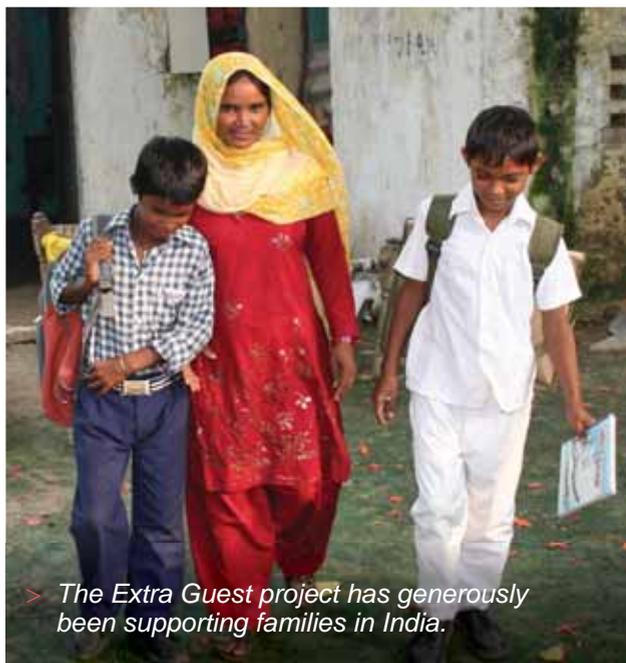
## A warm welcome to The Extra Guest

**The author, Moyra Irving, explains what inspired her and a group of friends to set up The Extra Guest charity and help to fill the empty bowl for children being supported by our family strengthening programmes at an SOS Children's Village in India.**

In 2009 I wrote a story about a dinner party when a small child holding an empty bowl appears and sits at the spare place setting. As the diners start to notice and greet the little stranger, the child smiles and slowly the bowl fills with gold coins. Everyone realises that something quite special is happening. This image inspired us to set up The Extra Guest charity and begin to 'fill the empty bowl'.

### Ethical dining

By promoting ethical dining we aim to make a difference for people living in poverty. At venues that have signed up, diners are invited to make a modest donation when they have a meal. The funds raised are then used to support end-hunger projects around the world. It's all about sharing our good fortune when we sit down to enjoy a meal and remembering The Extra Guest – anyone who has little or no access to food. That's why it is such a joy to support the family strengthening programme at



> *The Extra Guest project has generously been supporting families in India.*



> *Moyra Irving.*

SOS Children's Village Greenfields in Faridabad, where over 1,100 children from impoverished families who live in the local slums are benefitting.

### From diners to donors

We work mainly with restaurants and host special events, however, we would heartily encourage anyone to host a dinner party at home and donate. We are also seeking a major food company to sponsor us and maybe even create a special Extra Guest product. The concept has captured imaginations and it's been wonderful to see how, by donating a small amount, diners really can make a big difference.

### Get involved

**If, like Moyra, you'd like to get involved to support SOS Children's work in any way at all, you will be in good company and your efforts most gratefully appreciated.**

**For more details, please see:**

**[www.soschildren.org.uk/how-to-help](http://www.soschildren.org.uk/how-to-help)**

### Lunch for little ones

If you've been inspired by these food-related features, you might be interested in our new 'Lunch for little ones' fundraising drive. The idea is to encourage people to make a small donation when they buy lunch – whether at work, at your local cafe or anywhere where you regularly meet to eat. To collect donations you could place a secured collection box on the counter or, where electronic payments are made, set up a simple automated collection system. By donating a little when buying your own lunch, you could help SOS Children to feed even more hungry children.

To find out more please contact Caroline Cadman at: [caroline@soschildren.org](mailto:caroline@soschildren.org)



# Thanks to you

## Training at the cutting edge

**Shaping Futures is a new global social partnership between SOS Children and Schwarzkopf Professional which introduces young people from SOS Children's Villages across India to the craft, work opportunities and joy of hairdressing.**

Volunteer teams of hairdressers from UK Schwarzkopf partner salons are travelling to India to deliver intensive training courses to teach young people who have grown up in SOS communities the basics of hairdressing. After the training, local Schwarzkopf organisations offer follow-up apprenticeships and job placements. Each trainee also receives a start-up salon pack with scissors, combs, brushes, clips, capes, towels, a mirror and

water pump – all the basic tools needed to start making a living as a hairdresser.

One of the first UK teams to visit was from the Janet Maitland Hair Excellence group in Durham. Company Director, Janet, describes what happened on the team's trip to SOS Children's Village Chennai:

*"We had a fantastic time. We were there for three weeks working six days a week. We taught the young people to blow, wave, foil, apply hair colour and perform simple cuts as well as professional salon conduct.*

*Consequently, they really impressed their potential employers on the recruitment day with their new skills, so much so, that all 20 trainees in our group got a job in hairdressing. It was a fantastic result and it was fabulous to end the trip knowing that their future was in good hands. It really was the most fulfilling experience of my life."*

> Janet Maitland pictured above and below, leads an intensive training programme at SOS Children's Village Chennai.



# Matt's triple marathon effort

To mark his 40th birthday and raise valuable funds for SOS Children, our supporter, Matt Lewis, took part in the Jurassic Coast Challenge in Dorset on 22-24 March. Despite not having run a single marathon before, he committed to completing three marathons (78.6 miles) in just three days.

Matt already sponsors a young girl growing up in an SOS Children's Village in Bangladesh and said: "I wanted to support the charity which does some amazing work all around the world. This is probably the daftest thing I have ever done – and that's saying something as it's a very long list!"



> Matt Lewis takes fundraising in his stride.

## Supporters rally for World Orphan Week

**This year's World Orphan Week took place from 4-11 March to raise funds for children around the world growing up alone with no-one to care for them. A massive thanks to everyone who got involved to clock up miles towards our virtual trek from the UK to SOS Children's Village Chipata in Zambia. Your funds will help to change lives and enable vulnerable children to grown up with the love, care and security of a family.**

### Students put best feet forward

In early March ten members of the University of Manchester SOS Children supporter group took part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for World Orphan Week by walking a 26-mile route around Greater Manchester. Annalise Baker, Chair of the society, said: "We were shocked when we realised that one in every six children in the Chipata region is an orphan. That's why we felt that it was such a worthy cause."



> Students boost funds on sponsored walk.

### Sue gets in the swim

Sue Higginbotham had been volunteering at the SOS Children office for two years when a coffee morning to mark the opening of the new SOS Children's Village Chipata made a big impression on her:



*"I must have been especially open to new challenges that day because I somehow found myself offering to do a sponsored 100-mile swim for World Orphan Week," she said. "It was only when I got home that I realised quite how many lengths of my local pool it would be – 6440 in total. What's more, because I wasn't able to swim in December I had to complete 100 lengths most weekdays for about three months!"*

## A birthday invitation

In October 2012 SOS Children's Village Chipata in eastern Zambia opened amid much jubilation. Several donors from the UK joined us to see how their wonderful fundraising is making a difference. To mark Chipata's first anniversary in October 2013, we warmly invite you to join us there to witness the first year's progress. It is only with the help of our supporters that we have been able to achieve so much and be able to continue to do more.

If this is of interest, please email [meryl.davies@soschildren.org](mailto:meryl.davies@soschildren.org) for more details.



# Syria in crisis. Will you help?



In Syria families are falling apart. More than a million people have fled the violence – over half of them children.

SOS Children is still there providing desperately needed emergency shelter, medicine and food. Now and in the future, we will continue to support the children of Syria.

Please will you help?

Donate today at:

[www.soschildren.org.uk/syria-appeal](http://www.soschildren.org.uk/syria-appeal)

Thank you

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