

Annual Report 2022

Summary Version



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
UNITED KINGDOM

WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE EXIST

Front cover: Ukrainian children at the playground of SOS Children's Village Bucharest, Romania © Katerina Ilievska

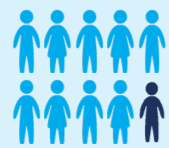


Cousins talking outside their house in Kenya © Jakob Fuhr



138
countries
worldwide

SOS Children's Villages UK is part of a global federation operating in 138 countries. Founded in 1949, SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental organisation focused on supporting children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. We exist to ensure that every child has the bonds they need to become their strongest selves.



1 in 10

Today, 1 in 10 children and young people around the world are separated from their families, neglected or forced to live in an abusive environment, growing up without the support they need to prepare themselves for their future. The effects of this often last a lifetime, creating a harmful cycle that repeats from one generation to the next.

Together, we are here to break this cycle and to prevent it from happening in the first place.

We go beyond the basic needs, focusing on the trust and warmth of strong human connections, to ensure every child has what they need to thrive and not just survive.

Children and young people need genuine, healthy relationships and connections with others to develop. We believe that a child who feels safe, loved and respected has the power to change the world.

As a child, you need someone who truly sees you – who stands by you no matter what. Someone who holds you close when you are small and believes in you when you are ready to step into the world.

Helping children grow into their strongest selves

Each child is unique – they have their own needs, come from different circumstances, and possess an individual potential for impacting the world. This understanding is at the heart of everything we do. We work with each child so their voice is heard and they have a say in the care and support they receive.

The relationships and connections we form with others during childhood play a crucial role in shaping who we become, helping us develop trust, confidence and key life skills that we carry with us into adulthood.

For children and young people who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care, growing up often becomes about survival rather than play and learning.

Working with children, families and communities, we strive to ensure that each child and young person grows up in a caring, nurturing and positive environment that supports their development. This means that they can thrive and positively contribute to their community and own family, now and in the future.

We ensure children and young people have the bonds they need by preventing families from breaking down, protecting children, and advocating for children and young people. We empower individual children, young people and families, and develop a range of quality programmes and services suited to their individual needs and local contexts. We work in four main areas:



Strengthening families



Caring for children



Youth employability and education



Protecting children in emergencies

**We see
each child,
no matter
what the
circumstances.**



A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022, we raised a total of £8.44m (£7.85m in 2021) from our generous supporters. Money was raised from UK donors through public donations, legacies, sponsorships, community fundraising efforts, charitable trusts and foundations, and voluntary income from corporate partnerships. As well as money from individual sponsors and donors, we received sizeable funding from Standard Chartered Foundation, M&G plc, Claire's, Mars Ireland and FactSet. We also received funding from a number of other partnerships, and trusts and foundations, including PDFoundation.

These funds enabled us to support children, young people and families, by providing quality family-like care; helping prevent family breakdown; protecting children and families in emergencies; and empowering young people through youth education, skills training and mentoring.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of all our donors. See the breakdown of our finances and about those who fund our work on pages 10 and 11.

[A full Annual Report 2022, which includes audited financial statements, is available on our website.](#)



Two sisters holding their brother up while he rides his bike in Bangladesh © Alea Horst

Progress towards our objectives in 2022



In 2022, we began working towards a new three-year strategic framework (2022-2024). We made the following progress against the goals we set for ourselves in support of our charitable purpose. More stories from our work can be found on pages 8 and 9.

1

Continue to support children who have lost parental care and families at risk of breakdown, with a focus on education and employability programmes for young people; supporting families with livelihoods and resilience related programmes; and amplifying our impact by increasing the number of children, families and communities we support.

In 2022, we supported children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it, in 112 countries around the world.

Through our family strengthening work, we supported families at risk of breakdown including through economic empowerment and help with livelihoods; assistance with children's mental and physical health; and help with children's education. We worked with families in this way on specific projects in eight countries - France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, India, Zambia and Sri Lanka, where we provided additional support in response to the economic crisis. We also helped to strengthen families in numerous other places we are present, as an integral part of our work in village communities.

As a core aspect of our work, we provided alternative, family-like care for children in 108 countries, with over 7,500 donors directly supporting over 4,500 children in 302 locations through our sponsorship programme (in 2021, 7,200 donors supported over 4,700 children in 287 locations). In line with our fundraising strategy, we did not actively promote sponsorship in 2022, and therefore had fewer sponsorships than in previous years. However, we increased the number of other individual donors, bringing in around 4,000 new supporters who provided regular non-sponsorship donations (in 2021, we brought on board 3,300 new regular supporters). These valuable funds are used to provide support across SOS Children's Villages' different programmes.

We also received over £1.85m in legacies donations, a large portion of which was for Mozambique, and another sizeable amount for programmes in four districts of India, which will support over 5,000 children and young people.

Thanks to corporate partnerships and other support, we continued to provide young people in 14 different countries with quality skills training, mentoring and education, to help them gain employment or set up their own businesses.

Through our partnership with M&G plc we directly impacted over 44,500 people, empowering families and providing young people with the skills they need for a successful future. Our Youth Employability and Training programme in Basse, The Gambia, developed skills and opportunities for 339 young people in 2022, with an aim of reaching over 1,000 throughout the course of the programme.

We continued our partnership with Standard Chartered Foundation, as part of their Futuremakers initiative, in 2022 providing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for 1,039 young people in Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka, Jordan, the Philippines, South Africa and Mauritius. Through YouthCan!, a global initiative from SOS Children's Villages to empower young people through skills training, mentorship and work experiences, we provided employability training for young people in India and the Philippines. We also delivered oral health education in Botswana, and HIV and AIDS Awareness and Prevention education in Tanzania, reaching 2,000 young people.

Through our Ukraine Emergency Appeal, and responses to other crises such as the extreme flooding in Pakistan and humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, we raised £552k to help protect and care for children and families at risk when impacted by war, natural disasters and other emergencies. This year, we launched our new Emergencies Fund to enable us to respond more effectively and provide immediate, as well as ongoing assistance, to children and families when disaster strikes.

2

Continue to support children and young people in the village communities of Basse, The Gambia and Chipata, Zambia, together with vulnerable families in the region, working with our partners to identify changing community requirements, adapt services and programmes accordingly and identify and strive to close gaps with respect to the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care.

Throughout 2022, we continued our long-term support for children, young people and families in Basse, The Gambia and Chipata, Zambia. We enabled the provision of tailored, family-like care for 221 children (233 children in 2021) and supported other children and families by delivering health and education solutions, and helping families stay together, reaching a total of 1,756 people in these two locations in 2022.

Providing a total of £323.6k (£278k in 2021) in funding to these two communities, we reconfirmed our commitment to long-term engagement and sustainability of programmes in both locations. This year, we focused on supporting our colleagues in The Gambia and Zambia to strengthen the way these programmes operate and continue to improve the quality of care.

In The Gambia, we worked with our Gambian SOS Children's Villages colleagues to conduct a strengthened needs assessment and 'gatekeeping' process - reviewing and tailoring the care we are providing to each child and young person to ensure we are fully meeting their individual requirements. We ensure that children are kept at the heart of the conversation. For some, this has meant that care can be more appropriately provided in the community within family structures that are better suited to their changing needs and environment. In both locations, we have seen challenges around an increased need for services, combined with pressure on resources. Our focus has therefore been on how we can spend funding in an increasingly sustainable way in a tightening economic environment. In Zambia in particular, we are working closely with the Zambian team to assess the impact of financial management challenges on the work they are delivering and the care they are providing to children and families going forward.

3

In line with renewed emphasis within the SOS Children's Villages Federation, work with our partners at SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia and SOS Children's Villages in Zambia to strengthen approaches to the safeguarding of children, young people and staff.

This year we worked with our SOS Children's Villages colleagues in both The Gambia and Zambia to support the transition towards an improved culture and processes for keeping the children, young people, caregivers and staff we work with safe. We supported the teams in these countries to engage with the broader changes happening at federation level, working especially on strengthening management and connecting with the wider federation structures.

In Zambia, we worked to improve safeguarding reporting, ensuring the structures and processes are in place so that people are empowered and comfortable to come forward and report any safeguarding concerns they have, and they know how to do so.

4

Sustain further investment in our fundraising operation, in order to sustainably increase the support we can provide to SOS Children's Villages' programmes in the future and to ensure we deepen our existing relationships, with the aim of increasing our unrestricted income to 40% of our total income.

Despite the economic challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis and Ukraine war in 2022, we sustained investment in our fundraising, exceeding our income generation targets in all areas (128% over planned budget). With continued support from our SOS Children's Villages sister organisation, Herman Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD), we continued to invest in developing stronger systems and processes, and in diversifying our income - building new partnerships and donor relationships. In particular, we introduced a new CRM and finance system, which we will be able to leverage in 2023 to strengthen our fundraising operations further.

At the end of 2022, unrestricted income was 40% of total income. Flexible, unrestricted income that is not specifically earmarked for one particular purpose is vital to enable us to commit sustainable support to SOS Children's Villages' global programmes, and ensure funds are used where they are most needed. Developing our fundraising capacity and increasing our income, particularly unrestricted funds, means we can ensure more children and young people grow up feeling safe, loved and respected and have the bonds they need to thrive.



Three girls from Ukraine posing with their foster father, Karlino. © Katerina Ilievska



Ayomi Kumari and her daughters in Sri Lanka © Pearl Sandhu

Keeping a mother and her children together

Ayomi, a determined 37-year-old mother of three from a small village in Sri Lanka, faced a future filled with challenges when the economic crisis that followed the pandemic struck her family. With a husband who didn't work and an unstable tailoring business, Ayomi struggled to provide for her children and make ends meet.

As the crisis worsened, Ayomi's tailoring business dried up, and her husband's addiction to liquor and often abusive behaviour added to the family's troubles. Unable to cope, Ayomi was advised to hand over her children to the government. That's when SOS Children's Villages in Sri Lanka stepped in. The Family Strengthening Programme helped cover the family's rent and supported the education of Ayomi's two older children. Despite her challenges, Ayomi found a job in a garment factory, and began bringing in a small salary.

"I am here, in this position today because of SOS [Children's Villages]. If not, I was honestly fed up with life. I was advised to hand over my children to probation."

- Ayomi

Dedication to career success

Although he faced financial adversity, Mohd Azam never relinquished his dream of becoming a safety officer. The YouthCan! programme in India, supported by SOS Children's Villages UK, financed his diploma in Fire, Construction, and Industrial Safety. This meant Azam could focus on his studies and gain practical experience through internships. After earning his diploma, Azam's effort paid off, landing him a job as a Safety Officer with a company in Hyderabad. His dedication and hard work made him an asset to his company, who recognised his commitment and quickly promoted him. Azam's journey demonstrates that with determination, and the right support, anyone can achieve their dreams.



Siblings Naol* & Beki* hugging, Ethiopia © Abeba Tiemelisan

Fostering a nurturing bond between siblings in care

Naol* and Beki*, are a pair of incredibly resilient twins from SOS Children's Village Jimma in Ethiopia. After the twins' biological mother passed away, their father was unable to care for them, and they were brought to the SOS Children's Village to live with Bizunesh.

"I have a very special love for both of these children. They were only 17 days old when they came to me." Bizunesh reminisces. She firmly believes that keeping the siblings together has been crucial for their well-being and has fostered strong bonds between them. "Living together has helped their emotional and physical development in many ways. They feel stable and happy in their life," she explains.

Naol and Beki are in touch with their biological father, and know him well – speaking with him on the phone and visiting him in the summer holidays. They will go and live with him permanently when he is ready to raise them.

**Names changed to protect the privacy of the children.*

Valentyna's journey

Valentyna, a devoted mother of nine children – including seven foster children – faced the daunting challenge of adjusting to a new life in SOS Children's Village Biłgoraj, Poland after fleeing the war in Ukraine. With the support of SOS Children's Villages, the family gradually settled into their new surroundings, with the children not only excelling in school but also embracing the Polish language.

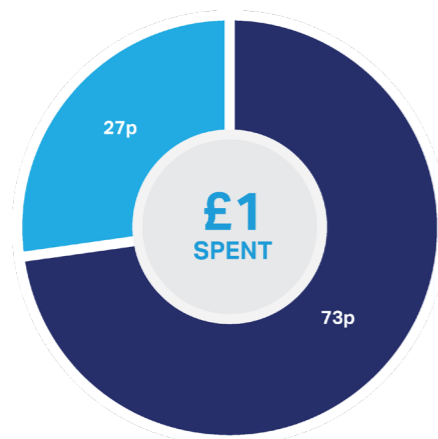
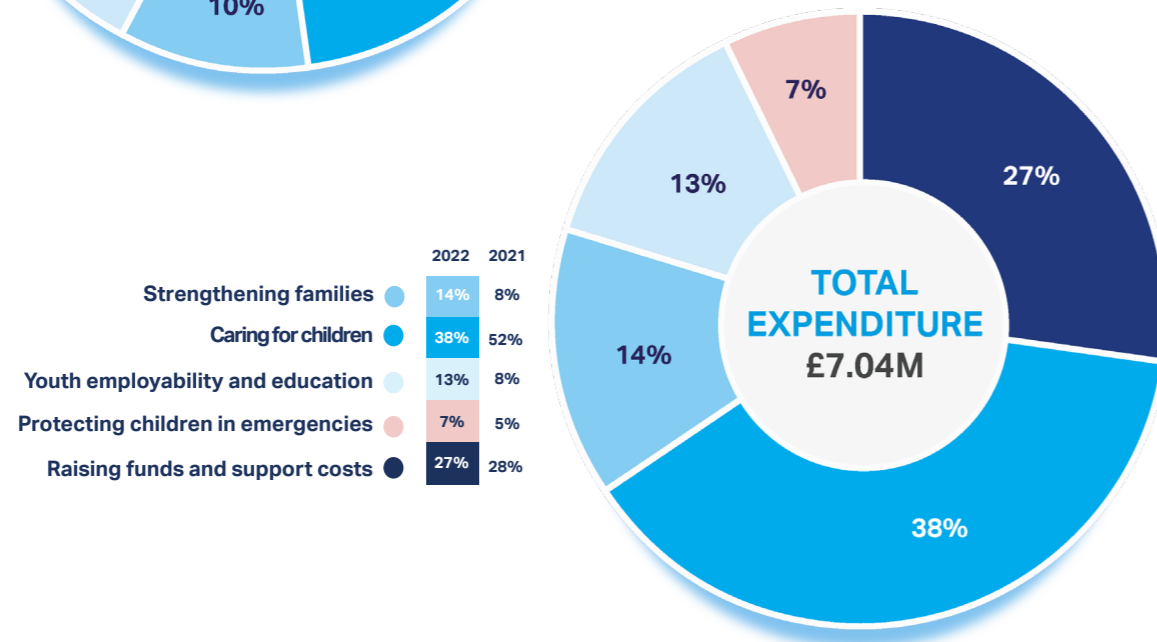
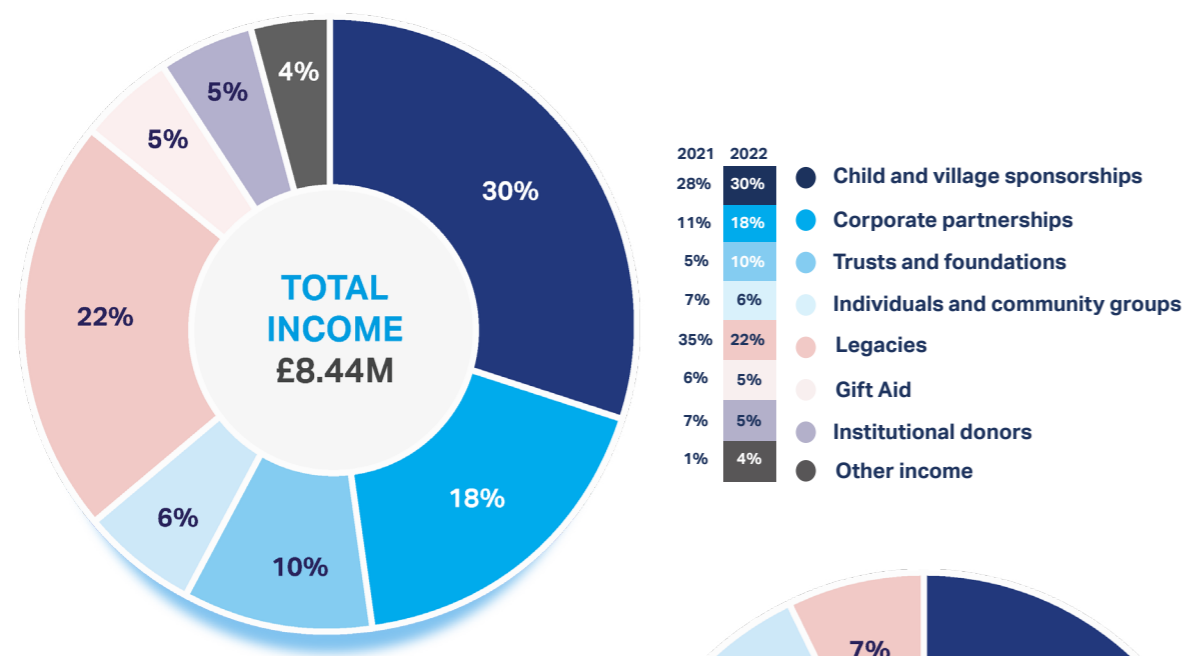
In the early days, Valentyna grappled with depression, feeling overwhelmed by her children's problems, and struggling to adapt to the new environment. However, she discovered solace in creative outlets, such as drawing and crafting, which helped her find peace and regain her strength.

As the family started to engage with local events and share their rich Ukrainian heritage with their new community, they experienced a growing sense of connection and belonging. The assistance from SOS Children's Villages played a vital role in their adjustment, providing a supportive environment for Valentyna and her family to heal and grow.



Valentyna and her daughters being creative in Poland © Katerina Ilievska

FINANCIAL REVIEW



How we spent your money

- 73p: Activities to support children, families and young people.
- 27p: Raising funds and support costs

Governance and support costs have been apportioned across charitable activities, and raising funds and support.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

- Ali Family
- Andy Bond
- Cambridge University Press & Assessment
- CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust
- Christopher Keljik OBE
- Claire's
- Cleveland Technologies Group
- Evan Cornish Foundation
- FactSet
- From Babies with Love
- Geoff Herrington Foundation
- Lighthouse Giving
- Lines & Current
- M&G plc
- Mars Ireland
- Mary, Alex and Louisa Scott, in memory of Robert Scott
- Michael Hewitt in memory of Professor Lis Mosekilde
- Nash Squared
- PDFoundation
- Pinsent Masons
- QBE Foundation
- SOS Pakistan Supporters' Group UK
- Standard Chartered Foundation
- Subsea 7
- The Harrison-Frank Family Foundation
- TransferRoom

A big **Thank You** to all our supporters and partners, including those who wish to remain anonymous, for their generosity and commitment to our programmes.

The kindness, dedication and support shown by supporters – in what was another turbulent and difficult year for everyone – was truly inspiring and we are immensely grateful for it. All donations help us to make a difference and ensure that children everywhere can develop the bonds they need to thrive and grow up feeling safe, loved and respected.

We also wish to extend a warm Thank You to those who have raised awareness of our work and who have fundraised by taking part in challenges, quizzes and other activities.

We especially want to remember and acknowledge all those far-sighted supporters who kindly gave and fundraised In Memoriam of a loved one and who left a gift to the work of SOS Children's Villages UK in their Will. Their legacy continues to make a lasting impact to the lives of children, their families and communities. Thank you all for your kind support.



No child should grow up alone

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**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

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