

# Akelius Foundation Report 2015–2020

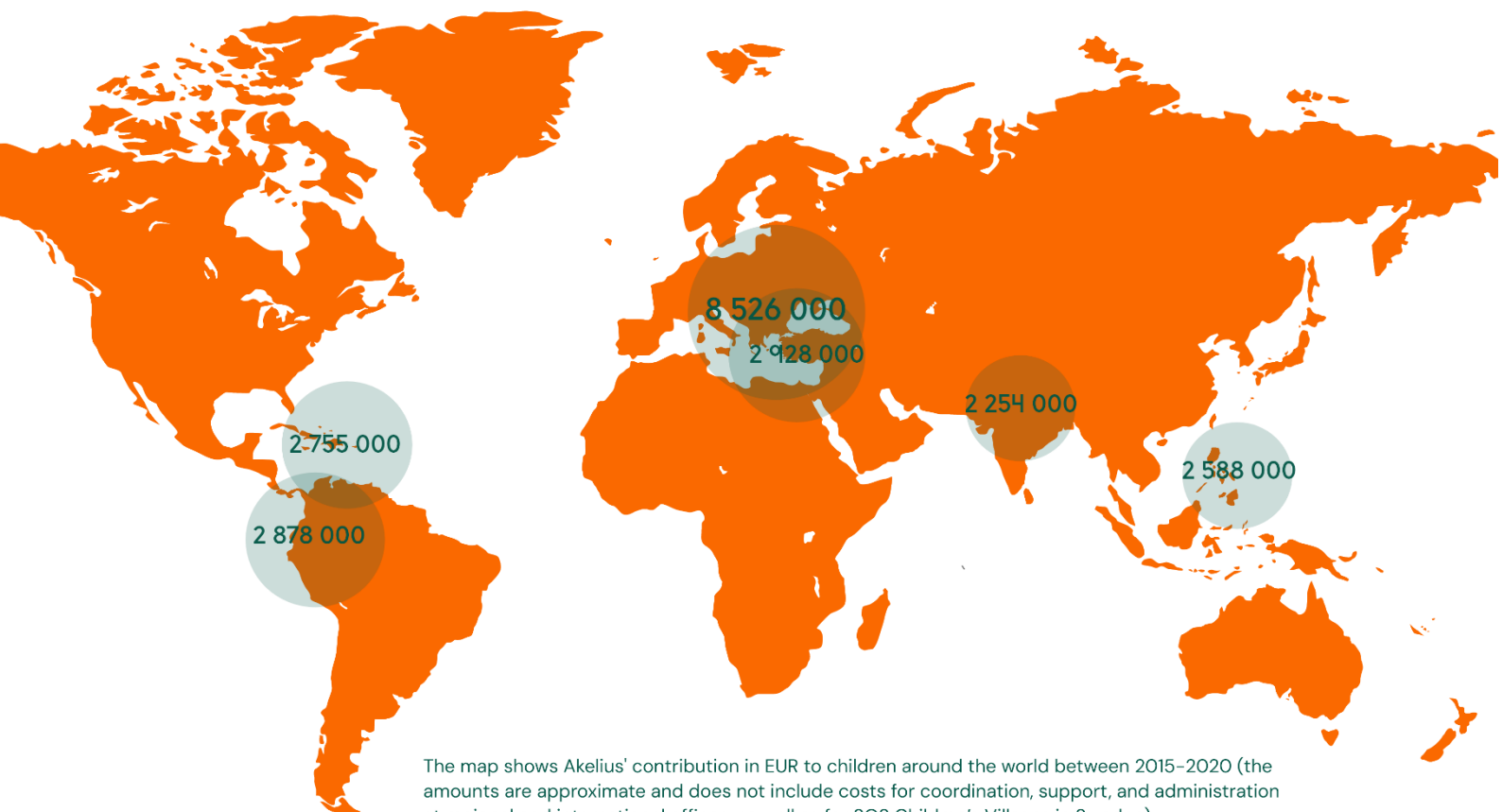


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# Thanks to Akelius Foundation

**888** Children and Youths without parental care grew up in a safe and caring home

**13 600** Children and Youths recieved formal and/or informal educational support

**1 000 000**  
More than emergency services were provided, such as food and non-food items, baby kits, ICT services, water, psychosocial support in child friendly spaces, and accommodations for unaccompanied minors.

## Emergency response program Refugee Crisis

The conflicts and violence in Syria and other regions caused large-scale displacement. In 2015 and early 2016, nearly 1.2 million refugees and migrants reached Europe, fleeing conflict and persecution, with many losing their lives at sea.

In 2016, 2017 and 2020, the Akelius Foundation's donation enabled SOS Children's Villages to support tens of thousands of refugees and migrant children in eleven countries. After the peak in 2015, the closure of Balkan borders made travel more dangerous, stranding many refugees in less prepared countries. Children faced severe risks, including sickness, violence and trafficking through the dangerous route to Europe across the Mediterranean to Italy. In 2016, 81,000 children reached Europe, with 1 in 4 arrivals in early 2017 being children. Furthermore, the covid-19 pandemic put programs in need of adjusting their operation to manage provide support under the challenging condition.

## Syria

In March 2016 the war in Syria entered its sixth year. 14.9 million people in Syria were in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.3 million internally displaced people. The conflict had killed over 316,000 people, including 86,000 civilians. Protection concerns was widespread. Access to food and clean water was high priorities, as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas that were under prolonged and ongoing siege were particularly high as access was obstructed.

In Aleppo, SOS Children's Village's programs for children were suspended in April 2016 for safety reasons, with 24 children transferred to Damascus. Emergency relief increased after fighting escalated in July 2016, and activities restarted in December 2016 when security improved. In 2016, 18,000 people received daily meals, 1,100 food kits and 15,000 fruit kits were distributed monthly, 700 families received drinking water, and 10 water containers were installed for 5,000 people. Health services included medical care for 1,213 individuals, health training for 1,858 women, and distribution of 1,110 hygiene kits, 8,900 baby milk cans, and 100 baby kits. Education support was provided to 792 displaced children, and 200 stationery bags were distributed. In 2017, 25,000 people received daily meals until June, 61,000 bags of fruit and 5,271 food parcels were distributed until May. Medical services were provided to 640 mothers and children monthly, and 12,500 hygiene kits and 3,000 baby kits were distributed. The program also provided water from a well at the SOS Children's Village's warehouse in Aleppo and a re-filling of water tankers reached 8,000 people every day. Winter supplies were provided to 2,400 families, and a second child-friendly space was established in August 2017, supporting over 3,500 children.

Two of the Interim Alternative Care Centers in Damascus continued their operation throughout 2017. 84 children were living at the Sabourah Interim Alternative Centre and 54 new children were admitted in the center throughout 2017. 174 children became reunited with their families and 33 got referred to the Sabourah SOS Children's Villages for long-term alternative care. 61 children got enrolled in school and supported by the SOS education department.

In total, 231 children got supported at Qura Al-Assad Alternative Care Centre since December 2014, with children staying there for an average of 283 days; 115 children became reunited with their families and 2 have been referred to the Sabourah SOS Children's Villages for long-term alternative care. 9 children have been enrolled in school and supported by the SOS education department of the Qura Centre. 255 children also benefited from medical referral program to provide urgent surgery and other specialized care.

An anti-child labor program operated by SOS Children's Villages Syria helped 725 children during 2016 and 2017 return to school by preventing child labor and provided financial support to families in exchange of sending their children back to school. The project also provided 48 parents with literacy classes.

## Lebanon

The Lebanese government continued to insist that the presence of refugees from Syria was temporary, despite the absence of any guarantee or prospects for their return to their homeland. Little did change for the refugee population in Lebanon 2016 during the reporting period and 40% of Syrian refugees continued to live in unfinished buildings, empty stores and parking lots. According to UNHCR around 50% of the Syrian refugees in 2017 were between the ages of 0 and 17 years.

The emergency activities focused on alternative care for extremely vulnerable children. The Interim Alternative Care Centre in Kenshara provided a safe space, protecting children from neglect, abuse, and exploitation. Case workers addressed the issues that brought children to the centre, working with families to improve their situations through

various supports, including food and non-food kits, parenting and vocational skills, rental support, and psychological preparation for reunification. If no family members were found, SOS sought long-term shelters like SOS Children's Villages. Over 130 children were admitted from 2014 to 2017, with more than 40 children benefiting monthly from interim care, day care, and informal education. The center closed in December 2017, with many children reunited with their families. The remaining 27 children moved to SOS Children's Village Sferai, where they could stay together and grow up as a family.

In 2017, SOS Children's Villages expanded its emergency operations in Lebanon with a family support project in Bekaa, aiming to improve well-being and provide support to Lebanese and Syrian beneficiaries. The project reached 393 individuals, including 306 children and adults and 87 caregivers. Activities included identifying and registering 96 families, providing transportation, food, vaccination, psycho-social support, and awareness sessions on hygiene, dental care, smoking, debt management, and money saving. A micro project 'Soap' involved 20 women as part of the Life skills component in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Activities also included rehabilitation for five houses in coordination with Habitat for Humanity.

## Greece

In 2016, Greece saw 176,906 new arrivals, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, and Nigeria, with 59% being women and children. Over 62,000 people lived in camps, including 2,300 unaccompanied minors. By December 2016, the Greek Minister of Migration Policy announced that by January 2017, all refugees would be housed in either homes or containers instead of tents, and food distribution would be replaced with financial support to allow refugees to choose their own food. Despite these changes, tensions and violent incidents continued due to the uncertainty of their situation.

In 2016, SOS Children's Villages expanded its services in refugee camps in Lesbos, Athens, and Thessaloniki, focusing on shelters for unaccompanied minors and providing accommodation, psychological support, legal assistance, pedagogical services, recreational activities, language lessons, and social services for children and youth aged 4-18. The accommodation for unaccompanied minors hosted up to 51 children and youth during the operation. From the start of the emergency program 103 minors benefited from it in total. Some activities also supported young women and adults in their asylum applications. In 2017, family strengthening activities were conducted in camps and hotspots in Attica, Thessaloniki, and Lesvos included recreational activities, psychological support, sports training, and language lessons in English, Greek, and Arabic. Shelters for unaccompanied children in Thessaloniki and Serres continued, with a new shelter opening in Athens, hosting 73 children and youth, and benefiting 240 children since the beginning.

The Double-up Christmas campaign in 2020 supported 3,664 beneficiaries, including 3,045 children, with 2258 children in the KaraTepe camp and 609 through Family Strengthening Programs. The emergency response program supported vulnerable refugees and migrants in locations such as Athens, Thessaloniki, Crete and Ioannina. These programs provided educational and psychosocial support, day-care centers for younger children, adapted education for children with intellectual disabilities and provision of food and non-food items. Women empowerment workshops was held in

Athens and helped refugee and migrant women from Syria, Afghanistan, Congo and Cameroun with skills like sewing and support in entering the labor market.

The covid-19 pandemic forced changes in educational activities, but innovative approaches kept children and families engaged. Equal access to education was ensured through tailored support plans including language lessons, digital skills training and recreational activities. Lastly, 172 professionals received training to better support the refugee and migrant population.

## Macedonia

After the border closure on March 8, 2016, refugees and migrants in Macedonia's Transit Centers in Tabanovce and Vinograd made it their permanent shelters. By December 2016, there were about 260 registered refugees and migrants, including 120 children. Smuggling and trafficking increased after the border closure, leading to a 63% decrease in accommodated refugees and asylum seekers in Macedonia in 2017 compared to 2016, as many were returned to Greece due to closed borders and police interventions.

In 2016, the SOS Children's Villages program in Macedonia exceeded its goals by providing essential support to refugee children and families in and outside of Transit Centers. They offered child protection, psychological and educational support, and distributed 90,000 food items and over 50,000 non-food items. Free internet access and charging stations were provided, crucial for communication and information access. The program focused on two Transit Centers near the borders to Serbia and Greece, offering psycho-social support, safe nutrition, and various activities. They delivered 84,754 services to 233 beneficiaries, including 18,805 services at Child Friendly Spaces, 37,118 ICT services, and 28,831 food packages and other essential items, ensuring safe and adequate nutrition for children and their caregivers, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women.

## Hungary

Following a strong anti-refugee campaign by the Hungarian government, a referendum on the refugee quota was held but declared invalid due to low voter turnout, despite 98% voting against accepting refugees.

The emergency response primarily focused on shelters for unaccompanied and separated minors. The SOS Mobile Team operated in Fót and Budapest, providing support in children's homes for unaccompanied minors, and in Bicske, assisting refugee families at the reception center. Additionally, a Crisis Team was stationed at the Serbian border near Szeged, covering two border stations: Röszke and Tompa.

Activities at the centers included individual and group counseling for unaccompanied minors, medical check-ups, Hungarian language classes, and intercultural mediation services, such as resolving conflicts in children's homes. The Bicske reception center also featured a Child Friendly Space, and various integration activities were conducted to support the refugees.

## Serbia

In 2016, Hungary reduced asylum admissions from 100 to 50 per week, because of changes in Hungarian immigration laws, causing a rise in refugees at Serbia's borders. This increased the vulnerability of refugees, including unaccompanied children, to exploitation and trafficking. By September 2017, Serbia had 4,250 refugees and asylum seekers, with 92% in 18 government centers and 41% being children. Efforts were needed as no organization worked with refugee children in the country during this time.

SOS Children's Villages expanded in Serbia to support refugee children, creating ten safe spaces and distributing 350,000 items of food, water, clothes, and hygiene products, including 132,000 warm meals. They provided free internet and charging stations in seven locations, with 250,000 Wi-Fi connections and 3,000 users in five internet spaces. Over 6,500 services were offered through educational and recreational activities, and support was given to local municipalities. By 2017, they assisted 70% of children in refugee centers, working in 12 out of 18 centers, with a permanent presence in eight. A Child Protection team identified vulnerable children and investigated 150 cases of abuse. The program distributed 480,000 items of essentials and 5,380 warm meals, clothes and hygiene articles, provided internet and computer classes in 12 locations. A Super Bus team delivered nearly 6,000 services, including informal education for children aged 9 and 10.

Due to implementation challenges, SOS Serbia used unspent funds in 2020 and 2021 to support refugee children and families integrating in Serbia. By March 31, 2020, the Emergency Response Project had supported 1,203 unique beneficiaries (children, youth, parents) in transit through Serbia, providing 48,125 services through one Child Friendly Space, three Youth Corners/ICT Corners, one Educative Centre, and Child Protection activities in refugee camps at Adasevci, Sid, and Obrenovac.

## Italy

Italy is the main entry point for refugees in Europe, with a significant increase in unaccompanied and separated children in 2016. Among the arrivals alarmingly high rates of persons with specific needs was reported – survivors of sexual and gender based violence, detention, severe physical maltreatment, and torture. In 2017, 119,369 people arrived by sea, with 98% of the children being unaccompanied. This situation strained Italy's reception capacity, prompting the government to plan for immediate needs and integration.

SOS Italy supported 115 unaccompanied minors and 60 local youths at risk of social exclusion in Crotona, Calabria, and launched a trauma healing program in Poci, Siena. Legal support, language classes, and recreational activities were provided to promote integration. The program expanded to reach 250 unaccompanied children in Calabria, offering educational workshops, life skills labs, legal counseling, vocational training, and summer camps. Over 110 staff were trained in psychological first aid and stress management. The program was recognized by UNHCR Italy, and SOS Italy joined the Permanent Territorial Commission for Immigration.

During 2020, a pilot was run in Italy recognizing the importance of addressing psychosocial needs of children with exposure to loss, trauma and other adversity

experiences, including the loss of parental care, neglect, extreme poverty and conflict. SOS Children's Villages set-up a virtual support network and a Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support Global Hub that supported children and their families strengthen its mental health by several psychosocial support activities. During the year, 36 staff improved their capacity in mental and psychosocial health to support beneficiaries.

## **Bulgaria**

From January 2016, around 2,300 children passed through the reception centers of the State Agency for Refugees, double the number from 2015. Unaccompanied children were placed in restricted areas with limited opportunities for development, leading to further exclusion and re-traumatization. The National Ombudsman highlighted these issues, stressing the need for child-friendly facilities.

In early 2017 SOS Children's Villages in Bulgaria supported over 1,036 refugees in Sofia, providing 504 packages of infant formula, 100 food packages, winter clothes and shoes for 200 people. SOS Bulgaria also provided financial support to the municipality to supply food and clothes to children, distributing these necessities to 334 children and youth.

## **Armenia**

As a result of the conflict in Syria, 30,000 displaced Syrian-Armenians migrated to Armenia. Some of them later moved on to other countries but the majority aimed to make a life for themselves in Armenia. Related to the size of population Armenia were hosting very high number of refugees (2,5 million of population related to 22,000 refugees from Syria since the beginning of the war in 2011). Humanitarian needs of refugees in Armenia was widespread and included life-saving support upon their immediate arrival as well as support to integrate them into the society.

The emergency program targeted 300 children from 150 families in Yerevan, providing food and nutrition, psychological support, hygiene kits, clothes, temporary rent support, educational assistance, and vocational training. Educational assistance, school materials, vocational training, and legal support to facilitate integration were also provided. The program later on reached 568 beneficiaries with services including rent and utility support, food, medical care, psychotherapy, education, and vocational training, totaling 3,705 services.

## **Colombia**

Due to political, economic and social crisis in Venezuela, approximately 420 000 Venezuelan migrant children and adolescents fled the country to Colombia and were at risk of social exclusion. To address this, the Double up Christmas campaign in 2020 created and adapted 16 community learning spaces equipped with new pedagogical materials. These spaces featured learning corners focusing on communication and language, mathematics, emotional-skills and protection. A total of 1,270 children aged 6 to 17 participated in the non-formal education program described above which also included Covid-19 adaption in both remote activities and in face to face ones. As a result, 46% of the children progressed in communication and language skills, 56% in mathematical logical thinking and 41% in emotional capacities. Additionally, 393 children



transitioned into the formal education system. 551 parents and caregivers were actively participating in the program, with the aim to support the social, physical, cognitive and academic development of both Venezuelan migrant children and adolescents in Colombia.

Finally, thanks to the Double-up Christmas campaign, social mobilization efforts for inclusion and child protection involved 64 community agents (adolescents and young people) where they got to develop learning and leadership skills, reducing their risks of involvement in criminal activities.

## Ukraine

Ukraine has faced an unstable political situation for several years, with over 100,000 children living in institutions separated from their families. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 exacerbated these challenges, adding health concerns to the existing political, economic, and social issues. The Family Strengthening Programme and Emergency Response Programme in Luhansk provided family-based care and preventive social interventions. As the conflict has been going on for many years, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine increasingly integrated the emergency response into the long-term actions, with the focus on meeting basic material needs as well as psychosocial support for families economically and mentally affected by the conflict to ensure that families can stay intact.

The pandemic consequently made many boarding schools and institutions close due to restrictions and children were returned to their homes. In the Luhansk region 1,497 children were returned to their families in the spring of 2020 and of all these children, at least 30 % had not seen their parents in more than a year. SOS Ukraine therefore launched a reintegration project in the Luhansk region where 108 children from 60 families were monitored to ensure that children received adequate care. All the families were instructed concerning the dangers of institutional care for children, and all family visits were carried out together with state partners. 14 families including 36 children were taken under reintegration support. These families received necessary support so that they could take care of their children and were provided with beds for children, tables, chairs, lamps, shoes and other supplies according to individual needs, and a psychologist and social pedagogue provided the families with counselling.

In Stanitsa Luhanska, the SOS Children's Villages programme offered speech therapy for up to 40 children monthly, along with consultations for local educators. Family strengthening programmes in Kiev and Brovary provided emergency support during the pandemic, including food packages, hygiene kits, laptops, and medicines. These programmes also offered psychological, socio-pedagogical, educational, healthcare, and economic empowerment support, ensuring no children in supported families were placed in institutional care. All in total, 1,342 children in 607 families got supported through the family strengthening programmes where 66% of the families leaving the program being self-reliant.

## Regional and international office

In 2016, delays in recruitment and spending led to the planning of external consultancies and short-term employments for 2017, focusing on security, safety, and emergency preparedness. The International and Regional offices by time got fully staffed with

advisors and consultants who supported daily operations, training, capacity building, and coordination. They also managed disaster preparedness activities and organized trauma healing and stress management trainings for local staff to better support refugees

**Financial report – Emergency response program**

Total amount transferred, EUR	2016–2017	2020
ERP Syria	1 000 000	0
ERP Lebanon	837 011	0
ERP Greece	2 200 899	878 954
ERP Macedonia	475 000	0
ERP Serbia	1 843 624	104 878
ERP Hungary	180 000	0
ERP Italy	1 500 000	67 324
ERP Bulgaria	9 095	0
ERP Armenia	211 016	0
ERP Colombia	0	465 150
ERP Ukraine	0	227 078
Regional and International Office	550 030	0

**Total ERP**  
10 550 059

**Long term family-based care programs**

**SOS Children’s Villages Palestine**

The 2014 war severely damaged Gaza’s infrastructure, destroying 12,576 houses and displacing 100,000 people. Reconstruction has been minimal, and the economy contracted by nearly 15%, with unemployment rising to 43% and youth unemployment at 60%. Children are particularly vulnerable, with many at risk of losing parental care due to living in single-headed households or with disabled or traumatized parents. A 2017 UN assessment found 1,500 orphans and 6,000 children living with at least one disabled parent, with over 373,000 children needing immediate psycho-social support.

**The Interim Care Centre**

The Interim Care Centre cared for 162 separated and unaccompanied children, providing medical and psychological support, clothing, shoes, and educational materials. Each child was assigned a case worker and a development plan to ensure their well-being. The children attended school six days a week, had lunch, did their homework with a teacher’s support, and participated in recreational activities. Efforts to reunite children with their families resulted in 89 reunifications by 2016, with ongoing support for the families. The case manager also facilitated the family reunion where the family was supported until they could live together again.

**Emergency Family Support**

The Emergency Family Support program supported 90 families, including 22 connected to the Interim Alternative Care Centre. Each family was supported for six months and received food, basic items, cash, housing, and income generation support. It enabled children to attend school by providing them with clothes and uniforms. The program phased out in 2017, transitioning families to SOS Children’s Villages’ long-term support in Gaza. Additionally, a program for internally displaced people exceeded its goals, reaching 3,826 beneficiaries in 2015–2016, improving living conditions, and distributing winterization kits to 270 families in marginalized areas.

**SOS Children’s Village Rafah**

From 2017 to 2020, up to 90 children lived in 13 family houses in the Children’s Village Rafah. The program aimed to support children who lost parental care, with improved selection criteria and upgraded facilities to be more disabled-accessible. Activities included arts, music, theatre, sports, calligraphy, and Arabic poetry to reduce stress and instill hope. A security and emergency preparedness plan was developed to ensure the safety of staff and children in case of escalating violence in Gaza. As schools in Gaza closed during COVID-19, the Hermann Gmeiner School switched to online schooling to ensure that the children could continue their education.

**The Kinship Care Program**

This program provided support for up to 73 children that were living with their extended families. The support that the families of these children received included service delivery such as food packages and school transportation and capacity building on, among other, child care and parenting and economic empowerment

**Family strengthening, short-term care and economic empowerment**

The family strengthening program in Gaza provided monthly psychological support for individuals and groups, focusing on women empowerment, adolescent support, and family conflict resolution. It also trained community-based organizations on financial procedures and organized a recreational trip in 2018. In 2019, 1,389 children and 131 adults benefited from the program, which among other things included income-generating activities. Participants received 75 hours of business management training, developed business plans, and received professional consultation and support. The program resulted in 118 small businesses in various fields, such as beauty salons, grocery shops, and farming.

**Financial report**

Total amount donated by Akelius Foundation, EUR	2015–2020
Long-term programmes Palestine	1 927 545

# SOS Children's Villages Philippines

The children's village in Tacloban, is located in the impoverished eastern Philippines on Samar Island, an area that is highly vulnerable to seasonal typhoons. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan caused massive destruction, with an official death toll of 6,000, though local estimates are higher. Over 4 million people lost their homes, and many families were separated, leaving children orphaned. The village suffered severe damage, and while there were no casualties among staff or children, many were traumatized by the events and the loss of loved ones.

## **Emergency Care Program**

In 2015, the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan led to emergency rescue activities benefiting 596 families in Tanauan, Leyte, and Tacloban City. The program provided shelter to 550 homeless individuals and repaired schools and facilities. It also offered livelihood support to former SOS Tacloban children, with 83 youths receiving assistance for small businesses, animal-raising, and other needs.

## **Kinship Program**

During 2015, the kinship program provided services to typhoon orphans, living with grandparents or other relatives, by giving them support on basic provisions, education, health, and other forms of social supports. The program reached 150 beneficiaries living in Tacloban city, municipality of Palo and Tanauan, Leyte, and the municipality of Basey, Samar. Recreational activities were provided such as sports festivals, summer camps, hiking, skills, and celebrations such as 45<sup>th</sup> SOS anniversary and Christmas. Some of the beneficiaries also joined dance lessons, cooking contests and other activities in the village. This provided them with an opportunity to meet other children.

## **Family Strengthening Program**

The program supported up to 580 children and youths in 152 families, providing educational assistance, health and nutrition support, child rights advocacy, and personal development. School fees were covered for 98 children, 214 children received school supplies, 198 got school bags, and 33 received transportation allowances. Health care support included free medicines for 76 children and supplemental feeding for 154. Beneficiaries also participated in government health programs like the Head Lice Prevention and Control campaign.

## **SOS Children's Village Tacloban**

Between 2015–2019, up to 90 children got support and were able to grow up in a safe and caring family environment in 11 family houses at SOS Children's Village Tacloban. Children and youth received food, health check-ups, and supplements to ensure healthy growth. At the start of the school year, children received uniforms, bags, and school essentials to ensure their right to education. Activities was arranged such as physical exams, life skills training, and prevention of sexual exploitation. Focused group discussions on child safeguarding, school performance follow-ups, and family tracing visits for reunification were also conducted.

### SOS Children’s Village Calbayog

Between 2016–2019, SOS Children’s Village Calbayog supported up to 82 children in 12 family houses to grow up in a caring family environment. The program focused on disaster risk education training essential due to the area’s frequent natural disasters. Children and youth received educational support and nine elementary students graduated to secondary school, and two youths gained employment and independence. The children also had the opportunity to do recreational activities such as practicing their favorite sport. Later, the village joined the ‘digital village’ initiative, with training for SOS mothers, aunts, and 30 children. Festive events showcased children’s talents, and safety awareness activities, including a fire drill and firefighter visit, were organized, receiving positive feedback.

### SOS Children’s Village Cebu

Between 2018–2020, up to 85 children lived in 12 family houses at SOS Children’s Village in Cebu. All school-aged children in good health were enrolled in school, with additional informal educational sessions like tutorials, sports events, and music lessons. In 2019, regular tutorials and school visits helped guide children to complete their education. Developmental activities included sports festivals, life-skill training in sewing and cooking, and financial literacy. Physical and dental exams were provided, with free eyeglasses for those with eye problems and vitamin supplements for new arrivals. The Digital Village project saw 30 children and SOS mothers complete computer literacy training. By the end of 2018, 15 children were discharged due to reunification with biological families.

### Youth Care and Facilities

SOS Village Tacloban, Calbayog and Cebu provided a Youth Care Program including Youth Facilities which accomplished to serve basic needs and other essential services for young people and preparing them for leaving alternative care. Up to 45 youths got support during 2015–2020. There were different activities organized such as camping trips, values formation sessions, cooking contests and dance lessons.

### Financial report

Total amount transferred, EUR	2015–2020
Long-term programmes Philippines	2 588 464

## SOS Children’s Villages Haiti

Haiti has long been plagued by chronic socio-political instability and natural disasters, making it the poorest and most unequal country in the region. The nation is currently experiencing a severe humanitarian crisis, marked by increasing poverty, inflation, and soaring food prices, leaving many families without adequate food or access to essential public services such as education and healthcare. Food insecurity is widespread, with a significant portion of the population in urgent need of emergency assistance, and malnutrition is rising. Children are especially vulnerable, with many suffering from

malnutrition, and the number of orphans growing as a result of violence, disease, and displacement. The country’s healthcare system is collapsing, with recurring outbreaks of diseases like cholera. A prolonged political vacuum, marked by weak governance and leadership crises, has further eroded state authority, allowing gangs to control large parts of the country, leading to widespread violence, kidnappings, and threats to the safety of children

**SOS Children’s Village Les Cayes**

Between 2015–2020 up to 110 children lived in 15 family houses. These children were in the majority abandoned children or orphans, and did not go to school before they arrived in the village. The village school provided free education to around 300 children with a team of 10 teachers and supplied the community with drinking water. The program included family mediation to facilitate reunification, child protection activities, and positive parenting training. In 2019, 15 children were reunited with their families, 24 obtained pieces of identification, 19 children with behavioural problems benefited from psychological support. An awareness plan was also implemented to educate about COVID-19 prevention. As part of this, families and children received training in how to protect themselves, and others, from the spread of Covid-19.

**Financial report**

Total amount transferred, EUR	2015–2020
Long-term programmes Haiti	2 755 053

**SOS Children’s Villages India**

Tirupati, in Andhra Pradesh, has a high poverty rate, with over 14 million children living in absolute poverty and around 1.3 million without parental care. Child labor is common, and many children do not attend school to support their families. Girls and women face higher risks of abandonment and illiteracy, and child prostitution is prevalent. HIV affects many, adding social stigma to the challenges faced by families.

**SOS Children’s Village Tirupati**

Between 2015–2020, up to 126 children lived in 12 family houses at the Children’s Village Tirupati. The village provided quizzes, exhibitions, a digital library, workshops, evening tutoring, and self-study sessions to support academic and intellectual development. Caregivers frequently visited schools to monitor progress and provided necessary support. Child safeguarding efforts created a more child-friendly atmosphere, with health check-ups, and sessions on health, hygiene, and various life skills. Children were also encouraged to go to the local community, market, banks, shops, movies, parks etc. with mothers so that children were more familiar with community life. During COVID-19, all children were tested, and 20 youths completed an online certification course on COVID-19. Bank accounts were opened for 80 children to help them save for their futures as self-sufficient adults.

### **Youth House/Program**

Up to 69 boys and young men were enrolled in Youth Care in Tirupati, staying in various facilities including the youth house, boarding school/inter-colleges, or in the Sopan for vocational courses. All performed well academically and were promoted to the next grade. They also excelled in sports like badminton, volleyball, and running. Capacity building programs were organized to develop their social and intellectual skills, covering life skills, exam preparation, spoken English, career guidance, and more. Despite moving out of SOS family houses, they maintained strong bonds with their SOS families, with regular visits and involvement in housework and community activities.

### **Family Strengthening Program**

The family strengthening program supported families dependent on agriculture and daily wage labor with training in modern farming and animal husbandry. School supplies and remedial tuition were provided to children, along with sports materials and health check-ups. Nutritional support improved children's health, with 92% showing better hemoglobin levels. The families that benefitted from the livelihood support chose to start different types of small-scale businesses such as an auto rickshaw service, animal husbandry and goat rearing. The program reached 560 children, with 188 families becoming self-reliant. During COVID-19, 469 families received dry ration kits, and 169 were supported with income-generating activities. Community tuition centers ensured continued education, preventing school dropouts and child marriages. In regard to health, special vaccination drives organised with medical departments ensured compulsory regular vaccinations for 104 children below 5 years of age, and a majority of the children who received nutritional support made improvements in their BMI.

### **Renovation of village buildings**

In 2018, several cracks were discovered in four of the family houses and some of the administrative buildings. Therefore, after an investigation by experts, the renovation started in 2019 and was completed in February 2020.

### **Financial report**

<b>Total amount transferred, EUR</b>	<b>2015-2020</b>
Long-term programmes India	2 254 190

## **SOS Children's Villages Cambodia**

Despite improvements, Cambodia remains one of the poorest countries, with 18% of the population below the poverty line, mostly in rural areas. The country has 5.6 million children under 18, with an estimated 570,000 lacking parental care due to poverty, conflict, migration, and HIV/AIDS. At least 6,000 children live with HIV, where one-third of new infections comes from mother to child. About 36% of children are involved in child labor, working in agriculture, fishing, quarries, as domestic servants, or begging and selling on the streets.

**SOS Children’s Village Ratanakiri**

During these years up to 91 children and youth under 16 lived in 10 family houses. All school-aged children attended school, with extra tutoring in math, literature, and English for those who needed extra support with studies. Educators regularly visited schools to discuss students’ progress. Workshops on gender equality, HIV non-discrimination, and human rights were held for co-workers, village children, and community children. Village management improved through better monitoring and regulations. Football training was organized every Sunday, and Buddhist monks visited twice a month to offer life advice to the children.

**Social centre (Malnutrition programme) – Ratanakiri**

The malnutrition program, started in 2012 and targeted vulnerable families with malnourished children. By December 2019, 320 had regained their health and were discharged, with only 7 children still remaining in the program. The program involved co-workers, nurses, doctors, and SOS-aunts, providing individualized treatment plans for each child, typically lasting around 3 months. Parents were educated on nutrition and hygiene to prevent future malnutrition. When discharged from the centre, children’s condition will be followed up after 6 months or a year maximum. During the discharge, life necessities such as mosquito nets, shoes, toothbrush and milk powder are provided to the families.

**Youth Facility – Ratanakiri**

The youth facility aimed to help young people in their transition to adulthood and independence by supporting them through various challenges. In 2019, remedial classes in subjects like math, physics, chemistry, Khmer literature, and English were provided. Educators and youth leaders regularly visited schools to monitor progress, and monthly meetings offered guidance on future planning. Up to 24 youths lived in two homes under the supervision of two leaders, with all passing their exams for the 2019/2020 academic year.

**SOS Children’s Village Prey Veng**

A Children’s Village in Prey Veng was constructed in 2018–2019. The first child arrived on November 6, 2019, and by the end of the year, 13 children, including 6 girls, were living in the village under the care of three SOS-mothers. Before the pandemic, the children attended public school from kindergarten to grade 4. In 2020, online training was provided to help children, youth, and co-workers cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Financial report**

Total amount transferred, EUR	2018–2020
Long-term programmes Cambodia	2 412 422



# SOS Children’s Villages Ukraine

In recent decades, Ukraine has faced significant political, economic, and social changes, worsened by the conflict in the eastern regions since 2014. This has led to rising unemployment, poverty, and increased prices for essentials, making life difficult for many families. Around 1.8 million people have fled their homes, struggling to find jobs and housing, with over three million people needing humanitarian assistance.

## Youth program – Brovary

The youth program in Brovary began in 2018, including the construction of a youth center. The program supported 42 adolescents living in foster families, 17 in semi-independent living (SIL), and 4 young people in the Small Group Home (SGH). Activities included training for independent living, self-esteem, safety, leadership, healthy lifestyle, communication, public speaking, first aid, and interview skills. Excursions helped youths bond and explore western Ukraine. Between 2018–2020, up to 17 youths received independent living services, with 5 becoming self-sufficient and gained stable earnings and permanent residences. The program also included living condition subsidies, material aid, and medical services, with some youths receiving apartment ownership through local authorities.

## Youth Centre – Brovary

The Youth Centre program served up to 300 teens and young people, expanding its reach in 2019 through community engagement and partnerships with educational and state organizations. Activities on profession, internship and employment assistance were arranged for the youths. Vocational training, social skills development and workshops on various life skills were also perceived. Throughout the years 2018–2020, up to 200 young people received monthly psychological support and life skills training, both digitally and in small groups due to quarantine. The Small Group House (SGH), opened in 2018, provided independent living skills and support for youths, including financial assistance and regular group activities to foster social skills and reduce conflict. Monthly adventurous and physical activities such as rock climbing and rafting on a river were organised for youths to reduce emotional tension, improve physical and psychological health, and form a trusting relationship with mentors and fellow youths.

## Financial report

Total amount transferred, EUR	2018–2020
Long-term programmes Ukraine	1 039 114

## For further information on this report

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