

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES KENYA NEWSLETTER

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SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
KENYA

Kijiji
Issue 1



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

MISSION

We build families for children in need, we help them shape their futures and we share in the development of their communities

VISION

Every child belongs to a family and grows up with love, respect and security

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Courage:** We take action
- **Commitment:** We keep our promises
- **Trust:** We believe in each other
- **Accountability:** We are reliable partners

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

PATRON

Her Excellency The First Lady of The Republic of Kenya, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Susan Kiama _____ Board Chair & Member of International Senate
 Mr. David Abwoga _____ Vice Chair
 Mr. Walter S. Odhiambo _____ National Director
 Mr. Allan Wainaina _____ Treasurer
 Ms. Mercy Wanjau _____ Member
 Dr. Mary Mupa Madu Madu _____ Member
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 Ms. Ruth Ngobi _____ Secretary

OUR CARE PROMISE

Is a simplified policy document that evolved from existing policies and is in response to strategy 2030 and the International Frameworks on Alternative Care. It was approved by the international senate and is a mandatory policy for all member associations (MA) and all workers. It guides the delivery of quality care in all our programmes. <https://sosvirtual.aldeasinfantilessos.org/cursos-items/sos-care-promise/>



OUR PRINCIPLES



Child - every child is unique and respected



Parent - every child needs a caring and stable parent



Family - every child grows up in a supportive family



Community - every child is part of a safe and supportive community

WORD FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



"Every big thing in the world only comes true when somebody does more than he has to do."

Hermann Gmeiner.

This quote sums up our commitment in the delivery of our care promise especially during the difficult COVID-19 pandemic season. Staff, partners and other stakeholders have continued supporting us and doing more than they have to do, to ensure that we achieve our mission. I am glad that our cause is entrenched in their hearts, making our work more beautiful.

Despite Covid-19 related strict measures including curfews and lockdown in parts of our country where we operate, staff, children and young people under our care embraced digitalization and devised new strategies to work remotely with ease and efficiency ensuring that we remained thought leaders in the care and protection of children and young people. Some key events like the launch of our Family Strengthening Program TUNAWEZA and the

second edition of the National Directors Award (NDA) competitions were conducted virtually.

This season saw new local and international partnerships and unravelled new ways of interacting with our existing partners. These developments allowed us to scale our actions and impact. We appreciate the contribution made by our partners in helping us care for and protect children and young people. Our work is never-ending, so we invite more partners to support us to achieve our mission and vision.

We continued to uphold and strengthen our child safeguarding commitments. We set up 'speak up boxes' across all SOS Children's Villages in Kenya thereby making it easy for children and young people under our care to have the opportunity to anonymously share relevant information and



report any abuse. The national child safeguarding committee was activated and is now helping support programme location child safeguarding committees and efforts as well as handling high-level priority cases and incidences.

SOS Children's Villages has been positively impacting the lives of children and young people for over 70 years and has grown from a local organization to a global federation with more than 4 million supporters across the globe. To capture this evolution, we have refreshed our

brand in a bid to relate better with you and other stakeholders.

In this newsletter, please find information on our successes as we strive to ensure that every child grows up in a loving home and becomes successful in their adult lives.

**Walter S. Odhiambo | National Director
SOS Children's Villages Kenya**

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

African children are particularly vulnerable to falling behind in the global development agenda as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Even with the laying out of the universal rights of children by the The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) accessing them, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic era, has been challenging.

The Day of the African Child (DAC) is celebrated every year on June 16 and is a time for the world to reflect on the progress made towards children's rights, as well as the barriers they continue to face. The theme this year was "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children".

At SOS Children's Villages in Kenya, children from both Alternative Care (AC) and Family Strengthening Program (FSP) commemorated this year's DAC by participating in the Kenya National Read Aloud Campaign. The campaign is conducted annually on the International Day of the African Child on June 16th by Storymoja Publishers. During the campaign, children attempt to break the world record by reading the same text aloud at the same time in multiple locations.

"The event was successful and the children were very excited that they were all able to read the text in the stipulated time and in sync with each other. We look forward to next year's campaign", said Mr. Mwangi, Head teacher SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools in Nairobi.



Pupils from SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools from across the SOS Children's Villages participating in the Read A Loud activity.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN KENYA CELEBRATES FOUNDER'S DAY



Hermann Gmeiner founder of SOS Children's Villages poses with children.

On June 23, SOS Children's Villages in Kenya joined the rest of the world in celebrating 'SOS Day' in honor of the 102nd birth anniversary of our founder Dr. Hermann Gmeiner. Hermann founded the first SOS Children's Village in Tyrol, Austria, in 1949. As a child welfare worker, Gmeiner saw how children orphaned as a result of World War II suffered. He was committed to helping them by building loving families and supportive communities.

With the generous support of donors, child sponsors, partners and friends, Gmeiner's vision of providing loving care in a family environment for children without parental care, and of helping families stay together so they can care for their children, has grown steadily over the years.

Today, SOS Children's Villages is active in 136 countries and territories around the world, helping hundreds of thousands of children each year through alternative care, family strengthening, schools, health centres, and other community-based work.

The children's villages in Nairobi, Meru, Eldoret, Kisumu and Mombasa marked the day devoid of the usual celebrations owing to the stringent COVID-19 restrictions in the country.

"Usually we hold elaborate celebrations to honor our founder but this year, due to COVID-19, we felt that it was best to stay indoors and talk about the history, mission, vision and core values of SOS Children's Villages as we share a meal", said Solomon an alternative care coordinator from SOS Children's Village in Eldoret.



136

Countries with active
SOS Children's Villages

HOW WE MARKED WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. It is celebrated on June 5 to encourage awareness and environmental protection. The theme of this year's World Environment Day was Ecosystem Restoration and rallying slogan-ACT Now, Restore Nature and Livelihoods.

Our partners; The Standard Media Group, Complast and Panari Hotel visited SOS Children's Village in Nairobi on June 5th 2021 and planted 100 trees in a bid to increase forest cover in the country.

SOS Children's Villages is passionate about environmental conservation and its efforts. We would like to thank our partners for partnering with us on activities aimed at protecting nature.



The National Director for SOS Children's Villages in Kenya Mr. Walter S. Odhiambo plants trees alongside partners from Panari Hotel, Standard Media Group and Complast.

CELEBRATING FSP TUNAWEZA PROJECT LAUNCH

Some names have been changed to protect privacy.

On 15th July 2021, SOS Children's Villages in Kenya held a colourful internal launch of the FSP TUNAWEZA project in SOS Children's Village in Meru.

TUNAWEZA is a Swahili word that means "we can". The FSP works directly with families and communities helping them protect and care for their children while cooperating with local authorities as well as collaborating with other charities on the ground. It targets underprivileged families to prevent crises that can lead to child abandonment in the worst-case scenario. The project aims to support a total of 600 families and

2,400 children in Meru and Kisumu.

The objectives of the program are to; Improve resilience and economic stability, provide quality care and protection to children, strengthen national and local childcare protection systems and structures to support vulnerable families, empower youth with entrepreneurial, employability and social skills for self-reliance and improve access to education, health and social services for vulnerable families and children.

The chief guest of the event was the National Director (ND) for SOS Children's Villages in Kenya,

Mr. Walter S. Odhiambo who upon arrival was received by the Director of National Programs & Quality, Mr. Pascal Mailu, the Program Director for SOS Children's Village in Meru, Joyce Kaaria and staff of SOS Children's Villages in Kenya as the local band belted out welcome songs in the local dialect.

Official opening of Family Strengthening Office and tree planting

After signing the visitor's book, the ND officially opened the FSP office by cutting a ribbon as the FSP Manager Mr. Henry Binea, International Partnerships Development (IPD) Manager Christine Ambia and Joyce Kaaria looked on. He also met and was introduced to the newly appointed Meru FSP team.

"I am committed to supporting the team to achieve the project's objectives, and I hope that there will be many more interventions such as this one launched in different locations soon", remarked Walter as he cut the ribbon amid jubilation and cheer.

In addition, he also planted a tree to mark the opening of the FSP office in Meru.

Speeches

After the National Anthem led by the band, the MC of the day, the IPD Manager, Ms Christine Ambia invited the Internal Audit Manager Mr. Mugambi to pray paving the way for opening remarks by the PD for SOS Children's Village in Meru.

"Welcome to Meru for those who are here physically and those joining online. I

strongly believe in the FSP team in Meru to successfully deliver the core objectives of the program", said Joyce.

The FSP Manager Mr. Henry Binea introduced the National Office managers who pledged their support in different capacities. He later gave an overview of the history, goals and outcomes of the program.

Mr. Binea welcomed the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Mr. Shadrack Kombe, who gave an overview of the baseline survey findings that prompted the project's launch.

During the event, two children from Meru who were beneficiaries of the Voucher Assistance programme (V.A) which is part of the family strengthening programme, expressed their gratitude to SOS Children's Villages in Kenya for facilitating the implementation of the Program, which cushioned them from the adverse effects of COVID-19.

"The VA program gave us a lifeline when COVID-19 hit. We could comfortably go to school and study because we got food and obtained other essential non-food items using the vouchers. We are grateful to SOS Children's Villages in Kenya for this support", remarked Grace, one of the children who benefitted from the program.

The Director of National Programs & Quality (DNP&Q) Mr. Pascal Mailu expressed his confidence in the project. He said,

"I am so impressed to see how well the event has taken shape and I believe that

600
Families

2,400
Children

To be supported by the TUNAWEZA
project in Meru and Kisumu

the program will do exceptionally well in impacting the community. Congratulations to the FSP team in Meru”.

Other guests who joined the event online included Promoting and Supporting Association (PSA) s from Denmark and Netherlands and staff from SOS Children’s Villages in Kenya. They lauded the FSP team on launching the program and shared that they were very optimistic about the positive impact that will be witnessed in the lives of the community members and beyond.

A member of the PSA from SOS Children’s Villages in Denmark, Benedikte Marie Krogsgaard expressed her delight at having trained the team on resource based management ahead of the launch.

“The program will be a reflection of RBM in practice”, said Benedikte.

Members from the International Office Representative (IOR) were also present virtually.

“We are very happy about the new program as it enhances local relevance and forms a key part of the care promise”, said an IOR staff, Mr. Bedilu.

The National Director of SOS Children’s Villages in Kenya started his speech by reminding everyone present on the mission, vision and core values of the organization while emphasizing on the target audience of the organization’s interventions. He concluded his speech by expressing his confidence in the project.

“I appreciate all the work that has been put in to ensure that the ceremony is successful and I am very optimistic about the positive impact that the project will bring. I am even more pleased about the national office managers’ commitment to supporting the project in their various capacities”, he concluded.

The occasion ended on a high note as the ND together with a child from the SOS Children’s Villages in Meru, SOS Children’s Villages in Kenya staff, a participant from the community and a caregiver cut the cake to mark this auspicious event.

Finally, Mr. Silvester Kieti, the Village Director for SOS Children’s Village in Meru concluded by giving a vote of thanks and a prayer.

PICTURES: TUNAWEZA PROGRAM LAUNCH IN MERU



Events of the FSP TUNAWEZA program launch in SOS Children's Villages in Meru.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE IN NAIROBI WINS NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S AWARDS 2021

Some names have been changed to protect privacy.

SOS Children's Villages in Kenya held its inaugural National Director Awards (NDA) on 16th April 2021 at the National Office in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants included children from the SOS Children's Villages in Kenya; Nairobi, Meru, Kisumu, Eldoret and Mombasa.

The award ceremony's main aim was to identify, nurture and expose talent in children under our care. In addition, there was a need to address the fatigue and anxiety caused by the restrictions on movement as a result of Covid-19. Though unanticipated, the NDA unearthed child ambassadors who will in the coming year, help amplify children's voices on behalf of the Member Association (MA) on the care reform agenda in the country.

The NDA started in 2021 in Kenya and this year's theme was *'soaring to new heights'*. Children displayed their impressive artwork, fashion, choral verses, traditional and modern dances, poetry, runway modeling and debating skills. In a bid to ensure inclusivity in the awards, the judges created a category for children who are abled differently.

The children demonstrated excellence and set the bar higher with every performance as they adhered to the theme. From Moses* who made a bed cover and table mat using yarn to a team who designed engineer and construction attire, the children displayed nothing but pure ambition and creativity.

With every performance, the competition got more heated as contestants showcased attire made from a locally made fabric known as *Maasai*

shukas. They also used newspapers, *lessos* and attire embroidered with grass to showcase their commitment to environmental conservation.

Poets were not left behind as they moved the audience with their emotive and thought provoking pieces. Many of the children were grateful for SOS Children's Villages' intervention in their lives and took the opportunity to let everyone know before their performances.

"Before I joined SOS Children's Village in Mombasa, my life was pitiful. I would go for days on end without food and clothes; a life I would not wish on anyone. SOS Children's Village in Mombasa has made me achieve many goals in life, I dare to dream of a bright future of owning a house and driving a harrier", narrated Glory, a beneficiary from SOS Children's Village in Mombasa.

In the art category, a group of children presented an eco-friendly cooking stove (*jiko*), commonly used in many African kitchen set-ups. Other children created art pieces with what best resonates with the place they call a loving home; the logo of SOS Children's Villages.

The debate session was heated, with contestants advancing strong points on why they think kinship is better than foster care. This made it all the more difficult for the judges who had a hard time in deciding on the winner, given the participants' quality of arguments.

"The artwork displayed by the children from SOS Children's Villages in Kenya is exceptional. I have seen none like it. This

makes it very hard for us to decide on the winner”, says Yabesh, the National Director Award judge.

Eventually a winner had to be announced and SOS Children’s Village in Nairobi emerged the overall winner while SOS Children’s Village in Mombasa took the second place taking lead in the debate and traditional dance category. SOS Children’s Village in Eldoret emerged third and SOS Children’s Village in Meru and SOS Children’s

Village in Kisumu closed in on fourth and fifth position respectively.

“All SOS mothers enjoyed a season of silence as the children were busy preparing for the competitions and we can see that their hard work has eventually paid off in a big way”, said mama Jonah.

The competitions nurtured innovation, creativity, discipline as well as self confidence among all the participants.



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

The winners of NDA 2021: SOS Children's Village in Nairobi.



Children from SOS Children's Village in Meru.



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

Children from SOS Children's Village in Eldoret.



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

Children from SOS Children's Village in Kisumu.



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

Children from SOS Children's Village in Mombasa.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world – Nelson Mandela.

On September 8th SOS Children's Villages joined the world in celebrating the International Literacy Day. SOS Children's Villages works with families, communities and partners to ensure that each child has access to education and training that addresses individual needs and circumstances to develop their potential.

For many years, girls have had unequal access to educational opportunities. This has resulted to an increase in economic, educational and social marginalization across generations. SOS Children

Villages in Kenya and partners, have been implementing the Jielimische Girl Education Challenge Project in Meru to improve the life chances of marginalized girls; by addressing critical barriers that hinder the girls from accessing quality education. The objective is to ensure that 10,123 marginalized girls are supported with improved learning (where learning is defined as acquiring relevant literacy and numeracy skills).

The project aims to develop meaningful foundational literacy, reading and numeracy skills by using DIGI clubs, life skill clubs, debates, spelling bees quizzes, comprehension, reading contests, collaborative learning club activities and other fun numeracy activities.

In addition, both inter and intra school competitions are organized to make learning fun and exciting. This has resulted in a remarkable improvement in teaching, class attendance and learning outcomes.

"I thought mathematics was boring and difficult but through DIGI clubs and fun learning activities, I have rekindled my love for mathematics, improved on my class performance and am now able to speak up in class and participate in debate sessions" cites Rhoda, a pupil from one of the schools where the program is implemented.

In partnership with the Kenya National Library services in Meru, the project has established nine e-libraries with a capacity of over 600 books and three physical libraries. Consequently, teachers and librarians have been trained to publishing stories written by learners.

"Thanks to the project, I have been able to write a book with exciting stories. I am elated that I too can contribute to the growth of the reading culture" says Makena, a pupil.

GOAL

10,123

Marginalized girls are supported with improved learning through Jielimische Girl Education Challenge Project



Image by SOS Children's Villages, Kenya

06/16/2021 09

Pupils from Meru practice reading as part of the Jielimische GEC project.

SUCCESS STORIES

Some names have been changed to protect privacy.

WE HELP THEM SHAPE THEIR FUTURES

In August 2021, the mission of SOS Children's Villages rang true in the tune of wedding bells as the National Director for SOS Children's Villages in Kenya and other colleagues left for Mombasa County to see off Keziah Wambui, one of the girls who grew up at the Mombasa alternative care program. It was a beautiful yet emotional moment for her caregivers as the couple pledged undying love for each other at the traditional dowry negotiations ceremony.

"World over, children continue to grow up without the care, protection and guidance they need. Since 1973, SOS Children's Villages Kenya has been working closely with children, young people and families to tackle this global challenge on a very local level. Our work keeps families together, provides alternative care to children when needed, advocates for their rights, lays foundations for their brighter futures and supports young people on their path to independence and success in life", said Mr. Walter S. Odhiambo, the National Director for SOS Children's Villages in Kenya.

The most beautiful part of Keziah's story is that SOS Children's Villages in Kenya created a loving home for her when she needed it the most and



Keziah and her husband share the first meal of their union.

now, she is moving on to the next phase of her life to start her own family.

GROWING UP IN SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE IN MERU

Erick was a little boy from Nandi County in Kenya needing care and protection from a violent home. He and his sister would be traumatized from watching their parents fight daily; an environment that posed a risk of them losing parental care. There was alcoholism and dire poverty and then the death of both parents. SOS Children's Villages in Meru stepped in to care for and protect Erick and his sister, providing a loving home for both of them.

"SOS Children's Villages in Meru was quiet in a good way. My sister and I found peace and tranquility away from the noise of domestic violence, which we had become accustomed to. We missed our late parents, but we knew that we were lucky to be at SOS Children's Villages as all our needs were catered for; a situation we never witnessed while growing up", he reminisces.

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental organisation focused on supporting children without parental care and families at risk. Since 1949, the organisation has been working to ensure that children grow up in a loving family environment and have their rights fulfilled.

SOS Children's Villages Kenya isn't your ordinary children's home. There is a stark difference in the way it cares for and protects children and young people. Erick and his sister had the opportunity to have a mother who they grew up calling 'mum' and could tell everything they wanted; they also

grew up with brothers and sisters and were part of a community allowing them to experience a normal and happy childhood.

Along with his younger sister, they lived in SOS Children's Village in Meru where they were raised, educated and given the bonds they needed to become their strongest selves. His caregivers taught him the value of responsibility and becoming a leader from an early age. His mother would give him the responsibility of taking care of his younger brother and teach him the values he had been taught; this is where his leadership qualities were nurtured.

From a young age at SOS Children's Village in Meru, where he was schooling together with his sister at the Hermann Gmeiner School, Erick was consistently identified as a school prefect in almost all his classes.

"My fellow classmates would always vote for me as the class prefect in almost every class, and it's not until it happened more than three times that I realized, I was born to be a leader", he smilingly quips.

Meet Erick again, now 21 years old and a student leader and Geophysics course student at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He is also a youth president and represents SOS Children's Village in Kenya in the International Youth Coalition – a group of young people worldwide. He also contributes to youth development by training youth on ICT skills.

"SOS Children's Villages gave me a loving home where I grew up like any other happy child would. My dreams are coming true one after the other, and I discovered my strength in leadership by

growing up in SOS Children's Village in Meru. My future aspiration is to become a leader in our country and help make the world a better place", he asserts.

GROWING UP IN SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE IN MOMBASA

When Sasha joined SOS Children's Village in Mombasa, she brought sunshine to her home and village environment. She was a beautiful little girl with a charming personality and an endearing smile. Sasha joined the village just when it was time for her to join school and was enrolled at SOS Kindergarten. After this stage of learning, she was promoted to Herman Gmeiner Primary School, where she started her lower classes. Eight years later, she sat for her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in 2012.

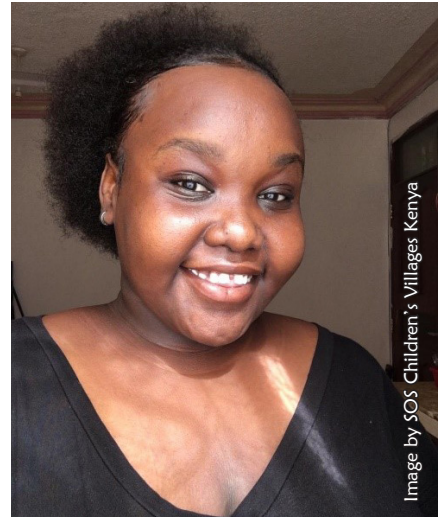
Her charming personality and love for books made her teachers and parents at SOS Children's Village in Mombasa more than optimistic about her performance. As expected, she performed exceptionally well and emerged amongst the best pupils with above-average marks.

She later joined Mwasere Girls Secondary school for her high school education. It is here, that she discovered her passion for environmental conservation. She took part in several community projects as part of her extra-curricular activities and also loved to use locally available material to create valuable things.

After four years of high school education, she joined Distance Intervention Program (DIP). She qualified and later joined the IGCSE British system in Ghana where she sat for the International



Sasha at work in the community.



Sasha's happiness comes from realizing her dreams.

Baccalaureate (IB) examinations and qualified to join the University of British Columbia in Canada. Currently, she is a student at the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi.

“SOS Children’s Villages in Mombasa took me in when I was very vulnerable and didn’t know who I was. It helped me shape my future. I do not want to imagine what would have happened to me if they did not step in,” she tearfully reminisces.

When she took some time off college in late 2020, she was sure that she wanted to use that time to make a difference in the community. She embarked on a mission to seek volunteer opportunity in an organisation with the same objectives that she had. That is how she came across the ‘We make Impact’ organization.

“I contacted the organization for an opportunity and the founder immediately reached out when she noticed that we attended the same university back in Canada”, she quipped.

‘We Make Impact’ is an organisation that aims to alleviate poverty and provide access to clean water. The organisation capacity builds community members on making bio-sand filters. A bio-sand filter uses readily available materials to remove bacteria, protozoa, sediments and any dirt in water. Due to its affordable nature, it is considered the most effective means of purifying water from natural water sources”, She continued. So far, the organisation has worked with ten communities.

“As the director for education, I work with community leaders to ensure that they get the best knowledge in accessing clean water. Working with these communities was all I ever wanted to do because I feel that I am paying it forward. I am forever indebted to SOS Children’s Villages because it helped me realize my dreams which seemed futile the minute I was rendered parentless”, she concludes.

PARTNERSHIPS

We have continued to enjoy support from our local corporate and individual partners who have supported us both financially and in-kind. Some of our notable partners during this period have been Innovation for Poverty Action, NCBA, Tsavo Power, Daystar University, Kenya Methodist University (KEMU) and Total Kenya. We also continued to receive individual support from SOS

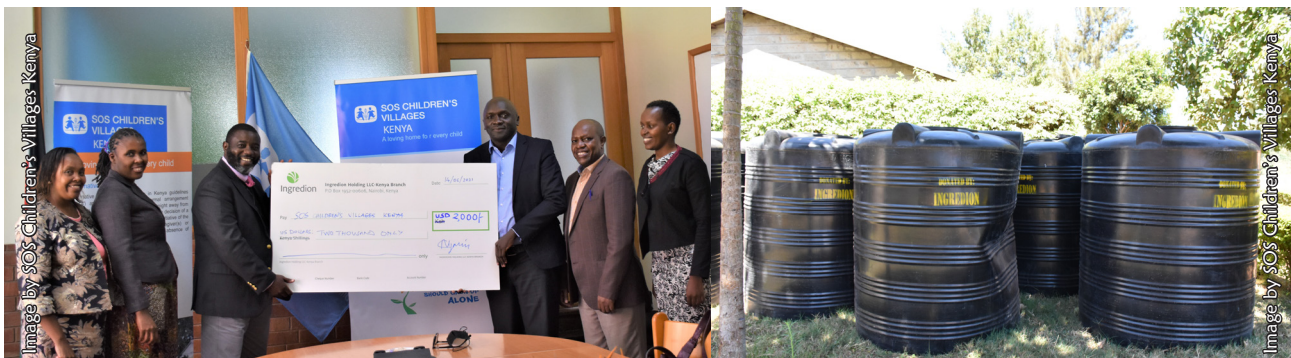
Children's Villages in Kenya board members and individual donors from across the country.

Internationally, we have received support from DANIDA, EGPAF, DFID, ECCO Foundation, University of Maryland, CDC, CISU and Dutch Lottery.

INGREDION

Ingredion is a leading global ingredients solutions company with operations in Kenya. They manufacture sweeteners, starches, nutrition ingredients and biomaterials that are used by customers in everyday products from foods and beverages to paper and pharmaceuticals.

Ingredion recently made a donation towards purchasing water tanks for SOS Children's Village in Meru. The tanks couldn't have come at a better time as rain water will be adequately harvested and stored for later use. We take this opportunity to thank Ingredion for their continued support.



Ingredion presents a cheque for purposes of purchasing tanks for SOS Children's Village in Meru.

BATA SHOE COMPANY

On June 18th 2021 SOS Children's Village in Nairobi had the opportunity to host Mr Victor Thomas Schmidt, Jedidah Thotho and John Ngoru, Lavender Owako from Bata Shoe Company Kenya. For many years, Bata Shoe Company has supported SOS Children's Villages in Kenya

and this year was no exception; they made a donation of 100 pairs of Bata toughies shoes and 100 pairs of Bata slippers to our children. The children received the shoes with excitement. We are grateful to Bata Kenya for this wonderful partnership.



The National Director for SOS Children's Villages in Kenya Mr. Walter S. Odhiambo thanks the team from Bata Shoe Company for their support.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ALTERNATIVE CARE (AC)

We are happy to report that all children, young persons, parents and co-workers under the member association (MA's) care in the AC programmes are progressing well in all aspects of their lives. The AC teams have been working closely with government technical teams to support the development and rollout of enabling guidelines in gatekeeping and the alternative care of children.

The National Care Reforms Strategy and National Gatekeeping Guidelines for Kenya have been finalized and validated. In addition, dialogue sessions on care reforms in our locations with Department of Children Services (DCS) have commenced.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING (FSP)

FSP at SOS Children's Villages in Kenya is committed to preventing family separation so that

vulnerable children remain within their families of origin in the care of loving parents or relatives.

The MA officially launched the new Meru and Kisumu FS programs in mid-July 2021. The programs will run for the next 3 years impacting 400 deserving families comprising of more than 1300 children and youth recruited from across MA Kenya with majority coming through one of the new FSP in Meru.

A Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) training was conducted for FS Staff in Nakuru between 7th – 11th June 2021 by Intelli Wealth Ltd Consultants who are also supporting in developing SOS Children's Villages in Kenya VSLA Manual for adoption.

EDUCATION

SOS children's Villages in Kenya promotes quality education for all school age-going children irrespective of gender, race or cultural background. Education programs are specifically designed to address situational barriers that hinder attainment of learning outcomes, transition to different academic paths and retention. We implement education programs in partnership with the Ministry of Education, local authorities and other service providers to promote service delivery and learning for all children. The program has embraced and ensured the use of the government approved curricula in early childhood development, primary, secondary school and vocational training.

The education programme has been quite successful in terms of access, equity and support for the youth and children. 100% of the children who completed primary and secondary education in 2020 have transited to the next level

of education; secondary, universities, vocational training institutions and other colleges.

Education in Kenya has undergone transition in terms of curriculum change in the last three years and teachers were trained on competency based curriculum. The vision of the new curriculum is to empower every Kenyan child to become an engaged, empowered and ethical citizen. This is to be achieved through provision of excellent teaching, school environment and resources, a sustainable visionary curriculum that provides every learner with seamless, competency based high quality learning that values every learner. In SOS Children's Villages in Kenya, we invest in quality teachers who are the key to successful child-centered and relevant education.

Parents are responsible for their children's education. They are important partners for teachers in the development process and schooling of their children, particularly in early childhood. The parents in family care (FC) and FS programmes were trained on positive parenting and discipline and early childhood development to be able to provide comprehensive nurturing care to the children in our target group.

ADVOCACY

Our work at SOS Children's Villages in Kenya revolves around the protection and development of children in a family environment. Through our advocacy at county, national, regional and international level, we engage decision makers on the rights and needs of children, to bring changes in policy and practices that are geared towards ensuring that the best interests of the child are protected.

There were numerous programme location and national level advocacy initiatives carried out in the period. In child rights advocacy, the MA heightened its individual and joint advocacy efforts working very closely with the Joining Forces Alliance for Children in Kenya, DCS, NCCS, UNICEF and other partners. These heightened efforts saw the fast-tracked signing of the Children's Bill 2020 by the president and the election of the MA's ND to represent the alliance at the Steering Committee of the global JFA secretariat.

We have contributed to the development review and implementation of various policies and laws that protect our target group; lobbying for the enactment of the Children's Bill 2021, dissemination of the Violence Against Children (VAC) report and the National Prevention and Response Plan on ending VAC, the Child Protection in Emergencies Operational Guidelines for Child Protection Practitioners in Kenya and the guidelines for the formation and operation of area advisory councils among others.

We have continued to use the media to raise awareness on topical issues and advocate for the rights of children. During this period we provided opportunities to children to participate in varied child-focussed issues. One of our child representatives from SOS Children's Village in Mombasa participated on a breakfast show on NTV where he talked about issues related to the theme of the Global Partnership for Education Summit. The theme highlighted financing Global Partnership for Education 2021- 2025.

More than 113 children in SOS Children's Villages in Kenya's Children's Councils and other child

participation platforms have been involved in various issues related to their rights.

YOUTH CARE

There has been increased activity in youth empowerment interventions in 2021. These efforts have been conducted directly and jointly with state and non-state agencies. Kenya Institute of Business Training (K.I.B.T) has been instrumental in facilitating business training to our young people. ABSA Bank's Ready To Work Programme has been well received by our youth who are transitioning from higher institutions of learning into the job market and the ICT Authority's Ajira Project has ensured that youth can find online work and learn online skills right from the facilities where the ICT hubs have been installed. In addition, our young people are also benefiting from an ongoing Youth Links online training offered by DHL and Total Kenya. We thank these partners for supporting us in instilling knowledge that is vital in this digital age.

SOS Children's Villages in Kenya in conjunction with DHL and NAILAB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August for the Social Entrepreneurship Program targeting youth across the country. The 50 youth selected will benefit from social entrepreneurship training, life skills and interpersonal skills from NAILAB. Out of this number, 20 youth will pitch and be selected by jurists from SOS Children's Villages in Kenya and DHL and will benefit from a financial package to aid them in their entrepreneurship journey.

During the week-long event to launch the program youth care workers from SOS Children's Villages in Kenya received training from SOS Children's



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

Launch of social entrepreneurship project



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya



Image by SOS Children's Villages Kenya

Ajira project training in progress

Villages in Kenya staff as well as from DHL and NAILAB to equip them with the skills needed to guide the youth on this journey.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

As part of a global organisation working with children who have lost parental care, or who are at risk of losing it, SOS Children's Villages in Kenya does not tolerate any form of child abuse, exploitation, neglect or violation of a child's privacy and rights.

At the heart of our work is the conviction that every child has the right to a caring, supportive and safe family-like environment in which to thrive. Creating a safe environment for children, young people and families – within our program and in the wider community and society – is an integral part of everything we do.

We have a strong code of conduct for all our staff and volunteers as well as clear reporting and responding procedures. We take swift and determined action if staff members fail to adhere to our policies and expectations for child safeguarding.

Staff from the MA completed a 4-week virtual training on Child Online Protection (COP) organized by The African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) and Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK).

Young people were sensitized on drug and substance abuse by an officer from NACADA. The same youth also underwent a child online protection and Crime and Education training

conducted by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

All staff are taking an e-learning course on child safeguarding to ensure 100% compliance in child safeguarding understanding as child safeguarding is everybody's business in SOS Children's Villages.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Staff and children from SOS Children's Villages in Kenya went through sessions on mental health and psychosocial support conducted by the SOS International Advisor on Psychosocial support (PSS) & Mental Health. The sessions were especially helpful because of the negative effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic period.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The MA Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy is already providing direction on support to programme beneficiaries in AC and FS as well as partners including the DCS who received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the MA. The Covid Emergency Response, prevention and Youth virtual access project supported many families in the MA with Voucher Assistance System (VAS) for food and non-food items.

ICT DIGITALIZATION OF THE MA AMID COVID

SOS Children's Village in general has invested adequately on a business continuity plan to ensure that the all staff can work remotely without a hitch in the COVID-19 season. All our

business applications are hosted on cloud which makes them accessible remotely so long as one is connected to reliable internet.

As the pandemic unfolds, ICT Department has put in place proper tools to ensure virtual meetings are scaled through applications such as Microsoft Teams and skype for business.

In terms of digital literacy, 70% of the coworkers and caregivers have a working official email and have been trained on how to navigate the World Wide Web. In addition, all youth have been trained on online job search skills and ways to avoid cybercrimes.

RESULT BASED MANAGEMENT COURSE (RBM)

The MA successfully took part in the eight (8) week RBM Implementation stream training. RBM is a management strategy focusing on performance and achievement of results.

REFRESHED BRAND

The brand refresh training has been conducted throughout the MA and adherence to the branding stipulations is in place.

SPONSORSHIP

We are grateful for the continued sponsorship support throughout the years. For local sponsors, our sponsorship form can be accessed through [Donate to SOS Children's Village | Sponsor a Child \(soschildrensvillageskenya.org\)](#). Our office will be delighted to have you on board.

SECURITY TRAINING

Co-workers participated in a 2-day safety and security management framework, risk management, threats and standard operating procedures training to enhance response to safety and security issues. In addition, the crisis management team attended a 3 day training on mitigating security threats and risks.





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