

70 YEARS OF IMPACT

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITHOUT ADEQUATE PARENTAL CARE



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
INTERNATIONAL



1949-2019
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. SEVENTY YEARS OF CARE: 1949 TO 2019

Seventy years ago, SOS Children's Villages was established in Imst, Austria, to give children who had lost their parents during the war a chance to grow up in a family-like care setting together with their siblings and a stable caregiver. In the years that followed, this care setting was recognised in numerous countries as a suitable care solution for many more children, who also faced situations where they were separated from their families. Since the late-1970s, we have also been working to help vulnerable families to stay together, preventing family breakdown and the need for placement in alternative care.

These family strengthening services have grown steadily across the world and complement the foundation of work with family-like care.

In total, 4 million children have benefitted from alternative care and family strengthening provided by SOS Children's Villages across 135 countries and territories worldwide. Through family-like care and other alternative care services we have reached around 255,000 children. Through family strengthening approximately 3.7 million children have been reached.

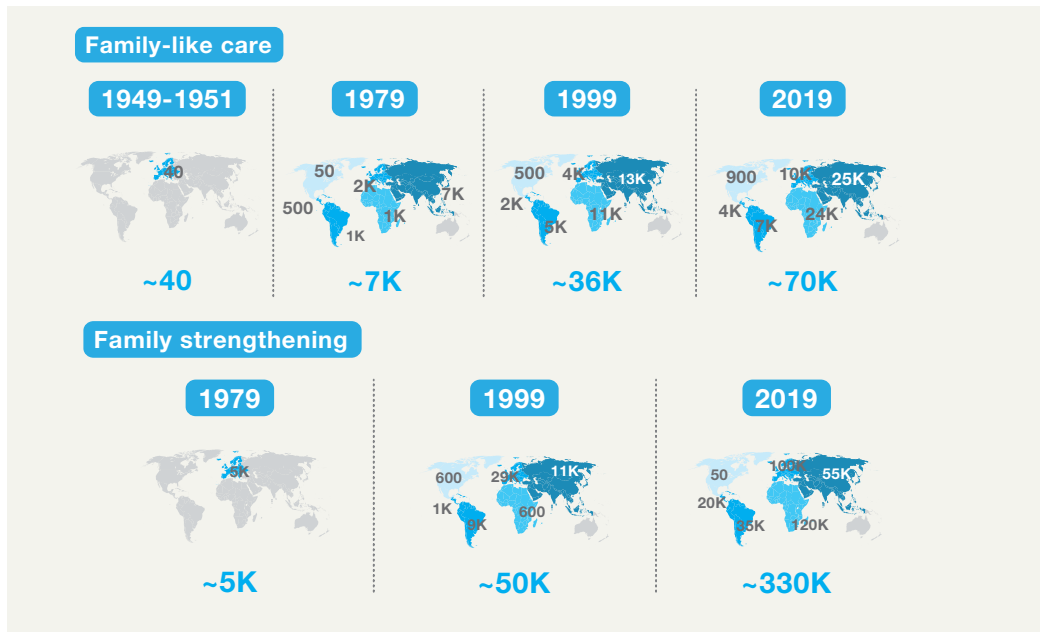


Figure 1: Number of children reached up to 2019

2. OUR IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS

"They put us on the right path, supported us on all levels, and planted in us the ability to move forward. Now it is our turn to improve our life and take all the opportunities available to improve and move on towards the better."

Former participant from **Palestine**

At least 220 million of the world's children are growing up without adequate parental care. Our ambition is to improve care for children who are at risk, enabling them to overcome precarious conditions and to succeed in life. With this in mind we provide holistic support and high

quality services to children, young people and families in all areas of life.

It is crucial for us to track our results to improve service quality, transparency and accountability. Therefore, we have measured the impact of our services in the lives of individuals along four themes, through interviews with 3,450 children and young people from 37 countries who we supported in the past.

The results show that with the support of SOS Children's Villages, most of these children have significantly improved chances of happiness in life and are able to contribute positively to their communities.

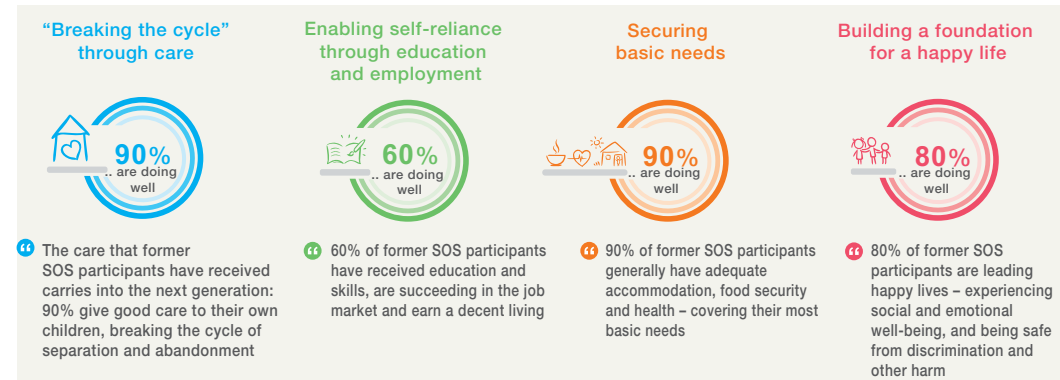


Figure 2: Percentage of former participants doing well across the four themes

"Breaking the cycle" through care

Enabling children to grow up in a safe and caring family environment is our primary goal. The results show that the care that SOS participants receive carries into the next generation: 90% have strong family relationships and support networks and give good care to their own children, breaking the cycle of separation and abandonment.

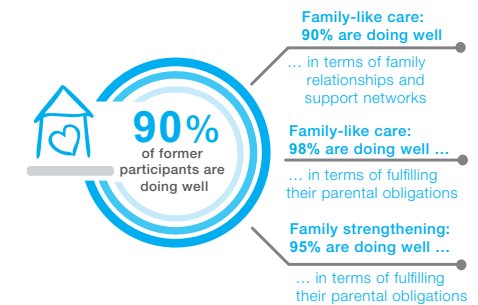


Figure 3: "Breaking the cycle" through care

Good parental care creates a lasting generational effect: We estimate that our work in 1949-2019 will have impacted 13 million lives.

The nature and quality of parenting are often passed on from one generation to the next. Therefore, it is likely that the children of those former participants doing well today, will also benefit from these positive results, thus breaking the cycle of separation and abandonment. For

family-like care, where the support has been more comprehensive and intensive, we expect the positive effects to be seen in the lives of their grandchildren. For family strengthening, visible generational effects on the next generation can be expected, considering the more limited scope of services provided. Please also refer to the last page of this booklet for an overview of our direct and generational effect.

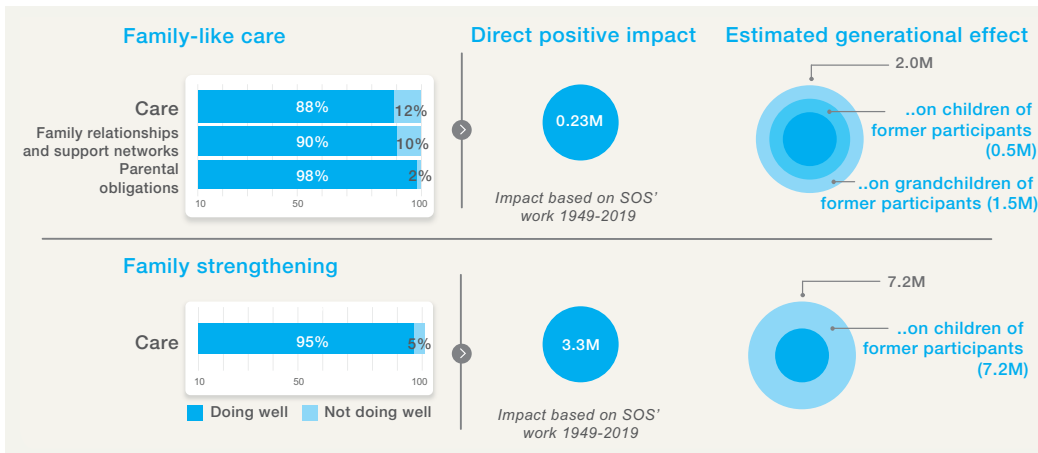


Figure 4: Estimated generational effect of former participants doing well in "care"

Enabling self-reliance through education & employability

Our services aim to support children to attain relevant education and skills, according to their interests and potential, so that they are able to secure a suitable job which provides for a decent living. We believe this to be a pre-requisite for an independent and self-determined life as an adult. 82-85% of former participants have completed secondary or vocational training and have the skills to secure a decent job or are studying towards relevant qualifications. In fact, across most countries, former participants achieved higher educational levels than the national aver-

age. 63-64% of former participants earn a decent living.

Those who are struggling, lack professional networks, work experience or qualifications related to the demands of the labour market. We have put special measures in place in recent years to boost the employability of young people in our programmes and support them in the labour market. Our strategy towards 2030 puts a particular emphasis on this. In addition, a global project called YouthCan! aims to boost the em-

ployability of young people. During 2018, 5060 young people were supported by 1300 corporate volunteers through training, job exposure or mentoring. The problems that young people face in finding decent employment also reflect global youth employment trends, as outlined in a recent report by the International Labour Organization. Especially young people leaving care are affected by this. The lack of recognition of care leavers as a vulnerable group means their rights are often neglected, leading to a lack of opportunities for decent work. We advocate for governments to put provisions in place to support care leavers.

In spite of the above-mentioned difficulties, on average, across many countries, former participants from both services still have considerably higher income than the average of the lowest income group in the respective country (bottom 20% of the population). We have compared the results to the lowest income group since former participants, having not received any alternative care or preventive services, would most probably be in the bottom income group in the country.

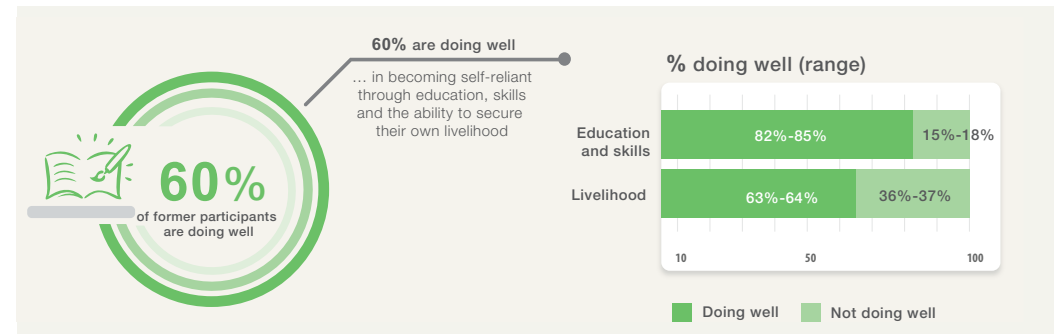


Figure 5: Percentage doing well in terms of their education and employment situation

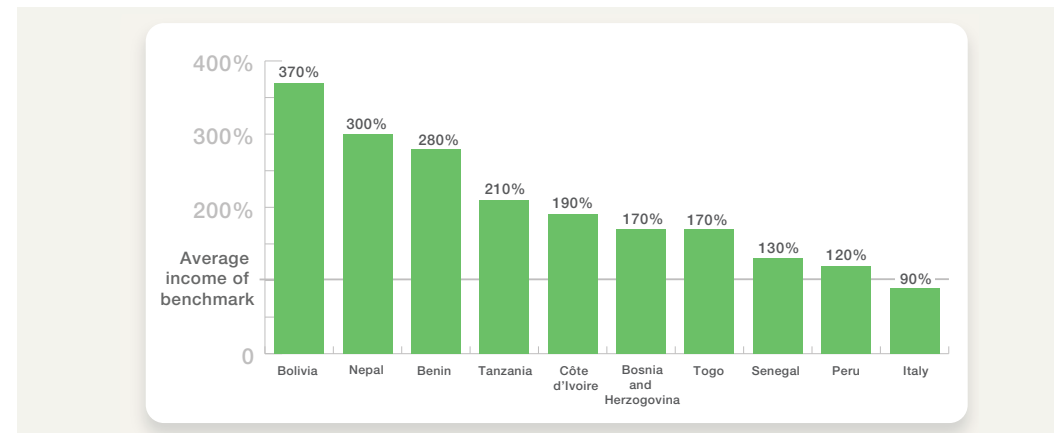


Figure 6: Average income of former participants across 10 countries compared to the income of the benchmark group

Securing basic needs

Through our care services, we empower children so that they are able to take care of themselves when grown up and live independent lives, in terms of their accommodation situation, food security and health. We also work together with partners to support caregivers to access these

essential services for themselves and their children.

90% of former SOS participants usually have their basic needs met – having adequate accommodation, food security or health.



Figure 7: Securing basic needs

Building a foundation for a happy life

We support children and families through life skills training, social and emotional support as part of day-to-day interactions, support groups, counselling, trauma therapy, psychotherapy, child rights trainings, and other psycho-social support services whenever required.

Consequently, we expect former participants to be doing well in terms of social inclusion, protection, happiness and self-esteem. Overall, 80% of former participants reported doing well.

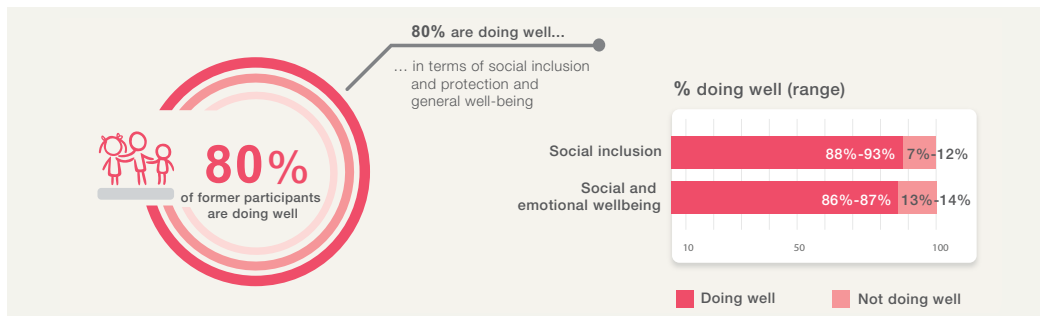


Figure 8: Building a foundation for a happy life

3. OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Through our efforts together with partners, we aim to contribute to have an impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global goals for peace and prosperity adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as part of its Agenda 2030.

our programme in the past, we can estimate the extent to which we contribute to these five SDGs and the related targets.

We expect that similarly positive results shall also be seen in the lives of current and future participants by 2030. For example, in our family-like care and family strengthening services we support children to access quality education and skills training, from early childhood development through to secondary education, vocational training and in some cases even university education. On average, in all these areas related to education and skills, 82% of former participants are doing well. SDG targets 4.2-4.5 specifically refer to these education areas, meaning that our work directly contributes to those targets. Our assumption is that we can also expect 82% of our current and future participants to be positively impacted in terms of education and skills, which would amount to 5.3 million children by 2030. This same logic has been applied to related SDG targets in SDGs 1, 8, 10 and 16.

Five SDGs in particular are central to our work

- ➡ SDG 1 No Poverty
- ➡ SDG 4 Quality Education
- ➡ SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ➡ SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities
- ➡ SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

These SDGs reflect our aim to contribute to a world free from deprivation and inequalities by making a difference in the lives of children left furthest behind.

Based on our impact in the lives of individual children and young people who participated in

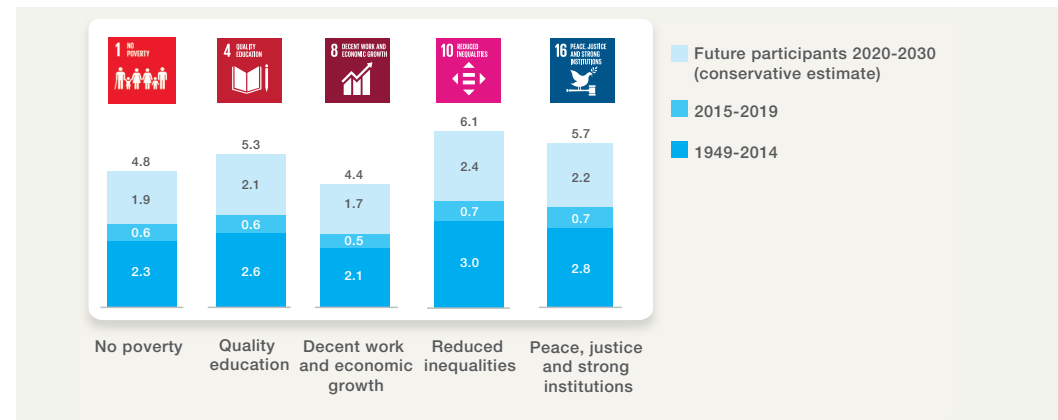


Figure 9: Number of participants (in millions) positively impacted in respective SDG, 1949-2030

4. OUR IMPACT IN COMMUNITIES

Beyond our impact on individuals, SOS Children's Villages has become a vital pillar of many communities, through our work to strengthen support systems for vulnerable children and their families. The results of social impact assessments in 12 countries have shown:

- ➔ While there is strong community awareness of children and families at risk, civic engagement to address the situation lags behind significantly.
- ➔ In terms of community networks we work closely with governments and NGOs, driving joint efforts to support vulnerable children and families. In some locations, actions and resources of community-based organisations (CBOs), local authorities and other relevant partners are not well-coordinated, reflecting the lack of investment in social support systems.

- ➔ Across almost all locations, we have raised strong awareness for child safeguarding mechanisms and procedures among relevant stakeholders.
- ➔ In terms of progress towards sustainability, low capacity of CBOs and local partners put sustainability at risk, as they would often not be able to continue activities for the support of children at risk without SOS Children's Villages. It is recommended to put stronger provisions in place to strengthen CBOs in the future.
- ➔ In terms of alternative care, many stakeholders mentioned that the number of children placed in alternative care has stabilised since the family strengthening services started.

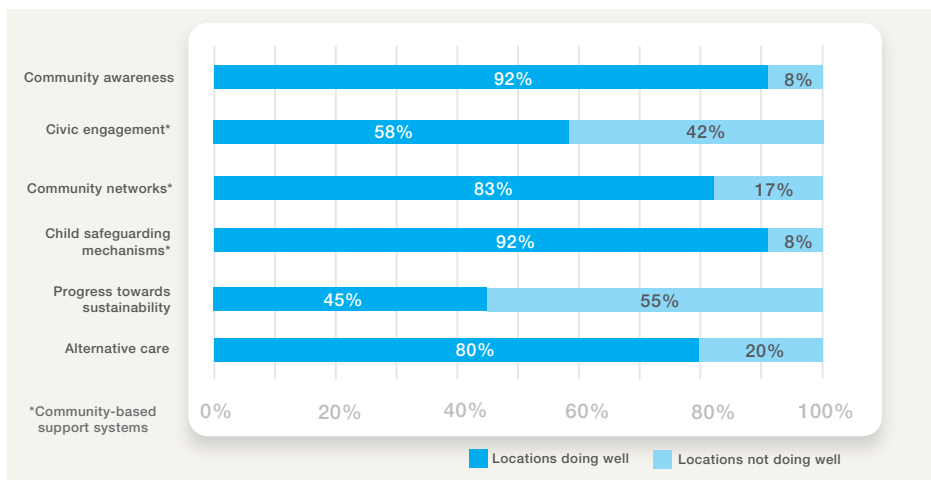


Figure 10: Average community scores across 12 SIA locations

5. SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT (SROI)

As part of our impact assessments, changes brought about by our programmes are quantified as far as possible in financial terms, and the results from 12 countries show that we are having a tangible economic impact: for every 1€ invested into SOS programmes, it is estimated that society reaps 5€ in benefits.

At first glance, family strengthening services appear far more “profitable” than family-like care services. However, family-like care and family strengthening services differ in many respects, including the children’s level of vulnerability when joining the programme, as well as the intensity and duration of support received. Children in different care situations face different risks and have different care needs. Therefore, a range of services is required – from support services to prevent families from separating,

to supporting children who have lost the care of their families through alternative care. In family strengthening, the SROI is the result of a cumulative effect of many partners and service providers working together in a given location. Family-like care services are more comprehensive, including a range of support services directly provided by SOS Children's Villages over a number of years. Therefore, we do not compare the two services per se, but rather compare service types across different countries.

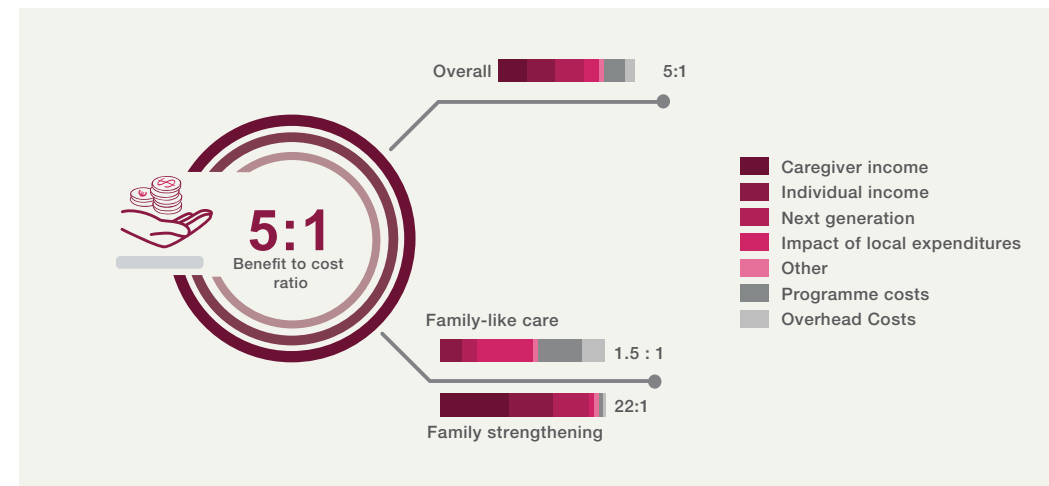


Figure 11: The social return on investment in 12 countries

6. WHERE WE WILL GO FROM HERE: THE NEXT 70 YEARS

We have a wealth of experience in dealing with the issues related to children's care, which we have built up over 70 years of working with children and their families. Nevertheless, we know that much more still needs to be done for every child to grow up in a protective family environment. Around the world, too many children continue to find themselves in vulnerable circumstances without parental care and many more are at risk of falling into that situation. We need to continually innovate and improve our work to respond to this situation.

Based on the strong foundation of growth in the last decades, we envision that SOS Children's Villages will continue to make a positive and meaningful impact in the lives of millions of children in the years to come. This shall be achieved not only by direct work with children, their families and communities, and by further advocacy work nationally, regionally and globally, but also by taking a lead in mobilising within society for a broader movement to ensure every child's right to quality care.



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Overview: Children and young people impacted

Type of support	Currently	Since 1949	Projected INDIRECT impact
NUMBERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PROGRAMMES			
FAMILY-LIKE CARE	70,000	255,000	2 million (figure 4) • Based on 88% of former participants doing well in 'care', considering net birth rates per region (World Bank).
FAMILY STRENGTHENING	330,000	3.7 million	7 million (figure 4) • Based on 95% of former participants doing well in 'care', considering net birth rates per region (World Bank).
SUB-TOTAL	400,000	4 million	9 million
TOTAL DIRECT + INDIRECT			13 million

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

For more information, please refer to the full 70 Years of Impact report and videos www.sos-childrensvillages.org/impact

IMPRINT

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