

NO CHILD SHOULD GROW UP ALONE

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES STRATEGY 2030

"I was a child without parents, so I don't have the same rights as the other people ... it makes me feel like I am worth less than they are."

Frigg, age 21, Child Rights Workshop Participant, Norway

Statement of the president and the CEO of SOS Children's Villages International

Every child has the right to grow up in a caring family.

Children need stable, supportive and caring relationships to develop their potential. They need their rights to be respected and realized to succeed in life. Looking at the world today, too many children are invisible in society and lack the conditions they need to flourish.

SOS Children's Villages is passionate about child care and child development. We want to build inclusive societies in which the most deprived and disadvantaged children have a home. Today, it takes a truly global effort to make a real difference in the lives of children and young people who lack, or are at risk of losing, parental care.

Our international Strategy 2030, with its central message that 'no child should grow up alone', is a road map to build and drive change for children. It was developed by SOS Children's Villages member associations in 134 countries and territories in broad consultation with 200 young people.

Our strategy commits SOS Children's Villages to support the global community in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, which include on its agenda the needs of disadvantaged children. We believe that to reach these goals, the world must start with those who have been left the furthest behind. It is for them to measure whether equity, social protection and universal dignity for all have been achieved.

In almost 70 years of providing alternative child care and supporting families at risk, engaging for their inclusion in society, we have learnt, as the African proverb says, that 'it takes a village to raise a child'. That's why we work together with partners to improve the situation of children, young people and their families when they live without parental care or are at risk of losing it.

The journey towards a better world in 2030 will require even stronger partnerships between key stakeholders, communities, NGOs, governments, corporates, donors, community-based as well as international organisations, and many more. Let's reach out to each other to find synergies and develop new forms of cooperation. We warmly invite you to join us in creating a global effort on behalf of children without parental care.

Thank you for supporting this important cause!


Siddhartha Kaul
President


Norbert Meder
Chief Executive Officer



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SOS Children's Villages supports disadvantaged families to care for their children, and when children can no longer live with their own families, we provide quality alternative care. Child development and child rights have been at the heart of our mission since 1949.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES STRATEGY 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, envisage a world free of poverty, violence and inequality, where everyone can fulfil their potential with dignity. To truly achieve this by 2030, children, especially the most disadvantaged, have to be at the centre of this global agenda.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- 1 We ensure that many more children have a loving home and an equal chance to succeed in life, by strengthening the quality and outreach of our programmes
- 2 We drive a global care movement, uniting people and partners, so that 'no child should grow up alone'

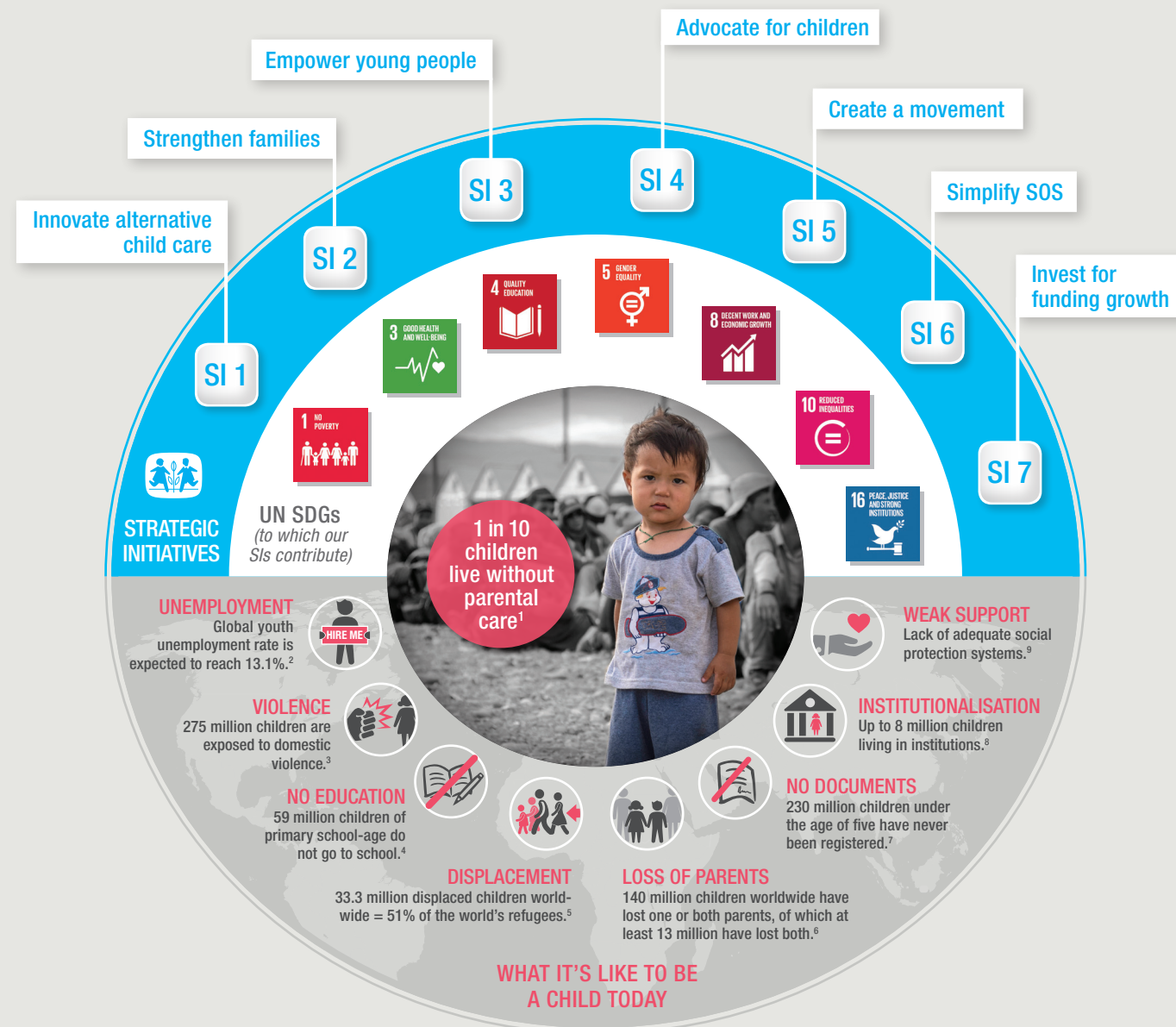
7 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (SI)

to support our target group and reach our goals:



OUR TARGET GROUP

Children without parental care or at risk of losing it who live in extremely disadvantaged circumstances (220 million children worldwide)



SOS Children's Villages has put the most disadvantaged children at the heart of its Strategy 2030, with the central message: 'No child should grow up alone'. The strategy directly relates to the SDGs in key areas such as poverty, inequality, education, health, social and child protection, and decent work.

A caring and protective family is central to a child's development, as recognised by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Similarly, the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children affirm that children with inadequate or no parental care are at risk of being denied the support, protection and love to develop fully. The SDGs will not be achieved if children without parental care continue to be left behind.

THE 7 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES IN DETAIL

SI 1 - Innovate alternative child care

- Further develop a range of community-integrated, gender-sensitive and cost-effective alternative quality care options based on the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children
- Focus on community-integrated SOS families, quality foster care and care options for children in emergency situations
- Empower and train care professionals

SI 2 - Strengthen families

- Increase our focus on preventing family separation and promoting quality care for children without parental care or at risk of losing it
- Strengthen partnerships to assure access to high quality essential services for these children and their families, especially in education, health and economic empowerment
- Establish preparedness and capacity for emergency response

SI 3 - Empower young people

- Strengthen young people's participation and prepare them for independent living, with an emphasis on employability and community integration
- Train care professionals to strengthen independence of care leavers and support young people in receiving quality education
- Accompany young people on their journey to independence through coaching and mentoring, together with networks and partners. Support them in building professional, entrepreneurial and soft skills to develop their careers

SI 4 - Advocate for children

- Expand our advocacy work on all levels to ensure that no country leaves children without parental care behind
- Work with governments and build alliances to improve policies and social protection systems for children and young people without parental care as well as families at risk
- Advocate for the right of all children to quality care and for the full implementation of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

"We want to be active participants in the world, that's my message."

Migena, age 21, 2030 Youth Coalition Representative, Albania

SI 5 - Create a movement

- Invite people and partners to support quality childcare.
- Mobilise and train volunteers and empower care professionals, especially women, to drive societal development
- Strengthen our own capacity in advocacy, participation, talent development, monitoring and experience-sharing
- Develop quality alternative care partnerships with governments and other providers

SI 6 - Simplify SOS

- Create a simpler, agile and digital organisation – including efficient and collaborative structures and processes, strongly integrating technology into programme work

SI 7 - Invest for funding growth

- Invest in high-potential and new fundraising channels, support innovative approaches and enhance co-operation with governments
- Strengthen our relationship with donors
- Diversify and intensify our fundraising towards existing and new markets and partners in order to ensure sustainability of our services to families and children

SOURCES:

- ¹ SOS Children's Villages International (2016). *Child at risk. The target group of SOS Children's Villages*. This figure is an estimation by SOS Children's Villages, as there is a lack of official national and global data
- ² The International Labour Organization (ILO), (global figure from 2016)
- ³ UNICEF (2006). *Behind closed doors. The impact of domestic violence on children*.
- ⁴ UNICEF (2016). *The State of the World's Children 2016. A fair chance for every child* (global figure from 2013).
- ⁵ Global Trends 2015, UNHCR (global figure from 2016)
- ⁶ UNICEF (2016). *The State of the World's Children 2016. A fair chance for every child*
- ⁷ UNICEF (2013). *Every Child's Birth Right, Inequities and trends in birth registration*
- ⁸ Pinheiro, P. (2006). *World Report on Violence against Children*, UNICEF, New York
- ⁹ SOS Children's Villages Int. (2013). *Protecting the most marginalised children and families. SOS Children's Villages Post-2015 Think Piece on Social Protection*