



**SOS  
KINDERDORF**

# **Annual Report 2024**

**GROWING TOGETHER**



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**TIP** You can find additional information, videos and more in the online version of the annual report: [www.sos-kinderdorf.at/jahresbericht](http://www.sos-kinderdorf.at/jahresbericht)



# Growing together

## TAKING CHILDREN SERIOUSLY – SHAPING THE FUTURE

**A fair society starts with treating children with respect. Their voices must be heard, and their concerns must be considered in everyday life as well as in politics.**

Our democratic coexistence is based on participation – but what about those who are not yet eligible to vote? Children may not have the right to vote, but their concerns must be heard and considered in political decisions. We have made a special effort to achieve this in the 2024 election year.

As a child protection organisation, we are committed to ensuring that children are protected and taken seriously. They should have a say in their own lives and futures. Democracy does not begin at 16 or 18; it begins in our everyday interactions. It begins when young people learn that their opinions matter.

Participation is therefore a key part of our work. We want children to grow up to become confident and courageous adults who know what they want and what they don't. They should become active shapers of their own lives. We promote this through our daily care of children and young people, as well as through our commitment to children's rights.

Our vision is a society in which every child is kept safe and has an equal opportunity to be heard. Thank you to everyone who works tirelessly to make this vision a reality.

  
 Nora Deinhammer
   
 Christian Moser
   
 Annemarie Schlack

Management SOS Children's Villages Austria



In our extensive children's poll, we asked children across Austria for their opinions. Over 1,100 children voted in polling stations or by post using child-friendly ballot papers. The result was clear: **the environment, family, friends** and **health** are particularly important to them.

# Making a difference together

## OUR GOAL: A CHILD-FRIENDLY SOCIETY!

A child-friendly society starts with each one of us by breaking old patterns and treating children as equals. SOS Children's Villages is committed to this goal through a variety of initiatives.

We have been actively involved in schools for several years to nurture children's strengths. The SOS-Herzkitz project promotes mindfulness and social learning in Austrian classrooms. But what is SOS Children's Villages doing at the Pride Parade?

We are creating a children's zone where families can enjoy the hustle and bustle of the event without having to deal with the crowds. At the same time, we are raising awareness of the discrimination faced by young queer people. Only when all children in Austria have equal opportunities, and their rights and concerns are recognised, will we be a child-friendly society that is fit for the future.

**On Children's Rights Day, children and young people shared their wishes and views.**

"I feel brave when I am taken seriously."

*Amin, 10 years old*

"Adults should treat all children equally. It doesn't matter what their origin or background is. They should simply treat everyone the same."

*Rakhim, 15 years old*

"I think many young people are not taken seriously. Just because they are quite young does not mean that they cannot do great things and think well."

*Leona, 14 years old*



Children and young people living at SOS Children's Villages are involved in decisions that affect their lives, according to their age. SOS Children's Villages also encourages young people to participate in society. Examples of this include the political orientation provided through the platform [wahlkabine.at](https://wahlkabine.at), a youth council and the school project "Aula".

# Shaping together

## HOW WE LIVE PARTICIPATION AT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

Participation is an important part of the educational work at SOS Children's Villages. Ten-year-old Martin, who lives in a flat-sharing community in Vienna, and Julia, an educator from Upper Austria, explain how this works in everyday life.

### Martin:

In the shared flat where I live, we usually get a say in what we eat and where we go on excursions. Our care-givers always ask for our opinion and listen carefully to what we say. I love climbing trees, reading, and going bowling or disco bowling. We children don't always agree – most of the time, we all want to do different things – but we always manage to find a solution that suits everyone. I think it's great that everyone is listened to.

### Julia:

Participation in everyday life in a flat-sharing community begins with information: I explain to the children what is going on, listen to them, and take their opinions seriously. Even from kindergarten age, we can involve children in decisions, such as designing their room. Participation does not mean that children can decide everything, but it does mean that we listen to them and take their needs seriously. Our aim is to raise strong, responsible adults who can express their needs and desires.







The children were involved in the planning of the new nature-oriented play area in Altmünster even before the construction work began. Their biggest wish was for a pirate ship. This was realised, along with other suggestions made by the children. A fun court now offers space for various ball sports, and children from the SOS Children's Village and surrounding areas can practise their cycling skills.

# Creating something new together

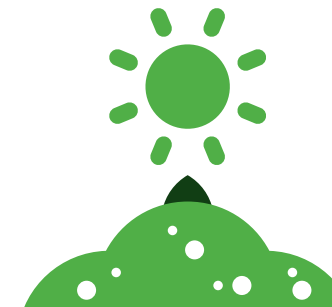
## COMPLETION OF THE NEW VILLAGE OF ALTMÜNSTER

The existing SOS Children's Village in Altmünster, Upper Austria, underwent a complete renovation over the course of two years. Children and adults alike can now enjoy the modern, open village and its new educational opportunities.

Between 2022 and 2024, the SOS Children's Village in Altmünster underwent modernisation. As part of this renovation, eleven new, sustainable solid wood buildings were constructed. Thanks to photovoltaic panels, a pellet heating system, green roofs and a car-free site, the village's ecological footprint has been significantly reduced. There is now also a leisure and therapy centre offering a wide range of activities, which families from the surrounding area can also use. Since autumn 2024, the pupils' residence has provided supervised accommodation for up to 12 young people during the week.

### A PLACE TO GROW UP

The SOS Children's Village in Altmünster has helped countless children become independent over the years. Florian lived here for a few years before the renovation. We met the 29-year-old during a visit to the newly renovated village. He is now a project manager at an electrical company and is currently completing his Matura. He lives with his girlfriend and a dog in an apartment near Altmünster. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and cruising on lake Traunsee in a small boat. He fondly remembers his time at the SOS Children's Village: "We were like a little family. If someone had problems, we were there for each other."





“A new home is being created in Graz for girls experiencing serious life crises. They need a place that will take them in and offer them safety and security.”

**Birgitta Thurner**, SOS Children's Village Director, Styria

# Staying on track together

## A NEW HOME FOR YOUNG GIRLS

The premises of the flat-sharing community for girls in Graz are showing their age. Taking the young residents' wishes into account, a new place of wellbeing is now being created.

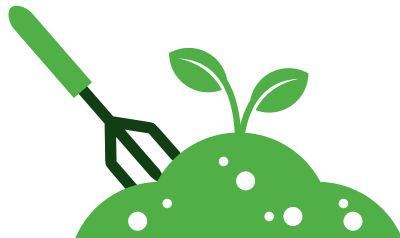
**What do a pear tree, two dogs and a huge pile of pasta have in common?** They provide comfort and calm, and they are always there when needed.

The old pear tree in the front garden of the Graz girls' shared flat has heard many stories. A friend, always there, day and night. It almost disappeared because the flat was being rebuilt. However, preserving the pear tree was one of the girls' greatest wishes.

The shared flat in Graz has existed for many years, but is now outdated. Additionally, there is an increasing demand for therapy among the young people living at SOS Children's Villages. The newly-built facility will enable us to address the psychotherapeutic needs of girls in a familiar environment.

The flat-sharing community also includes two four-legged friends: Fee and Dino. Fee has a calming effect, while Dino knows the residents so well that he nudges the door when he hears a girl crying behind it.

Thanks to the support of many courageous individuals, a space is being created where people can laugh, cry, learn, play, argue, offer each other comfort and simply live. And cook. “Pasta is the coolest. We all love it,” the girls say. They will grow up together in the new shared flat, accompanied by love, care and security. There is a pear tree, two dogs and pasta.







“My son is my treasure, but there have always been some challenges. He is on the autism spectrum. There have been times when I have felt completely overwhelmed by the situation. These visits have given me strength and hope again.”  
**A mother** who is receiving support from Mobile Family Work.

# Preventing together

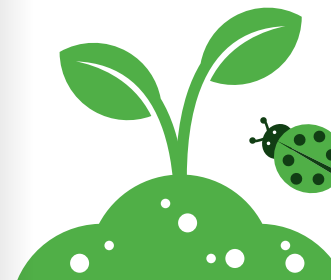
## PRESERVING CHILDREN'S FAMILIAR WORLD

Ideally, parents should accompany their children at all times, show them affection, and be there for them. However, not all parents are able to provide this level of care. SOS Children's Villages can support families through mobile family work.

When a family is in need, targeted, preventative support is crucial. In recent years, it has become apparent that families are increasingly struggling with multiple issues. In addition to individual challenges faced by parents, such as mental illness, trauma and addiction, families are also under pressure from external factors. Economic uncertainty, rising living costs and social pressures are causing psychological and social distress for parents, children and young people.

### PRINCIPLES OF MOBILE FAMILY WORK:

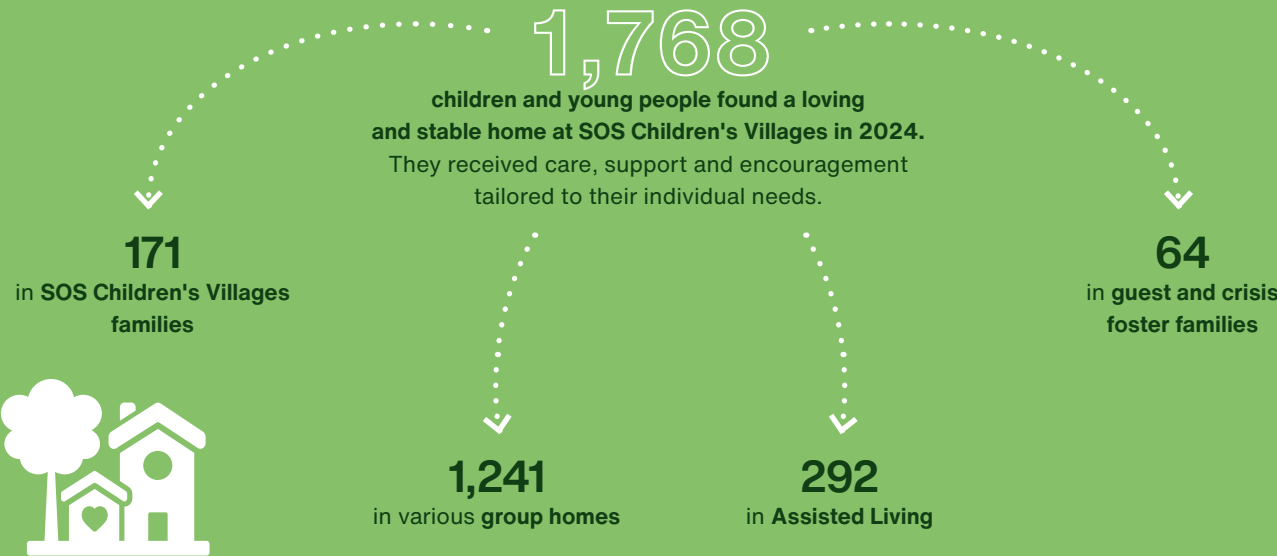
- Focusing on the individual needs of families.
- Parents are the experts on their own lives and set their own goals.
- Support for two to three years, with one to two visits per week.
- Strengthening parenting skills and establishing a daily routine.
- Supporting parents with topics such as finances, job search and housing.



# A new home

## LOVING & STABLE

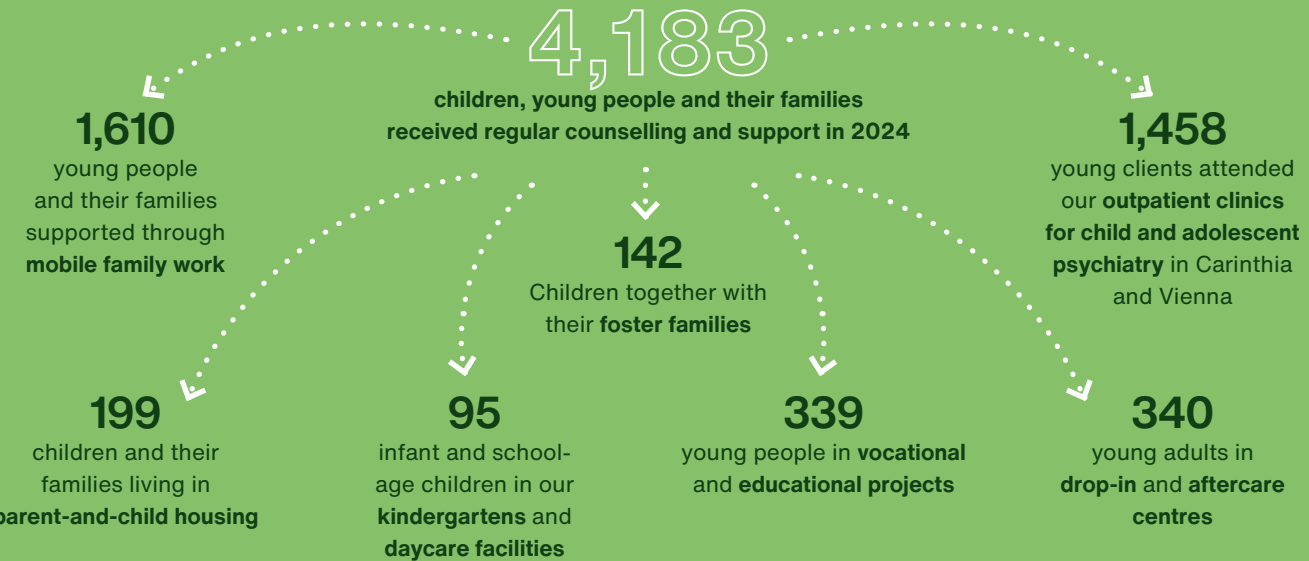
Young people who are temporarily or permanently unable to live with their families are cared for by our care-givers in a family-like environment. This can take place, for example, in various group homes or in SOS Children's Villages families.



# Counselling & support

## PREVENTIVE & SUPPORTIVE

SOS Children's Villages is not only involved when children need a new place to grow up. SOS Children's Villages also empowers many young people and families through preventive and supportive measures, offering services such as kindergartens, as well as vocational and educational projects.





# Close by

## DIVERSE & SUPPORTIVE

SOS Children's Villages offers a wide range of services, including various projects, programmes and participation opportunities that meet current needs.

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES ON THE RUN

Offers such as the mobile children's zone and our family cafés were visited

5,132 times.



### YOUTH & SOCIAL INTERACTION

The SOS-Herzkiste project, developed jointly by Future Wings and SOS Children's Villages to promote mindfulness and social skills, benefited

24,120

pupils, 662 teachers and 274 schools in Vienna, Upper Austria, Styria and Vorarlberg.

The OJA youth work projects included

800

meetings, helpful discussions and counselling.

A total of

2,856

young players took part in our Heimspiel football project with 190 matches held in Graz, Salzburg and Vienna.

### COUNSELLING & AFFORDABLE CHILDREN'S GOODS

With our SOS-Ballon project, Vienna's first social market for toys and children's goods, we were able to support 559 families with around

821

children.



### RAT AUF DRAHT EMERGENCY CALL 147

for children and young people in crisis and with urgent questions:

The counselling team received a total of

47,895

requests for help: 39,010 by telephone, 3,916 via chat, and around 3 million visits to the website rataufdraht.at

#### INCREASE IN COUNSELLING:

- + 5% on mental illness
- + 5% on self-harming behaviour
- + 8% on bullying and psychological violence at school
- + 19% on sextortion (blackmail with nude photos/videos via social media)

#### MAIN TOPICS FOR COUNSELLING:

- Information on psychosocial care
- Problems with parents/adults
- Suicidality
- Relationship problems
- Separation/heartbreak
- Bullying/psychological violence at school

### RAT AUF DRAHT PARENT PAGE

for parents and caregivers with expertise, information and video counselling:

With more than

780

hours of counselling, parents, family members and educators were supported in discussions: 1,334 online counselling sessions, over 400,000 visits to elternseite.at

#### MAIN TOPICS:

- Education
- Puberty
- School (especially skipping class frequently)
- Mental illnesses/behavioural problems in children

RAT  
auf Draht

# Our worldwide support

SOS Children's Villages Austria supports many international SOS projects and emergency relief activities, as well as SOS Children's Villages in other countries. SOS Children's Villages' global impact has grown enormously since its foundation in 1949.



## Around 7.8 million

people were reached either directly or indirectly in 2024:

(Due to the change in counting method, which now includes an estimate of people reached indirectly, it is not possible to make a direct comparison with the previous year.)

### LOVING HOME

Children and young people who were cared for in **SOS Children's Villages families, SOS group homes, etc.:**

**65,300**

### PREVENTION & SUPPORT

Our services to **strengthen families** benefited

**4.2 million**

children, young people and adults, a total of 99,100 families.

### PROMOTION, TRAINING & CAMPS

Our **international educational programmes** have benefited

**one million**

children, young people and adults.



### HEALTH

Our **medical aid programmes** benefited

**113,000**

children, young people and adults.

### HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

reached  
**2.3 million**  
children, young people and adults.

**Our emergency response includes** prevention and preparedness measures, rapid and effective crisis response, and post-crisis work. Measures aim to save lives and alleviate the suffering of children and families in humanitarian crises.

Internationally, SOS Children's Villages responded to **38 crises** in **33 countries** with **101 emergency programmes** in 2024.



The first SOS Children's Village was founded in Tyrol, Austria, in 1949. We are now active in **over 130 countries and territories worldwide.**

The international work is coordinated by SOS Children's Villages International, a federation of independent, locally led and self-governed national member organizations. As founding member SOS Children's Villages Austria plays a vital role in supporting the worldwide work of SOS Children's Villages International and is part of the international federation as a national organisation.

The association provides a wide range of services to help families, children and young people, and supports individuals in Austria who are experiencing personal and social distress. Projects and sponsorships abroad are implemented and monitored in close cooperation with the umbrella organisation and the national organisations. A cooperation agreement has been established between the umbrella organisation and SOS Children's Villages Austria, with the objective of ensuring the joint realisation of our humanitarian mission.

# Helping together worldwide

## CHILDREN IN WAR: THE INVISIBLE VICTIMS

**SOS Children's Villages supports children affected by armed conflicts worldwide, including Gaza, Ukraine, Lebanon and Sudan. Children in conflict zones are constantly endangered by violence and destruction. They are separated from their families and experience trauma.**

The work of SOS Children's Villages and other non-governmental organisations is hindered by increasingly restricted access to conflict zones, as well as the global trend of reduced funding for humanitarian aid. There are also significant risks, as care facilities themselves are often vulnerable to be attacked.

Despite these challenges, SOS staff continue to provide tireless support to children and families in these areas.

### EVACUATIONS

In the Gaza Strip, the SOS Children's Villages service facilities were evacuated several times to protect the children and their caregivers from violence and bombing. At the end of January 2025, the evacuated children's village in Rafah was completely destroyed. Children and caregivers were also relocated to safe locations in Ukraine, Lebanon and Sudan.

### REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES

In war zones, it is crucial that children are not separated from their families if they are to survive. This is why SOS Children's Villages works closely with UNICEF to care for unaccompanied children and reunite them with their families if possible.

### RELIEF SUPPLIES

Crisis areas often lack the most basic necessities. SOS Children's Villages provides vital relief supplies and provisions, particularly in and around refugee camps, such as those in Sudan and neighbouring countries like Chad. Depending on the situation, vouchers and cash assistance are distributed, as well as blankets, clothing and food.



### A TOUCH OF NORMALITY

Even in the most disturbing crisis situations, SOS Children's Villages aims to bring normality and peace of mind back into children's lives. This can involve setting up child protection zones, offering leisure activities, and providing access to educational opportunities.

### PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

To help children in conflict zones overcome war traumas, it is essential to provide them with psychological support.

## FROM EMERGENCY RELIEF TO LONG-TERM SUPPORT:

### The SOS ReBuild project in Uganda

SOS Children's Villages supports people who have been forced to leave their homes due to the conflicts in neighbouring countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo on their way back to independence.

Through the **ReBuild project**, we are strengthening the independence of refugees in Uganda. However, the local communities that host the refugees are also receiving support.

- Through **economic empowerment**, rather than the distribution of relief supplies, they are empowered to meet their own needs.
- Through **psychosocial support** they can overcome the stress of flight and uprooting and regain their stability.
- Through raising **awareness of gender equality and child protection**, we aim to improve the safety and stability of women and their children.
- Through supporting the **development of local civil society organisations** we support sustainable solutions.

The project is supported by The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation.



# International projects

## WITH FUNDING FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

### Africa

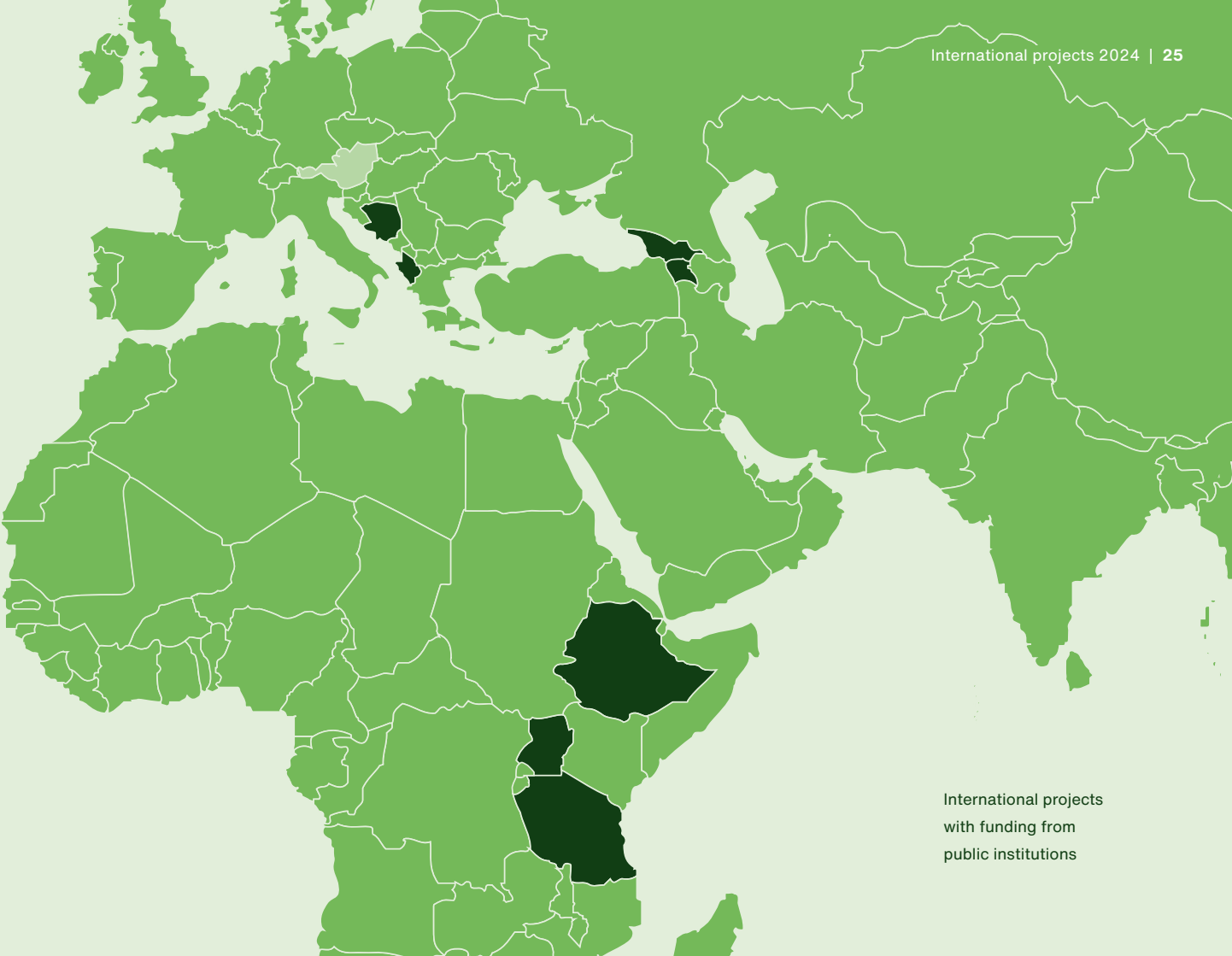
Country	Topic	Duration	Project volume	Funding agency
Ethiopia & Uganda	Grow Equal – Her Right to a Sustainable Life	01/2024-12/2027	4,000,000 €	ADA
Uganda	Resilience Building for refugees, IDPs and host communities in Uganda (Rebuild III)	05/2022-09/2024	333,333 €	ADA
Uganda	Sustainable and Resilient Communities through Women and Youth Empowerment (SURE)	02/2024-02/2026	979,881 €	BMLUK
Tanzania & Uganda	CSOs and Policy Dialogue – awareness raising for communities and policymakers for child protection and a ban on child marriage	01/2023-12/2025	83,000 €	ADA

# Eastern Europe and Caucasus

Country	Topic	Duration	Project volume	Funding agency
Armenia	Strengthening families and communities for child development in Tavush	08/2021-07/2024	450,000 €	ADA
Albania & Bosnia and Herzegovina	Resilient Families – A step out of poverty!	10/2024-09/2026	1,278,567 €	BMASGPK
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Families stay together – family strengthening and reunification in Bosnia and Herzegovina	01/2021-03/2024	549,056 €	ADA
Bosnia and Herzegovina	REAL of Careleavers – Reaching Autonomous Life of Care Leavers	09/2022-08/2024	136,583 €	Federal State of Vorarlberg
Georgia	Strengthened families and empowered youth for social and economic development in Zugdidi	01/2023-12/2025	600,000 €	ADA

With funding from:

- Austrian Development Agency
- Federal Ministry Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management Republic of Austria
- Federal Ministry Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection Republic of Austria

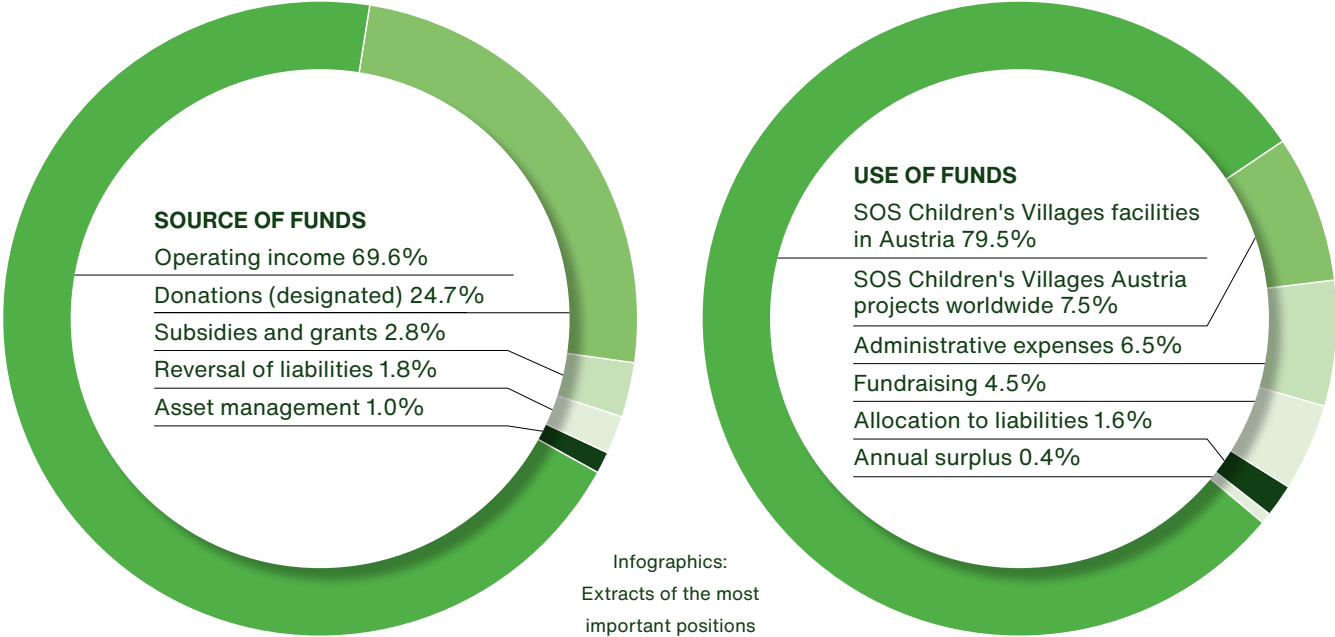


International projects with funding from public institutions

# Financial report

## SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGES AUSTRIA

in accordance with the cooperation agreement on awarding a Donation Seal of Approval.



Infographics:  
Extracts of the most  
important positions

SOURCE OF FUNDS		in € thou.
I. Donations (designated)	24.7%	46 458 €
II. Operating income	69.6%	131 180 €
a) operating income from public funds	67.1%	126 528 €
– revenue from cost units (daily rates and reimbursements)	67.1%	126 369 €
– other operating income	0.1%	159 €
b) sundry operating income	2.5%	4 652 €
III. Subsidies and grants from public authorities	2.8%	5 302 €
IV. Other income	1.0%	1 906 €
a) asset management	1.0%	1 906 €
V. Reversal of liability items for donations and subsidies not yet allocated for their intended purpose	1.8%	3 414 €
VI. Reversal of reserves	0.0%	0 €
VII. Annual loss	0.0%	0 €
Total income	100%	188 261 €

USE OF FUNDS		
I. Services for statutory purposes		
SOS Children's Villages facilities in Austria	79.5%	149 616 €
SOS Children's Villages Austria projects worldwide	7.5%	14 155 €
II. Fundraising	4.5%	8 468 €
III. Administrative expenses	6.5%	12 223 €
IV. Allocation to liabilities for donations and subsidies not yet allocated for their intended purpose	1.6%	3 043 €
V. Allocation to reserves	0.0%	0 €
VI. Annual surplus	0.4%	756 €
Total expenditure	100%	188 261 €







The majority of SOS Children's Villages' employees work in counselling and caring for children, young people, and families. To enable them to focus fully on their work, their colleagues support them by taking on administrative tasks, organising the household and maintaining the infrastructure. The organisation also benefits from the expertise of professionals specialising in marketing, fundraising, business administration, IT and human resources.



# Working together

## PROFESSIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL DIVERSITY

SOS Children's Villages employs people from over 60 different professional backgrounds and at all qualification levels. This diversity ensures that working at SOS Children's Villages is a varied and exciting experience.

**BETTINA WUNSCH**  
is a family counsellor at Mobile  
Family Work in Vienna:

"Even during my studies, I was fascinated by the wide range of services offered by SOS Children's Villages. That's still the case today. I think it's great that I could move into other areas of the organisation if I lose interest in mobile counselling at some point."

**MICHAEL KRAKER**  
Is a social education worker in  
training at SOS Children's Villages:

"My job is special because I have the opportunity to positively influence children's lives and support them on their journey. It is very fulfilling to be part of a team that works together to secure a better future for children. The work is challenging, but incredibly rewarding at the same time."

**IVO RAMONI**  
is the Head of IT and Communication  
Systems at the SOS Children's  
Villages office in Innsbruck:

"It has always been important to me that my work has a certain meaning. I have also experienced another side in the private sector, having worked for a large company. I see it as a huge added value to be able to support others through my work."



You can find all the ways to join us in supporting children and young people on our website: [www.sos-kinderdorf.at/helfen-sie-mit](https://www.sos-kinderdorf.at/helfen-sie-mit)  
A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported us last year!



# Tackling it together

## HOW PEOPLE SUPPORT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

The work of SOS Children's Villages would not be possible without the active support of many dedicated individuals. People get involved in various ways, such as through monetary donations, volunteering or participating in our public campaigns: Here are just a few examples of how people get involved with SOS Children's Villages.

### COOKS COOK FOR CHILDREN

For the past five years, the energetic philanthropist and passionate cook Renate Zierler has been tirelessly working for SOS Children's Villages, touring Austria with her unique 'Cooks Cook for Children' campaign. The campaign has raised an incredible total of over 200,000 euros for children in need.

### EVERY METRE COUNTS!

This running event is designed for children and young people. It's not about being particularly fast; it's about exercising together and covering as many metres as possible. Every metre run is converted into a valuable donation! In 2024, 7,751 children and young people ran for us! "It was cool and exhausting!" said a primary school pupil from Upper Austria.

### READY TEAMS

Ready Teams are local, self-organising groups of volunteers who work to make their neighbourhoods more child- and youth-friendly. They champion the needs of young people and their families through creative projects and activities such as reading afternoons, neighbourhood get-togethers and learning cafés.

### REAL ESTATE DONATION

Whether it is a flat, a house or a plot of land, donating real estate to SOS Children's Villages provides a secure foundation for children in need. Donors can rest assured that their home is in good hands, and if they wish, they can also receive support in clearing out the property. This makes property a valuable prospect for the future.



**TIP** You can find additional information, videos and more in the online version of the annual report:  
[www.sos-kinderdorf.at/jahresbericht](http://www.sos-kinderdorf.at/jahresbericht)

**MAP** Only locations in Austria where SOS Children's Villages works intensively and supports at least 15 children and young people are shown here.



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**LEGAL NOTICE Responsible for content** Christian Moser, Managing Director of SOS Children's Villages **Editorial & Text** Anna Radl **Graphic design & layout** Silke Sporn **Photos** Gerhard Berger (Front page, p. 6, 12, 28), SOS Children's Villages (p. 4, 8, 10, 21, 30), Yuri Arcus / Freepik (p. 22) **Translation** Beate Dessewffy **Printing** Wallig Ennstaler Druckerei und Verlag GesmbH. SOS Children's Villages is a non-profit association that is subject to a statutory audit in accordance with the 2002 Associations Act. Its audited annual financial statements, Donation Seal of Approval and annual report all demonstrate transparency and accountability. **Responsible for donation allocation** Christian Moser, Managing Director **Responsible for fundraising and data protection** Nora Deinhammer, Managing Director **Responsible for audit** Halpern & Prinz Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsges.m.b.H.

