
Facts — Figures — Data

Name:	SOS-Kinderdorf e.V.
Headquarters:	Renatastr. 77, 80639 München (Munich), Germany
Form of organization:	Registered, non-profit association
Date of foundation:	February 8, 1955 in Munich by Hermann Gmeiner († 1986)
Structure:	Cooperation with SOS Children's Villages International (umbrella association of all the SOS associations worldwide)
Memberships:	Among others, member of the DPWV (Federation of Welfare Associations in Germany) as an accredited youth welfare organization
Ideology:	Political and religious neutrality

Tasks

Children	SOS families provide stable and consistent care to children who cannot remain with their biological family. A caring and supportive environment is created, especially important for children who require special support and protection.
Youth	We accommodate, educate, counsel and support youth in need of special attention to enable them to lead an independent life based on their own concept.
Families	In order to prevent crises that can lead to family separation, SOS Children's Villages empowers vulnerable families to protect and care for their children. We do so by offering various forms of support to strengthen and stabilize families as much as possible.

Activities in Germany

Locations and facilities:	Network of 150 locations with 42 SOS facilities active in child, youth and family welfare
Field help:	SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. offers care, counseling and/or training to more than 130,000 children, youth and families— either temporarily or on a permanent basis
Coworkers:	3,172 coworkers are active in the SOS facilities in Germany

Activities abroad

Financial: commitment	Financial support for the maintenance of 130 SOS facilities in 44 countries abroad. There are some 2,300 SOS facilities in 130 countries financed by the global SOS community.
Field help:	More than 351,000 children, youth and families are supported; focus: Africa, also The Americas, Asia and Europa (excluding Germany); on a global scale: SOS Children's Villages reaches out to more than 2 million people

Financing

Income:	SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. finances its projects by donations, public funding and other income
Fundraising income:	Some EUR 117.7 million in 2011
Annual accounts:	Independent audit conducted by the accounting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers AG; annual application for the awarding of the official seal of approval for donations awarded by the DZI (Central German Institute for Social Issues).
Administrative expenses:	Portion of administrative expenses: 3.1 %

Overview of SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. in Germany

Who we are

Since its foundation in 1955 SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. has been committed to enabling children to grow up in a stable, loving family environment where they are respected. The origin of the SOS Children's Village goes back to Hermann Gmeiner (1919-1986) who developed the idea in the 1950s. Based on his assumption that the biological family is the best place for children to grow up, Gmeiner looked for a comparable model for orphans. Gmeiner "invented" the SOS family where children find a new home in a caring environment. Since then, the family model has shaped all the care offers by SOS-Kinderdorf e.V.

What we do

SOS-Kinderdorf runs 42 SOS Children's Villages facilities in 150 locations in Germany. These include 15 SOS Children's Villages as well as various other projects and care offers for children, youth, families and those seeking advice. In Germany alone, more than 130,000 persons received counseling, care and/or training – either temporarily or on a permanent basis – in 2011.

The SOS Children's Villages are at the center of our work. In Germany, four to six children live together with their SOS Mother, who is assisted by so-called "SOS aunts" in a family house. The average age of admission of the children is six years. Almost one child in three has passed through two or more types of institutional care before being admitted to an SOS Children's Village. In 2011, 611 children and youth were cared for in SOS families.

How we work

One of the basic principles of all the SOS families is building trust and relationships. Reliable, sustainable contacts, community life and various forms of living together in a community are at the center of our pedagogical concepts. The focus of our youth work is to enable young adults to succeed in the professional world and to actively participate in society. SOS-Kinderdorf strengthens families and the surrounding communities.

Ideally, children can grow up with their biological parents and live in a positive environment. Therefore, we increased our preventive care offers in anticipating and addressing issues before they become major problems. Our long-term commitment aims at improving the situation for young adults in a sustainable way – both in Germany and abroad.

Our new approaches focus on target-group-oriented care offers to support families in leading a satisfying family life. Among our new initiatives are our early intervention programs for young families with children up to 3 years, care offers for single parents as well as multi-generational projects.

Why children live in SOS Children's Villages

Children need a place where they can feel at home. There are most diverse reasons why children can no longer live with their biological parents. Often, the parents are confronted with diverse problems simultaneously, such as an illness, financial problems or problems in a relationship. Nowadays, only a small percentage of the children accommodated in an SOS Children's Village are orphans. The Youth Welfare Offices decide on the best option to guarantee the well-being of a child. SOS Children's Villages ensures that children accommodated in our facilities find a new home. But SOS-Kinderdorf also offers other forms of support for parents and families to ensure that children can grow up with their families of origin.

Our support abroad

SOS-Kinderdorf also advocates for the rights and needs of children abroad and is committed to ensuring that children, youth and families find ways to succeed in life. SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. currently supports 130 SOS facilities in 44 countries abroad. Currently, the focus of our global commitment is Africa. Often, the donations SOS associations in poor countries receive are not sufficient to support local SOS facilities and these countries depend on financial aid from other SOS associations. In these facilities, some 351,000 children, youth and families received care, counseling and training in 2011.

Our use of donations: transparent and efficient

SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. can rely on the regular support of many friends and supporters with donations and contributions which ensure the work in the educational facilities in Germany and abroad. SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. has received the official seal of approval for donations awarded by the DZI (Central German Institute for Social Issues) for many years for its efficient and statute-abiding use of donations. Income of SOS-Kinderdorf e.V. generated from donations, sponsorships, foundations and legacies amounted to EUR 117.79 million in 2011. Advertising and administrative expenses amounted to 11.88 % of the total expenditure according to the DZI guidelines, of which 3.1 % were administrative expenses.

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Further information can be found on www.sos-kinderdorf.de or
www.sos-newsroom.de
