

Annual Report

2023

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES



About SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda

Mission

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

Vision

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

Core Values

— Courage
— Commitment
— Trust
— Accountability

The year in numbers

1,021
Alternative care (AC)

108
Small Group Home(SGH)

428
Reintegrated children

Direct Family Empowerment: People reached (DFE)
16,212

28,508
Trees planted

58
Established Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD)

2,386
Benefited children in ECD

5.8km
of piped water constructed

Children admitted in SOS Children's Villages
163

Children supported to attend school
1,195

Parent trained on positive parenting
5,933

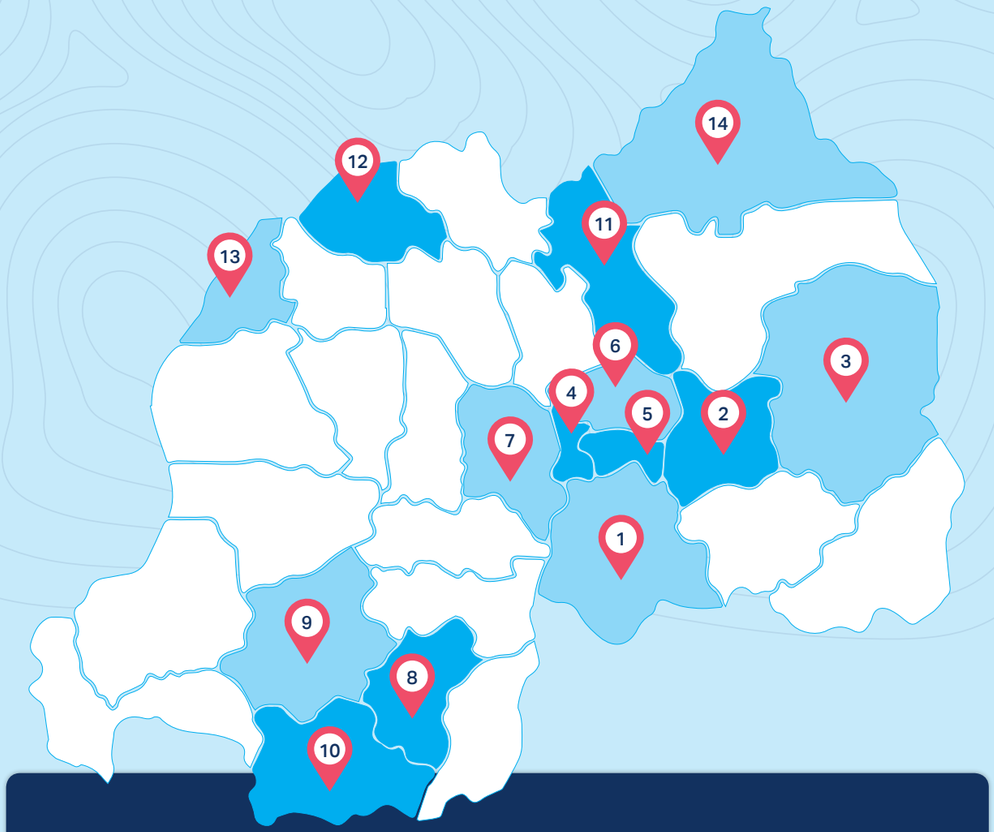
Legal marriage
88
couples

Livestock
771

Cows
347

CBOs/IZU trained
3,222

Locations in **the Country**



1	Bugesera	6	Gasabo	11	Gicumbi
2	Rwamagana	7	Kamonyi	12	Musanze
3	Kayonza	8	Huye	13	Rubavu
4	Nyarugenge	9	Nyamagabe	14	Nyagatare
5	Kicukiro	10	Nyaruguru		

National Director's **Report**



Jean Bosco Kwizera
National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda

SOS children's Villages was able to support

72,981

program participants

A diversified rage of alternative care options provided solutions to

1,021

children who lost parental care.

Supported

483

youth in supervised independent life to acquire education opportunities

Historic gains have been made throughout 2023. Our teams across the program locations in Kayonza, Kigali, Gikongoro and Byumba demonstrated remarkable resilience and creativity in implementation of our various program interventions in 14 districts. This year, we intensified our efforts to support vulnerable children, empower families, young people, communities and local authorities including community social structures to reach to our desired objectives.

Through our various programs such as alternative care, direct family empowerment and community empowerment, youth empowerment, education and remedial learning, health promotion (with focus on MHPSS and oral health), green regeneration as well as humanitarian action, SOS children's Villages was able to support 72,981 program participants across the 14 districts of our program interventions.

A continuum of holistic approaches that promote child rights are applied throughout programs and projects to provide solutions to the most vulnerable children who have lost parental care or at risk of losing it. A diversified rage of alternative care options provided solutions to 1,021 children who lost parental care. These received services in Family like care (FLC), Small Group Homes (SGH), Foster Family Care (FFC), Other Alternative Care (OAC) and Supervised Independent Living (SIL). The Short-Term Care program was also introduced this year (2023) to support the reintegration of children from street situation. The key achievement under the alternative care program was the reintegration of 428 children back to their homes of origin and communities. Through collaborative efforts with the National Rehabilitation services (NRS) and the National Child Development Agency (NCDA), SOS Children's Villages was able to rescue 384 children from street situation.

SOS Children's also supported 483 youth in supervised independent life to acquire education opportunities (301 in secondary education and 182 University education). 105 children were supported under Small Group homes and 4 of their houses constructed. 200 foster carers were identified and empowered to support 200 children who lost parental care.



The family strengthening program supported 4,053 families with

16,212

children and built capacity of 3,222 members of community structures across 14 districts to enhance child rights and child protection.

The family strengthening program helps in building families' and community resilience to support and prevent child-family separation through direct family empowerment and community empowerment. This year the family strengthening program supported 4,053 families with 16,212 children and built capacity of 3,222 members of community structures across 14 districts to enhance child rights and child protection. As part of the green regeneration program, SOS Children's Villages Rwanda supported farmers in Bugesera and Gicumbi districts to to increased crop production through the construction of a solar-powered irrigation system, promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices, linking project participants to markets, access to financial institutions, construction of 8.61 Hectares of radical terraces and 56,803m of progressive terraces/ contour lines on an area of 20.4 Hectares, planting of 28,508 agroforestry trees (hedgerows and cover crops) to provide fodder and protect soil against erosion, production of hydroponic fodder and distribution of quality seeds, seedlings and fertilizers (DAP and Urea). Most significantly, the MA has constructed a 5.8km piped water extension to communities in Mbazi sector Nyamagabe district to reduce dropout cases of children in the area and reduce the communities' burden of seeking clean water.

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda strengthened Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) for both young people and families which has become a benchmark for the socio-economic development of program participants. 326 VSLA groups were created and these reinforced greatly the economic wellbeing of the supported families, enhanced their social cohesion and improved their resilience to make independent decisions.

The establishment of a new technical high school in Kayonza offering programs in carpentry and tailoring has significantly boosted MA Rwanda's initiatives for young people. This development has also provided much-needed relief to the technical high school in Kigali. This year both technical high schools through the YouthCan movement have trained 1007 young people in different trades linking them and integrating some young people into labour markets. Through the dual training initiative for employability and labour market integration,49 young people out of the trained 233 secured job placement while 181 young people are self-employed. 27 youth were linked to global mentors through Youthlinks platform which connects young people to international experts in different spheres of the employment world to inspire them to tap on existing opportunities.

Through the education program, SOS children's Villages Rwanda supported 21,120 children in 120 public schools in 8 districts to acquire remedial learning services for the improvement of their educational performances. The establishment of 58 Early Childhood Development centres (ECD) is crucial to enhancing child protection whereas capacity strengthening of community structures strengthens the sustainability of the program. 2,386 children and 278 caregivers are currently benefiting from the ECD services. 1,195 were also provided with an opportunity to attend school. Growth of our schools due to improved quality (THS 422 from 402, KPS 734 from 403, Kayonza 402 from 381, Gikongoro 515 from 484, Byumba 547 from 494). 11 children were sent to Hermaine Meiner International School in Ghana (1 young person graduated from the school).



IN NUMBERS

1,250

caregivers were supported through community counselling sessions

SOS Children's Villages also provided ASRHR services to

5,400

children through school clubs

Around

1,000

people were educated during the health teeth outreach activities in collaboration with Dental Health Without Borders.

Under health promotion program, SOS Children's Villages trained 18 staff on trauma-informed care 17 staff were trained on PM+ (an approach that supports people to deal with adversity issues in life), Conducted regular psychosocial support sessions for 64 children from street situations as well as 1800 children in 120 public schools.1,250 caregivers were supported through community counselling sessions. Also, 25 staff were trained on narrative therapy techniques and ideas. A CDP course on narrative therapy was conducted in collaboration with the University of Rwanda where 23 mental health practitioners including 3 internationals completed successfully and got certified by the University of Rwanda. SOS Children's Villages also provided ASRHR services to 5,400 children through school clubs in120 schools. 668 children were screened for oral health and 564 were treated (extraction, filling, and cleaning), and around 1,000 people were educated during the health teeth outreach activities in collaboration with Dental Health Without Borders.

With the support of IOR, the National Management Team of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda was trained in child rights Advocacy from which an advocacy strategic plan was produced. Furthermore, SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda advocated for and supported children affected by heavy floods in the north-western provinces of Rwanda.

Considering various changes at SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda, we are proud to have participated in numerous mentorship programs to empower staff and educational career-building programs throughout various projects.

In the current economic landscape, our fundraising team has worked diligently to build relationships and enhance their strategies based on the experiences of previous years.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we strive to achieve our vision for Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect, and security

Warm regards,



Jean Bosco Kwizera

National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda

Executive **Summary**

SOS children's villages Rwanda implements holistic rights-based approaches to addressing issues affecting vulnerable children who have lost parental care and those at risk of losing it. The program focuses on providing alternative care options for children without parental care and on interventions aimed at prevention of family separation.

IN NUMBERS

1021

children provided with alternative care solutions under the FLC and SIL arrangements.



428

children reintegrated back to their communities

Under alternative care SOS Children's Villages Rwanda provided solutions to 1021 children with alternative care solutions under the FLC and SIL arrangements. 108 children have been taken care of in SGH and an overall 428 children reintegrated back to their communities. The MA has collaborated with stakeholders and government to develop a community-based rehabilitation program and SOPs for all alternative care options including for physical and social integration.

Under Direct Family Empowerment (DFE), The MA has been able to contribute to the transformation of 16,212 children. DFE offered family-centered solutions such as access to essential services, family-based support, psychosocial support, education support and contributed to increased crop production through construction of a solar powered irrigation system, promotion of climate smart agriculture practices, linkage to markets and access to finance, construction of 8.61 Hectares of





8.61

Hectares of radical terraces and 56,803m of progressive terraces/ contour lines on an area of 20.4 Hectares, planting of 28,508 agroforestry trees (hedgerows and cover crops) to provide fodder and protect soil against erosion

radical terraces and 56,803m of progressive terraces/ contour lines on an area of 20.4 Hectares, planting of 28,508 agroforestry trees (hedgerows and cover crops) to provide fodder and protect soil against erosion,production of hydroponic fodder and distribution of quality seeds, seedlings and fertilizers (DAP and Urea). Promotion of VSLAs and IGAs for both young people and families has been a yardstick for the socio-economic development of the program participants. Establishment of 58 Early Childhood Development centres (ECD) is crucial to enhancing child protection whereas capacity strengthening of community structures strengthens the sustainability of the program. 2,386 children and 278 caregivers are currently benefiting the ECD services. Most significantly, the MA has constructed a 5.8km piped water extension to communities in Mbazi sector Nyamagabe district to reduce on drop out cases of children in the area and reduce the communities' burden of seeking for safe piped drinking water.

The establishment of a new technical high school in Kayonza location with trades in carpentry and Tailoring has been a significant boost to MA Rwanda's youth interventions and has been a much relief on the technical high school in Kigali. Overall, this year both technical high schools have trained 1007 young people in different trades linking and integrating some of them to labour markets.

Also, with support of IOR, the National Management Team of MA Rwanda was trained on child rights Advocacy from which an advocacy strategic plan was produced. Furthermore, SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda advocated for and supported children affected by heavy floods in the north-western provinces of Rwanda.

National context & stakeholders

Rwanda is a member of the United Nations and has ratified many international human rights conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children's rights are clearly enshrined within the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 (revised in 2015), and are protected in legislation.The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) is the key government ministry responsible for ensuring the strategic coordination of policy implementation related to gender, families, women's empowerment and children. Under MIGEPROF, the National Commission for Children (NCC) was established in 2011, mandated to undertake child-rights monitoring and oversight, and to develop and implement child-protection interventions. A Child Rights Observatory Office also exists within the National Commission for Human Rights with responsibility for child-rights advocacy.

A national Integrated Child Rights Policy was adopted in 2011 to create an environment in which children's development, survival, protection and participation are ensured through a well-coordinated, multisectoral approach.

Rwanda's multidimensional poverty situation among children under 5 years indicate a multidimensional poverty affected 65.8% of all children in the country in 2019/20. The disaggregation of results by age groups indicates that 70.3% of children aged 0-23 months and 62.6% of children aged 24-59 months are multidimensionally poor.

The current economic crisis has exacerbated the child poverty situation leading to an increased number of children in street situation in Kigali. The recent UNICEF report to have over 7000 street children in Kigali alone and 300,000 live in families where a minor is the head of the family. The 2017 UNICEF report indicated that there were 7800 children in streets across the country. SOS Children's villages in Rwanda through the Haimstaden funded project is collaborating with government to rescue and reintegrate 7800 children back to their families and communities and address recidivism which is currently a major challenge.

Member association analysis

Strategy implementation status

Achievements

- The launch of 5-year Children in Street situation project (CiSS SERUKA) aimed at reintegrating 7,800 children back into their communities and families
- The signing of the first EU project for SOS Rwanda (The project will support children and youth with disabilities in 4 districts of Nyagatare, Kayonza, Musanze and Rubavu)
- New Oral health project covering 5 districts (Gicumbi, Kayonza, Kigali, Nyamagabe & Rubavu)
- The extension of the green project (scale-up and transition from the pilot phase in the Bugesera, Gashora sector)
- Achieved 99.4% of program activities and budget execution
- Expanded our program to 2 new districts (Nyagatare and Rubavu)
- Finalization of SOS primary school and relocation of children
- The development of standard operating procedures for the AC program
- Conducted a need assessment for all our program locations and developed concept notes for standard projects for 4 locations.
- Developed a community rehabilitation program for children and youth from the street situation
- Humanitarian support to families and children affected by disaster
- Initiated talks with the federation of Rwandan Football (FERWAFA) for a meaningful partnership in support of child care initiatives, SOS visibility and fundraising.
- Program reach is currently 124,652 beneficiaries

Challenges

— There were no major challenges faced in the implementation of the key actions of the strategic plan. The MA has been robust in it's approaches and has had meaningful engagements with government and stakeholders which has resulted in achieving key milestones of the strategy. IOR support has been immense and the different capacity building initiatives propelled by both the MA and IOR have been useful in ensuring that our staff are equipped with Knowledge and skills to support in implementation of our programs.

Lessons learned

— The most critical learning from last year's interventions is that to achieve responsible and effective reintegration of children it requires proper and sanitary preparation of the parents, communities and children. Recidivism is a question to reckon with and there needs to develop a robust family centred solutions to addressing streetism.

— Climate focus programming (The green project model) implemented in Bugesera can propel significant economic boosts for vulnerable families. There is a need to scale up the model to increase our impact and our relevance to the families we serve

— Short term care provides temporally but durable solutions to addressing issues of children in street situation. The intensive psychosocial rehabilitation process conducted by SOS helps to rebuild the children's lives and reshape their opinion about living in a family hence helping in the reintegration process. This enabled the MA to reintegrate at least 400 children last year alone.

Cross-cutting topics

— Gender and digitalization are the major cross-cutting thematic areas that have been considerably achieved within the MA. As part of digitalization, the MA has been able to establish a digital corner in each of the four locations to enable not only the youth in SOS facilities but also youth in communities to access digital services for free. This has enabled cross learning for our youth on the different platforms such as Youthlinks where they meet global mentors who support them with mentorship strategies that help them to thrive and a competitive global job market.

Sustainability actions

— The sustainability of our program results is deeply rooted in the established collaboration with government and local structures in the implementation of program activities. This increases ownership of the results and the capacity strengthening for these local government structures will ensure their ability to respond and sustain the SOS program agenda.

Contents

14 National Context and Stakeholders

14 General description of national context
15 Key partners at national level

16 Member Association Analysis

17 Strategy implementation status
17 Alternative care
22 Family strengthening
24 Youth care and employability
28 Advocacy
32 Human resources
33 Internal processes and digitalisation
34 Fund development
36 Lessons learned
37 Cross-cutting topics
37 Sustainability actions

38 Overview of Programme(s)

38 Byumba Programme Location
41 Gikongoro Programme Location
43 Kayonza Programme Location
44 Kigali Programme Location





National context & stakeholders

Over the recent years, delinquency has become a national concern. The government of Rwanda has undertaken tremendous efforts to prevent Rwandan children and youth from indulging in delinquent behaviours through sensitisation campaigns against the potential drivers (such as alcohol and drug abuse) as well as rehabilitating and reintegrating those already in the trap. The national policy against delinquency was developed through a consultative process, involving various stakeholders and beneficiaries. The rationale for the policy is to provide high-level political framework where everyone involved in the fight against delinquency can operate through elaborate priority policy actions.

From the experience of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda, the problem of delinquency is multi-faceted, mutli-sectoral and multi-disciplinary in nature. There is no single solution the problem, neither is there a single institution that can eradicate delinquency and its causes singlehandedly. The fight against delinquency thus calls for simultaneous interventions from all the stakeholders to join hands together to eliminate any factors or drivers that expose our children to the risk of delinquency, to utilize all the means and resources at our disposal to rehabilitate and reintegrate children and young people in street situation. Delinquency is like a "double edged sword that hurts two at once". It is not only hurts one's community and country but also leaves significant impacts to the life of the delinquents themselves.

Delinquency affects every citizen either directly or indirectly. If nothing is done, today's delinquents may graduate to become hard core criminals of the future, skyrocketing the cost of crime management, justice administration, rehabilitation and restoration of former delinquents. Delinquency has economic and social cultural effects on the individuals, families, communities as well as the entire society and a nation in general. In partnership with the National Rehabilitation Services, MA Rwanda family strengthening programme has organized campaigns to sensitize families and community structures on potential causes and consequences, prevented the major risk factors in our society and engaged children and young people in stable, peaceful and productive activities that contributed to the resilience achieved through remedial learning, catch-up classes, psychosocial rehabilitation and successful reintegration in economically empowered families.

Key partners at national level

Table 1.2 Key partners

Name of partner	**Description** *(purpose of partnership)*	**Progress in last year** *(key actions taken)*	**Effectiveness of partnership** *(contribution to results)*	**Formal agreement signed**
MIGEPROF /NCDA	To ensure that care solutions are aligned to the 2012 Rwanda Strategy for National Child Care Reform and experience gained under Tubarere mu Muryango (Let us Raise Them in Families) Programme.	In collaboration with GoR, 115 children admitted in short term care in FLC have been reintegrated	Government appreciates the diversification of care options, approved the admission of 163 children in 2023, and appreciates the support given to reintegrated children.	Yes/no

Name of partner	Description *(purpose of partnership)*	Progress in last year *(key actions taken)*	Effectiveness of partnership *(contribution to results)*	Formal agreement signed
Ministry of Youth and Culture	Support youth employability and integration of vulnerable young people in the labour market	Approval of TVET Programmes and certification	Good collaboration with related Government department	Yes/no
Ministry of Education	Support remedial learning in 120 schools	Approval of remedial learning programme content	Good collaboration with district staff in charge of education and Head teachers	
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA	MoU signed in September 2019 focussing on the promotion of mental health	Mutual collaboration in capacity building, exchange of expertise	Curriculum has been approved jointly, courses on narrative therapy have been organised jointly	
DISTRICTS	Implementation of SOS CV Activities	District action plans were received and monitored in the locations where we operate	Districts reported to Rwanda Governance Board that SOS CVs activities were implemented successfully.	No
National Rehabilitation Service	Improve the wellbeing of street children through their rehabilitation and reintegration.	Admission of 82 children in SOS CVs	Rehabilitation for successful reintegration of the children into their biological families or foster families	Yes
Harambee	Labor market integration and employability	Internship	Good collaboration, job opportunities for best performing interns	Yes
Water Access and Light B Company limited	duo training	Internship for 65 welding and plumbing interns	Good collaboration, job opportunities for best performing interns	Yes
UTAS, Manicorps, Star Times	Internship of SOS youth	Internship of SOS youth	Good collaboration, job opportunities for best performing interns	Yes
UPHLS	Disability inclusiveness	Joint project implementation	Good collaboration on disability inclusiveness	Yes

Member association **analysis**

Strategy implementation status

Alternative care

Achievements

MA Rwanda has developed and validated the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for various alternative care options including Other Alternative Care (OAC), Foster Care, Small Group Homes as well as social and physical reintegration. SOPs were shared with IOR for final review and feedback. The same SOPs were reviewed with NCDA and NRS to confirm if they are aligned with the Childcare Reform and the government of Rwanda's commitment to community-based childcare.

Care professionals' profile was redesigned and new job descriptions of care professionals have been reviewed to suit the current profile of children admitted in FLC. Care co-workers have implemented their new job description to support 307 children in FLC and 264 young people in SIL.

SOS care co-workers have acquired skills to facilitate the psycho-social integration and adaptation of children welcomed on short term care in SOS family life. They have been involved in intensive rehabilitation sessions, individual therapies as well as group therapies in collaboration with volunteer psychologists, and the National Rehabilitation Service.



IN NUMBERS

163

newly admitted children participated actively in individual therapy sessions focusing on the nurturing mental, emotional and social aspects

428

reintegrated children and young people

115

young people welcomed on short term care in 2023

Compass report reveals

87%

of children and young people in AC have (mostly) positive relationship with family of origin.

With the support of SOS Mothers, 163 newly admitted children (Byumba 35, Gikongoro 43, Kayonza 36 and Kigali 49) participated actively in individual therapy sessions focusing on the nurturing mental, emotional and social aspects. The group therapy helped children to feel encouraged and inspired, to believe in their abilities, to develop essential life skills, including problem-solving, decision-making, and time management which contribute to building self-confidence and motivation, self-reliance and resilience. After the group therapy sessions, SOS mothers helped children to set their goals which were included in their personal development plan.

Short term rehabilitation content was developed to Remedial learning classes mainly in basic Kinyarwanda, English, and mathematics have been organized for newly admitted children as well as other children already enrolled in primary school who needed to improve their school performance.

Family tracing was conducted and confirmed that all the admitted children had lost parental care. Everyone concerned was involved in the discussions and solutions to address the root causes of conflict leading to family separation.

Strengthening community child care system was done basically through the community parasocial workers trained on reporting child abuse cases, on advocacy to improve the child support system, on monitoring quality care services in SGH and foster care, how to facilitate the assessment and preparation of children ready for reintegration. After the training, community parasocial workers conducted monthly visits, reported and responded to child abuse incidents and advocated to get government social protection support the same way it is done for vulnerable members in the community.

MA Rwanda has so far reintegrated 428 reintegrated children and young people including 115 welcomed on short term care (18 in Byumba, 27 in Gikongoro, 25 in Kayonza and 45 in Kigali) in 2023. family tracing and family preparation were conducted in collaboration with the National children development Agency (NCDA) for children with biological parents or extended families. Field visits conducted with full participation of children eligible for possible reintegration aimed at family preparation, it was a good opportunity to assess the capacity, the presence and the stability of caregivers before children's reintegration. Compass report reveals 87% of children and young people in AC have (mostly) positive relationship with family of origin.

NCDA has contributed in construction of 3 houses in Kayonza location and provided to caregivers the capital to initiate Income Generating Activities, and enrolling the children in school. Case management meetings have been conducted with NCDA Team at district level in order to prepare children who do not have parents to join foster families. Similar case management meetings have also been organized to discuss on the child and family assessment reports on reintegrated children. parents of reintegrated children and 14 SOS caregivers attended 12 psychosocial sessions and training on positive parenting and child rights.



IN NUMBERS

108

children and young people in SGH, a community based alternative care setting supported

12

psychosocial sessions and training on positive parenting and child rights attended by SOS caregivers

MA Rwanda supported 108 children and young people in SGH, a community based alternative care setting which appreciated the right to a decent shelter, proper nutrition and health care, the enrolment of participants in primary and secondary schools as well as vocational training centres. SGH participants were trained on child protection and child safeguarding. They acquired skills on child rights and responsibilities in preventing and reporting child abuse incidents.

Challenges

Children admitted on short-term care have experienced verbal, physical, sexual and psychological violence that resulted in mental health problems, substance abuse, impaired social relationships. The rehabilitation of these children requires sufficient qualified staff.

Reintegration challenges have revealed that children from street situation came from poor families unable to provide for daily needs of its members. Reintegration is even more difficult for children with disabilities, children who have no parents and have been driven out of their homes by unbearable violence. Teen mothers are still exposed to activities considered criminal and anti-social such as prostitution justified as a means to gain income to feed the family, pay school fees, buy clothes, feed children and pay household rent.

Challenging all odds to create a “Better Future.”

Confiance Manishimwe is a 24-year-old girl who lives in the Gicumbi District, Muko Sector in the Northern Province of Rwanda. She lives with her grandparents and is a teen mother of a six-year-old daughter.

This made it very difficult for her to take care of herself. Confiance’s family was experiencing hardship; her father had passed away, and her mother had remarried, resulting in a difficult life for her family.



“Afterward my father’s death, we suffered a lot because our mother did not have enough money to provide for us. We often went to bed hungry.” Confiance said.

When Confiance was only five years old, her mother remarried another husband. She went to her grandparents, and she grew up there. At the age of 19, Confiance got pregnant, and her life became the worst.

Confiance said, “I faced serious abuse and harassment from my classmates and neighbours where they held regressive views and constantly harassed me for being a teen mother.”

She did not stop studying. She persevered until giving birth. She went to take the national examination when her daughter was only one month old and managed to pass in Literature, Kinyarwanda, and Kiswahili.

In 2021, Confiance was admitted into the YouthCan Project, and she chose to be trained in agriculture. She expressed her motivation, saying, “When I joined the YouthCan Project, I had in mind to receive training in agriculture because I want to make money speedily to support my daughter. My grandfather was not happy with my choice, but I didn’t see any other alternative to earn money.”

After just six months, Confiance graduated in agriculture, and YouthCan provided her with vegetable seeds. Confiance added, “My life started on the day of graduation. YouthCan gave us cabbage seeds to implement what we learned.”



In three months, I was awarded the contract to supply cabbage to the school near my home. I managed to earn RWF 450,000 (340.3 USD) out of it and saved RWF 300,000 (226 USD) at the bank. This was the first time I had opened a bank account, thanks to the YouthCan project.

My second source of income was the stipend from my internship. Confiance said, “When I started my internship with the YouthCan Project, we were given stipends of RWF 70,000 (53 USD), which helped us cover transportation costs. I used all the money to purchase a piglet because I completed the internship at the Sector headquarters, which was very close to my home.”

As of now, Confiance has six pigs worth RWF 700,000 (529 USD) and she is dreaming to become becoming a pig farmer and aims to have 100 pigs within the next five years.

She emphasized that the sole way to eliminate poverty is by working hard until you reach the set goal. She said; “I had to wake up very early in the morning to prepare my daughter, clean and cook after that and would sleep very late.” Life became increasingly better.”

“I am deeply indebted to SOS Children’s Villages in Rwanda and YouthCan for getting me out of isolation and empowering me with skills. My only pledge is to work hard, develop myself, and pay the kindness forward to others.” Confiance is gratefully expressed.

As of now, Confiance has six pigs worth RWF

700,000

Now, Confiance is able afford everything she wants, support her grandparents, and take care of her daughter. Her business is doing well, and her savings have reached RWF 500,000 (378 USD).

Family strengthening

Achievements

16212 participants have been reached through DFE IPD projects and Kayonza DFE transition project with 2033 participants. DFE projects operated in 13 districts to prevent family separation among children at risk of losing parental care through family-centered solutions (access to essential services, family-centred support and psychosocial support. Education support (school fees, scholastic materials, and school feeding) was given to 1,195 students (419 females & 776 males) at risk of failure or dropping out in all 4 SOS locations through primary, secondary education and vocational training. 74% attended school regularly, were able to sit for the exam and improved their educational performance.

DFE projects have contributed to increased crop production through the construction of 8.61 Hectares of radical terraces and 56,803m of progressive terraces/ contour lines on an area of 20.4 Hectares, planting of 28,508 agroforestry trees (hedgerows and cover crops) to provide fodder and protect soil against erosion, the distribution of quality seeds, seedlings and fertilizers (DAP and Urea). Participants acquired skills on how to keep water in the soil and fight against erosion.

2,878 caregivers acquired parenting skills through the Fairstart trainings. Campaigns on child rights and child protection attracted local communities and sensitized 88 couples to register for legal marriage. A similar campaign conducted in Kayonza during the 'Family Month Campaign' in collaboration with Gahini Sector Social Workforce (social affairs and civil status & notary officers) resulted in 29 couples legalizing their marriage, and their 52 children (28 Boys 24 Girls) were registered in civil books and obtained birth certificates. 3,055 DFE caregivers acquired knowledge on positive parenting skills and conflict management skills through the community counselling sessions reported reduced level of parenting stress, better interactions with their children, increased support for the education of their children and young people, and more connections to their peers and other community groups such as Friends of Families.

Decent shelter was provided to 35 most vulnerable families who got iron sheets and related roofing accessories. 1 house of a project participant living with disabilities was renovated: plastered, cemented, windows and doors fixed. 16 families in Kayonza location received solar energy lamps and radios. This will help children to revise their lessons and to improve school performance. The distribution of 347 heifer pregnant cows to 347 vulnerable families, 771 families who received pigs and goats contributed to economic empowerment and self-esteem, improved children's nutrition through the source of protein-rich food, increased participants' income, and enriched crop production through animal manure.

80 young people in Kitabi Sector and 31 teen mothers in Kivu Sector in Nyaruguru District were empowered with employability skills, entrepreneurship and business plan development skills for the labor market. Other 32 youth acquired employability skills and labor market integration through dual training organized by the Youth Can project. Income generating activities of DFE project participants in general include selling charcoal, local bear and juice, vegetables, agricultural products, livestock, hair salons, and boutiques (small shops).

In collaboration with NRS, SOS Children's Rwanda has developed a community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programme for Rwanda to facilitate the participation of 2000 at risk of losing parental care in family and community spaces. Kura Umenye TV Gala project has organized awareness campaigns on parenting, child protection, and rights, the fight against drug abuse, and teen pregnancies in 10 districts, reaching 1,304,008 people. CiSS-Seruka project trained 105 foster parents on Fairstart methodology and collaborated with them to find out more about the causes pushing children to leave their families, how the communities prevent and report on abandoned children. After rescuing 165 children from street situations, CiSS-SERUKA Project in collaboration with parents and school management committees supported families to send these children back to school, prevented school dropout and recidivism.

510 CBOs/IZU were trained on child rights, child protection and positive parenting. They cascaded the knowledge and skills to various communities so that they can address specific needs and build homegrown grassroots solutions. In total DFE projects empowered 2,712 CBO/IZU who support families and facilitate the linkage of vulnerable families to social safety nets in 13 districts. DFE team has collaborated with communities through IZU to fight against stigma experienced by 526 children formerly living in street situation who were reunified with their families of origin and integrated in their communities. Thanks to the regular monitoring of child rights, prevention of child abuse and implementation of protective measures conducted in the villages, reintegrated children are happy to remain in families and attend school regularly.

Challenges

The trainings, psychosocial therapy sessions and family visits have revealed that the lack of emotional involvement of parents into a child's early life, the failure to set limits to the degree of deviance tolerable among the children, the use of authoritarian type of child rearing among others and family conflicts affect the quality of relationship with and between parents. Children raised in this environment hardly succeed in school and society. As a consequence, they are subject to frequent humiliations and tend to revenge.



IN NUMBERS

Education support was given to

1,195

students

2,878

caregivers acquired parenting skills through the Fairstart trainings.

3,055

DFE caregivers acquired knowledge on positive parenting skills and conflict management skills

347

heifer pregnant cows distributed

Youth care and employability



IN NUMBERS

120

young people graduated in customer care and sales and digital services (Irembo)

788

young people from AC, DFE, SGH and EET projects, teen mothers and caregivers have acquired entrepreneurship and employability skills

239

young people have been trained on VSLAs management, small business, financial literacy, savings groups savings

Achievements

MA Rwanda has introduced 2 trades (tailoring and carpentry) in Kayonza TVET school and has enrolled 91 young people. DFE and EET projects have enrolled 1007 young people, teen mothers and caregivers in vocational trainings. 120 young people graduated in customer care and sales and digital services (Irembo). 80 young people apprentices enrolled in electrical trades were facilitated for dual trainings for their employability skills through Partner Rwanda project. 97 teen mothers and 5 young people have started their own business with the tool kits they received.

788 young people from AC, DFE, SGH and EET projects, teen mothers and caregivers have acquired entrepreneurship and employability skills including such content as customer care & sales, digital services, CV & cover letter writing, English and IT skills, interview tips, job searching skills, career development, problem-solving, Basic Financial literacy skills and business plan development, and entrepreneurial skills for labour market integration, VSLAs operations and management). Professional course (ACCA) was offered to one young person.

DFE and EET project have trained 239 young people have been trained on VSLAs management, small business, financial literacy, savings groups savings, and supported them to develop innovative, viable and sustainable business ideas for independent life and self-reliance. 97 VSLA members have been trained on GWIZA digital savings platform. 25 youth champions have been trained on leadership skills and advocacy, 13 of them received startup capital to start their Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Young people created 28 Savings Groups this year. 2 alumni networks have been established in Byumba location with 250 members and Kayonza with 104 care leavers who are self-employed.

DFE and EET project have placed 516 young people in different companies for internship and/or apprenticeship varying between 2 to 6 months. 10 young people under YouthCan! project were linked with business institutions for job shadowing. 6 young people were supported through the collaboration with SOS partners (such as ISON BPO). 12 young people were linked with business institutions to enhance their technical-know skills and 2 of them got jobs. In total, 37 young people including 2 from small group home (SGH) got jobs after their internship.





Challenges

Lack of opportunities for productive work is driving many young people to migrate to urban areas. Inadequate education and skills breed unemployment, idleness and temptation to indulge in delinquency especially out of frustration and peer pressure. As the saying goes that “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop”, the un/underemployed youth are at the greatest risk of participating in conducts classified as delinquency. The study conducted by the Ministry of Youth and ICT(MYICT) on male youth delinquency revealed a direct correlation between delinquency and level of education where in total about 80 per cent of those enrolled for rehabilitation had no education and 14.9% were primary school dropouts.

Shoe-making a way of success

In the morning, people bring their old shoes to Ivan Nshimiyimana's workshop hoping to have them restored to their original shape. Ivan Nshimiyimana, a 21-year-old man, resides in the Gicumbi District, Byumba Sector in the Northern Province of Rwanda with his wife and his one-year-old son.

Ivan has been receiving support from the YouthCan Project since 2021, and he now owns a shoe workshop due to his resilience and support from the project. The professional shoemaker, Ivan started like most cobblers, making little income from clients who would bring in their shoes to him for repair.



"In 2018 due to financial difficulties, I dropped out of school after completing Primary six, but because I did not have much skills then, I started working as a cobbler, it is from there that I got the idea of making shoes", he said.

With time, Ivan realized he would not be able to raise enough funds from just repairing the shoes, as it could not fetch him considerable income.

In 2019, Ivan, who earned his living by repairing shoes, found it financially challenging to attend a vocational school due to his limited income. He reached out to the local administration for support in improving his shoe-making skills but no response until 2021 when a local leader finally invited him to the sector office.

"In 2021, I received a call from a local leader inviting me to his office. When I reached there, they told me that they wanted to connect me with SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda for training purposes.

I appreciate the idea. In one week, the team from SOS Children's Village in Byumba visited my home and expressed their desire to empower me with new skills." Ivan said.

He persuaded the training on entrepreneurship skills and after six months he graduated with high note.

Before our graduation, YouthCan organized a competition to recognize the best performers. I became the winner and they awarded me RWF 261,000 (197 USD).

Ivan added, "The amount supported me in buying the essential tools to make shoes and I am glad to be a project participant of the YouthCan Project.

Ivan, who did not disclose the starting capital amount, stated that he was able to raise just enough to set up his business idea.

Seeing an opportunity in the market where most people were dissatisfied with the available options, Ivan decided to produce customized shoes that matched people's tastes and preferences.

He mentioned that his unique approach to the local shoemaking industry brought in good returns, and by reinvesting the surplus revenue, he was able to scale up his business.

Ivan said, "I managed to buy a plot and renewed my mother's house. My family, including my wife and son, are also stable."

To make it easier for customers to identify and choose their preferred shoe styles, he offers a variety of options. The price range for his shoes is between RWF 20,000 (15 USD) and RWF 50000 (37 USD).

Ivan also said that producing customized shoes and leather sandals has enabled him to concentrate and deliver the best to his clientele. With this, the number of customers has been growing steadily leading him to expand his business by employing three more workers.

Ivan wants to expand his business by hiring three more workers. He mentioned that despite the growth of his business, he is encountering challenges such as limited access to affordable raw materials, most of which are imported.

Additionally, there is a shortage of skilled labour because few people see the trade as a profitable profession, leading to a lack of interest in the field.





Advocacy

Achievements

A team from IOR has trained the National Management Team of MA Rwanda on Advocacy. After the training, an advocacy strategic plan was produced and will be implemented. The validation of research findings on the situation of children in street situation was a good opportunity to advocate for coordinated interventions. The same recommendations for coordinated interventions were formulated during the launching of Seruka Street Children project where the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Rehabilitation Services on behalf of the Ministry of Local Administration, the National Child Development Agency (NCDA), the National Police and Kigali City pledged their full cooperation and support to SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda. These high-level meetings offered also a good opportunity for SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda to advocate for the adoption of a national gatekeeping guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Child Care Reform in Rwanda. The national Child Development Agency (NCDA) was happy to consult SOS Gatekeeping guidelines for harmonization.

SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda has advocated for children affected by heavy floods in the north-western provinces of Rwanda. On this occasion, African Improved Foods Ltd donated in-kind contributions of 4,000 kgs of Super Cereal Plus worth Rwf 8,469,855 through the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA).

Challenges

SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda was not able to conduct two advocacy interventions based on generated evidences due to budget constraints.

IN NUMBERS

African Improved Foods Ltd donated in-kind contributions of

4,000kgs

of Super Cereal Plus





Child-focused entities to establish steering committee to end streetism

The National Dialogue on Street-Connected Children organised by SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda through the CiSS-Seruka Project in collaboration with the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) has agreed to establish a steering committee to address the issues of children living in street situations.

The National Dialogue also highlighted some recommendations as follows;

Improving procedures to identify and support vulnerable families across the country to help them get essentials basic needs such as scholastic materials and food, positive parenting, health care and protection.

- Strengthening partnerships between government, private sectors, childcare organizations and multilateral organizations to put an end to the children living in the streets.
- Conducting joint research to oversee the major root causes that push children to live in street situations.
- Advocating for the establishment of social networkers and psychologists in the community to support children living in street situation.

The National Dialogue was attended by childcare organizations, government entities, civil societies and private sector representatives.

In her opening remarks, the Director General of the National Child Development Agency, Ms Assumpta Ingabire said that children should not spend their lives in street situations because the street is not a home/place for children.

"Street life is not for children, our children decided to go to the street due to family conflict, loss of parental care, abuse and other challenges. This National Dialogue on Street-Connected Children is a crucial forum to discuss issues that affect our children until they decide to go to street life.

No child should grow up on the street. When a child loses parental care, it is a loss for the government and the nation's future," Assumpta stated.

She added that undertaking children's issues is a mission for everyone not only SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda nor NCDA because it affects the future of our nation. "Children living in street situations are increasing and our main responsibility is to deal with the major root causes instead of dealing with the children who are affected," she noted.

IN NUMBERS

2,000

children from street situations through the Seruka Project reintegrated

Seruka Project targets to rehabilitate and reintegrate

7,800

children from street situations in their families and communities in five years.

The National Director of SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda Jean Bosco Kwizera has emphasized that streetism is a global challenge and responsibility of everyone.

Jean Bosco said, "Protecting children from the street situation is everyone's concern and it benefits our country in the long run. As childcare entities, our main role is to strengthen our childcare systems to eradicate the serious issues that can hinder the future of our children's and the Nation at large.

He added that SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda has reintegrated more than 2,000 children from street situations through the Seruka Project and other SOS CV Projects with continuous support to lead their families to be self-reliant.

Jean Bosco added, "Irresponsibility of the caregivers and extreme poverty contribute to a big percentage of leading children to the street life. Our main target through various projects is to empower caregivers through finance education and positive parenting to take care of their children."

SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda kicked off the Seruka Project in early 2023. The five-year project targets to rehabilitate and reintegrate 7,800 children from street situations in their families and communities.

The project is targeting a reduction of prevalence of children in street situations in Rwanda through rehabilitation and reintegration interventions in four locations where SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda operates.

The project is implemented in the districts of Gasabo, Kayonza, Musanze, Kicukiro, Rubavu, Nyarugenge, Nyagatare and Bugesera. The choice of these districts was based on the study findings that indicated a high prevalence of children in street situations.

Human resources

Achievements

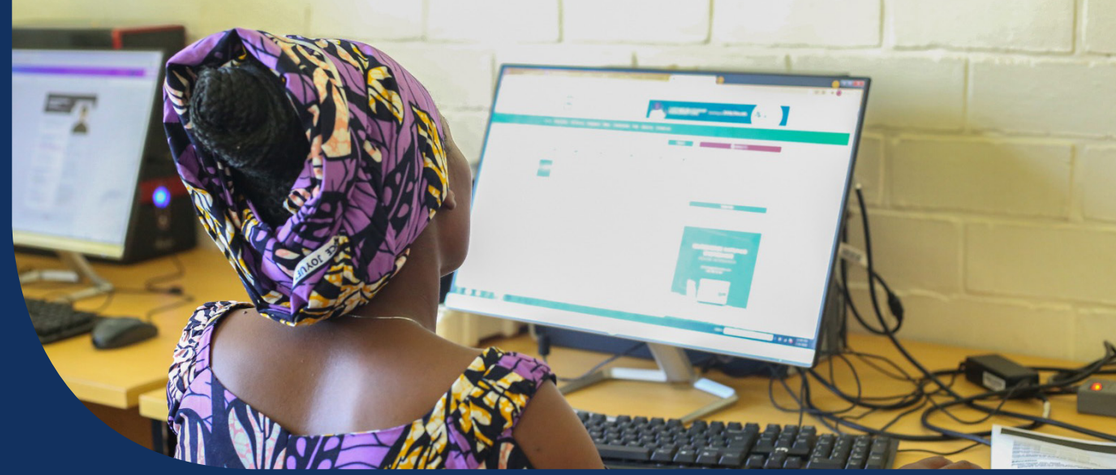
MA Rwanda has developed a 3 years staff development plan based on individual work plans consulted and agreed upon with the supervisors. 36 PDB2 users have attended One Virtual and 2 Face-to-face training sessions have been organised on the admission, initial assessment and core assessment both in AC and Direct Family Empowerment the sessions. Co-workers have also been introduced to Connect SOS and Evidence4Change. Finance team have been trained on D365. MA Rwanda all-staff have been trained on prevention and protection against sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse (PSHEA).

MA Rwanda has developed policies submitted to IOR for validation prior to approval by the Board of Directors. A local HR Software has been developed and is currently in use where some data can be extracted.

Senior staff have attended network meeting at the regional level in Nairobi. Locally, the following trainings have been organised: The Kigali Park Inn by Radisson Blu Hotel has trained over 5 days 10 SOS mothers and 1 aunt from Kayonza location, 14 SOS mothers and aunts from Kigali location and 13 mothers Gikongoro and Byumba respectively on how to prepare food and beverages. A team from IOR has trained the National Management Team of MA Rwanda on Advocacy in August. As an outcome of this training, SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda developed its advocacy strategic plan.

A 3-day training on child right advocacy was conducted in Gikongoro location. 2 staff completed a TOT training on Trauma informed practice and are now certified as Master Trainers. 23 SOS staff attended a three-day training on Behaviour Change & Communication with a focus on sexual education.





Internal processes & digitalisation

Achievements

Digital corners run by volunteers are utilized and serving young people under our care and others from the community as well as caregivers in Byumba, Kayonza and Kigali locations Byumba are who train users (SOS caregivers, young people, and community members). The establishment of a fourth digital corner in Gikongoro location is ongoing.

137 staff in all the locations and NO have been empowered to utilize ICT. All programme locations are using SOS Business Applications and SOS staff with specific rights have access and use these applications. After IOR assessment upon the reviewed international standards, SOS Business Application utilization is on average 63% at MA level. Hands-on support was provided to co-workers using SOS Business Applications whenever requested. Team viewer has been deployed to all MA users' devices. 85 requests for support have been received and handled through e-service for desktop portal. All users in the MA are aware that they can get IT service support through this channel. SOS Business Application utilization has reached 67% at MA level.

After IOR assessment upon the reviewed international standards, SOS Business Application utilization is on average 65% at MA level. Hands-on support was provided to co-workers using SOS Business Applications whenever requested. E-service for desktop portal has been introduced for all required user support.

HR information management system has been developed to manage salaries process. 64.4 % of staff planned in Year 1 Strategic Plan (out of 90 co-workers) have been certified on Cyber Security (SoSafe). ICDL credentials are still valid for 60 new trainees in 2022-2023 until June 2024. Rwanda National Cyber Security Agency has awarded MA Rwanda a Data protection and data controller Certificate renewable once a year.

64.4%

of staff planned in Year 1 Strategic Plan (out of 90 co-workers) have been certified on Cyber Security (SoSafe).

Fund development

In-kind donation

Rwf 43,122,233



Cash donations

Rwf 9,997,960

20%

Social business income acquisition of Rwf 1,235,284,486 against a target of Rwf 751,382,760 Rwf in 2023, a 20% increase from Rwf 626,152,300 in 2022

Achievements

Corporate fundraising of Rwf 53,120,193 raised from in-kind donation (Rwf 43,122,233) and cash donations (Rwf 9,997,960) against a target of Rwf 24,444,431.05 in 2023. Government subsidies acquisition of Rwf 8,491,090 were provided and exceeded the target set for 2023 of Rwf 10,200,000, a 0.2 % increase from Rwf 10,000,000 in 2022. Social business income acquisition of Rwf 1,235,284,486 against a target of Rwf 751,382,760 Rwf in 2023, a 20% increase from Rwf 626,152,300 in 2022. IPD grants acquisition of Rwf 2,720,305,625 and additional grant acquisition of EUR 1,341,432 against a target of Rwf 3,422,969,786 in 2023, an increase of 25% from Rwf 2,738,375,829 in 2022.

In-kind donations were composed of Kigali Golf Resort & Villas/free golf discovery for children under SOS care/ (Rwf 1,110,000), REG/Renovation of family houses (Rwf 5.556.000), High Commission of the Republic of Mozambique/Food items (Rwf 570,000), AIF/4 Tons Super Cereal Plus for children affected by floods through MINEMA (Rwf 8,469,855), Star Times/school items, (Rwf 84,700), Kigali Marriott Hotel/towels, bed sheets (Rwf 6,593,800), Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Center (Rwf 3,144,850), ParkInn by Radisson/Culinary art training for SOS mothers (Rwf 9.870.000), Cogebank-Umurage/note books (Rwf 1,500,000), Hempel Foundation/toys (1,723,028), /Development Bank of Rwanda-Umurage/ note books (Rwf 4,500,000). Cash donations raised from BPR Bank Plc (Rwf 5,000,000), Green Hills Academy (Rwf 150,0000); Egon Schumacher Stiftung (Rwf 1,947,960); Legacy Clinics & Diagnostics (Rwf 2,900,000), Kigali Marriott Hotel fundraising event (Rwf 18,500,000).

Grant acquisitions were acquired from Seruka Street children Project through SOS Norway to support children from street situation to be reintegrated in their families (EUR 120,000 and EUR 600,500), Promotion of rights and inclusion of 500 children and youth with disabilities Implemented with co-applicants AGHR and SOS Italy 4 years funding by the European Union EUR



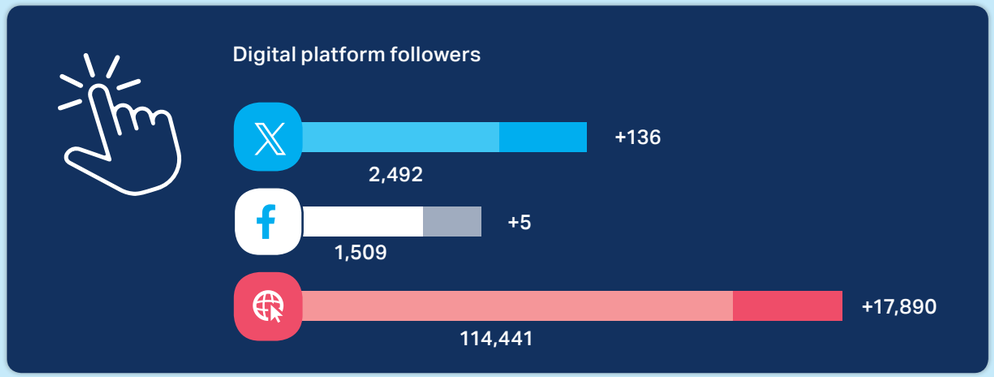
(400,000), Green project 4-month extension and 24 month-project scale up in Bugesera District (EUR 13,760 and EUR 207,172).

SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda in collaboration with Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA) hosted a talk show. Awareness raising videos on oral diseases and proper oral hygiene were shared with and broadcasted on RBA. SOS Children's Villages produced and disseminated 3 videos. The newsletter (Mudaheranwa 05) was disseminated, 22 media coverages were released and social media followers increased on Twitter from 2,492 to 2,628, on Facebook from 1,509 to 1,514, visitors on SOS Children's Villages in Rwanda website increased from 114,441 to 132,331.

3,917 international donors were serviced with mid-year and 3,720 with end year sponsorship letters. 83 children out of 130 CMG were disbursed with Child Money Gift (CMG). 10 children were registered for the forthcoming pilot FS international community sponsorship

83

children were disbursed with Child Money Gift (CMG)



Lessons learned

Table 2.2 Lessons learned

Type	Lesson learned	Action(s) to be taken	Status of action
[challenge / good practice / observation]			
Good practice	Participants easily get services when local leaders and community structures collaborate	Engage/involve them in our social and economic development activities	There are participants who still need support regarding birth registration, legal marriage, access to government social services such as one cow per family and access to cash flow allowing them to invest in small businesses
Good practice	VSLA groups boost the economic development of families	VSLA management should monitor how participants use the money received from VSLAs	Money saved in VSLAs help participants to meet the basic needs of children and to achieve family self-reliance. VSLA groups have strengthened the solidarity and social cohesion
Observation	Acquired farming techniques are easily disseminated	Peer-to-peer learning should be promoted in the community	Community members who are not project participants acquire farming techniques after some time
Challenge	Teen mothers get little support from their family members	Teen mothers need psychosocial support to overcome their emotional stress	Single intervention such as VTC enrolment only is not enough, projects should look at the teen mother and the child
Challenge	Admission vs reintegration of children under short-term care	The admission rate is higher than the reintegration rate due to various reasons mainly families that are not ready to receive their children.	Strengthening foster care program in close collaboration with government local leaders. Speed up the engagement with NCDA to approve foster care SOPs.



Cross-Cutting

Gender and digitalization are the major cross-cutting thematic areas that have been considerably achieved within the MA. As part of digitalization, the MA has been able to establish a digital corner in each of the four locations to enable not only the youth in SOS facilities but also youth in communities to access digital services for free. This has enabled cross learning for our youth on the different platforms such as Youthlinks where they meet global mentors who support them with mentorship strategies that help them to thrive and a competitive global job market.

Sustainability actions

The sustainability of our program results is deeply rooted in the established collaboration with government and local structures in the implementation of program activities. This increases ownership of the results and the capacity strengthening for these local government structures will ensure their ability to respond and sustain the SOS program agenda.

The program has trained and works closely with friends of families, Community health workers and parasocial workers who are key community ingredients in ensuring social safety nets and with whom continuity of program activities is guaranteed.

Overview of **Programme(s)**

Byumba Programme Location

The annual average of participants supported through the transition projects are 85 children in FLC, 86 for OAC reintegrated children, 24 children and young people in SGH, 76 young people in SIL, 180 for ECD, 1771 for EDU and 1875 DFE participants. The location counted 51 staff including caregivers, teachers, education, administration and support staff. The location has admitted 35 children on short term care and reintegrated 18 after a 3-month rehabilitation programme including psychosocial support, and catch up/ coaching sessions. Their families were traced and assessed before the reunification.

The location has developed its concept note including an updated results framework and financial plan for 2024-2027. A digital corner has been established to promote IT skills among project participants and members of the community. The rehabilitation of the Volleyball and Basketball playgrounds as well as other location premises will contribute to the well-being of children who need to play, develop their talents and interact with other children and young people from the surrounding community. The location has reduced the cost of water, improved hygiene and sanitation thanks to the rain water harvesting system installed in the buildings. The location has also created and equipped a counselling room. A gym facility has also been established in order to maintain staff and children in good health conditions.

13 young people from Supervised independent living have been emancipated after a confirmation of their self-reliance status. 37 more young people attended trainings on business development plan and financial literacy in preparation for their emancipation planned in the coming 2 years. The training helped them to acquire skills and knowledge on improved employability and labour market integration skills.

IN NUMBERS

13 young people from Supervised independent living have been emancipated after a confirmation of their self-reliance status.

37 young people attended trainings on business development plan and financial literacy



92 vulnerable children attended school regularly, improved their academic performance thanks to the education support including school fees, feeding, and school materials. 56 young people enrolled in vocational training programs increased their employability skills and expect to support their families.

Byumba location has made a considerable progress to strengthen care leavers network by organizing a ''thanksgiving event locally known as 'Garuka Ushime'. the purpose of the event gathering around 400 participants was to reconnect them again, thank caregivers and SOS CV for the support provided. It was also an opportunity for them to learn from each other and share experiences.

The interventions in the location were supported by 2 DFE grant projects. 259 caregivers have acquired basic knowledge on VSLA management and created 16 savings groups. In 2023 they managed to save 5,815,200 RWF, enabling them to meet the basic needs of their children through loan acquisition. 28 pregnant heifer cows have been provided to caregivers; the cows gave birth to 16 calves. Furthermore, 50 families received goats, and 259 families received seeds. This intervention aimed at enhancing children's nutrition through a source of protein-rich food, boost participants' income, and enrich crop production through the use of animal manure. Kura Umenye project, 6 homeless families living in high-risk zones received 88 iron sheets to rehabilitate their houses and basic household materials. Today, these families have reported that the shelter offer security to the children.



IN NUMBERS

56 young people enrolled in vocational training programs increased their employability skills and expect to support their families.

259 caregivers have acquired basic knowledge on VSLA management



Uburumbuke Iwacu DFE Grant Project has increased the skills of participants through sustainable agricultural practices, 8.61 hectares of radical and 56.803 metres of progressive terraces have been constructed. 65,000 tree seedlings were produced and farmers have started planting them for environmental protection. The project used a community-based approach to create job opportunities for most vulnerable persons in the community. Participants have started applying the acquired skills in their communities.

259 caregivers who have attended trainings on Fairstart methodology have improved their parenting skills while 90 local structures, including IZU, CHWs, those in charge of social affairs, and child protection committees, have acquired knowledge on child protection and monitor the families in the community. This will ensure the ownership and sustainability of the project

Kura Umenye DFE Grant Project DFE projects operating in the location has established 32 in-school health clubs (SRHR and mental health & psychosocial support) where children and young people got trainings and shared their knowledge on Mental health and sexual and reproductive health with the support of 64 teacher mentors. 30 mental health professionals at health centers were empowered with skills on narrative therapy, they are now helping children with mental related issues. More than 500 children have been oriented and got services from youth corners at nearby health centers.

IN NUMBERS

65,000

tree seedlings were produced and farmers have started planting them for environmental protection

30

mental health professionals at health centers were empowered with skills on narrative therapy



Gikongoro Programme Location

IN NUMBERS

43

children on short term care

14

young people from Supervised independent living have been emancipated after a confirmation of their self-reliance status.

The annual average of participants supported through the transition projects are 63 children in FLC, 114 for OAC reintegrated children, 24 children and young people in SGH, 76 young people in SIL, 154 for ECD, 1474 for EDU and 2260 DFE participants. The location counted 51 staff including caregivers, teachers, education, administration and support staff. The location has admitted 43 children on short term care and reintegrated 27 after a 3-month rehabilitation programme was implemented successfully. Their families were traced and assessed before the reunification.

The location has developed its concept note including an updated results framework and financial plan for 2024-2027. 14 young people from Supervised independent living have been emancipated after a confirmation of their self-reliance status. The location managed to negotiate and initiate a new partnership agreement with Nyamagabe District in the framework of follow up and support of graduation strategy. The district granted Government subsidies equivalent to 5,881,904 Rwf

To contribute to economic empowerment and self-esteem among vulnerable participants, DFE Gikongoro supplied 10 cows and 10 pigs to improve children's nutrition through the source of protein-rich food, increase participants' income, and enrich crop production through animal manure. 32 children improved their nutrition status from stunting to normal as a result of early childhood development services provided. Their parents also acquired parenting skills to prevent malnutrition. 170 parents and children from the Kivu sector acquired skills on good feeding practices, food preservation methods, and hygiene. 96 caregivers from various care settings were trained on positive parenting and have improved the quality of care provided to the children.

DFE Gikongoro location targeted 1250 children who got additional school materials including exercise /notebooks and pens. 21 youths supported by DFE Gikongoro were enrolled in VTC short courses in various trades: tailoring, hair dressing, auto mechanics, masonry and carpentry. Some of them got apprenticeship/internship in tailoring and carpentry trades.

189 DFE families were able to pay health insurance for their family members as a result of increased income and acquired culture of saving on weekly basis in their respective VSLA groups. 300 DFE children and young people have been enrolled in primary and secondary schools where they attend regularly. 1084 members from 51 VSLA groups have managed to raise a total collection of Two hundred five million nine hundred thirty-seven thousand six hundred thirty-five francs (Rwf 205,937,635). 30 families reported that their crop production has increased 3 times as a result of rearing domestic animals (cows and pigs) granted by DFE project. 166 DFE participants involved in such business as selling charcoal, local bear and juice, vegetables, agricultural products, livestock, hair salons, and boutiques (small shops) acquired entrepreneurship skills enabling them to successfully run and manage Income income-generating activities (IGAs). 80 young people in Kitabi Sector and 31 teen mothers in Kivu Sector in Nyaruguru District were empowered with employability skills, entrepreneurship and business plan development to enable them to fit in the labor market.

Through DFE Gikongoro project 235 children and young people are aware of child rights, child protection, life skills, and sexual reproductive health. A similar campaign on child rights and child protection, positive parenting and preventing gender-based violence attracted more than 3,000 people in Kitabi and Kivu Sectors, including 300 people who won prizes through the questions and correct answers provided. Following this event, 88 couples from both sectors registered for legal marriage.

50 DFE families) became self-reliant, after demonstrating the ability to provide care and protection to their children. These families practice parenting and child rearing and meet the basic needs of children and other members of the households such as food, clothing, education, health care, and shelter for their children without any support from the FS interventions.

189

DFE families were able to pay health insurance for their family members



Kayonza Programme Location



IN NUMBERS

300

families have acquired skills on FDP

60

DFE standard Kayonza families have graduated after demonstrating the ability to provide care and protection to their children

The annual average of participants supported through the transition projects are 80 children in FLC, 132 for OAC reintegrated children, 31 children and young people in SGH, 315 for ECD, 2004 for EDU and 1943 DFE participants. The location counted 49 staff including caregivers, teachers, education, administration and support staff. The location has admitted 36 children on short term care and reintegrated 25 after a 3-month rehabilitation programme was implemented successfully. These children attended remedial classes that helped them to catch-up on mathematics, Kinyarwanda and science subjects. Their families were traced and assessed before the reunification.

The location has developed its concept note including an updated results framework and financial plan for 2024-2027. The Kayonza DFE standard project has supported 300 vulnerable families caring for 1,534 children who had access essential services. 300 families have acquired skills on FDP where they know how to set priorities and objectives to achieve. 255 caregivers in FS Kayonza acquired positive parenting knowledge and skills. 107 of them participated in individual psychosocial support and group counselling services sessions. They reported reduced parenting stress levels as well as increased knowledge about parenting, better interactions with their children, support for the education of children and young people, and more connections to their peers and other community groups like Friends of Families.

16 families who lived in obscurity received solar energy lamps and radios for their brightness and information, their respective children are easily revising studies which will surely improve school performance. 941 children were supported with school materials and 184 supported with school fees or feeding are freely accessing education services for increasing their performance. 30 DFE standard Kayonza youths were enrolled in VTC short courses in various trades: tailoring, hair dressing, auto mechanics, masonry and carpentry. Some of them got apprenticeship/internship in tailoring and carpentry trades. To improve the living conditions of children in 4 vulnerable families, DFE standard Kayonza provided building materials (doors and windows) to build or renovate houses

60 DFE standard Kayonza families have graduated after demonstrating the ability to provide care and protection to their children and are capable of catering for the needs of their children. These families practice parenting and child rearing and meet the basic needs of children and other members of the households such as food, clothing, education, health care, and shelter for their children.



Kigali Programme Location

The annual average of participants supported through the transition projects are 79 children in FLC, 93 for OAC reintegrated children, 23 children and young people in SGH, 110 young people in SIL, 497 for ECD, 2710 for EDU and 10208 DFE participants supported by 3 IPD projects (Kigali Kura Umenye TV Gala, Kigali BMZ quality care and Kigali Seruka Street Children Project). The location has a Care Professionals Training Centre welcoming an annual average of 124 participants.

The location has 10 functional family houses managed by 10 SOS mothers and 4 aunts. The location counted 51 staff including caregivers, teachers, education, administration and support staff. The location has admitted 49 children on short term care and reintegrated 45 after a 3-month rehabilitation programme including psychosocial support, and catch up/coaching sessions. Their families were traced and assessed before the reunification. One family house was renovated and equipped to be used as rehabilitation centre for newly admitted children. All 6 FLC children who sat for primary leaving examination succeeded and shifted in secondary school. They are getting fully integrated and used to life in the boarding school.

In total, 53 Children have been supported to access a comprehensive psychosocial support, including counselling services and activities to address emotional and social needs, leading to improved mental health outcomes. In collaboration with neighbors, parasocial workers (IZUs) and local leaders, the living conditions of children and young people in small group homes have improved in many ways: 2 houses in bad conditions were renovated at Mayange, houses were rented for two homeless child headed households. Apart from the access to decent shelter, 2 Families have been supported with IGAs. The collaboration aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the support SOS Children's Villages is providing. The location provided food, education and health support to all beneficiaries in need.

IN NUMBERS

53 Children have been supported to access a comprehensive psychosocial support

2 houses were renovated

Post placement follow-up was organised in 37 families where 43 reintegrated children attend school on regular basis thanks to the education support (school fees and school materials). 3 families that welcomed reintegrated families received food support and hygienic equipment. 15 families got financial support for their income generating activities and 4 houses have been renovated for families with reintegrated children.

As far as Youth Care and employability are concerned, the location has provided support to 110 young people in youth care programme(education, living conditions). 9 youth completed their secondary education and they are applying for universities. The location has supported Income Generating Activities of 10 young people as part of emancipation. Thanks to IPD projects, 39 young people have been empowered in the area of electricity, sales, customer care, marketing and digital skills/Irembo services. 9 youth with business ventures completed training in entrepreneurship, business plan and financial literacy. 5 of them have been awarded of 240 Euro to strengthen their business. 30 young people who are in university and TVET Graduates completed training on Employability skills.

73 children were enrolled in ECD and 576 children in EDU. The Kigali Technical School (EET Kigali 2) has enroled 435 students in 4 trades: Computer sciences, Electronics, Plumbing, Welding electricity and Ordinary level. 4 Teachers attended Competence Based Training . All students who sat for national exams succeeded.

DFE projects have empowered 793 caregivers, 2409 CBOs/IZU members and 279 government and non-governmental structures on parenting skills, VSLA management and entrepreneurship skills, organisational development, mental health, psychosocial support. 120 Teachers mentors have been trained on remedial learning and 62 Teachers on ASRHR and MHPSS.

provided support to

110

young people in youth care programme

30

young people who are in university and TVET Graduates completed training on Employability skills





SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

SOS Children's Villages Rwanda
KG 548 St 46 Kacyiru, Kigali
P.O Box 1168 Kigali Rwanda
Facebook: SOS Children's Villages Rwanda
Twitter: @soscvrwanda
Linkedin: SOS Children's Villages Rwanda
Instagram: SOS Children's Villages Rwanda
YouTube: SOS Children's Villages Rwanda