



2023
Annual Report:
Our impact



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

Children and young people need someone who truly sees them - someone who stands by them no matter what. Today, 1 in 10 children and young people are separated from their families, abandoned, neglected, or forced to live in an abusive environment, growing up without the support they need to prepare for their future. This happens in every country, rich and poor, in every city and community. For the child, the effects often last a lifetime, creating a harmful cycle that repeats itself from one generation to the next.

We exist to change this.

Truly
bonding
with a **child** has the
power
to change the world.

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Together in purpose

Today, after 51 years of existence, SOS Children's Villages Nepal, through its various programmes, is present in six provinces across the country. It is planning to extend its operations to Madhesh Province in 2024, working with partners to ensure that no child grows up alone. Our approach is founded on the firm belief that children have the need and the right to grow up in supportive and nurturing environments – ideally with their families when possible and in their best interests. When they do, it creates a positive ripple effect – benefiting not only the communities where they live, but also the next generation of children.

SOS Children's Villages Nepal continues to evolve and adapt to new realities and needs of the children and young people without or at risk of losing parental care. We have been providing care services and support to vulnerable children, young people and families in shaping their future through various programmes such as community-based family strengthening programme, alternative care, education, entrepreneurship and skill development training.

We are grateful to our donors, sponsors, Promoting and Supporting Associations, International Office and International Office Regional. We also thank the Board, General Assembly and government agencies for their continuous support. Furthermore, we appreciate the contributions of all the caregivers and our colleagues.

Looking ahead, SOS Children's Villages Nepal remains committed to synergising efforts, pooling resources, sharing knowledge, and leveraging the diverse skills of stakeholders involved. With determination and collaboration, we strive towards achieving our goals and positively affecting the lives of children and families in Nepal.

Dr Jyoti Ratna Dhakhwa
President

Dr Ganga B. Gurung
National Director



Photo: Nisha Shah

What we do

Provide children
a loving home



Make families
stronger



Promote
children's rights



Protect children
in emergencies



Year in review 2023

SOS Children's Villages Nepal believes that every child should grow up with love, respect, and security with bonds they need to be their strongest selves. We are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it.



24,161

Total programme participants

LOVING HOME

Children and young people cared for in SOS Children's Villages families and SGH/SIL:

2,051

PREVENTION & SUPPORT

Our family strengthening services supported

9,977

children, young people and adults, a total of 2,856 families.

EDUCATION SUPPORT & TRAINING

Our education programmes supported

6,976

children, young people and adults.



HUMANITARIAN ACTION

reached **5,157** children, young people and adults.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION INCLUDES ...

prevention and preparedness activities, rapid and effective crisis response and post-crisis work.

Humanitarian action projects:

- Promoting educational resilience of schools on equitable access to education amid COVID-19 (2,252 people reached)
- Breaking the barriers of the digital divide (1,805 people reached)
- Emergency response - Jajarkot earthquake (1,100 people reached)



Our programmes

10

Children's villages

10

Small group homes (SGH)/ Supervised independent living (SIL)

11

Family strengthening programmes

7

Hermann Gmeiner schools

1

Kindergarten

1

Employment and entrepreneurship training (EET)

1

Child and youth care practitioners' training (CPT)

3

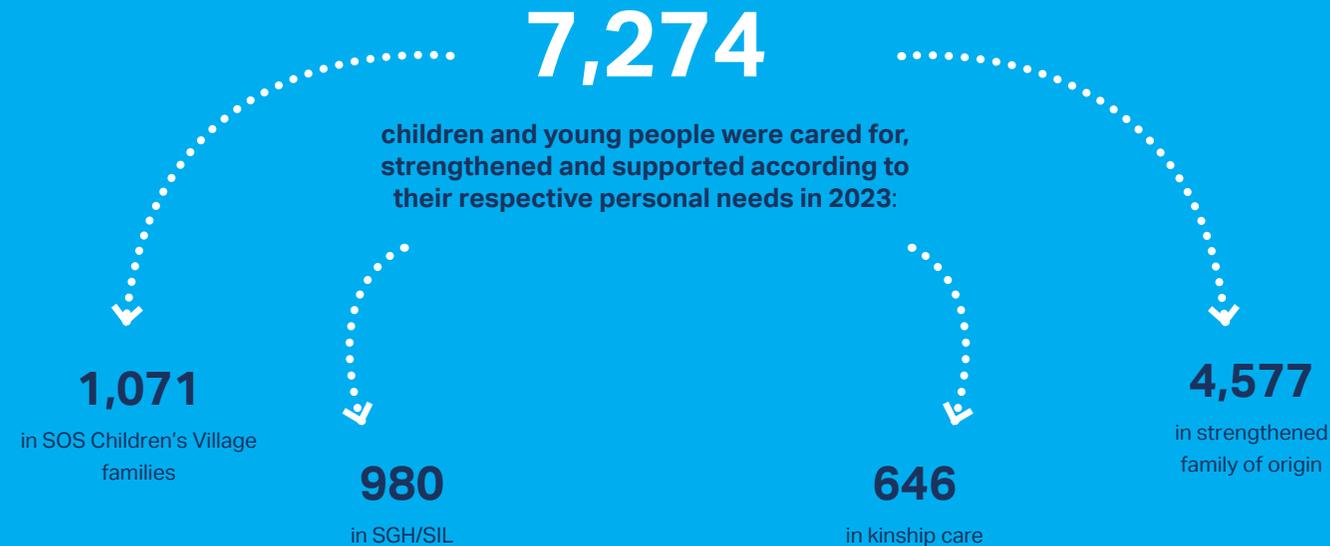
Humanitarian action (HA) projects



A new home LOVING & STABLE



Children and young people who cannot live with their families for various reasons are cared for by our caregivers in a family environment in small group homes or SOS Children's Villages families, among others.



Enhancing impact

Since our foundation in 1972, SOS Children's Villages Nepal has been dedicated to ensuring that no child grows up alone. Over 51 years, our understanding of child and youth development has evolved, and so have our responses. Initially, we focused on directly caring for children and young people without parental care. With time, we began prevention work, supporting families to stay together, and eventually, expanded to advocacy efforts at national and international levels.

Today, we work on three main levels to maximise our impact: supporting individual children and young people (working also with parents and extended family), strengthening community support systems, and influencing policy frameworks. This holistic approach is conceptualised as an application of the ecological systems theory, which views child development as being influenced by multiple layers of the surrounding environment.

We remain focused on our core three pillars of action – preventing family separation, protecting children and young people and advocating to improve their situation.

Activities 2023

Children have the right to grow up in a supportive family environment. Everything we do is aimed at making this a reality.

The following section presents individual stories of children and young people we work with, including programme participants from our family strengthening programme, as well as key activity highlights. Our work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals.



Photo: Roshan Sapkota

Impact at the individual level



Our work centres on ensuring that children grow up in nurturing environments with strong and trusting relationships, whether in their families of origin or in alternative care. With this as our aim, we work directly with children, young people, and families, providing holistic support. We measure the impact of our services in the lives of our programme participants through four main themes encompassing various dimensions of well-being.

The four main themes:

Breaking the cycle of separation and abandonment through care:

We work to provide consistent quality care to children and support families at risk of breakdown, ensuring children grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.

Enabling self-reliance through education and employment:

Our services aim to support children and young people to attain relevant education and skills, according to their interests and potential.

Securing basic needs:

We empower children to develop life skills and household responsibilities as they grow.

A foundation for a happy life:

We support children, young people, and families through life skills training, social and emotional support, support groups, counseling, trauma therapy, psychotherapy, child rights training, and other necessary psychosocial support services.



Photo: Shreeshha Tamrakar

Care and relationship

When Laxmi, Rashmi's (name changed) caregiver, was a child, she fondly remembers playing with handmade dolls. "I recall spending evenings playing with dolls made of old clothes and yarn with my mother," reminisces Laxmi. Inspired by these memories, Laxmi decided to make a similar doll for the children at SOS Children's Village Sanothimi.

Rashmi was overjoyed to receive the beautiful doll. "Along with playing puzzles, I love to play with my doll with my mother during my free time. She is my favorite person in this entire world," Rashmi says, her eyes sparkling with happiness.

Children and young people need strong bonds to be *their strongest selves.*

Photo: Jyotsana Chhetri



Family relationships and parental obligations

Positive relationships between caregivers and children are essential for ensuring positive outcomes across a wide array of well-being domains, including educational, relational, and physical, mental, and emotional health. In response, we have placed greater emphasis on promoting positive parenting practices. This initiative aims to strengthen relationships and foster a strong sense of identity in children.

The International Children Development Programme

The International Children Development Programme (ICDP) aims to enhance the relationships between caregivers and children. At SOS Children's Villages Nepal, we offer ICDP training on positive parenting to our caregivers. These sessions strengthen child-parent relationships, significantly impacting various aspects of child development. Likewise, caregivers learn positive behaviors and methods to safeguard both the emotional well-being and physical safety of the children in their care.



366

programme participants received ICDP training.

”

I noticed a roughly folded blanket and asked who had done it. When my ten-year-old son, Ajay (name changed), said he had, I recalled an impactful positive parenting training I had attended and praised his effort. The next day, Ajay happily pulled me towards his room to show me his bedroom. I asked him who had tidied up so early and was pleasantly surprised when he said he had folded not only his own blanket but also his brothers' blankets. His happiness and motivation were evident after my acknowledgment.

-Family strengthening programme participant



Highlights 2023



Full scholarships

Three young people have been awarded full scholarships to pursue the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at United World Colleges (UWC) in Costa Rica, Germany, and Norway. This programme significantly boosts their chances of obtaining undergraduate scholarships at colleges and universities across the globe.



Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

We formed a collaborative partnership with Saksham Yuwa Nepal to implement the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Seven young people were honored with the bronze medal.



ICDL certification training

135 young people from SGH/SIL completed the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) certification training for employability skills.



New learning and development approach

Through our partnership with Nepal Secretariat of Skills and Training (NSST), six young people were selected to participate in German language courses, weekly workshops, training sessions, and seminars. These programmes are designed to prepare them for their apprenticeship experiences in Germany.



Professional development programme

Hermann Gmeiner School Pokhara organised an in-house Professional Development Programme, themed "AI-Enhanced Education: Empowering Teachers and Learners for the Future" with practical training and a workshop on "Inclusive education for all: Using universal design for learning to support every student" in partnership with Artevelde University of Applied Sciences.

Encouraging young changemakers to make a difference

At SOS Children's Villages Nepal, we believe in the power of children's and young people's participation. In all ten SOS Children's Villages across the country, we have Child Clubs and youth clubs where young leaders are elected to represent their peers. It is crucial to include their voices in decision-making processes because nothing should be decided for them without them.

Photo: Gauri Sanjel



Amplifying youth voices

Photo: Prakash Danuwar

Ranjita's journey from being the secretary of National Network of Child Club to being a member of National Child Advocate Council has been marked by confidence and growth. She was one of 17 participants selected nationwide for a four-day workshop by Consortium Nepal, focusing on child rights advocacy at the national level. The workshop was enlightening, allowing her to meet influential policymakers.

"This experience deepened my understanding of child rights and self-awareness. My secretarial role at National Network of Child Club endowed me with essential communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills. Drawing from the workshop, I am committed to advocating for child rights. Together with my fellow SOS Child Club members, we actively participate in forums with adults to raise concerns related to us children," says Ranjita.

Education and skills

Our services aim to support children and young people achieve relevant education and skills that align with their interests and potential, ensuring they secure suitable employment for a decent living. This is a pre-requisite for an independent and self-determined life as an adult. Therefore, we work directly with young people to prepare them for this transition by offering psychosocial support and vocational and social skills training. We also collaborate with partners on employability initiatives and work with the government to improve aftercare provisions.

Bridging the gap between school and work

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the unemployment rate for young people aged 15-29 in Nepal is a staggering 19.2 percent, compared to 2.7 percent for the entire population. For those without or at risk of losing parental care, the likelihood of falling into this group is particularly high. Without the support network often provided by a family, bridging the gap between school and work can be especially challenging.

In 2023, SOS Children's Villages Nepal launched the SOS Business Incubation Centre (SOS BIC) to empower young people. This initiative aims to equip them with essential skills and guidance for entrepreneurial success, addressing the employment gap. Through partnership, we deliver customised support to aspiring young entrepreneurs, connecting them with mentors who provide intensive training and mentorship sessions.



25

young people were part of a cohort honing their business ideas with support from SOS Business Incubation Centre (SBIC).

”

Being part of the SOS Business Incubation Centre has been a transformative experience for me. Presenting my business idea at the Business Prototype Showcase event was an incredible opportunity that boosted my confidence and will open new doors for my sustainable fashion enterprise, क - Kapas.

-Tara, programme participant



Photo: Laxman Karhi

Employability initiative

Dhana, a youth from Small Group Homes Nepalgunj, is making waves as a skilled dental assistant. With her diploma in dental science firmly in hand, she is not just embracing a job – she is embracing a passion that fills her heart with pride. Dhana believes in the power of her role, not just for her own journey but as a way to give back to her community.

From 2019 to 2023, SOS Children Villages Nepal provided crucial support to 32 young people through the medical scholarship with a generous support of SOS Children's Villages Austria. This intervention promoted employment skills and equipped young people to compete globally.



Photo: Dipak Nakul

Career counselling

Many young people with disabilities in Nepal face significant challenges due to limited opportunities and inaccessible infrastructure. To address this, Youth Club-Jorpati, in coordination with Small Group Homes Jorpati and Jobs Dynamics, a human resource firm, organised a Career Counselling and Job Fair aimed at empowering young individuals through tailored career guidance and job inclusiveness. In 2023, 272 children and young people benefited from 18 sessions on career counselling.

Self-reliance Employability initiative

Photo: Namgyal Sonam



Photo: Shiva P. Lamichhane

Vocational Training Centre Pokhara provides CTEVT-accredited training programmes in carpentry, welding, electronics, secretarial work, computing, and more. Training is conducted by experienced instructors based on a syllabus designed to meet the demands of the current job market.

Young people from small group homes, family strengthening programme, and disadvantaged young people from the communities are the main participants in our training.

We have also been collaborating with like-minded organisations to empower young people and provide them with job opportunities, helping them become ready for decent employment.



Photo: Bidur Bhuja

Additionally, Vocational Training Centre Pokhara offers a Diploma in Automobile Engineering, a three-year programme, in partnership with Pokhara Technical School.



*In 2023, the
Vocational Training
Centre Pokhara catered
to 313 participants.*



Photo: Rojina Pathak

Securing basic needs

Our focus is to ensure the highest quality care and protection for children, promoting supportive relationships, security, belonging, and equal opportunities.

Each child in our care has an individual development plan, empowering them with life skills and responsibilities for adulthood. In family strengthening, we collaborate with partners to help caregivers' access essential services like social protection, employment opportunity and health care.

”

When I first arrived at SOS Children's Village Sanothimi with my four siblings, I felt a mix of emotions—nervousness about the future but relief at being together. Welcomed into a loving family with a caring mother, we quickly felt safe and loved. Our days are vibrant and structured here, starting with taekwondo classes, followed by a day at Hermann Gmeiner School until 4 p.m., and filled with extracurricular activities like art, gymnastics, and music.

We also attend workshops on enriching topics such as Cyber Safety and Good Touch/Bad Touch. Life here is about family and support; we also help our mother with household chores, strengthening our bonds.

-Programme participant, SOS Children's Village Sanothimi



Photo: Susmita Khatiwada

Nabina had a great time dancing together with the President of SOS Children's Villages International Dr Dereje Wordofa.

Nabina (name changed) from SOS Children's Village Jorpati loves to dance and sing in her free time. She is happy when she dances. She aspires to be independent and dreams of being an actor and dancer.

SOS Children's Village Jorpati (one of the ten Children's Villages) provides care to children with disabilities. The children receive extra classes to help them with their learning difficulties and cognitive development, and there is also a therapy room with a small pool for physical therapy in the village. SOS Children's Villages Nepal, with the support of SOS Children's Villages Germany, constructed small group homes to provide lifelong care for young people in need. This initiative aims to provide tailored care for young people with disabilities who face challenges in reintegrating into society.

Life changing support



Thirty-five-year-old Durga Bahadur Karki, who was struggling financially, reached out to SOS Children's Village Gandaki for some support. The organisation then provided educational support for his five-year-old son, allowing him to start school. Durga also received livelihood assistance through the family strengthening programme.

With this support, Durga built a proper shed for goat farming and renovated the buffalo shed. "I make ghee from buffalo milk and sell it. I also sell goats for meat and baby goats for farming. Additionally, I grow some vegetables on my small piece of land. This is how we are living our life," said Durga.

Durga also had the opportunity to participate in micro-entrepreneurship training, absorbing every bit of knowledge to secure a better future for his family. "I am happy with what I have been able to achieve so far. Now, I plan to open a grocery store in the nearby market so that I won't have to do as much physical labor. My wish now is to provide my son with as much education as he desires," Durga expressed.



Photo: Shreeshha Tamrakar

We are dedicated to building a safe, sustainable future for children and families across the country through various green initiatives. Under our care, children and young people are actively involved in:



- Tree plantation
- Kitchen gardens
- Raising environmental awareness
- Practising good sanitation
- Reducing, reusing, and recycling waste



Child protection and climate protection go hand in hand!

Photo: Damodar Chaud



Photo: Jyoti Lamsal

We have dispensaries operating in our villages to provide essential healthcare for children in SOS families and caregivers. Health assistants or village nurses are responsible for daily nursing duties within the villages.



Jharana (right) practising sparring with her team member during the taekwondo session in the village.

Photo: Amrita Udas

Jharana shines in junior district level taekwondo championship 2023

Jharana emerged as a promising young athlete in the world of taekwondo. Competing in the eighth SOS Children's Village Lumbini Junior District Level Invitational Taekwondo Championship 2023, Jharana participated in the *under 24 kg category* and secured the prestigious Best Female Player award.

"Taekwondo has been instrumental in shaping my character and improving my focus," she says. "The discipline required in this sport has taught me valuable life skills that extend beyond the mat." Jharana is determined to continue excelling in the field and aims to make a mark on both national and international stages.

The Taekwondo Championship which was supported by the Provincial Sports Council was held on June 16, 2023, and witnessed the incredible participation of 212 talented players from 24 teams in the district.

**As a child, you need
someone who believes
in you, no matter what!**

Photo: Seema Chaudhary

Safeguarding

Protecting children is at the heart of what we do. We remain ever vigilant to continuously improve our safeguarding mechanism and practices and ensure a safe and caring environment for children and young people. Everything we do is guided by our commitment to provide a safe, secure and empowering environment for all.

In alignment with our National Strategy 2024-2027, our concept of safeguarding extends not only to the children and young people in our programmes but to everyone who engages with us – including our coworkers, community members and partners.

In our commitment to safeguarding children and young people, throughout 2023, we conducted a series of awareness and refresher sessions for children, young people and coworkers. These sessions covered vital topics such as child and youth safeguarding policies, reporting and responding procedures, case management, online safety, sexual and reproductive health rights, and the prevention of sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse.

We implemented a comprehensive capacity-building programme to strengthen our safeguarding efforts.

To ensure effective reporting of safeguarding incidents and concerns, we introduced dedicated email address to report. Similarly, each programme location has child friendly suggestion boxes.

These initiatives have created a more secure environment where safeguarding issues can be reported and addressed promptly and confidentially.





MHPSS INTERVENTION

3,027

children, young people, caregivers and coworkers received **337** various sessions related to mental health and psychosocial support.

55 sessions on expressive art to 361 children and young people

18 career counselling sessions to 272 children and young people

18 sessions related to suicide prevention to 40 caregivers and 486 children and young people

10 sessions on self care to 59 caregivers and 181 children and young people

Social and emotional well-being

Addressing emotional and mental well-being holds utmost significance throughout all phases of our lives. Nevertheless, numerous individuals within our community hesitate to broach the subject.

In light of this observation, we have taken the initiative to offer mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to children, young people, colleagues, and families within our community.

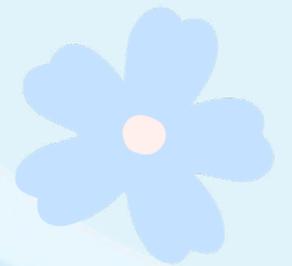




Photo: SOS archive



Photo: Purnima Dharel

The Helping Hands Youth Club of Small Group Homes Koteswar organised a sanitation awareness programme titled "Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene and Sanitary Napkin Distribution."

The aim was to educate students on menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, and sex education. The programme took place at a community school catering to students from Grades V to VII.

It was inclusive of both boys and girls, recognising the importance of educating all genders about reproductive health and menstruation.

Highlights 2023



Peer counselling

Children and young people attended peer counselling training to become peer counsellors, equipped with active listening skills and the ability to guide their peers through emotional challenges while building trust. They formed a peer counselling support group, providing a confidential space for other children to discuss their mental health problems with the necessary support.



PFA certified counsellors

Counsellors are Psychological First Aid (PFA) certified and are now able to facilitate PFA service to caregivers, coworkers and children.



Expressive art sessions

We engage children, young people, and caregivers in expressive art workshops and sessions, utilising various creative mediums such as drawing, writing, and sharing in small and large group settings. This initiative promotes artistic expression, self-discovery, and communication. A total of 55 sessions on expressive art were attended by 361 children and young people in 2023.



Sessions on sexual and reproductive health

Expert-led sessions provided information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, menstrual hygiene and sexually transmitted diseases to over 600 children, young people and caregivers in alternative care and family strengthening.



Implementing Strategy 2030: SOS Children's Villages Nepal's focus on mental health, psychosocial support, and sexual and reproductive health initiatives

In the panel discussion on accelerating the implementation of Strategy 2030 organised during the General Assembly of SOS Children's Villages, held in July, 2023, Dr Ganga B. Gurung, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Nepal, shared SOS Children's Villages Nepal's approach to implementing programmes that balance quantity and quality.

Highlighting the organisation's focus on mental health and psychosocial support, Dr Gurung emphasised the presence of professional counsellors in the villages. Moreover, he also shared about the self-care sessions for caregivers and coworkers and training for children to become peer counsellors.

Dr Gurung also mentioned that SOS Children's Villages Nepal is actively addressing sexual and reproductive health through awareness sessions targeted to children, young people and coworkers including caregivers.



" We focus on mental health and psychosocial support at SOS Children's Villages Nepal. One significant aspect is the presence of professional counsellors, providing much-needed support to the children and coworkers alike."

**Dr Ganga B. Gurung
National Director, SOS Children's Villages Nepal**

Supporting the mental health of caregivers

Photo: Shreeshya Tamrakar



Photo: Gauri Sanjel

What is undeniable is that the more emotionally and mentally healthy the caregiver, the higher the likelihood that the child will have a safe and nurturing environment to grow up in. Therefore, alongside children and young people, we offer various self-care sessions for caregivers.

These programmes provide children, young people and caregivers with valuable tools for emotional healing, self-discovery, and overall well-being.

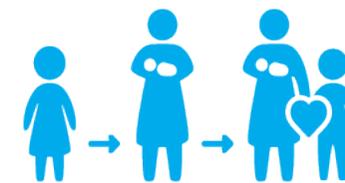




Photo: Shyam Chettri

Impact at the community level

Beyond the impact our services and programmes have in the lives of individuals, we also work at the community level to improve the situation of children without parental care or at risk of losing it. We design our programmes so that support systems for children and their families are strengthened. Our aim is that communities are strong and can serve as a safety net for children and young people who are on their own or families who are at risk of breaking down.



Highlights 2023

Digital village project

We successfully introduced the Digital Village Project in three programme locations—Surkhet, Lumbini, and Itahari—to promote ICT in community development. This initiative played a pivotal role in incorporating technology into interventions, impacting 220 programme participants, 2,000 students from four community schools, and 70 households, significantly extending its reach and benefits.



Gurans Farmer's group

Gurans Farmer's group was registered in Dhangadhi with support of SOS Children's Village Dhangadhi and it established a connection with SAPPROS Nepal, a non-profit organisation committed to achieving long-term, sustainable changes in the lives of marginalised communities in Nepal. Through this collaboration, the group aims to promote agricultural production in the region, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and driving economic growth in Dhangadhi.



Formation of Municipal level child network

31 local government representatives, eight school principals/teachers, and 22 students participated in a child rights advocacy session which was organised in Bagmati Rural Municipality, Lalitpur District under DFE programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Senior Citizens, Women, and Children. The event contributed to the establishment of the Municipal Level Kopila Bal Sanjal, a child network.



Child safeguarding and health awareness-raising

The Social Service Club Biratnagar, a youth club of Small Group Homes Biratnagar successfully supported a community girl's education and also organised breast and uterine cancer awareness programmes for female participants from the community. Likewise, child safeguarding orientation was provided to primary level students of the community school, broadening their understanding of child safeguarding issues.





Kinship care

A future of education and independence

"My sole dream is to see my granddaughter Sabina achieve education, build a career, and become financially independent," says Hari Bahadur, a resident of Babiyachaur, Surkhet. Hari Bahadur and his wife Rita have cared for Sabina since infancy. Their primary income, derived from farming, supports their family of three. Additionally, through a kinship programme, they receive support for Sabina's education and have access to the government's health insurance programme.

"I am delighted to see her attend school daily. My granddaughter is bright, excels in her studies, and recently showcased her athleticism by participating in a district-level running competition," proudly states grandmother Rita. (Names have been changed.)



Nurtured by family, driven by ambition

Kalpana and her sister were raised by their uncle and aunt, who provided them with a loving home. She excelled academically, graduating from Grade XII with an impressive GPA of 3.46. Driven by her passion for learning, Kalpana pursued an advanced diploma in computer studies and earned an internship at the very institute where she studied.

Now, Kalpana is more confident than ever. In her spare time, she helps her aunt with farm work and household chores. Her dream is to become a government officer, and she is determined to pass the Public Service Commission exam. Reflecting on her journey, Kalpana shares, "Through the kinship care programme, my aunt and uncle were able to care for us, allowing me to fully concentrate on my studies."

Progress towards sustainability



A smooth handover of DFE programme to community

Following eight successful years, the direct family empowerment (DFE) programme in Ghodaghodi-8, Kailali, concluded with a smooth handover of responsibilities to our key implementing partner Sano Sansar Kailali, a dedicated community-based organisation (CSO), ensuring programme sustainability through participants' contributions.

Upon the programme's departure, Sano Sansar Kailali has continued providing support, collaborating with local government entities to safeguard children's and families' well-being. Additionally, the DFE programme has transitioned to a new location, Gauriganga Municipality-7, Manakapur, Kailali, starting in 2024.



Conclusion of "Breaking the Barriers of the Digital Divide" Project

We successfully concluded the Breaking the Barriers of the Digital Divide Project in Kavre, achieving significant capacity building across three schools, including two community schools in digital education. Launched in January 2022, the project aimed to address the digital education gap, ensuring access for vulnerable children. It focused on enhancing ICT education in partner schools, benefiting over 1,034 students and 70 teachers with internet access and devices.

*Not only childcare,
but wholesome
child development.*



Photo: Ramesh Bikram Hamal



Photo: Prakash Bhusal



Mid-Day Meal programme improves health and attendance in schools

In six community schools within Bharatpur Metropolitan City, SOS Children's Villages Nepal is implementing the "Promoting Educational Resilience of Schools on Equitable Access to Education" project in partnership with SOS Children's Villages Switzerland.

This three-year initiative (June 2022 – May 2025) aims to address the significant setbacks in the education sector due to COVID-19. The objectives of the project are to minimise learning gaps, strengthen the capacity of schools to enhance the quality of education, improve the educational resilience of the schools, and promote equitable access to education. The project has been designed holistically to meet the needs of students, teachers, communities, and stakeholders through various activities. It seeks to remove barriers to educational progress and address them through strategic approaches and actions.

One of the key components of the project is the mid-day meal initiative, which targets students in Grades I to VI, enhancing their nutrition and encouraging regular school attendance. As a result, parents are more motivated to send their children to school, which has reduced dropout rates and improved academic continuity.

Mr Bijay Raj Khanal, headteacher of Shree Secondary School Gauriganj, emphasised the programme's impact, stating, "The mid-day meal programme provides necessary nutrition, improves school attendance, and reduces dropout rates. Most students come from economically disadvantaged families, so this programme is crucial for their well-being."



1,684 children (781 girls; 902 boys) benefited from mid-day meal in six community schools in 2023.



Photo: Ramesh Bikram Hamal

बाल संरक्षण सम्बन्धी सचेतना कार्यक्रम

श्री निर्मलज्योति आधारभूत विद्यालय
नलगाड नगरपालिका - ६, थाप्ला जाजरकोट

CHILDREN'S



"Raising awareness enables us to break down many stereotypes and prejudices."



Photo: Copal Ghimire

Humanitarian action

A devastating 6.4 Richter earthquake hit Karnali Province on November 3, 2023, claiming 157 lives and impacting 62,039 homes. The affected families, left without shelter and essentials, faced harsh conditions in the cold weather.

Immediately, we joined hands with UNICEF, the protection cluster lead, and local authorities to provide crucial aid.



Photo: Yugant Sharma



We distributed 200 Maternity Kits to babies up to 45 days old and mothers. Each kit included warm essentials such as baby caps, socks, trousers, three baby blanket sets, and warm clothing for mothers (caps, socks).



Photo: Ramesh Bikram Hamal

Recognising the crucial role of community caregivers, SOS Children's Villages Nepal also conducted orientation sessions on essential home care giving skills, linking them with the Child Care Space services.



500 children including 38 caregivers were provided mental health and psychosocial support.



To ensure education in emergency, educational materials were distributed to 300 students aged five to eighteen.

As in all our programmes, our focus is on childcare, protecting their rights and keeping families together. Responding to this crisis, SOS Children's Villages Nepal initiated temporary Child Care Space, catering to 40 children daily (9:30 am - 4:00 pm).

Trained caregivers and volunteers engaged children in therapeutic activities—singing, dancing, painting—to help them overcome trauma. Indoor and outdoor fun, personal hygiene support, and basic education were all part of the activities.

Mid-day meals and snacks ensured these resilient children left the centre nourished and smiling.

Photo: La/Badr Rokaya



Photo: Yugant Sharma



Photo: Yugant Sharma

Impact at the systemic level

At SOS Children's Villages, we advocate for change – in policy and practice – to improve the situation of children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. Through partnerships, we raise awareness about the issues they face and work towards influencing positive change. We base our work on evidence, expertise and people's lived experiences. We hold those with the duty to protect, promote and fulfill children and young people's rights accountable.



Highlights 2023

A National Workshop on Alternative Care in Nepal

To initiate a national discourse on quality care in the alternative care sector, National Child Rights Council (NCRC), a government agency responsible for safeguarding and promoting child rights, and SOS Children's Villages Nepal jointly conducted National Workshop on **Alternative Care in Nepal: Contemporary Situation and Challenges** in November 2023. This significant event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders and accountable authorities from federal, provincial, and local governments to discuss on working papers presented by SOS Children's Villages Nepal and NCRC.

The workshop served as a platform for in-depth discussions on the quality concerns of alternative care, fostering care reform initiatives. The focus of the workshop was on ensuring children's rights and establishing standardised care governance for enhanced accountability among government agencies and stakeholders.



Photo: Kiran Gaha

Honoured with Social Welfare Education Award

SOS Children's Villages Nepal was honoured with the esteemed Social Welfare Education Award from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Government of Nepal on the occasion of National Education Day, underscoring organisation's dedication to offering holistic care, particularly in the realm of education.

Social Impact Partner of the Year

SOS Children's Villages Nepal was honoured with the prestigious title of Social Impact Partner of the Year at the ICDL Asia Partner Awards 2023 for its significant contributions to the social impact.



Keeping up the momentum for care reform

The best advocates for care reform are people with lived experience of care. Taking the stage during the **5th Biennial International Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia (6-7 September 2023)**, Pabitra, a youth, emphatically spoke about promoting family-based alternative care, right of siblings to be together, services to ensure mental wellbeing of children in alternative care supported by adequate number of well-trained, professional care givers. These recommendations were made by her to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2021 as well.

In the conference, Dr Ganga B. Gurung, National Director of SOS Children's Villages Nepal, also highlighted on SOS Children's Villages Nepal's engagement in quality alternative care and the unique approach of community based family strengthening programme.

A formal and strategic partnership with National Child Rights Council (NCRC)

We established a formal and strategic partnership with National Child Rights Council (NCRC) to work in the sector of quality alternative care and reform towards enhancing accountability and promoting collaboration for better alternative care governance.

SOS Children's Villages Nepal and the NCRC have initiated a partnership to bring together relevant government agencies, children and young people under alternative care, care leavers, experts, INGOs, and civil society organisations working for children's rights. The goal is to promote quality alternative care and necessary reforms in the alternative care standards in Nepal. This initiative also aims to provide quality alternative care and family strengthening for families.



During an official visit to SOS Children's Villages Nepal, Dr Dereje Wordofa, President of SOS Children's Villages International, along with his delegation, had an official meeting with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Dahal affirmed Nepal's commitment to child rights and expressed his willingness to further these rights by providing a stable political environment in which child rights can be realised.



Photo: SOS Archive



Arjun's journey: From small group homes to medical school

"Education gives me a sense of independence, and I believe I would have been lost without it," says Arjun, who is in the final year of his MBBS programme. Soon, he will begin his internship at Chitwan Medical College. Arjun is a youth from Small Group Homes Bharatpur. Arjun has shown strong determination and dedication since he was a young boy. "I still remember how excitedly he said he wanted to be a doctor when we asked about his ambition. He had set his goal to become a doctor a decade ago," shares his caregiver.

He earned a full scholarship to pursue Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS).

Arjun fondly recalls his time at SOS Children's Village Bharatpur as one of the happiest periods of his life. "I am grateful to my caregivers who taught me never to give up. Had I quit earlier, I would not have been here today."



No child should grow up alone

Photo: Lobsang Dolkar

Care leaver in action

Jenny was approximately six and a half years old when she was brought to Paropakar, a childcare home in Nepal, where she received education and a place to live alongside other children who had lost parental care. Now 22 years old, Jenny is in her third year of studying Bachelor of Engineering in Information Technology.

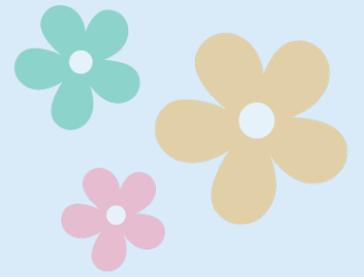
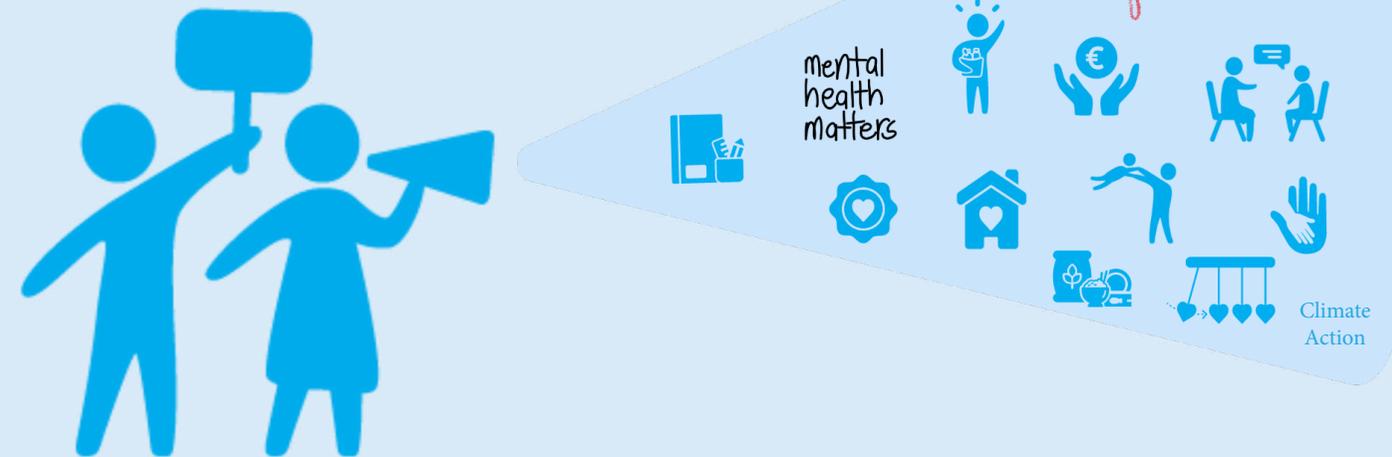
Jenny is also a member of Alternative Care Youth Society Nepal, a network for care leavers in Nepal.

Through her involvement with the Alternative Care Youth Society Nepal, Jenny aspires to advocate for the rights of children, young people, and care leavers in alternative care settings.

'Nothing for us without us'

A significant achievement in 2023 was the facilitator role of SOS Children's Villages Nepal to bring together care leavers, representing various care-giving settings and organisations to amplify their voices and successfully registered care leaver's network named **Alternative Care Youth Society Nepal**.

This network is dedicated to identifying political, social, and economic issues to advocate for enabling policies and supporting programmes for care leavers in Nepal.



2023

in detail

This section gives further insights into how we work, including an overview of financial figures.

Members of the General Assembly after AGM 2023 with the staff of National Office, SOS Children's Villages Nepal.



Photo: Shreesh Tamrakar

Board Members during a meeting with President Dr Dereje Wordofa and his delegation.



Photo: Elisha Shrestha

From left to right (Sit): Dr Steffen Braasch (Chief Operating Officer), Dr Rita Singh Hamal (Vice President), Dr Jyoti Ratna Dhakhwa (President), Dr Dereje Wordofa (President, SOS Children's Villages International), Ms Pratima Pande (Member)

From left to right (Standing): Mr Karan Vaidya (Member), Dr Ganga B. Gurung (General Secretary), Professor Bishwa Keshar Maskay (Advisor, Immediate Past President), Mr Biranchi Upadhyaya (International Director Region Asia), Ms Angela Maria Rosales (Chief Programme Officer), Mr Sanu Bhai Khadka (Member), Mr Rajneesh Jain (CVI Representative)

Governance

Several significant initiatives were undertaken to enhance various aspects of SOS Children's Villages Nepal in 2023.

National Gatekeeping Guidelines was endorsed by the Board after incorporating technical inputs from the IOR Asia and recommendations from local government authorities. Aligned with global gatekeeping practices, the guidelines is expected to ensure suitable services or care arrangements to prevent inappropriate placements.

Likewise, Visitors Regulations was rolled out to safeguard and uphold the privacy and well-being of children, young people, and families during visits to SOS Children's Villages Nepal. It is a proactive commitment of SOS Children's Villages Nepal to create a secure and respectful environment for all stakeholders involved.

Similarly, Comprehensive regulations on Protection from Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse (PSHEA) was rolled out as a commitment to uphold ethical standards and safeguarding the rights and dignity of every coworker within the organisational context.

Moreover, the Living Our Values and Code of Conduct were translated into Nepali to promote a cohesive and informed work environment. All Board members participated in an orientation on the new value-based Code of Conduct (COC), led by the CVI Representative.



878
Total
coworkers



32
coworkers at
the National
Office



191
core caregivers



39
counsellors at
10 villages and
small group
homes

Financial position

PARTICULARS	AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023 (NPR.)	AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022 (NPR.) (Restated)
Fixed assets	836,460,376	880,255,073
Intangible assets	412,931	678,481
Construction in progress	81,375,304	62,755,690
Fixed deposits	34,105,894	33,500,101
Receivables and advances	84,373,409	23,238,042
Cash and cash equivalents	310,614,277	300,722,148
Bank balance child money gift accounts	213,143,285	210,965,855
TOTAL	1,560,485,477	1,512,115,390
Restricted funds	583,195,682	624,563,624
Earmarked funds	37,499,985	-
Child money gift	213,143,285	210,965,855
Provision for post retirement benefits	707,219,243	643,613,544
Other liabilities	19,427,282	32,972,367
TOTAL	1,560,485,477	1,512,115,390

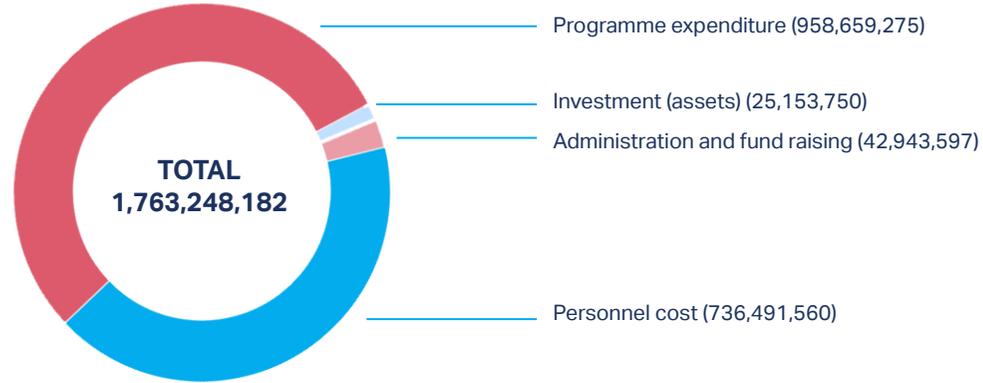
EXPENDITURE FOR 2023	(NPR.)	% EXPENDITURE
Low value investments	1,386,838	0.08%
Current working expenses	831,113,365	48.38%
Personnel expenditures	641,756,245	37.35%
Retirement benefit expenses	63,605,699	3.70%
Administration and fundraising expenses	117,015,793	6.81%
Depreciation	63,148,425	3.68%
TOTAL	1,718,026,366	100.00%

INCOMES FOR 2023	(NPR.)	% INCOME
SOS Children's Villages International	1,262,194,669	73.74%
Local revenues from private sector	5,816,198	0.34%
Local revenues from public sector	14,522,064	0.85%
Operational revenues	405,450,350	23.69%
Other local revenues	18,953,270	1.11%
Donation in kind	4,801,012	0.28%
TOTAL	1,711,737,564	100.00%

Budget 2024

(amount in NPR)

Major expenditure



Sources of income

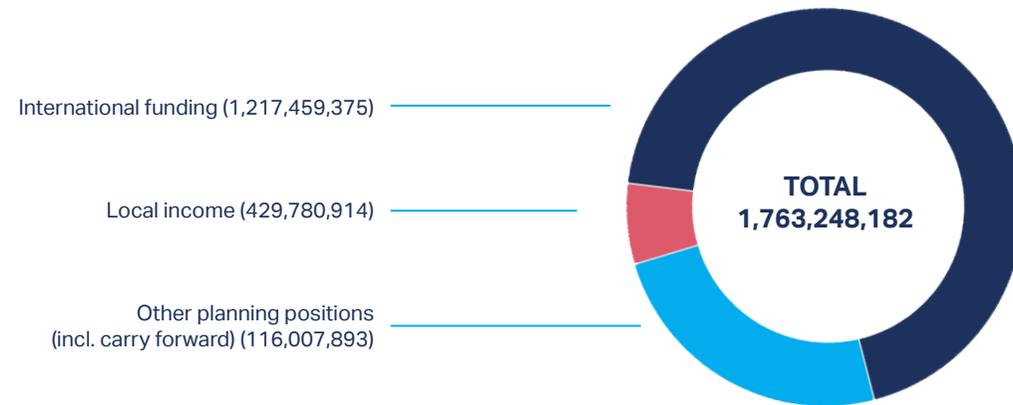


Photo: Srijana Bhurtel



Thank you !

We deeply appreciate the generous support of our sponsors, donors, and partners. Their commitment to creating a real social change for children and young individuals is truly commendable. We are grateful for the worldwide network of supporters and partners who share our dedication. Through the love and support of our well-wishers, we are able to make a positive impact on the lives of children, young people and families.



Art: Tsering Dolkar

Imprint

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Programme Locations



Our services:

Alternative Care

- Family-like care (FLC)
- Small group homes (SGH)
- Supervised independent living (SIL)
- Kinship care

Education

- Early childhood care and development (ECD)
- Primary and secondary education (EDU)
- Employment and entrepreneurship training (EET)
- Child and youth care practitioners' training (CPT)

Family Strengthening

- Direct family empowerment (DFE)
- Community empowerment for family empowerment (CEF)

Humanitarian Action (HA)

Advocacy

Madhyapur-2, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur

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