

SOS CV 2019 JOURNAL



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
KENYA



A loving home for every child





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ABOUT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES KENYA

OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

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



Every child belongs to a family

Family is the heart of society. Within a family, each child is protected and enjoys a sense of belonging. Here, children learn values, share responsibilities and form life-long relationships.

A family environment gives them a solid foundation on which to build their lives.

Every child grows with love

Through love and acceptance, emotional wounds are healed and confidence is built. Children learn to trust and believe in themselves and others. With this self-assurance each child can recognize and fulfill his or her potential.

Every child grows with respect

Each child's voice is heard and taken seriously. Children participate in making decisions that affect their lives and are guided to take a leading role in their own development. The child grows with respect and dignity as a cherished member of his or her family and society.

Every child grows with security

Children are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation and are kept safe during natural disaster and war. Children have shelter, food, health care and education. These are the basic requirements for the sound development of all children.

WHO WE ARE



SOS Children's Villages is a child focused, non-governmental organization providing care and support to children who have lost or who are at risk of losing the care of their biological family.

WHAT 2019 WAS TO SOS CHILDREN VILLAGES

In 2019, Kenya made considerable political, structural and economic reforms that have contributed to social development, economic growth and political stability over the last decade. Despite these positive strides, Kenya's development challenges still include poverty, inequality, climate change and the vulnerability of the economy to internal and external shocks (World bank, September 2019). The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) performed lower than the previous year at 5.8% down from 5.9%. It has been estimated that the GDP will bounce back at the tail end of the year 2020 to close at 6.0%. The low performance was attributed to delayed long rains at the beginning of the year, low private sector investment and erratic short rains that brought with it floods and other natural disasters in various counties.

The national population census was conducted in August 2019. According to the census report, the country's population stood at 47,564,296 (23,548,056 males and 24,014,716 females). It is estimated that approximately 3.6 million of this population were Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). 30% to 45% of orphaned children in the country ended up in Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs) while 300,000 were estimated to be in the streets.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Services, through the Department of Children Services (DCS) and Civil Society Organizations sustained the care reforms agenda, with the drafting of a concept paper to guide the implementation of the reforms across the country. The exercise involved the DCS, UNICEF, LUMOS, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and SOS CV Kenya, and subsequently, a national Policy on Care Reforms will be developed in 2020. In line with the care reforms, the government sustained the moratorium on the registration of new Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs); enforced a ban on the adoption of Kenyan children by foreigners (through the Cabinet); and sustained the implementation of social protection programmes, with cash transfers to over 350,000 households.

CERTIFICATION OF SOS MOTHERS



Providing quality care and parenting to a millennial child requires a set of innovative skills and knowledge in physical, emotional and general development in an ever changing and increasingly digital age. According to Don Brown **“Children are like sponges that suck in any nonverbal and verbal interaction.”** Therefore, there should be a deliberate investment in children when they are still young, as this directly impacts on their ability to be responsible and contributing citizens in future. Taking cognizance of this, the SOS International Senate in a statement dated April 2015, acknowledged the need for empowering working conditions for SOS parents across all cultures and countries in order for them to provide a caring family environment for children under the SOS Family Care program. This position is reiterated in Kenya’s Constitution (2010), which provides for elaborate safeguards for the rights and welfare of children in Kenya.

In 2018, SOS CV Kenya collaborated with Daystar University to develop and deliver a training program for SOS parents to improve their capacity as care professionals in providing

quality care and protection to children under their care.

The training targeted SOS parents from all the five Children’s Villages; generally the parents were apprehensive about going back to school after being out of school for long. Most of them had spent more than a decade without undertaking a formal educational program and being adult learners, the training program was designed to ensure maximum transfer of skills and high level of retention through a lot of practical sessions packed with real life experience sharing and day to day common occurrences.

The training sessions were also staggered to enable the parents to balance between classwork and their caregiving role. In addition, the training modules were carefully selected to address existing capacity gaps and equip the parents with knowledge and skills on the current trends in the children’s sector in Kenya. Among the topics covered were child development, child protection, child participation, communication in the family, child development, child nutrition, basic psychology and Psychosocial support.

CERTIFICATION OF SOS MOTHERS (CONTINUED)



A section of SOS mothers during graduation



Mother's receiving congratulatory messages from university officials

After three months training program, the MA hosted the parents in a special graduation ceremony to celebrate their success at Daystar University's Nairobi campus. In his remarks at the graduation, the National Director, Mr. Walter Odhiambo congratulated the graduates, reiterating SOS CV Kenya's commitment to the welfare of children without inadequate parental care throughout their childhood while strengthening families and communities as a preventive measure in the fight against abandonment and family separation. SOS CV Kenya is therefore deliberate in creating an environment that enables SOS parents to

integrate their private and professional lives without compromising child care.

“SOS Mother profession is not a job, it's a calling to share one's life with the children under their care for life time, hence this act of care cannot be equated to work rather its walking with the child throughout their lives, being available in good and bad to support, this calls for a strong parents who is all round equipped to serve beyond the laid structures and regulations, this is because care is dynamic (Beatrice Ongalo, Regional core care support advisor).”



Graduants receive “the order of the towel”



Graduants display “order of the towel”

GRADUATING CHILDREN TO YOUNG ADOLESCENTS; RITES OF PASSAGE EXPERIENCES (ROPES) PROGRAM IN SOS CV NAIROBI

Since time immemorial, societies worldwide have initiated their young into adulthood with rituals that helped them to appreciate and adopt their community's values and traditions while embracing new privileges and responsibilities that come with maturity and adulthood.

In today's world, many young people are faced with the task of growing up at a time when the prevailing culture is very different from the traditional African culture that had a structured way of imparting community values, ethics and vital life skills as part of the initiation process. This, compounded with the rapid advancement in technology, exposes them to a plethora of challenges in their development as they transition to adulthood. The negative and inaccurate messages displayed through suggestive images on social relationships readily available on media provides a recipe for confusion, the contemporary society has to be more innovative in training them on values and adaptive life-skills to mitigate against the increasing risk-taking, harmful and criminal behavior motivated by the need to have a sense of belonging and feel recognized as adults.

Drawing from an old African saying that it takes a village to raise a child, SOS CV Nairobi has for the last 6 years, collaborated with the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) St. James Buruburu branch to facilitate rites of passage for its youth. Through this partnership, the youth underwent a life skills program aimed at empowering them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for development of self, others and eventual transformation of their wider communities. Through this program, they learnt about self-identity; drug & substance abuse; mental health; peer pressure; stewardship & service skills; critical thinking & decision-making skills; communication; leadership; relationship building; Sexually Transmitted Infections; the value of abstinence until marriage and other topics relevant to their age and stage in life.

The ROPES program targets young adolescents in their final year of primary school or equivalent; at this stage they experience significant physiological and psychological changes that come with enhanced self-awareness. The program involves the young peoples'



SOS children celebrate achievement

GRADUATING CHILDREN TO YOUNG ADOLESCENTS; RITES OF PASSAGE EXPERIENCES (ROPES) PROGRAM IN SOS CV NAIROBI (CONTINUED)



ROPES mentorship session



ROPES grandaunts



Caregivers capacity building session

parents, and the sessions that they go through are experiential in nature and aimed at developing character, connections, competence, confidence and compassion. The method of instruction is a hybrid of classroom sessions and outdoor, physically demanding camp drills. The youth go through a year-long course dubbed Creating Positive Relationships (CPR) focusing on the physical and psychological changes they are going through, spirituality and civic duty. In this regard, the ROPES program fulfils the role that older tribal leaders played in the traditional African village setting. Though parents are involved throughout much of the process, the culmination of the course separates the youth from their parents when they are taken to a camp in the wilderness. The six-day residential camp is organized by gender and during this period, they are taken through age-appropriate challenging outdoor activities that test their resilience, teamwork and decision-making. The camp enables them to symbolically comprehend and appreciate life outside family care, preparing them psychologically to know that they can succeed even in unfamiliar terrain if they embrace the right attitude.

On the final camp night, significant male father figures (for male youth) and mother figures (for female youth) join the camp for one-on-one sessions with their sons and daughters. The night is characterized by celebration, pomp and color to mark the official integration of the initiates back into the society as young adult. The caregivers thereafter begin their official roles of molding the young adults into responsible and contributing adults.

POSITIONING YOUTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY

When young people are engaged in their society, economy and in legislating policies that affect their life, they are not only more productive but also contribute to the stability and development of their families' community and ultimately the country. In Kenya, the youth are a resource that form a large percentage of the population and drive innovation. Youth related issues remain a priority to the SOS CV Ke. This is partly because generally the youth are relatively marginalized in socio-economic outcomes including employment. They therefore remain on the periphery while pertinent issue affecting them are discussed.

Being a versatile population that need guidance in every aspect of life, it is important to realize a mentally and physically healthy youth who are socially secure, value driven and moral, generation that embrace diversity and transformative leadership that harness the full power of their talent, creativity and innovation for wealth creation.

In order to contribute towards the SDG's, there is need to create a competent, confident, disciplined, skilled, job ready work force for all key sectors of national and global economy, contribute to a crime free, secure and progressive thinkers and position youth for sustainable decent jobs and income generating opportunities.

In Kenya, The highest rates of labour underutilization are often observed among the youth and many continue to suffer from low education attainment, skills deficits, poor health; and lack of sufficient economic empowerment among out of school youth. Deliberate and systematic effort is necessary to appropriately equip and empower them to attain and realize their full potential and in turn drive attainment of development objectives set out in Kenya Vision (2030); and international commitments including



Independent youth at his cafe

African Union Agenda (2063), United Nations Strategy for the Youth (2014) and SDGs (2030).

While previously the MA brought youth together for experiential learning and mentorship session, the third forum held in Eldoret was considered special for the sole purpose of engaging youths in the development and review of MA youth policy. This forum helped harness and optimize the strengths and opportunities that the youth present while addressing the personal and structural barriers that affect their productivity and find solutions to issues that affect them.

The forum that is held once every year, provide a supportive environment for youth drawn from all children's villages in Kenya; Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Busia and Meru meet to constructively exchange knowledge, ideas and values amongst themselves while learning from experts from different knowledge areas. The theme for the forum "Transforming education" coincided with National youth day marked on 12th August of every year.

While learning is a continuous process, higher retention is registered when one learns by doing as this triggers creativity and thinking. The youth forum inculcated more activity based learning sessions to bring out talents and skills domiciled in the young people and offer them opportunity

POSITIONING YOUTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

to display their prowess in performing and fine arts, team building activities, innovation and academics among others.

The youths were trained on specific topics that were informed by needs assessment conducted in the year, this included: after care, leadership and mentorship, drugs and substance abuse among others.

While addressing the youth, the National Director; Walter Odhiambo underscored the need for Youth to be on the decision table when issues affecting them are discussed. *“As young people, you must have influence on and shared responsibility for decisions and actions that affect your life, this should be within the a context that acknowledges and respects your talents and strengths and supports you in finding ways to deal with the issues that affect you on a daily basis”.*

While commenting on youth employability Mr. Odhiambo stated that the association

is committed to transforming the youth to independent, contributing and patriotic citizen, he acknowledged opportunities that came by the just wound up youth employability program called The Next generation (TNE), the program provided a number of young people from both Alternative Care and Family Strengthening program opportunities to build their capacity in entrepreneurship as well as transfer soft skill for employment. *“The MA is keen to work with different strategic partners and stakeholders to provide youths with opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection while incorporating better prospects for personal development and social integration”.*

To crown his speech and reaffirm his commitment, He launched National Director’s Award (NDA), a platform that will encourage youth creativity by unearthing their talents and promoting competition between different villages.



SOS youth during team building activity

POSITIONING YOUTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)



SOS youths engaged in clean up exercise



SOS youth during an adventure visit to Lake Bogoria

Youth empowerment is both a means and an end, an attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby youth gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own and other people's lives both now and in their adulthood while bearing responsibility for the consequences of those decisions and actions. Youth empowerment remains an outstanding strategic objective for the MA and will promote creation of supporting the enabling conditions under which youth can act on their own behalf and take charge in shaping their future. While commenting on the need to put effort in education, Tom Malande; Co-founder and Director of Training at Family Impact Africa encouraged youth to be aggressive whenever there is an opportunity by excising leadership skills, *“Identify and pursue careers that you are passionate about, there are no marketable subjects, there only marketable people.”*

Youth and leadership: It is said that children are the leaders of tomorrow and there is need

to invest and stimulate their development by providing a conducive environment that enable them reach their full potential. In this process the young people are encourage to make successful life choices and to become thoughtful caring individuals with an awareness of social, environmental and global issues. The youths highlighted the burden they silently carry by living in the shadows of their predecessors; this leads to excessive pressure meted on them to reach unrealistic targets that conflict with their goals in life. The youths underscored the need to have vibrant mentorship programs that can help them make ethical choices that will deliver their dreams.

In winding up the sessions, the group of 121 youths took drawn from Family Strengthening and Alternative care program engaged in other leisure and community service activities including clean-up of the town, talent show/competition, sport and games and a trip to Lake Bogoria and Lake Baringo.

OVERCOMING ALL ODDS TO EXCEL WHERE THERE ARE BETTER COMPETITORS



SOS children's villages inter family competition

When she lost the care and love of her two parents at the tender age of four years, Joan thought that her world had come to an end. She clearly remembers the confusion that surrounded the homestead, as nobody was keen to take her and her siblings into their family as would be expected culturally and so they remained under the care of their aged grandmother. Life changed so fast for her and siblings, and it was not long before she stopped attending the nearby kindergarten, as her grandmother could not afford to pay school levies. Joan remembers how one day she was informed that she would be joining a new family in Eldoret. She held her breath wondering what the future held in store for her. This marked the beginning of her new life at SOS Children's Village in Eldoret. She vividly remembers her first conversation with her new parent at the village "I felt a sudden sense of belonging...I knew that I had found a new family'.

At the tender age of six, Joan formed a very close bond with her SOS parent and siblings. She was an active young girl who enjoyed assisting with chores at the family house and playing with the other young children. She was admitted at the Hermann Gmeiner Primary School where she became an active member of music and drama clubs. She also had a lot of interest in creative

activities and she would often draw beautiful pictures for her friends and family. Her SOS parent reflects, 'She has always been so kind to her friends...she has given them beautiful gifts'.

Believing that life had given her another chance, she developed a keen interest in her academics and would always consult her teachers on the different topics, occasionally helping out her fellow learners in class academically. She performed well in her O level examinations and got admission to Seko Girls High School. While still there, Joan secured admission at the Hermann Gmeiner International College (HGIC) in Ghana after emerging as the best student from the African continent in the college entrance examination.

In 2014, Joan left Kenya for the four-year course at the HGIC. During this period, she grew immensely in all aspects of her life, developing great leadership skills that catapulted her to the role of head girl after gaining the confidence of the school administration. She represented other students well, as her former classmate explains, "She encouraged us to work hard and excel in our studies". She attained very high scores at HGIC. Her tutors referred to her as a humble, respectful and a positive role model. In 2016, she was chosen to represent her college in an

OVERCOMING ALL ODDS TO EXCEL WHERE THERE ARE BETTER COMPETITORS (CONTINUED)

exchange program at a University in the USA where she stayed for two weeks. The experience was an eye opener for her, and she continued to put more effort in her studies.

Upon completing her final examination at HGIC in 2018, she got admission to the University of British Columbia in Canada. Her excitement could not be hidden, and her SOS family shared the excitement, with her parent being the proudest mother of the season. In August the same year she left for Canada for a five-year Bachelors degree in Food, Nutrition and Health. So far, her academic performance has been impressive and she has adjusted well, away from home.

Joan remains a point of reference and motivation for her siblings and children in SOS; she believes and attributes her achievements to the love and warmth she received in SOS. *“I found a warm family in SOS at a very critical stage in my life, and I’m grateful that I got someone to hold my hand and nurture me”*, she remarked. To SOS CV Kenya, it is just a matter of time before Joan occupies her rightful place as a self-reliant, responsible and contributing member of society, which is the envisaged outcome of the organization’s quality child care programs.



ADVOCACY; PARTNERSHIP TO LEGISLATE POLICIES THAT FAVOR CHILD WELLBEING IN KENYA

SOS CV Kenya promotes wellness of children who have lost and those at risk of losing parental care. To address challenges children and families face that comprise attainment of quality life, there is need to have policies and legislations that address the needs of our target group and design programs that respond to the gaps that exist between policy and practise.

SOS CV Kenya draws its mandate from Strategic Initiative 4 of the SOS CV Federation Strategy 2030 which is to contribute to improving public policies/ Laws in favour of our target group. This is further supported with the four strategic components; focus on care and prevention, focus on evidence-based advocacy work, ensure every member association builds on its own capacity and ensure participation and involvement of children and young people in advocacy work.

The MA is a member of the Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group and has provided technical support in the development of the draft Child Protection in Emergencies Operational Guidelines which provide guidance on child protection in emergencies to all stakeholders involved. Key components in the Guidelines include Disaster preparedness, Response Planning, Child Protection Assessment, and Child Protection Response in Emergencies, Coordination of Services, Coordination of Child Protection Actors and Actions, Mainstreaming Child Protection in other sectors and Monitoring and Evaluation. The rapid and in depth Assessment Tools have been developed to provide a framework for generating information during emergencies. When complete the Guideline will provide SOS CV KE with a framework for developing our own Emergency Preparedness Strategy to align to government's policy.

Riding on over 46 year of quality care in Kenya, the MA is well poised to provide technical support to the Department of Children's Services (DCS) on Alternative care and community programming, the strength of SOS CV Kenya stem from the multiple decade experience in providing care under different setting, responding to immediate and long term care needs for children in the community through diversified programming model that address vulnerabilities within their families of origin as well as short term care under Alternative care program. The strategic Plan (2019- 2023) developed target to align to the Medium Term Plan Framework III, other national and legal frameworks of the country as well as emerging issues in child protection programming such as care reforms, child trafficking, information and data management among others.

Networking and alliance building is critical when holding policy dialogues, SOS CV Ken is a member of Joining forces for Children Alliance, that finalized its Child Rights Situational Analysis Report launched during the International Human Rights Day celebrated on 10th December globally. The report highlights key successes and gaps in implementing various policies and programmes that affect the rights of children in Kenya. The gaps identified in the report will be used as advocacy asks to hold the government accountable towards the progressive realization of the rights of children in Kenya.

Child participation is a principle upheld in UNCRC and ACERW, the voices of children should be heard when decisions affecting them are made, two children from SOS CV Kenya joined over 500 children from across their country in raising their voices during the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Conventions

ADVOCACY; PARTNERSHIP TO LEGISLATE POLICIES THAT FAVOR CHILD WELLBEING IN KENYA (CONTINUED)

on the Rights of the Child during held on Universal Children's Day on 20th November 2019.

SOS CV Kenya is a member of the Association for Alternative Family Care of Children, he Association works towards advocating for the implementation of the UN Resolution on Children without Parental Care in an effort to contribute to care reforms within the country. The Resolution was passed by the UN General



Assembly by member states during the high level meeting in June 2019 and focuses on among other things commitment towards accounting for children without adequate parental care through data collection, placing emphasis on the factors that lead to separation of children and strengthening systems and structures that promote the care of children within the community.

In an effort to lobby for the recognition of the SOS Family Care model in Kenya's laws and policies, the MA held a consultative meeting with the Department of Children Services (DCS) and the National Council for Children Services (NCCS) to enlighten them on programmes implemented by the MA in general and features of the family care model in particular. The officials also visited Mombasa CV and interacted with mothers, children and other staff after which they provided positive feedback on the model, with the recommendation that SOS CV Kenya aligns itself with the most appropriate alternative care options provided by the National Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2014) including foster care and kinship care. The meeting strengthened the relationship between SOS CV Kenya and the two government bodies, leading to partnership in among other issues, development of the national Gatekeeping guidelines, the development of a draft plan for Children in Emergencies, the development of a concept paper on Care Reforms in the country and rolling out the Alternative Care Guidelines. The MA will deepen this relationship in 2020 with a view to aligning its work to the Government's policies and priorities for sustainability and greater impact.

CORPORATE PARTNERS



2019 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES PICTORIAL



National Director during SOS mother's graduation



Graduants during commissioning to serving children



Cake cutting to celebrate graduants



Graduants receiving the towel of service



CBA donating food items at SOS CV Kisumu



SOS receiving food from Erdemann Chinese School

2019 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES PICTORIAL



Herman Gmeiner Primary School during cultural event



CBA cheque handover ceremony



Total Kenya cheque handover ceremony

2019 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES PICTORIAL



Herman Gmeiner Primary School during cultural event



Total Kenya visit to SOS CV



Herman Gmeiner Primary School student council elections



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
KENYA**

BE A PARTNER, MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

PARTNERSHIP SCHEDULE:



INDIVIDUAL GIVERS

Monthly, quarterly, bi annually,
annually (cash, cheque, Mpesa)



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP



SUPPORT AN EVENT



IN-KIND DONATION



MERCHANDISE



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

LIPA NA MPESA

PAYBILL **551100**

ACC NO: **551100**

BANK DETAILS:

Bank Name and Address: Citi Bank
Account Name: SOS CV KE Main Trust
Account No: 5102423005
Bank Code: 16
Branch Code: 000
Swift Code: CITIKENA