



FAMILY BASED CARE

EACH CHILD HAS HER/HIS OWN DREAMS, WE HELP THEM REALIZE IT.



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ETHIOPIA

We Build Families for Children in Need

The family based care program gives care and protection to children and youth in SOS families. Our Children's Villages give long family based care for children who do not have someone to turn to. We provide what each individual child needs. We get to know each child we deal with and work with them to develop an individual development plan. We continue our support until the youth is ready to become an independent adult.

In SOS Children's Villages, each family creates its own home. The house is the family's home, with its own unique feeling, rhythm and routine. Under its roof, children enjoy a real sense of security and belongingness. Children grow and learn together, sharing responsibilities and all the joys and sorrows of daily life. Hence, the family approach in the SOS Children's Village is based on four principles: Each child needs a **mother**, and grows up most naturally with **brothers and sisters**, in their own **house**, within a supportive **village** environment "(Who we are; Our Mission).

Besides, the SOS family is a part of the community where SOS families live together, forming a supportive village environment where

children enjoy a happy childhood. The families share experiences and offer one another a helping hand. They also live as integrated and contributing members of the local community. Through his or her family, village and community, each child learns to participate actively in society.

In addition, each child has a say and his /her voice is heard and taken seriously. In relation to this, children are grown in a way that they can participate in making decisions that affect their lives and are guided to take a leading role in their own development Children's Villages works together with governments, non-governmental organizations, communities and families to strengthen local schools, provide formal education, and vocational training, support early childhood learning and create educational opportunities when they do not exist.



WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR CHILDREN TO FEEL LOVED AND PROTECTED

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia has been offering a loving home to many needy children in different parts of the country through the six Villages located in Makalle, Bahir Dar, Addis Ababa, Awassa, Harrar Gode and Jimma. Through its educational facilities (7 Kindergartens, 6 Primary and secondary schools and 2 Colleges) more than 5000 children have access to quality education. In addition, 1800 youth who were at risk-of-drop-out and drop-outs have been supported to continue their education in 16 different public schools. The public schools have also been capacitated through trainings for teachers and their leaders; and through provision of school supplies, materials and apparatus to enable them improve the quality of their education.

COMMITTED TO GIVE BACK!

It has been 12 years since I joined SOS Children's Village Hawassa. I had great unforgettable memories in my stay in the village. The sport tournaments I participated in, the clubs I got involved in, the trips I enjoyed with my friends, the academic hurdles I climbed, the friends and families I made there, the laughter I shared with my brother and sisters, mother, as well as my teachers. Tutoring my brothers and sisters every week was among the most rewarding experiences, and I was pleasantly surprised by the creativity my brothers and sisters displayed. They became independent at a very young age. When I saw them studying in the classroom, I was filled with a sense of accomplishment and pride. I will truly miss my childhood. The moment I read my acceptance letter from Harvard, I celebrated the news with a great joy. However, I also acknowledged the great responsibility associated with the opportunity. *My experience at SOS has taught me that life is not only about the mind but also the heart*, which initiated my passion to study education studies in my university life.

Furthermore, my studies at Harvard will give me the skills and experiences necessary to make changes in my community after my university life. *Hopefully, I will return to the SOS village where I grew up to help children shape their character and develop emotional, social and academic competency. With this, I hope they will become active and productive citizens in the future.* Growing up, I also had a great interest in math and sciences.

In fact, I took part in several mathematics competitions in our school and in my community. I was also consistently one of the top mathematics students in my school. In university, I want to use my mathematics skills creatively. Moreover, the fact that mathematics can be applied in various fields appeals to me, as it should provide numerous advantages in my future life and career. *I am so grateful for SOS for making my dreams possible. I believe in the motto "Success is a journey not a destination". I will be working hard in the years to come.*

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