

Annual Report 2025



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES

When children and young people are supported with **dignity, care,** and **meaningful opportunities,** they are empowered to unlock their potential, build resilient futures, and contribute positively to their families and communities.



At SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia, we are committed every day to turning this vision into reality by creating safe, supportive, and empowering environments where children and young people can thrive.

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Acronyms & abbreviations

ACC	Alternative child care
ARPWDs	Advancing the Rights of People with Disabilities
CBO	Community-based organizations
CPIMS+	Child Protection Information Management System
CS	Child safeguarding
CYP	Children and young people
DRA	Dutch Relief Alliance
ES	Emergency shelter
FDP	Family Development Plan
FLC	Family like care
FCS	Family and community strengthening
GBV	Gender based violence
HROD	Human resources and organizational development
IDP	Internally displaced person
IGA	Income generating activities
IPD	Institutional Partnership Development
LNyB	Leave no youth behind
MA	Member association
MHPSS	Mental health and psychosocial support
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
MRPWDs	Meeting the Rights of People with Disabilities
NFI	Non-food items
NO	National office
PSHEA	Prevention and protection against sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse
SACCOs	Saving and credit cooperative organisations
SGH	Small group homes
SIL	Supervised independent living
SOS CV	SOS Children's Villages
SOS CVE	SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia
ToT	Training of trainers
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene







About us

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia was established in response to the devastating 1974 famine. Since then, we have been dedicated to providing quality care, child protection, family and community strengthening, youth empowerment, health, and education services for children and young people who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it. We also play a vital role in delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance to communities affected by conflict, drought, and other crises, with particular attention to the needs of women and children.

Today, we operate across nine regions, Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Harari, Afar, Sidama, South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, and Somali, as well as the city administrations of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. Through our comprehensive programmes and services, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of underserved children, young people, families, and communities, helping to ensure they have the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

In 2025, we directly reached **253,704** children, young people, and family members, while a further 256,568 people benefited indirectly from our interventions. These achievements were made possible through the continued commitment of our partners, donors, government institutions, and community stakeholders, whose collaboration helps create lasting change for children and families across Ethiopia.

Message from the Multi-Country Director

When children and young people are supported with dignity and opportunity, they can shape stronger futures for themselves and their communities. At SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia, this belief continues to guide our work and inspire our commitment every day.

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. It has been a year of significant progress, innovation, and resilience, one that challenged us to adapt to a rapidly changing environment while remaining steadfast in our mission to ensure that every child grows up with the care, protection, and opportunities they need to thrive. Across Ethiopia, millions of children and families continue to face the impacts of conflict, displacement, climate-related shocks, economic pressures, and social inequality. Yet amid these challenges, we have witnessed remarkable strength in communities, inspiring leadership from young people, and renewed commitment from partners who share our vision for a better future for children.

This year marked an important milestone in our organizational journey. While our roots remain firmly grounded in providing quality care and protection for children, our work continued to evolve in response to emerging needs and national priorities. One of the most significant developments was the expansion of our humanitarian action portfolio. Through new peacebuilding initiatives in Afar, Somali, and Oromia, we strengthened our contribution to social cohesion, conflict prevention, and community resilience. We also launched a pioneering Nutrition-Centric Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus initiative in Moyale, bringing together humanitarian relief, development programming, and peacebuilding efforts within a single framework. Using nutrition as an entry point, the initiative reflects our commitment to addressing both urgent needs and the underlying factors that drive vulnerability.

Our commitment to care reform also advanced considerably in 2025. We continued supporting the transition toward family and community-based care systems, helping ensure that children grow up in nurturing family environments whenever possible. Beyond direct service delivery, we worked closely with government institutions and partners to strengthen national systems that protect and uphold children's rights.

Youth empowerment emerged as an increasingly important pillar of our work. Across the country, young people demonstrated their potential as innovators, entrepreneurs, advocates, and leaders. Through initiatives focused on employability, entrepreneurship, digital and green skills, we invested in the talents and aspirations of young people, recognizing that empowering youth today is essential for building resilient communities tomorrow.

Advocacy remained central to our efforts. Together with government, civil society organizations, and young people themselves, we contributed to important policy reforms, including progress toward strengthening care-leaving support systems and advancing child rights legislation. We were particularly encouraged to see the voices of children and young people increasingly recognized in discussions that shape their futures.



Internally, we took important steps to strengthen accountability and trust. The launch of an independent Ombuds approach provided a new avenue for raising concerns, resolving grievances, and promoting a culture of transparency, respect, and integrity across our organization. Alongside our ongoing safeguarding efforts, this reflects our commitment to ensuring that children, young people, families, partners, and co-workers can engage with us confidently and safely.

In a time when global funding landscapes became increasingly uncertain, we also intensified efforts to strengthen local resource mobilization and partnership development. The appointment of our first-ever Goodwill Ambassador marked an exciting chapter in raising awareness of children's issues and expanding support from individuals, institutions, and businesses across Ethiopia. This growing movement of local ownership and solidarity is critical to ensuring the sustainability of our mission for years to come.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our co-workers, the trust of children, young people, and families, the commitment of government partners, the collaboration of civil society organizations, and the generosity of our donors and supporters. Together, we directly reached **253,704** children, young people, and family members in 2025, while extending our impact to a further **256,568** people indirectly through strengthened families, communities, schools, systems, and humanitarian action.

As we look toward 2026, we remain committed to deepening our impact, strengthening local ownership, expanding innovative solutions, and ensuring that every child and young person has the opportunity to grow up safe, supported, and empowered.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey.

Together, we are building stronger families, stronger communities, and brighter futures for children and young people across Ethiopia.

Sahlemariam Abebe

Multi Country Director

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia and South Sudan

Year in review 2025

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia provides comprehensive support to children and young people facing challenging circumstances, helping them overcome adversity and enabling them to reach their full potential. Through integrated programmes in quality care, family and community strengthening, education, health, youth empowerment, and humanitarian response, we work to ensure that children grow up in safe, nurturing environments where their rights are protected and their voices are heard.

Our work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and the Sustainable Development Goals. These frameworks underpin our commitment to placing the best interests of the child at the centre of all programmes, decisions, and interventions.

Direct Reach — 253,704



162,820

reached through
humanitarian
response



4,912

children and young
people supported
through alternative
care programmes
and the Children in
Street Situations
project



14,116

young people
empowered through
youth development
programmes and quality
education opportunities
provided through SOS
Children's Villages in
Ethiopia-run schools



71,856

children, young people,
and their families
supported through
family and community
strengthening
programmes

Indirect Reach — 256,568



56,464

young people
empowered through
education and
opportunities for
development



186,312

people supported
through stronger families
and more resilient
communities



13,792

people benefited from
the wider reach of
humanitarian
interventions



13,269
Individual
international
sponsors



1,734
Individual
local
sponsors



104
Partners







Children thrive not in isolation, but in the embrace of families and communities working together!



— Family and community strengthening

Economic empowerment remained a cornerstone of our family strengthening approach in 2025, helping to enhance household resilience, preserve family unity, and reduce the risk of child-family separation. Throughout the year, families and caregivers benefited from entrepreneurship and financial literacy training, vocational skills development, and improved access to employment and livelihood opportunities. To strengthen financial inclusion and long-term economic security, caregivers were linked to Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), enabling them to build savings, access credit, and invest in income-generating activities.

In parallel, we collaborated closely with community-based organizations (CBOs), Community Care Coalitions (CCCs), and SACCOs to strengthen community support systems and promote locally led, sustainable care and protection mechanisms for children and their families.



Key results achieved include:

- **Children, young people, and families supported:** 22,416 children and young people received care, protection, social support, and other essential services from their families and communities of origin, while 5,622 additional participants were enrolled through inception phase activities across five projects in both existing (ARADA-II, ECoS-CaR-IV, ARPwDs-II) and new locations (Weliso and Harrar).
- **Caregivers empowered and livelihoods strengthened:** 4,740 caregivers were trained in positive parenting, child protection, and MHPSS, while 4,421 participants improved their economic resilience through business training, vocational skills, and livelihood support.
- **Access to essential services:** A total of 22,416 children, young people, and caregivers accessed essential services

through strategic linkages with health centres, health insurance programmes, and training and awareness initiatives, strengthening their overall well-being and community support systems.

- **Communities strengthened:** 91 community support structures and service providers were strengthened through training, awareness, and ongoing coaching, improving their capacity to support underserved families.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening family and community resilience by expanding efforts to prevent child-family separation, enhance child protection systems, and promote sustainable economic and social empowerment. Through continued collaboration with families, communities, local organizations, and government stakeholders, we aim to create a protective and enabling environment where children and young people can thrive, realize their potential, and achieve lasting positive outcomes.



Every child is e



entitled to care!

Alternative care

We prioritize strengthening families to prevent separation and ensure children grow up in safe and supportive environments. While family-based care remains the preferred option for every child, there are situations where remaining with their biological family may not be in the child's best interest. In such cases, we facilitate appropriate alternative care arrangements that ensure children's safety, protection, development, and overall well-being, while prioritizing their long-term best interests and opportunities to thrive.

In 2025, we continued to advance care reform efforts by strengthening family-based care approaches and expanding youth-focused support systems across programme locations. Through collaboration with communities, government stakeholders, and partners, we promoted sustainable care solutions, strengthened pathways for young people transitioning to independence, and contributed to building more responsive and inclusive care systems that prioritize the rights, protection, and well-being of children and young people.

Key results achieved include:

- **Advancing care reform:** **229** children and young people were newly admitted into foster care and kinship care arrangements; **8** families from traditional villages were integrated into communities, and **2** children were reintegrated with their families of origin.
- **Providing essential care and protection:** **4,523** children and their caregivers received essential care, protection, and support services, while **1,349** caregivers and **732** stakeholders were trained on childcare and protection.
- **Strengthening safeguarding systems:** Child and youth safeguarding audits were conducted across all **7** programme locations, with recommended actions currently being implemented.
- **Empowering young people:** **1,669** young people participated in life skills, talent development, and digital literacy activities to strengthen personal growth and future readiness.
- **Supporting care leavers:** **82** young people transitioning to independent living received need-based aftercare support.

Looking ahead, we will continue to play a leading role in advancing care reform at the national level by promoting family-based care and strengthening alternative care systems that uphold the rights and best interests of children. We will also expand our reach and impact through the implementation of new projects and strategic partnerships, while investing in the capacity development of partners to address identified gaps and enhance the quality, sustainability, and effectiveness of services for children and young people.

Promoting disability inclusion

In 2025, we continued to strengthen support for children with disabilities and their caregivers through programme expansion, essential services, and targeted inclusion interventions.

Key results achieved include:

- **Supporting children with disabilities and caregivers:** Under the MRPWDs project, **510** children with disabilities and their caregivers received training, economic empowerment support, essential needs assistance, and scholastic and aid materials.
- **Improving access to inclusive services:** An additional **310** and **783** children with disabilities and their caregivers in Harar and Hawassa, respectively, were reached through the ARPWDs project with need-based medical support, scholastic materials, inclusive hygiene solutions, and training.

Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen disability inclusion across our programmes, systems, and partnerships by promoting equitable access, meaningful participation, and the full inclusion of children, young people, and families with disabilities. We will enhance the capacity of staff, partners, and community structures to apply inclusive approaches, strengthen accessibility, and address barriers that limit participation. Through continued collaboration with persons with disabilities, their representative organizations, and key stakeholders, we aim to create more inclusive environments where every child and young person can participate, thrive, and realize their full potential.



Youth prog community



**ress drives
y progress.**



Youth empowerment

In 2025, we continued to advance our youth empowerment agenda by expanding access to skills development, employment pathways, entrepreneurship opportunities, and social inclusion initiatives for underserved young people and care leavers. Through strategic partnerships, strengthened systems, and targeted capacity-building interventions, we supported young people to build confidence, enhance their employability, strengthen their livelihoods, and successfully transition into independent, resilient, and productive adulthood. These efforts contributed to creating greater opportunities for young people to actively participate in their communities and shape their own futures.

Key results achieved include:

- **Programme expansion:** We launched two new youth empowerment projects in partnership with Rise and Help and Global Affairs Canada, targeting **7,000** young people through skills training and job creation initiatives.
- **Vocational and employability skills:** **1,433** young people received vocational skills training, while **1,430** gained life and employability skills, including **357** who completed internship placements to enhance practical work experience.
- **Life skills development:** **701** young people participated in life skills training, strengthening resilience, confidence, and readiness for independent living.
- **Entrepreneurship support:** **545** young entrepreneurs received business orientation and entrepreneurship support, while **370** small and medium-sized enterprises benefited from capacity-building support in financial literacy, marketing, and digital skills.
- **Gig economy support:** Linkages to digital marketing platforms enabled participating gig workers to increase their weekly income by **30–50%**.

- **Care leavers support:** In 2025, we made significant progress in strengthening the care leavers' support ecosystem by empowering care leavers' associations and fostering sustainable peer networks that promote mutual support, shared learning, and collective advocacy. A major milestone was the establishment of a national coalition of care leavers, creating a stronger collective platform for representation, engagement, and influencing policies and services that affect their transition to independent living.

Through sustained advocacy and collaboration with key stakeholders, care leavers' information was integrated into the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS+), with **168** young people registered an important step toward improving visibility, evidence-based planning, and access to appropriate support services. In addition, strengthened multi-stakeholder platforms enhanced coordination and advocacy efforts, contributing to improved access to essential documentation, including identification cards, and increased linkages to social protection services.

These achievements represent a significant advancement toward establishing more inclusive, sustainable, and nationally recognized support systems that enable care leavers to transition successfully into adulthood and participate meaningfully in society.

- **Financial inclusion:** We strengthened financial inclusion for **492** young people by linking them to Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), improving their access to savings and financial services. Through these linkages, more than **ETB 1.05 million** in loans was mobilized to support youth-led businesses and livelihood opportunities, enabling young entrepreneurs to invest in and expand their income-generating activities.

- **Digital skills development:** 99 young people were trained in digital marketing and graphic design, while 21 received advanced computer skills training and mentorship.
- **Volunteerism and employability:** A one-year volunteerism programme under the Rise and Help initiative engaged 20 young people, while the YouthCan! programme supported 20 youths to strengthen employability through skills training and internships.

Looking ahead, we will continue to empower young people to transition from passive beneficiaries to active, self-reliant contributors and leaders within their communities. We will expand access to market-relevant skills development, decent employment, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion opportunities, enabling young people to build sustainable livelihoods and realize their full potential. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening pathways to economic inclusion through emerging sectors, including the green economy, equipping young people to drive innovation, resilience, and sustainable, inclusive growth in their communities and beyond.





The background image shows a solar panel array in the upper portion, with a grid of panels and supporting structures. Below the panels, there are several utility poles or support poles. One pole in the foreground has a grey metal box attached to it. The ground is reddish-brown soil with some green weeds and small plants growing. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid on a white, semi-circular background that covers the right side of the image.

**Responding
on time is
protecting
human
dignity.**

Humanitarian action

In 2025, we continued to provide integrated humanitarian assistance and recovery support to communities affected by conflict, displacement, climate-related shocks, and other humanitarian crises across the Tigray, Harar, Somali, Afar, Oromia, Amhara, and South Ethiopia regions. Through a coordinated multi-sectoral response, we addressed immediate needs while supporting recovery and resilience, providing assistance in food security and livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, peacebuilding, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement. By combining life-saving interventions with longer-term recovery efforts, we helped vulnerable children, young people, and families restore their well-being, strengthen their resilience, and rebuild their lives with dignity.

Highlights of achievements across sectors include:

- **Food security and livelihoods:** We reached **45,060** individuals through food security, livelihood, and resilience-building interventions.
- **Multipurpose cash assistance:** **1,026** individuals received cash assistance to address immediate household needs.
- **Protection services:** **31,246** individuals accessed protection services, including case management, referral mechanisms, and community awareness activities.
- **MHPSS:** **12,731** individuals received psychosocial support services.
- **Health services:** **41,893** individuals were supported with access to essential health services.
- **Nutrition support:** **84,659** individuals were reached through nutrition screening, prevention, and treatment services.
- **Education:** **35,808** children and caregivers were supported with access to safe and inclusive learning opportunities.
- **Peacebuilding:** **27,799** individuals participated in peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives.
- **Accountability and localization:** A total of **2,180** individuals actively participated in community feedback and engagement mechanisms, strengthening accountability to affected populations and ensuring that community voices informed program design and implementation. These efforts also contributed to advancing localization by promoting meaningful participation and reinforcing the role of local actors in decision-making processes.

Despite these achievements, humanitarian needs remained acute across many operational areas. Ongoing insecurity, population displacement, climate-related shocks, and resource constraints continued to affect vulnerable communities and challenge programme implementation. To respond to these dynamics, we strengthened partnerships with local actors, enhanced coordination with government and humanitarian stakeholders, and prioritized adaptive, community-centred approaches. Through this integrated response, we contributed to saving lives, protecting vulnerable populations, and strengthening the resilience of crisis-affected communities across Ethiopia.

In 2026, we will focus on strengthening the quality, sustainability, and scale of our humanitarian interventions. Priorities include supporting the implementation of the NC-HDP project in Moyale, expanding proven approaches in nutrition, MHPSS, and protection, strengthening accountability and localization mechanisms, and deepening collaboration with government and humanitarian partners to enhance long-term resilience and recovery outcomes for vulnerable communities.





Leaving care

Support is more intensive and holistic. It is provided throughout the child's time in alternative care. This starts from the moment a child enters care.

After care

Support is less intensive but focused on specific aspects. Where financial resources are involved, this is over a shorter mutually agreed time.

A photograph of a conference room. In the foreground, a long white table is set with several clear plastic water bottles. To the right, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible as they sit at the table. In the background, a projector screen displays a presentation. The screen shows a flowchart with a blue arrow pointing to a box labeled '* Leaving care plan' and a pink arrow pointing to a box labeled 'After care plan'. Text on the screen includes '* Captured in child development plan' and 'The 8 dimensions'. The text 'Amplifying unheard voices, enabling change.' is overlaid in a large, bold, dark blue font on a white rounded rectangle in the center of the image.

**Amplifying
unheard
voices,
enabling
change.**

Advocacy

In 2025, we continued to strengthen our advocacy efforts toward building a more inclusive, coordinated, and child-centred protection system. We worked closely with government institutions, civil society organizations, young people, and development partners to advance key policy and regulatory reforms. Key advocacy and policy achievements include:

Impacting policy and regulatory frameworks:

- A major milestone in 2025 was the official launch of the **Minimum Standards for Preparation of Leaving Care and Aftercare Support**, led by the MoWSA. Over the past three years, we supported this process through a situational analysis, policy gap assessment, technical and financial support, and facilitation of national consultations through a multi-stakeholder task force. The standard now provides a national framework for monitoring care institutions, defining aftercare services, and ensuring that young people transitioning from care receive structured support and protection of their rights.
- We also facilitated experience-sharing visits to Kenya and Mauritius for representatives from MoWSA, the Ministry of Justice, and the House of Peoples' Representatives Standing Committee on Social Affairs. These visits supported learning on the development and implementation of comprehensive Children's Acts, including legislative frameworks, child protection systems, and institutional accountability mechanisms, contributing to Ethiopia's ongoing child law reform process.

- In addition, we supported national consultations led by MoWSA on the draft Child Right and Protection Proclamation, part of efforts to develop Ethiopia's first comprehensive child law. This process builds on earlier policy gap analysis and a Technical Working Group of **15** organizations established to support drafting. In 2025, MoWSA held five national consultations with government institutions, justice actors, academia, civil society, and media. We provided technical and financial support, including the deployment of a legal consultant to strengthen the drafting process. Child participation was ensured through **43** child parliamentarians who contributed to the draft law.

Championing child rights, gender, and inclusion:

- Recognizing that children, young people, and women are affected by broader structural development challenges, we engaged in national and regional advocacy on gender-responsive and inclusive climate policy. At the Second Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, we advocated for stronger inclusion of children and young people in climate and green economy policies. This was further reinforced through a national workshop under the GROW EQUAL project, which brought together government, civil society, and development partners to address gaps in Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy framework.

Looking ahead, we will continue advocating for the adoption of the Child Right and Protection Proclamation, the implementation of the Minimum Standards for Leaving Care and Aftercare, and the development of a national Care Professional Curriculum. We will also strengthen local advocacy on gender, inclusion, and climate and green economy policies.



**One act of
support, a
lifetime of
opportunity.**





Sponsorship

The Sponsorship and Fundraising Programme at SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia plays a critical role in mobilizing sustainable resources to ensure continued support for children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. Through this programme, we strengthen long-term sponsorship relationships, expand local fundraising opportunities, and develop strategic partnerships that contribute to the sustainability and quality of care and support services.

In 2025, we made significant progress in strengthening our resource mobilization approach by diversifying income streams, expanding our local supporter base, and enhancing engagement with partners and stakeholders. These efforts contributed to building a stronger foundation for sustainable programming, enabling more children and young people to grow up in safe, caring, and supportive environments where they can thrive and reach their full potential.

Key achievements include:

Local fundraising:

- A total of **ETB 5,987,470.82** was raised from individual giving, with **734** new local sponsorships secured across multiple locations. Face-to-face fundraising remained an important channel, generating **157** of these new sponsorships through **22** fundraising events conducted during the year. Relationship-based fundraising also contributed to new sponsorships through engagement with key stakeholders and partners.

International sponsorship:

- International sponsorship communication and engagement were maintained to a high standard, ensuring continued connection between the active **13,269** sponsors.

Corporate partnerships: In 2025, we continued to strengthen corporate partnerships as a key pillar of our resource mobilization strategy, expanding collaboration with private sector actors to support children and young people. Through these partnerships, we secured **ETB 1,550,000** in contributions from leading corporate partners, including Oromia Bank and Ethio telecom, demonstrating growing private sector engagement and commitment to our mission.

A significant milestone during the year was the successful organization of our first joint fundraising event with Tomoca Coffee, generating **ETB 200,000** through auctions, complemented by additional income from merchandise and coupon sales. This initiative marked an important step in expanding innovative local fundraising approaches and engaging new supporter communities.

Overall, we engaged **25** corporate partners and developed **18** concept notes and partnership proposals to strengthen our pipeline for future collaboration, diversify income sources, and create sustainable opportunities to support children, young people, families, and communities.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen our local fundraising capacity, expand strategic corporate partnerships, and enhance both digital and face-to-face engagement approaches to build a broader and more sustainable supporter base. We will invest in improved systems, including customer relationship management (CRM) solutions, to strengthen donor engagement, improve stewardship, and support more effective retention and long-term partnership development. These efforts will contribute to building a more diversified and resilient resource base to sustain our commitment to children, young people, families, and communities.





A photograph of children playing a board game, likely checkers, on a wooden board with a brown and white checkered pattern. The board is placed on a green and yellow patterned rug. A child's hand is visible moving a white piece. Another child is wearing a red headscarf and a yellow shirt. A third child is wearing a dark blue shirt with light blue stripes. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the rug and the children's clothing.

**Safety for
every child
and young
person
through
shared
action.**

Holistic safeguarding

In 2025, safeguarding efforts focused on strengthening prevention, accountability, and organizational culture across programme locations and operations. We enhanced child and youth safeguarding, adult safeguarding, and anti-corruption and asset protection through comprehensive risk assessments, capacity building, awareness creation, and system-strengthening initiatives through the following key activities:

Strengthening safeguarding systems and accountability:

- Child and youth safeguarding risk assessments were conducted across humanitarian and development projects, using participatory approaches to identify context-specific safeguarding risks and develop targeted mitigation plans. The findings have strengthened project implementation and contributed to a more proactive safeguarding risk management culture across the organization.
- Child and youth safeguarding audits were conducted across all programme locations as part of the organization's three-year audit cycle. The audits provided valuable insight into strengths and areas requiring improvement, resulting in detailed mitigation action plans that now guide safeguarding efforts across programme locations.
- The Member Association signed an agreement with Keeping Children Safe (KCS) for Level 1 Certification. Following the submission of domesticated safeguarding documents, all programme locations, including the newly established Arba Minch Programme Location, completed comprehensive self-assessments. The draft assessment confirmed that SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia achieved **Level 1 Certification** with a **100%** overall score.

- To ensure long-term sustainability, safeguarding priorities were integrated into the refreshed Member Association Strategy and the 2026 Annual Plan, reinforcing safeguarding as a core organizational priority.

Empowering staff, partners, and communities:

- Awareness and training sessions on Child and Youth Safeguarding regulations, Anti-Corruption, and Protection against Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (PSHEA) were delivered to staff, caregivers, programme participants, partners, focal persons, and community members. New staff across the National Office and programme locations also received safeguarding onboarding, reinforcing prevention as a shared responsibility from the outset.
- The Code of Conduct was translated into Amharic and adapted for volunteers and visitors to improve accessibility and understanding. The rollout of the new Anti-Corruption Regulation was supported through face-to-face training in selected programme locations and an e-learning course, while additional training strengthened awareness of anti-corruption practices and improved fixed asset management.

Building safeguarding culture:

- Efforts to strengthen a culture of safeguarding focused on preventing sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse through community awareness initiatives, safeguarding risk assessments, Training of Trainers (ToT), and capacity-building activities across programme locations.

- As the lead agency for the Dutch Relief Alliance - Ethiopia Joint Response project, SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia collaborated with the Ethiopia PSEA Network to deliver PSHEA Training of Trainers, conduct safeguarding risk assessments, and lead large-scale community awareness initiatives. We also supported the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign in Midhega Tola and Borena, promoting safer and more protective communities.

Safeguarding remains an ongoing journey. Building on the progress made in 2025, SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia will continue to move beyond awareness and compliance towards embedding safeguarding as a lived organizational culture, ensuring it is reflected in the behaviors, decisions, and everyday practices of staff, volunteers, partners, and programme participants



Purpose-driven impact p



**n people make
ossible.**



Human resources and organizational development

In 2025, continued efforts were made to strengthen organizational capacity, enhance co-worker wellbeing, and improve employee engagement to support the effective delivery of programmes for children, youth, families, and communities. This was achieved through the following key areas:

Capacity building and leadership development:

- We continued to strengthen staff capacity through targeted learning and development initiatives aligned with organizational priorities, with **90%** of co-workers trained in technical and operational competencies.
- We implemented the Succession Development Programme to prepare future leaders through structured development pathways, strengthening leadership continuity, and improving decision-making and management capacity.
- We also advanced gender inclusion through the Female Leadership Programme, which empowered female staff by strengthening leadership, communication, and team management skills.

Wellbeing and employee engagement of co-workers:

- We prioritized staff wellbeing through structured initiatives and capacity-building activities supporting both physical and mental health. These efforts contributed to improved resilience, reduced burnout risk, and a more inclusive workplace culture.
- We strengthened employee engagement and workplace experience through continuous feedback mechanisms, with employee engagement increasing from **75%** to **82%** and a Net Promoter Score of **9.5/10**.

Talent attraction and employer branding:

- We strengthened employer branding and recruitment efforts to support project expansion and attract qualified talent by promoting our purpose-driven work environment, professional growth opportunities, and collaborative culture.
- We successfully onboarded more than **60** new employees, contributing to improved workforce capacity and continuity in programme delivery.

Impact on organizational effectiveness:

- Investments in people's development and organizational systems contributed to enhanced programme quality, stronger leadership and operational capacity, improved staff retention, and increased readiness to scale interventions and services.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen workforce resilience, leadership, and organizational culture, enabling the organization to adapt, grow, and deliver lasting impact for children, families, and communities.

Staff distribution across the nation

Staff Category	National Office	Addis Ababa	Arba Minch	Bahir Dar	Gode	Harar	Hawassa	Jimma	Mekelle
Administrative staff	39	16	4	11	10	13	13	10	12
Maintenance/general service staff	8	16	4	9	24	20	9	11	33
Other programme staff	26	52	12	18	25	24	37	16	31
SOS aunts/ uncles/ family assistants	-	8	-	4	4	6	6	8	7
SOS mothers parents/ trainee	-	14	-	12	10	14	15	16	17
Total	73	106	20	54	73	77	80	61	100

Grand total - 644



A photograph of a conference room. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members are visible as they sit in yellow-framed chairs with red patterned upholstery. The room has a white ceiling with recessed lights and a white wall. On the right side, there is a stage area with a red carpet and a table covered with a tan cloth. A blue banner with a white logo is hanging on the wall behind the stage.

**Building
alliances for
lasting
impact.**



—Institutional partnership development

In 2025, we continued to strengthen strategic partnerships and advance resource mobilization efforts to support SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia's mission of delivering quality and sustainable programmes for children, young people, families, and communities. Through strengthened donor engagement, improved proposal development and quality assurance systems, and investments in organizational capacity, we enhanced our ability to secure resources, build partnerships, and deliver impactful programmes. These efforts contributed to significant progress in expanding opportunities, strengthening programme sustainability, and advancing our commitment to supporting children and communities to thrive. These results were achieved through the following key areas:

Resource mobilization:

- We mobilized a total income of **USD 23,340,885.62** in the reporting year, significantly surpassing the annual fundraising target of **USD 16 million**. We submitted **29** concept notes and proposals to institutional donors and partners, covering humanitarian response, development, resilience, health, education, nutrition, child protection, and HDP-nexus programming.

Strengthening proposal quality and internal systems:

- In 2025, we strengthened our proposal development systems and internal collaboration mechanisms to improve the quality, competitiveness, and strategic alignment of funding submissions. We conducted **21** cross-functional proposal review sessions bringing together programme, finance, MEAL, IPD, and technical teams to ensure stronger programme design, compliance, evidence-based approaches, and financial viability.

- In addition, we facilitated **11** project formulation workshops that enhanced collaborative planning, strengthened institutional ownership, and improved the coherence and quality of major funding proposals. These efforts contributed to a more coordinated proposal development process, stronger internal capacity, and improved readiness to respond to emerging funding opportunities.

Investment in capacity building:

- Capacity strengthening remained a strategic priority in 2025 as we continued to invest in building the skills and competencies needed to enhance resource mobilization and partnership development across the organization. A total of **19** senior programme staff and programme directors from programme locations and the national office participated in structured Institutional Partnership Development (IPD) capacity-building training focused on fundraising, partnership management, donor engagement, and proposal development.
- These investments strengthened cross-functional collaboration, improved organizational readiness to pursue funding opportunities, and enhanced the capacity of programme teams to contribute to high-quality resource mobilization efforts. By embedding these competencies across the organization, we laid a stronger foundation for sustainable growth, strategic partnerships, and long-term programme impact.

Strengthening Strategic Partnerships and Localization

- In 2025, we made significant progress in expanding and strengthening our strategic partnerships and donor engagement efforts, enhancing our ability to mobilize resources and deliver sustainable impact for children, young people, families, and communities. A key milestone was our formal recognition as a strategic partner by UNICEF, reinforcing our institutional credibility and positioning within the humanitarian and development landscape.
- Beyond this achievement, we further expanded collaboration with UN agencies, institutional donors, and other strategic stakeholders, creating new opportunities for joint programming, resource mobilization, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action.
- In line with our commitment to localization and locally led solutions, we established formal partnership agreements with seven civil society organizations (CSOs). These partnerships strengthened collaboration with local actors, expanded implementation capacity, and supported more context-responsive programming through joint planning, shared learning, and collective impact approaches.

Coordination, visibility, and external influence:

- We actively engaged in key UN coordination mechanisms, humanitarian clusters, and national development forums, strengthening our organizational presence, visibility, and influence within humanitarian and development networks. These engagements enhanced collaboration with government institutions, UN agencies, donors, and other partners, creating new opportunities for strategic partnerships, resource mobilization, and coordinated action to better serve children, young people, families, and communities.

Building on the strong achievements of 2025, we will continue to focus on expanding strategic partnerships, diversify funding sources, to sustain and expand our impact for children, young people, families, and communities across Ethiopia. Through proactive engagement with partners, improved institutional capacity, and innovative resource mobilization approaches, we aim to strengthen programme sustainability and create greater opportunities for vulnerable children and communities to thrive.



Financial report

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia
Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Currency: Ethiopian Birr

		31 Dec 2025		31 Dec 2024	
	Notes	Unrestricted ETB	Restricted ETB	Total ETB	ETB
Revenue from non-exchange transaction					
Income from PSAs for RC	10	2,587,140,504.98	395,554,646.99	2,982,695,151.97	1,603,369,321
Revenue from exchange transaction					
Local Income	10	310,222,256.89	-	310,222,256.89	75,789,515
Total Incoming Resources		2,897,362,761.87	395,554,646.99	3,292,917,408.86	1,679,158,836
Expenditure					
Program	11	2,458,942,480.49	395,554,646.99	2,854,497,127.48	1,884,333,488
Administrative	12	284,152,731.88	-	284,152,731.88	224,660,258
Depreciation Expenditure	16	41,520,941.78	-	41,520,941.78	36,748,438
Total Expenditure		2,784,616,154.15	395,554,646.99	3,180,170,801.14	2,145,742,185
Net Surplus (Deficit) on Operating Activities		112,746,607.72	-	112,746,607.72	(466,583,349)
Gain or Loss from Foreign Exchange Rate		140,907,465.14	-	140,907,465.14	235,897,290
Net Surplus (Deficit)		253,654,072.86	-	253,654,072.86	(230,686,059)

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of SOS Children's Villages Ethiopia, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2025, the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of SOS Children's Villages Ethiopia as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the requirements of the Organizations of Civil Societies Regulatory Framework.

Auditor: TMS Plus Audit Service LLP
Date of Report: 29 May 2026
Place: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia
Statement of Financial Position
As of 31 December 2025

Currency: Ethiopian Birr

		31 Dec 2025 ETB	31 Dec 2024 ETB
	Note s		
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Intangible Assets	3	4,331,027.25	4,207,691
Property, Plant, and Equipment	4	321,997,894.37	288,826,844
Biological Assets	5	<u>973,000.00</u>	<u>1,143,000</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		327,301,921.62	294,177,534
Current Asset			
Receivables	7	90,687,924.48	49,542,647
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6	<u>1,424,915,357.89</u>	<u>749,001,809</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>1,515,603,282.37</u>	<u>798,544,457</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,842,905,203.41</u>	<u>1,092,721,990</u>
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity/ Net Assets			
Accumulated Fund			
Unrestricted Fund		49,585,270.33	(204,612,839)
Restricted Fund		<u>13,336,847.79</u>	<u>13,336,848</u>
Total Equity/ Net Assets		62,922,118.12	(191,275,991)
Non-Current Liabilities			
Funds Held in Trust/MG	8.1	215,009,010.82	168,447,966
Employee Benefit Payables- Long term	8.5	<u>1,167,789,085.56</u>	<u>983,881,562</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,382,798,096.38	1,152,329,528
Current Liabilities			
Restrict Fund and other liabilities	8.3	340,175,424.21	118,550,329
Tax	8.4	38,793,057.35	11,110,3866
Employee Benefit Payables -Short term	8.2	<u>18,216,505.33</u>	<u>2,007,739</u>
Total Current Liabilities		397,184,986.89	131,668,454
Total Liabilities		<u>1,779,983,083.27</u>	<u>1,283,997,982</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities		<u>1,842,905,203.41</u>	<u>1,092,721,990</u>



Bank details



Dashen Bank

Account Holder: SOS

Children's Villages in Ethiopia

Account Number:

5158777424011



Commercial Bank of Ethiopia

Account Holder: SOS KDI

Account Number:

1000000971417

Swift Code: CBETETAA

Short Code: S6674



Abay Bank

Account Holder: SOS

Children's Villages in Ethiopia

Account Number:

1302112728118016



Telebirr

Account Holder: SOS

Children's Villages in Ethiopia

Merchant ID: 513060

Operator ID: 222333



Bank of Abyssinia

Account Holder: SOS

Children's Villages Ethiopia

Account Number:

211331167

Swift Code: ABYSETAA



Awash Bank

Account Holder: SOS

Children's Villages Ethiopia

Account Number:

013081478619500

Swift Code: AWINETAA



Oromia bank

Account Holder: SOS

Children's Villages in Ethiopia

Account Number:

1859697300001



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ETHIOPIA**

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia Operational Footprint



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Join us!

SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia

