

NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. National context and stakeholders

The year 2022 was characterised by a constrained economic climate. In addition, there was accelerating domestic inflation and a scarcity of foreign currency, leading to a deterioration in the terms of trade. In its report on the household consumption price index (CPI) for December, the National Institute of Statistics in Burundi (INSBU) estimates average annual inflation at +18.9%, compared to 8.3% for 2021. This level of inflation is largely due to food prices, which have increased by an average of 24.5%, with an exceptional rise of 44.5% for rice.

On political level, relations with neighbouring countries have improved. This has resulted in the reopening of borders with Rwanda, allowing cross-border economic activities to resume between the two countries.

In terms of health, Burundi has recorded a drop in the number of positive cases of covid-19 compared to 2021. In fact, a difference of 2,192 cases was recorded, i.e. 24,356 cases from December 2021 to December 2022 compared to 26,548 cases from December 2020 to December 2021. The National Covid-19 Response Committee in Burundi has announced that a negative PCR result is no longer required while exiting Burundi. However, PCR testing was still required on arrival until 31 December 2022. For outgoing travellers, the negative PCR test is only required for those travelling to countries that require it before entering their territory.

In partnership, SOS Children's Villages in Burundi has, despite the difficult socio-economic context, maintained all its partners in the implementation of its programmes, particularly in terms of capacity building and financial support. These are mainly the Government of Burundi, the DGD via SOS Belgium, the Global Fund via PNLS/IST, Red Cross Burundi, KIYO, DHL, PSI, to which were added towards the end of the year, Louvain Coopération and Entraide et Fraternité Belgique.

2. Member association analysis

2.1 Strategy implementation status

Achievements

As of 31 December 2022, alternative care had reached 1,650 children and young people, of whom 584 were in FLC, 360 in FFC, 102 in Kinship and 604 in SIL. In terms of social integration, 54 young people have been emancipated, of whom 8 are in employment, and 41 children and young people have been reunited with their families of origin.

The Family Strengthening programme supported 1,249 families caring for 5,745 children and young people in the five programme locations. In addition, 36 CBOs were supported. Furthermore, 1,349 families exited the programme, of which 1,154 were self-sufficient, i.e. 85.5%.

In terms of youth empowerment, 139 young people acquired knowledge on participation, entrepreneurship, digital economy, time management and ICT4D. In addition, 143 young people developed their skills in English, computer skills, car mechanics and tailoring as further training.

As far as advocacy is concerned, SOS Children's Villages in Burundi participated in the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of the Street Children and Adult Beggars' situation and their Community reintegration.

As for staff development, capacity-building sessions were organised in favour of 259 staff members

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on various areas, including child protection, youth development, leadership, RBM, ICTs, psycho-social care, pharmaceutical and laboratory reagent management, etc.

Talking about fundraising, the new project Children for Change, "C4C", was funded for five years (2022-2026) for an amount of EUR 2,601,565. At local level, BIF 212,870,296 was raised out of BIF 243,976,700 planned, i.e., 87.25%.

Challenges

- ◆ Rampant inflation, especially in food products (+24.5%), coupled with fuel shortages, is making life difficult for households. To remedy this, the family budget was increased by 15% from May onwards, which helped to alleviate the situation, which nevertheless remains worrying.
- ◆ The precarious socio-economic situation of families remains a major obstacle to the family and community reintegration of children/youth as well as the mobilisation of resources.
- ◆ The unemployment rate remains very high among our young people (63%). Note that this is a national problem that affects all young people.
- ◆ Funding opportunities remain limited in the local market.

2.2 Lessons learned

- Bringing together children from the village with those from the neighbouring community in recreational activities is an opportunity for relaxation and the development of talents. They also promote integration and build self-esteem.
- Involving local partner associations in fundraising facilitates resource mobilisation by relaying our messages to potential donors.
- The organisation of parents/guardians into their own associations makes them more dynamic. They take ownership of activities related to their development.

2.3 Cross-cutting topics

In Child Safeguarding, new members of child protection committees learned about the reporting and response system during a national training for them.

With regard to RBM, 29 staff members received refresher training from the RBM advisor. The national average for RBM implementation is 62% for the basic level and 47% for the standard level. In terms of gender, International Women's Rights Day was marked by solidarity actions by SOS staff in favour of vulnerable groups of women/girls.

2.4 Sustainability actions

- The initiation of solidarity groups between the FFC and KINSHIP caregivers allows the development of a sense of mutual aid to enable the realisation of development micro-projects.
- The local mobilisation of resources by CBOs & Community savings and loan associations ensures the financing of collective IGAs in order to accelerate the empowerment of families and communities.
- The continuous strengthening of community structures enables them to take over the activities of strengthening families.

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3. Overview of programme(s)

In terms of alternative care, 62 new children were admitted, including 50 in Kinship and 12 in FLC, bringing the total number of children and young people to 1 650. In order to offer them quality services, 97 SOS parents and 268 foster parents acquired knowledge on parenting skills, child participation, quality supervision and membership in community solidarity groups. In the framework of social integration and the implementation of the RAP recommendation, 41 children and young people were reunited with their families of origin, 31 of whom completed secondary school. It should be noted that 54 young people were emancipated, 8 of whom are in employment.

The family strengthening programme has accompanied 1,249 families taking care of 5,745 children and young people through the services provided by the 5 programme locations. In addition, 36 CBOs have benefited from the programme's support. In total, 1,349 families exited the programme, of which 1,154 were self-sufficient, i.e. 85.5%. In terms of capacity building, 1,239 parents/guardians developed their parental skills and knowledge in children's rights, hygiene, family planning, resource mobilisation and modern agricultural techniques during various training/awareness raising/coaching sessions.

In the context of enhancing youth employability, 139 young people gained knowledge on participation, entrepreneurship, digital economy, time management and ICT4D. In addition, 143 young people developed their skills in English, IT, car mechanics and tailoring through additional training courses organised in response to expressed needs.

In terms of education, SOS Children's Villages in Burundi has provided support to 3,238 children and young people, including 734 from the target group.

In the field of health, the SOS MCs recorded 174,351 medical visits and 9993 days of hospitalisation. They also monitored 842 people living with HIV/AIDS.

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1. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND STAKEHOLDERS

1.1 General description of national context

The year 2022 was characterised by a constrained economic climate. The fuel shortage observed towards the end of 2021 worsened with the start of the war in Ukraine. The price of petroleum products has thus risen substantially by 26.15% for premium petrol and 31.88% for diesel. In addition to this rise in fuel prices, an acceleration of domestic inflation and a scarcity of foreign currency have already jeopardised difficult living conditions. According to data provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Burundi (INSBU) in the December household consumer price index (CPI), average annual inflation for the year 2022 is +18.9% compared to 8.3% for the previous year. This level of inflation is largely due to food prices, which recorded an average increase of 24.5%. This confirms the trend of persistent food insecurity mentioned in the report provided by WFP in September based on the analysis made by the actors of the food security sector and the government of Burundi related to the 2022 B cropping season. Indeed, 1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of food assistance.

We thank SOS-Kd e.V. and HGFD, who fund our activities, for taking the initiative to allocate additional funds to mitigate the effects of inflation from May 2022 up to 15% of family budgets and 11 to 15% for salaries.

On political front, the President of the Republic was elected on 22 July 2022 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, as Chairman of the East African Community for a one-year term. In addition, relations with neighbouring countries have improved. This has resulted in the reopening of the borders with Rwanda and the DRC, thus allowing cross-border economic activities to resume. It should be noted that the President of the Republic reshuffled his government team on 7 September 2022, with five new ministers joining the government for a total of 15 ministries in place.

In terms of health, Burundi recorded a drop in the number of positive cases of covid-19 compared to 2021. In fact, a difference of 2,192 cases was recorded, i.e. 24,356 cases from December 2021 to December 2022 compared to 26,548 cases from December 2020 to December 2021. The National Covid-19 Response Committee in Burundi has announced that a negative PCR result is no longer required while exiting the country. However, PCR testing was still required on arrival until 31 December 2022. For outgoing travellers, the negative PCR test is only required for those travelling to countries that require it before entering their territory.

In partnership, SOS Children's Villages in Burundi has, despite the difficult socio-economic context, retained all its partners in the implementation of its programmes, particularly in terms of capacity building and financial support. These are mainly the Government of Burundi, the DGD via SOS Belgium, the Global Fund via PNLS/IST, the Red Cross Burundi, KIYO and DHL, the PSI, to which were added towards the end of the year Louvain Coopération and Entraide et Fraternité Belgique.

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1.2 Key partners at national level

Table 1.2 Key partners

Name of partner	Description of (purpose partnership)	Progress in last year (key actions taken)	Effectiveness of partnership (contribution to results)	Formal agreement signed
The Government of the Republic of Burundi	Support in the implementation and monitoring of the organisation's programmes as well as capacity building.	The government provided BIF 103,251,720 in subsidies and BIF 7,690,550 in donations in kind. In addition, 43 staff members were strengthened on various topics.	Contributing to the achievement of expected results in all areas of the organisation's work	Yes
DGD Via SOS Belgium	Financing of the FS programmes in Cibitoke, Gitega and Muyinga over five years (2022-2026)	900 families and 4,137 children and young people were supported through the programme C4C	Contribution to the achievement of the outcomes of SI2 and SI7	Yes
Global Fund via PNLS/IST	Funding for care activities for people living with HIV,	Thanks to the 2021-2023 funding agreement, the Medical Centres have followed up 842 PLHIV for an amount of BIF 16,417,906 in 2022.	Contribution to SI7	Yes
Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS via the performance-based funding project	Financing activities of Medical Centre Gitega for health care of children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women.	An amount of BIF 49,691,747 was granted to the Medical Centre Gitega to support health care activities provided.	Contribution to SI7	Yes
KIYO	Synergy partnership in the operational framework for the implementation of the Programme C4C	Exchange of experiences and good practices on community-based care for children and young people.	Contribution to the achievement of the SI2	Yes
DHL	Capacity building in employability and autonomy for young people	25 leading members of the youth associations (AC & FS) improved their knowledge on leadership, personal development and	Contribution to the achievement of the SI3	Yes

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		entrepreneurship through the programme GoTeach.		
Louvain Coopération & Entraide et Fraternité	Synergy partnership in the operational framework for the implementation of the Programme C4C	Signing of collaboration agreements with the aim of contributing to capacity building of households and exchange of experience in the fields of food security and environmental protection	Contribution to the achievement of the SI2 results	Yes

2. MEMBER ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Strategy implementation status

2.1.1 Alternative care

(a) Achievements

In order to meet the ever-increasing need for care, SOS Children's Villages in Burundi offered alternative care to 1,650 children and young people, of whom 584 were in FLC, including 20 new ones, 360 in FFC, 102 in Kinship with 50 new ones and 604 in SIL.

In terms of data management for children and young people, the digitisation process started in the third quarter. As a result, 92% of the main assessments and 71% of the individual development plans are up to date.

In order to better meet the specific needs of each child/young person, an assessment carried out in November showed that 98 children/young people in the alternative care programme were experiencing difficulties related to health, school and behavioural development. As a result, specific actions were undertaken to improve their situation.

In addition, the support plans for children/young people with psycho-affective problems were updated. Thus, mental health of 103 children/young people out of 188, i.e. 54.7%, has improved thanks to the psychodrama, trauma healing, discussion group, narrative therapy and creativity sessions carried out for them.

In terms of fulfilment, 250 children and young people from the 5 SOS Children's Villages in Burundi relaxed during an exchange visit to Muyinga province. They travelled together to the border between Burundi and Tanzania before sharing a meal and exchanging gifts as a souvenir. The festivities were lived up by various socio-cultural activities.

With the aim of improving the quality of child care for FLC and FFC/Kinship, 97 SOS parents and 268 foster parents developed knowledge on parenting skills, child participation, quality supervision for children/youth, membership of community solidarity groups to increase autonomy during training, awareness-raising and coaching sessions.

With regard to social integration and the implementation of the RAP recommendation, 41 children and young people were reunited with their families of origin, 31 of whom completed secondary school. It should be noted that 54 young people have been resettled, 8 of whom are employed.

(b) Challenges

♦ Access to basic necessities has become increasingly difficult as a result of rampant inflation and fuel shortages. To remedy this, the family budget was increased by 15% from May onwards, which helped to alleviate the situation, which nevertheless remains worrying.

♦ The precarious socio-economic situation of biological families remains a major obstacle to the family and community reintegration of the children/young people in alternative care. In order to be more

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successful, holistic support for the families of origin during the reintegration process should be considered in the future.

♦ The families who willingly accept to welcome children/young people in need without family ties, are mostly poor with limited resources. To address this situation, the foster families benefit from skill-building services in financial management and initiation of IGAs.

2.1.2 Family Strengthening

(a) Achievements

The Family Strengthening Programme supported 1,249 families taking care of 5,745 children and young people through the services provided by the FS units in the 5 programme locations. Out of 3,183 children who were enrolled in school, 3,173 benefited from FS support in terms of school materials and uniforms. Among the 5 FS units, those of Bujumbura and Rutana operate with the budget under the SOS KDI subsidies. The other three, Cibitoke, Gitega and Muyinga, are under public funding from the DGD via SOS Belgium, whose new "Children for Change" programme, C4C in acronym, started in April 2022. This programme has enabled 4,137 new children and young people to be admitted and cared for in 902 families. It is worth mentioning that the results of the previous programme show that 85.4% of the families exited with autonomy by the time it ended in April 2022.

Concerning the management of programme participants' data, 88% of families have updated core assessments in PDB2. It is worth noting that the FS programmes Bujumbura and Rutana only started the digitalisation process in the 4th quarter. In addition, 37 SOS Children's Villages co-workers in Burundi and DR Congo have developed skills in PDB2 data analysis to guide decision-making based on reliable data. This was done during a regional workshop on the C4C baseline study with technical support from the international office and regional offices of ESAF and WCNA facilitated by SOS Belgium.

New programme management tools were defined during the FS national workshop in December. These are the family and community exit assessment tools and the home visit guide.

In terms of capacity building, 1,239 parents/tutors developed their parenting skills in children's rights, hygiene, family planning, resource mobilisation and modern agricultural techniques during various training/awareness raising/coaching sessions.

Regarding resource mobilisation, an amount of BIF 460,817,821 was collected by the FS partners, CBOs & Community Savings and Loans Associations, of which BIF 396,719,500 was allocated to collective IGAs. The income from these economic activities made it possible to support 1,270 children from vulnerable families not participating in FS with nutritional, educational and medical support (medical assistance cards) worth BIF 13,719,500.

(b) Challenges

- ♦ Access to basic needs has become increasingly difficult as a result of rampant inflation and fuel shortages. To mitigate its consequences, families were encouraged to develop agro-pastoral IGAs and diversify their local income sources.
- ♦ The level of participation of CBOs and Community Savings and Loans Associations in resource mobilisation in favour of OVCs is still low as a result of household poverty. We plan to support their investments from 2023 to increase the consistency of their capitals.
- ♦ The prevention, monitoring and management system of abuse cases is not sufficiently developed at community level. To improve the situation, community structures will be regularly strengthened.

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2.1.3 Youth care and employability

(a) Achievements

In the framework of participation, the grievances collected from 418 young people during the exchange meetings were taken into account during the strategic and annual planning sessions.

Concerning health, 343 young people improved their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health as a result of awareness-raising sessions aimed at changing behaviour in this area.

About empowerment, 139 young people acquired knowledge on participation, entrepreneurship, digital economy, time management and ICT4D. Also, 25 members of youth associations were strengthened on personal development and entrepreneurship through the GO TEACH programme, implemented jointly with DHL Burundi. In addition, 143 young people developed their skills through additional training in English, IT, car mechanics and tailoring.

In the same vein, 14 projects were awarded prizes in a "Salon des jeunes entrepreneurs (Young entrepreneurs' show)" competition organised for young people participating in the SOS Children's Villages programmes in Burundi. It is also important to note that two young leaders of the "*Mushroom cultivation*" project, designed by five young people from FS Gitega, took part in a regional coaching and training workshop in Nairobi on project management. The project obtained the funding agreement.

In order to contribute to the reduction of youth unemployment, a policy document on the regulation of internships was submitted to the regional office for approval.

(b) Challenges

- ◇ The unemployment rate is very high (63%) among our young people. To address this, capacity-building activities for young people on self-esteem and leadership are regularly carried out. In addition, young people benefit from additional training and professional internships.
- ◇ Partnership in the field of youth employability is weakly developed. Working in synergy with other stakeholders in the field of youth employability would be one of the solutions.

2.1.4 Advocacy

(a) Achievements

SOS Children's Villages in Burundi participated in the implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of the phenomenon of street children and adult beggars and their community reintegration. In the same logic, the organisation participated in the preparation and validation of the first national periodic report on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It celebrated the international days dedicated to the child (16 June and 20 November) in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners.

A programme of support for the education of vulnerable children and young people was initiated in Gitega location in partnership with the Gitega village support association. Thus, three young former participants in FS are already benefiting from it for their university studies.

(b) Challenges

Difficulty in conducting evidence-based advocacy due to lack of data at the national level on children/young people without adequate parental care.

2.1.5 Human resources

(a) Achievements

In order to mitigate the effects of inflation, SOS Children's Villages co-workers in Burundi have received a bonus, although it is small compared to the rising cost of living in the country.

With regard to staff development, 259 co-workers were strengthened through trainings provided mainly in the domains of child protection, youth development, leadership, RBM, ICTs, psycho-social care, and management of health products.

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Moreover, with the aim of improving governance, 38 key senior staff from the National Office and all programme offices were trained in leadership and change management. Finally, the Senior Management Team (SMT) was expanded from 4 to 7 members.

(b) Challenges

- The soaring cost of basic needs is likely to have a negative impact on work performance as a result of living conditions that are becoming increasingly untenable. The application of the results of the BIRCHES GROUP study conducted in 2020 would provide a sustainable solution.
- The social debt not yet paid by SOS Children's Villages is currently estimated at BIF 6 187 747 555. It is related to end-of-service benefits to staff recruited before 31 December 2018.
- The programme structure of the SOS Children's Villages locations in Burundi is still waiting for approval by the regional office.

2.1.6 Internal processes and digitalisation

(a) Achievements

The quality of programme participants' data has been improved through the digitisation of core assessments and development plans in alternative care and family strengthening. As a result, 92% of participants in alternative care and 88% of FS families have up-to-date core assessments. In addition, 71% and 79% of individual and family development plans are up to date for alternative care and FS respectively.

SOS parents in 3 locations, namely Bujumbura, Muyinga and Rutana, use ICTs (Microsoft Office) thanks to the donation of 50 laptops by a Belgian company called "Sanctus".

ICT spaces connected to the internet are available in four out of five locations to enable participants and local communities to benefit from the advantages of digitalisation.

It is important to note that a pilot team of 15 co-workers with access to SOS Business Apps is able to face cyber-attacks thanks to online training on cyber-security "**SoSafe**".

(b) Challenges

Few opportunities are available locally for ICT partnerships.

2.1.7 Fund development

(a) Achievements

The new project, Children for Change, "C4C", submitted to DGD via SOS Belgium was approved for a period of five years (2022-2026) and the funding agreement was signed for an amount of EUR 2,601,565.

The CDDC (Community Driven Development for Children) project has been submitted to Forum Civ for BIF 840 087 486 or SEK 4 134 437 (Swedish crown) and has already received verbal agreement for funding.

The mobilisation of local revenues has resulted in the collection of BIF 212,870,296 out of the planned BIF 243,976,700, i.e. 87.25%. These revenues come from individual donations, public and private companies, co-workers involved in local sponsorship, and government donations and subsidies.

In addition, traditional and potential donors learned about the organisation's achievements during the donor loyalty day held in each location.

(b) Challenges

- Funding opportunities remain limited on the local market. The submission of projects on the humanitarian platform will enable to reach non-traditional donors.

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- The increasing precariousness of life does not allow traditional donors to remain regular, nor does it facilitate the recruitment of new ones. New communication strategies need to be adopted to diversify sources of income.

2.2 Lessons learned

Table 2.2 Lessons learned

Type	Lesson learned	Action(s) to be taken	Status of action
<i>[challenge / good practice / observation]</i>			
Good practice	The meetings of the children from the village and those of the surrounding community in recreational activities are an opportunity for relaxation and the development of talents. They also promote integration and build self-esteem.	Establish a framework for collaboration with partners working in the field of childcare to define a framework for the implementation of recreational activities.	Not yet formalised
Observation	Good support for young people in the development of self-employment projects leads to success. The most telling example is that of five young people from FS Gitega who submitted a project on mushroom cultivation to the regional "YOUTH POWER" programme. Cfr results achieved	Provide support for the implementation of the project.	
Good practice	The organisation of tutors into their own associations makes them more dynamic. They take ownership of the activities related to their development	Carry out awareness-raising sessions for tutors on the importance of forming associations	
Good practice	The sharing of experience between entrepreneurs and young people of the village develops the entrepreneurial spirit of the latter	Establishment of a partnership framework with targeted entrepreneurs	

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Challenge	The increasing precariousness of life does not allow traditional donors to remain regular, nor does it facilitate the recruitment of new ones.	Develop new communication strategies to diversify income sources.	
Good practice	Collaboration between different stakeholders on the field (local administration and decentralised services of the sectoral ministries, community structures, other NGOs and CSOs, etc.) allows for the rapid resolution of children's problems.	Extend the practice to all intervention areas	
Good practice	The involvement of local partner organisations in fundraising facilitates the mobilisation of resources by relaying our messages to potential donors	Extend the practice to all programmes	

2.3 Cross-cutting topics

Concerning child safeguarding, new members of child protection committees have acquired knowledge on the reporting and response system during a national training session organised for them. Moreover, two clubs "Ange gardiens" (Guardian Angels) have been established per location and are operational in order to promote child protection and safeguarding.

A child safeguarding assessment has been carried out in all our programmes and a Mitigation Action Plan 2023-2026 has been developed.

About RBM, 29 co-workers have received follow-up training from the RBM advisor. The national average for the level of RBM implementation is 62% for the basic level and 47% for the standard level.

Speaking of gender integration, International Women's Rights Day was celebrated in all locations. It was marked by solidarity actions by SOS co-workers, such as food and financial support for groups of vulnerable women/girls. Furthermore, 96 couples and 159 tutors from the FS intervention areas of Cibitoke and Rutana developed their skills in gender equity, gender-based violence and couple therapy.

As far as environmental protection is concerned, 66 families from FS Muyinga and Cibitoke have acquired knowledge on the use of improved fireplaces. The latter uses less wood and emits less smoke.

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2.4 Sustainability actions (¾ page)

The initiation of solidarity groups between the FFC and KINSHIP tutors allows the development of a sense of mutual aid through the granting of loans for the implementation of self-development micro-projects. This will enable them to be self-reliant and take care of the children in the future without the intervention of SOS Children's Villages.

The local mobilisation of resources by the CBOs & Community Savings and Loans Associations partners of the FS allows them to ensure the financing of collective IGAs in order to speed up the empowerment of the families and communities supported by SOS Children's Villages. This allows them to provide nutritional, educational and medical support (medical assistance cards) to children from vulnerable families and to contribute to the construction of housing for homeless families.

Additionally, the continued strengthening of community structures allows them to take over family-strengthening activities. It also contributes to the defence and promotion of the rights of the target group population.

Domestication of the organisation's international policies and standards ensures quality in the delivery of services in line with the local context.

The development of partnerships working with stakeholders facilitates the achievement of set objectives by meeting the needs of the target group in an efficient manner. This is done through dialogue and the pooling of resources.

3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME(S)

3.1 Programme Bujumbura:

During the year 2022, the programme Bujumbura counted 401 children & young people who benefited from alternative care services, including 119 children/young people in FLC, 139 in Foster Family Care/Kinship and 143 in the SIL Unit. It is worth mentioning that 12 new children were admitted, including 2 in FLC and 10 in Kinship. In order to ensure quality care, 114 children/young people in alternative care underwent health checks in accordance with the guidelines in force and no major health problems requiring special follow-up were recorded. In the same vein, each child/young person has chosen 3 trusted persons, who will contribute to the protection and defence of their rights. Finally, a meeting between SOS parents and FFC/Kinship tutors took place with the aim of sharing good practices in quality care and positive parenting.

As part of the development and integration of AC children/young people into the community, a socio-cultural and sports supervisor was recruited. Two clubs (Football and Cultural Dances) were created and have 97 active children / young people. Two friendly matches were played between the young people of the Children's Village and those of the neighbouring communities of Nyakabiga and SOROREZO. The children/youth dancers enlivened the IVD festivities in which the FS children/young people also participated.

Regarding the integration of young people into the community, 1 young person was reunited with his reference family and 13 young people were emancipated, 3 of whom exited with autonomy.

Concerning family strengthening, 190 families were supported to ensure quality care for 745 children & young people and 39 siblings. All parents/tutors were strengthened on various themes in order to develop their parenting skills to achieve autonomy. Moreover, 21 tutors are being trained in crafts, 17 in tailoring and 4 in hairdressing. Furthermore, 596 children and young people of school age are enrolled in school and have benefited from school materials and uniforms. It should be noted that 11 young people have followed vocational training for their self-employment, including 4 in car mechanics and 7

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in tailoring. To strengthen the partnership with the community, the CBOs supervised by the FS Bujumbura provided school materials equivalent to BIF 8,000,000 to 613 children in the community in difficult living conditions.

Speaking of psycho-affective and social development, 54 children/young people in the alternative care benefited from individualised psychosocial support sessions and 41 experienced an improvement in their psychological state. The techniques used are narrative therapy, creativity, discussion groups, team-ups, psychodrama and trauma healing.

In education, EDU Bujumbura counted 1,347 pupils, 540 of whom were in the primary school "Basic School" and 807 in the secondary school "SOS HG High School". The number of children and young people in the target group was 183 (13.6%). At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, 1,228 children/young people moved up to the next grade, giving an overall success rate of 91.2%.

In the health domain, the Medical Centre recorded 107,651 medical visits and 2,956 days of hospitalisation. Additionally, 2,247 pregnant women received prenatal consultations, 493 infants were vaccinated and 428 people living with HIV/AIDS were monitored, including 24 mother-child pairs.

Sustainability action: The capacity building of community structures has contributed to the development of local communities.

3.2 Programme Cibitoke:

In 2022, the programme provided alternative care to 274 children/young people, of whom 106 were in FLC, 49 in FFC, 20 in Kinship and 99 in SIL. The programme recorded 4 new admissions to FLC and 10 to Kinship. In order to improve the quality of care, 19 SOS parents and 51 FFC/KINSHIP guardians learned about parenting skills.

Regarding psycho-emotional and social development, 23 children/young people received psycho-social support adapted to their needs. This made it possible to update the support plan for each of them according to their development level and specific needs. As a result, 13 children/young people showed an improvement in their condition.

In terms of integration and fulfilment, two friendly football matches and one basketball match between village children and community children took place.

As part of the RAP, and the integration of children into the community, 2 young people have been resettled and 10 children/young people reunited with their families of origin, 4 of whom had already completed secondary school.

In terms of promoting employability, 5 young people learned about project and business plan development and 28 young people about entrepreneurship, the digital economy, ICT4D, leadership as well as talent and time management. Furthermore, 35 young people had their skills improved in Emotional Intelligence and techniques for finding employment opportunities, training and online funding. To strengthen participation, the representative committee of young people still living in the village was renewed and those reunited also elected their representatives. In addition, the children's parliament at the SOS HG school was renewed through the election of new members.

In the FS, a new programme called C4C 2022 -2026 started its activities in April 2022 after the programme SANGO ended in December 2021. The programme supports 320 families caring for 1354 children/young people, direct beneficiaries and 70 siblings. To empower the families, 319 family development plans are up-to-date. To strengthen the quality of care, 70 parents and guardians have developed their skills through awareness sessions on children's rights, parenting skills and gender equality.

Concerning advocacy, 291 children from the FS were registered with the civil registry in collaboration with the local administration.

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In the field of education, the SOS HG School in Cibitoke offers its services to 285 pupils, among whom 71 children are from SOS families, 10 scholarship children and 204 are from the surrounding community. As part of its alignment with the new educational standards in Burundi, 3 additional classrooms, a library, a computer room, a laboratory, a staff room, two sanitary blocks as well as a basketball and a volleyball court have been built. Early childhood development is offered to 90 children, of whom 32 are from the target group.

The Medical Centre recorded 15,096 medical services and 1,356 days of hospitalisation.

Concerning the resource mobilisation, in-kind donations equivalent to seven million two hundred and twenty-four thousand two hundred Burundian francs (BIF 7,224,200) and cash donations of seven million five hundred and ninety-four thousand two hundred Burundian francs (BIF 7,594,200) were collected both internally and externally.

Lesson learned: Involving stakeholders in the planning and implementation of programme activities strengthens ownership and ensures that the real needs of programme participants are met.

Sustainability action: The initiation of solidarity groups between FFC and KINSHIP guardians allows them to help each other and to have the capital to carry out IGAs allowing them to improve their families' living conditions and to prepare for their autonomy.

3.3 Programme Gitega:

As of 31 December 2022, the programme Gitega has provided alternative care to 304 children and young people as follows: 117 children in FLC, 122 young people in SIL and 65 in FFC & Kinship. During the year, 19 new children have been admitted, of whom 10 were in Kinship and 9 in SOS families. Concerning psycho-emotional and social development, 40 children/young people benefited from psycho-emotional support adapted to their needs. This made it possible to update the support plan for each of them according to their development level and specific needs. As a result, 21 children/young people showed an improvement in their condition.

As part of the RAP and the integration of children into the community, 14 young people have been reunited with their biological families, 10 of whom completed secondary school. In addition, 13 young people were formally resettled, 2 of whom are employed.

In the area of capacity building, 17 SOS parents and 40 foster parents acquired parenting skills in positive discipline and quality care.

In the area of family strengthening, the programme Sango ended with the exit of 528 families out of the 636 that participated, i.e. a level of empowerment of 83.02%. A new programme, Children for Change, was launched with the admission of 379 families caring for 1421 children and young people. The new families were initially assessed, their development plans established and entered into the Programme Database.

In youth empowerment and employability, a project of 5 young people from FS, Mushroom cultivation, was selected in the context of the regional "Youth Power" programme (junior's - new initiative cohort). Through a complementary training programme, 6 young people obtained their final driving licences while 6 others have temporary licences and 45 have been certified for the intermediate level in IT.

As far as education is concerned, 1,042 children and young people participating in the programmes, including 856 from the FS, are attending school for the 2022-2023 school year and have all received uniforms and school kits. In addition, 15 young people from SIL have been placed in boarding schools. At the end of December 2022, the SOS HG school in Gitega was attended by 569 schoolchildren and pupils.

In health, the Medical Centre has a total of 31,869 medical visits, including 26,803 consultations and 5,066 days of hospitalisation.

Regarding the partnership, 3 young people from the FS are attending university with the support of 5 benefactor families thanks to the advocacy carried out locally.

Lesson learned: Involving the community and the administration in the process of admitting families to C4C will have ownership of the project and facilitate its implementation.

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Sustainability action: The transfer of skills to community volunteers, focal points, peer educators and abuse monitors, allows them to play the role of a relay in the duplication of our interventions in the local communities.

3.4 Programme Musinga:

At the end of 2022, the alternative care units received a total of 377 children and young people respectively as follows: 135 in FLC, 132 in SIL and 110 in both FFC & Kinship, of which 10 are new. About psycho-emotional and social development, 56 children and young people received psychosocial support. Thus, 6 children/young people are currently able to express themselves freely without fear following the discussion group sessions held for them. Similarly, 10 children/young people have developed resilience/self-esteem through trauma healing sessions.

In the context of social integration, 9 young people have been reunited with their families of origin and 14 have been resettled, 4 of whom already have a job.

In FS, 204 families, taking care of 926 children and young people, have been admitted to the new programme "C4C". To improve their living conditions, 17 houses have been renovated and 195 families have developed IGAs through savings and loans. Health insurance cards have also been granted to all 204 families.

In terms of capacity building, 200 parents/guardians improved their parenting skills and gained knowledge on children's rights. In addition, 35 members of community structures improved their skills in child rights and responsibilities, protection, micro-project development and management, and financial education. To support the families' empowerment activities, an amount of BIF 56,377,750 was raised by the 240 members of the 5 CBOs and 1200 members of 30 community savings and loan associations.

In the area of employability, 30 young people from programme Musinga have improved their knowledge about participation, IT, empowerment and employability of young people. In addition, 40 young people from the FS and AC are comfortable with IT tools (computers and smartphones) thanks to the training received at the computer centre of the SOS school in Musinga.

In terms of education, 443 children and young people are enrolled in the EDU, 220 of whom are boys and 223 girls. In addition, 118 children, i.e 56 boys and 62 girls, are in kindergarten. To improve their results, 14 children/young people who had behavioural and learning challenges are now more responsible and fulfilled thanks to Fenix activities.

Lesson learned: Psychosocial support techniques (talk groups, psychodrama, narrative therapy, creativity, trauma healing) help children with psychosocial problems develop resilience and self-esteem.

Sustainability action: Community sensitisation on self-help through membership in Community-Based Organisations is of paramount importance in empowering families.

3.5 Programme Rutana:

During 2022, the Programme offered alternative care to 294 children and young people, i.e. 107 in FLC, 79 in FFC& Kinship and 108 in SIL. It should be noted that 15 new children have been admitted, out of whom 5 are in FLC and 10 in Kinship.

To improve socio-emotional development, a support plan for 15 children/young people with psycho-emotional problems was developed and implemented. In terms of results, 12 have improved their health thanks to the psychodrama, trauma healing, talk group and creativity sessions carried out for them.

In terms of social integration and development, 7 young people have been reunited with their families of origin and 11 have been resettled, including 1 who has found employment. In addition, 107 children and young people living in family houses went on outings accompanied by their educators.

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In order to improve the quality of care, 40 foster parents received training in parenting skills. It should also be noted that 39 foster families have access to health care thanks to the provision of health insurance cards from community mutual health insurance societies.

The Family Strengthening Programme provided support to 159 families caring for 745 children and young people. In addition, 10 Community-Based Organisations gained knowledge on various topics to improve child protection and family self-reliance. To improve the living conditions of programme participants, 35 vulnerable and homeless families acquired decent housing thanks to the granting of sheets by the programme to cover the houses built for them by members of partner CBOs. It should be noted that 47 families left the programme, 43 of whom were self-sufficient, i.e. 91.48%. This allowed the admission of 50 new families taking care of 243 children in the OVC category and 1 child in the sibling category.

Regarding youth empowerment and development, 20 young people gained knowledge on entrepreneurship, talent management and ICT4D. Also, 20 young people gained knowledge on employability skills development. In addition, as a way of making young people more competitive in the labour market and to increase their chances of employability, 47 young people received additional training. Indeed, they acquired knowledge in English, driving, computer skills and sewing, 4 of whom are on pre-employment internships.

In terms of school education, 393 children and young people attend our facilities, 192 of whom are from the target group, i.e. 48.8%. The success rate in the National Examination 2022 giving access to the post-basic cycle is 100%. The school is ranked first in the provincial education department.

The SOS Medical Centre recorded 615 cases of hospitalisation and 19,735 services offered, of which 2,165 services were for participants in our SOS programmes.

Lessons learned: - The membership of families and communities in savings and loan associations allows them to have the means to meet their basic needs before starting Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Moreover, the organisation of the guardians into their association makes them more dynamic and they make theirs the activities related to their development.

Sustainability action: The development of the partnership with CBOs (Community-Based Organisations) allows the sustainability of the FS actions.

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ANNEX

ANNEX 1: HYPERLINKS TO RELATED MATERIALS

Topic	Person responsible	Source information	of	MA file should be saved to:	Hyperlink
Actual statistics of the MA	N.a.	Compass report accessed via the following path: Compass -> Federation Steering -> Statistical Key figures -> SKF Beneficiaries / SKF staff -> filter for MA and year		No longer required	Statistical Key Figures - Power BI
List of board members	National director	MA fills in template list of board members		Federation planning & steering: MA annual reports	<i>Insert hyperlink of the list of board members</i>
MA mid-term plan	National director	MA fills in template for mid-term planning		Federation planning & steering: Mid-term & annual plans	<i>Insert hyperlink of the mid-term plan</i>
MA annual plan	National director	MA fills in template for annual planning		Federation planning & steering: Mid-term & annual plans	<i>Insert hyperlink of the annual plan</i>
MA website	National director	www.sosburundi.org		Not applicable: provide link only	<i>Insert hyperlink of the MA website</i>
Online directory page for MA	National director	SOS Online Directory		Not applicable: provide link only	<i>Insert hyperlink of specific page for the MA</i>

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ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATION

Major activities of the MA	Date	Corresponding national mid-term objective	Results
National internal audit missions have been carried out in the programme units EDU Bujumbura (SOS HG secondary school), MED Bujumbura & Gitega, ECD & EDU Gitega, AC Rutana, ECD & EDU Rutana, ECD & EDU Cibitoke.	February, May, September, October, November, and December	Simplify SOS	Weaknesses and risks are identified and plans to implement the recommendations are developed.
A regional internal audit was done	April	Simplify SOS	Weaknesses are identified and recommendations made
The implementation of recommendations from external, national and regional internal audits was assessed quarterly.	February, May, August, November	Simplify SOS	The level of update of the recommendations is known. Revised implementation plans are available.
Awareness-raising sessions in various forms on internal control, risk management, anti-fraud and anti-corruption were held.	January, February, March & December	Integrity, Compliance & Legal	A strong internal control system is established to ensure better risk management. The reporting and integrity culture is embedded in the various stakeholders.
The assessment of existing procedures guiding the work of SOS Children's Villages in Burundi was carried out jointly with the Regional Office	February	Integrity, Compliance & Legal	Three out of six missing procedures are finalised
The national strategy for 2023 - 2027 has been developed	October	Simplify SOS	A five-year national strategy document is available
The assessment of the target group's needs was performed	August	Improve the quality of programme services	The needs assessment report is available
A national workshop to launch the programme C4C was held with the support of the SOS Belgium team	March	Strengthen families	The programme C4C is implemented

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Exchange visits between children/young people from the 5 SOS children's villages	June	Innovate in care	The children/young people are fulfilled.
CVI Rep visits to support MA Burundi in programmes management	May and August	Provide support to the MA	The MA has received support to improve programme management
Support and supervision visit of the Program Development Advisor in RBM and focal point for Burundi	October	Provide support to the MA	The MA has received support to improve programme management
Field support supervision was provided to programme units by the National Office staff	March-December	Innovate in alternative care Empower young people Strengthen the family Increase income	The National Office has an overall view of the level of performance in the management of programmes at the location level. The various managers in the programme directions are empowered to carry out their tasks.
Visit of the SOS KDe.V. International Cooperation Advisor	October	Improve the results of SOS programmes	The programmes in Bujumbura, Muyinga and Rutana, supported by SOS KDe.V. have been visited. Results achieved and future prospects were also discussed.
Visit of the regional manager of the sustainable construction project	September	Provide technical support	Projects under construction and renovation are visited. Guidance was provided for the way forward.
A regional workshop (Burundi and DRC) on the C4C Project baseline study with technical support from the international office and the regional offices of ESAF and WCNA was conducted under the facilitation of SOS Belgium.	November	Improve the results of SOS programmes	Local managers of the programme C4C have developed skills in PDB2 data analysis to inform decision-making based on reliable data.
Election of trustworthy people for the participants in the FLC & SIL programmes with the appointment of the members of the new child protection committees, chosen among the staff with the best votes	February	Improve child protection and safeguarding	Children/young people have people they can confide in. The new child protection committees are in place with the participation of children and young people.
An induction workshop on their mission and case management mechanisms was held for the new child protection committees	April	Improve child protection and safeguarding	The new child protection committees have the required skills to better fulfil their tasks