



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
ESWATINI



# EKUTFOKOMENI

NEWSLETTER 2018



"Our aim is to enable children  
to develop into adults who  
have the skills to take  
responsibility for themselves  
and to contribute to their  
communities"



SOS Children's villages Eswatini

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR VISION

EVERY CHILD BELONGS TO A  
FAMILY AND GROWS WITH  
LOVE, RESPECT AND  
SECURITY.

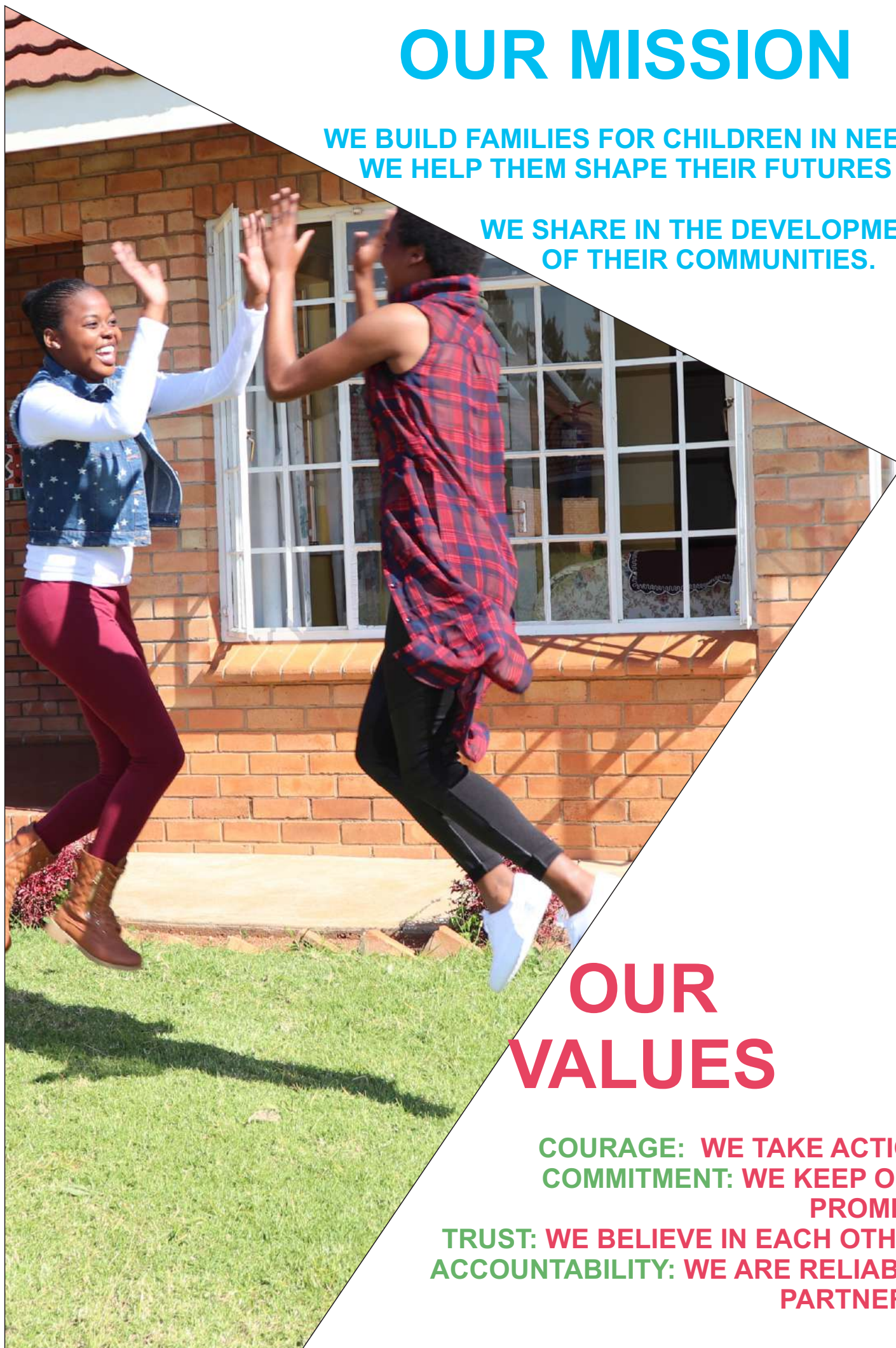




# OUR MISSION

WE BUILD FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.  
WE HELP THEM SHAPE THEIR FUTURES

WE SHARE IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.



## OUR VALUES

COURAGE: WE TAKE ACTION  
COMMITMENT: WE KEEP OUR  
PROMISE

TRUST: WE BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER  
ACCOUNTABILITY: WE ARE RELIABLE  
PARTNERS.

**INNOVATE  
ALTERNATIVE  
CHILDCARE**

**WE  
ADVOCATE FOR  
CHILDREN**

**WE  
EMPOWER YOUNG  
PEOPLE**

**WE  
STRENGTHEN  
FAMILIES**



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
ESWATINI**

### **NAME CHANGE**

The public and all stakeholders are informed that the SOS Children's Villages Member Association of Swaziland, at its Annual General Assembly on the 19th May 2018, resolved to change the name of the Association, in line with the name change of the country announced by His Majesty King Mswati III.

This has been done formerly, and the Association shall be known as SOS Children's Villages Eswatini.

The organisation will continue to operate within in its current structure.

The organization is committed to promoting the welfare of children, young people, and strengthening families to take care of their children and improve the well-being of communities as a preventive measure in the fight against abandonment and social neglect. The organization drives its mandate through four locations: the National Office in Manzini and the three Programme Locations in Mbabane, Nhlangano, and Siteki.

Announcement by the Board.





# A Loving home for every child! 5







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(Temalangeneni Dlamini)**



2018 was characterised by innovations. As an association, we operationalized the SOS Care promise to our context. We developed the Family Strengthening project Documents that is unique to our context. We made the move towards ensuring that Kinship Care ship care is embedded in our work as a family Strengthening intervention. For our youth, we have further enhanced their access to post-high school study opportunities by partnering with two reputable universities in Taiwan that have accepted some of our youth on working scholarships. Some of our youth that were in local tertiary institutions graduated. Amidst occasional challenges and many successes, we continued raising children in need of parental care and those at risk of losing it by offering quality Family-like care and family strengthening interventions in all our three (3) programme locations. By the end of 2018 the Deputy Prime Minister's Office will have endorsed the National Foster Care and Kinship care Guidelines and the National Foster Care Quality Standards. The MA supported the Government of Eswatini to develop this framework.



**National Director's note  
(DR. Loretta Mkhonta)**

Thank you for finding the time to read our 2018 newsletter. This year was a momentous year for our MA (Member Association). We changed our name to SOS Children' Villages Eswatini, in line with His Majesty King Mswati 111's pronouncement. The General Assembly and the Board of Governors subsequently aligned to this call through the Registrar of Companies Act of 2009. For us, this name change is symbolic of the mother any changes that the MA has embraced which the newsletter will share. Our SOS Care Promise officially became the SOS framework that guides what we do and how we do it.



We did not have a successful year in terms of local fundraising as we had personnel challenges. However, the MA successfully applied for two IPD projects which are the THG (Foschini Group) project for Education and the DHL project. These will be fully implemented in the 2019 financial year. Having received earmarked funding for the Siteki ICT and Siteki SRH projects, the MA began implementation in the last quarter of 2018. The SHR project is a collaboration between ourselves and the Ministry of Health and the Family Life Association of Swaziland. We successfully completed the Nhlanguano ICT construction project that supported 3 schools (Nhlanguano Central, Mazombizwe and Nsongweni High schools with ICT laboratories and computers to the tune of almost Three Million Emalangeni (E3,000.000). this is to ensure that our beneficiaries who attend those schools grow up with much-needed ICT skills.

The Eswatini MA continued to work closely with Government and participated in the development of the Social protection Policy and the review of the draft Social protection draft Bill. The MA made major contributions towards the Children's Consortium where it participates as vice chair. This has laid the necessary groundwork for the MA's participation as chair of the Consortium in 2019, where the MA hopes to do advocacy and capacity building on the Alternative Care agenda. We had a stand at the recent International Trade fair where we excitedly mingled with corporates and members of the public and excitedly talked about our child-care work.

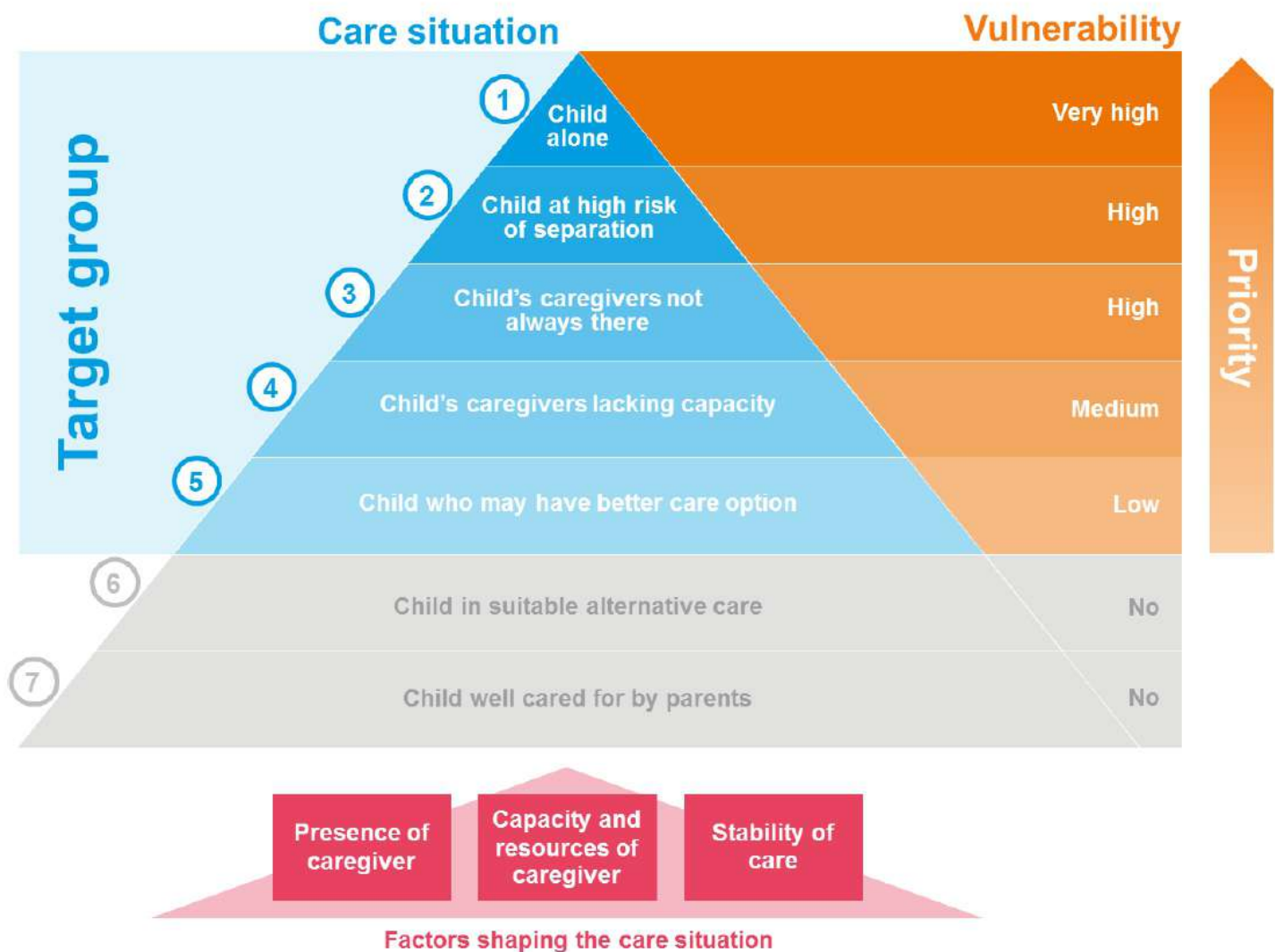
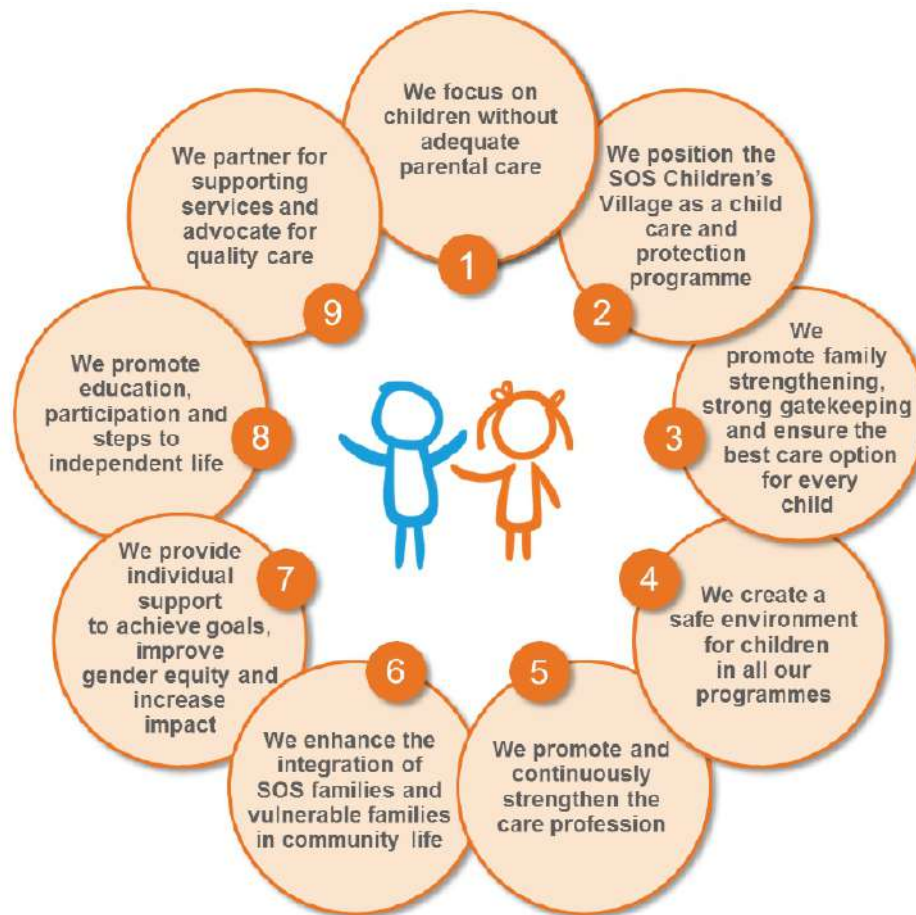
In 2019 we must challenge ourselves further. We must shape policy and ensure that the Alternative Care agenda is an important for Government as well as others who provide alternative care for children in need of parental care. We have realised that our programme work in SOS Family Care and Family Strengthening need improvement in terms of quality. We will continue to focus on improving quality in Family Strengthening; we will continue to innovate

alternative care and we will also ensure that our children and youth have access to skills that will prepare them for the world of work.





# SOS CARE PROMISE





## Strategic initiative 1

# INNOVATIVE ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE

## Family like care

Under family like care, SOS Children's Villages Eswatini provides a loving home to 221 boys and 191 girls countrywide. 412 children reside in the three SOS Children's Villages located in Mbabane, Nhlangano and Siteki. The exact numbers in each village are as follows:

**Table 1 Age brackets of children in family-like care in the three SOS Children's Villages Eswatini**

Description	Mbabane SOS Children's Village		Nhlangano SOS Children's Village		Siteki SOS Children's Village	
Sex	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Gils
Under 5 years	3	5	1	1	1	-
6 – 12 years	30	28	12	14	14	11
13 – 17 years	27	34	19	17	26	18
Above 18 years	55	36	14	17	19	10
Sub total	115	103	46	49	60	39
Grand total	218 children		95 children		99 children	

In each village, SOS Children's Villages Eswatini has a social contract (moral obligation) to:

- Provide care and education to equip each child to face life's challenges in the future.
- Nurture a secure, loving and reliable relationship between the child and their parent or a primary caregiver.
- Work with community partners to develop strong social support systems for children and families to develop, grow and learn in a positive, supportive environment.
- Provide the most appropriate care for each individual child.
- Focus on the long-term development of each child by actively listening to him or her, and encourage him or her to participate fully in his or her own personal development plan.
- Keep families together. Where this is not possible, we try our best to keep siblings together and to maintain connections with parents and relatives so long as those relationships are safe and supportive for the child.

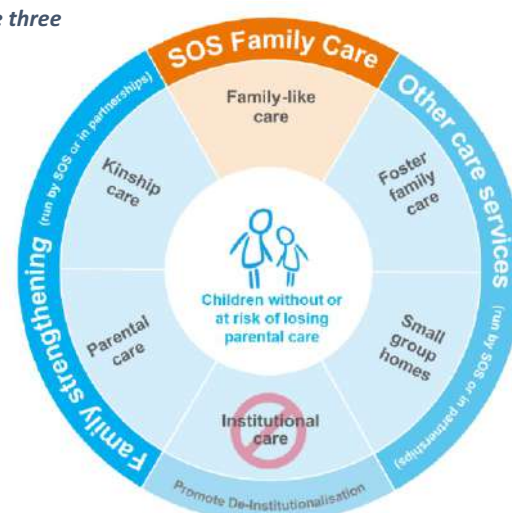
**Table 2 Number of children in family-like care who access educational opportunities in the three SOS Children's Villages Eswatini**

Description	Mbabane SOS Children's Village		Nhlangano SOS Children's Village		Siteki SOS Children's Village	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Gils
Pre-school	6	8	3	2	2	1
Primary school	50	52	35	32	24	18
Secondary & High school	37	30	24	21	27	19
Studying in Ghana	1	0	1	0	1	
Studying in South African Universities	7	1	6	1		1
Studying in local colleges and universities	12	14	9	15	1	5
Studying in Taiwan	0	0	3	0	0	0
Sub total	113	105	81	71	55	44
Grand total	218 children		152 children		99 children	

In line with the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care for Children (2009), the board of directors, management and staff members at SOS Children's Villages Eswatini firmly believes that, whenever possible, children should grow up with their biological families. Despite the best efforts of the Government, development partners, NGOs, faith based organizations, community leaders and community members to support families to remain intact, family breakdown is sometimes unavoidable.

Strategic initiative one of the 2030 Strategy for SOS Children's Villages International focuses on innovating alternative child care. To that end we at SOS Children's Villages Eswatini work towards provide quality alternative care for children who can no longer live with their parents. We are committed to ensuring the highest standards of care in all our programmes and work with the Government of Eswatini, development partners, and civil society including community leadership structures to improve alternative child care systems. Some of the key interventions under the strategic initiative of innovating alternative child care are as follows:

- Family like care
- Foster care





# FOSTER FAMILY CARE



In collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, SOS Children's Villages Eswatini is implementing a formal foster care pilot project in the country. To that end, Director of the Department of Social Welfare led a team consisting of a senior economist (*Ministry of economic Planning and Development*), crown counsel (*Attorney General's Office from the Ministry of Justice*), a project focal point (*Department of Social Welfare*), social protection team leader (*Human Dynamics*) and the foster care manager (SOS) to conduct a Government-to-Government foster care benchmarking exercise in Botswana (Department of Social Protection).

**D**eveloping *National Guidelines on Kinship Care and Foster Care and the National Quality Service Standards on Foster Care in the Kingdom of Eswatini* – SOS Children's Villages Eswatini engaged Prof. Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy – a university professor in social work from Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada and Mr. Mzwandile Masuku a swazi-based local admitted attorney who is an expert on child protection and justice for children to develop National Guidelines on Kinship Care and Foster Care. Furthermore, the consultancy firm developed National Quality Service Standards on Foster Care in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Almost 40 staff members from key line government ministries, development partners, NGOs, FBOs and special interest groups like the Federation of People Living with Disabilities validated two above-mentioned documents. Three of the country's Regional Administrators participated in the exercise of developing and validating the draft national documents, meaning the current Deputy Prime Minister of the country His Excellency, the honourable Mr. Themba Masuku participated while he was still the Regional administrator for the Shiselweni region.

**T**he 40 stakeholders recommended that the validated documents should be further refined and validated by a team consisting of principal magistrates and magistrates from the Justice sector together with the Assistant Attorney General. After the secondary validation exercise both draft national documents (*Guidelines & Standards*) which will be binding to all stakeholders in the country were submitted to the Principal Secretary at the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for final review, to be signed off and launched by the new Deputy Prime Minister His Excellency, the honourable Mr. Themba Masuku.



## 14 CBOs RECEIVE E210 000.00



**S**OS Children's villages ESwatini distributed **E210,000.00** to 14 CBOs from the four regions of ESwatini, at an event held at Happy Valley Hotel on 26 June 2018.

This action follows a partnership that the organization had with the European Union Swaziland Local Office and embarked on a three-year project, which started in March 2015. The vision of this project was to – **Instill a human rights culture in the Swazi society to empower women and children through education and awareness and protecting their security legal position.**

SOS Children's Villages Swaziland has raised awareness, strengthened communities (men, women, youth and children) on the importance of human rights with the aim of combating violence and discrimination of all forms. The emphasis has always been on women and children in the fourteen communities that SOS was directly involved. The implementation of the project had activities, which started with assessments of communities, followed by dialogues, meetings, trainings, financial support and human rights campaigns with community authorities; including religious leaders, women and children.

According to the guiding EU Logical Framework and Budgeting Document there is a need to provide income generating support to viable community projects with financial resources to assist in production.

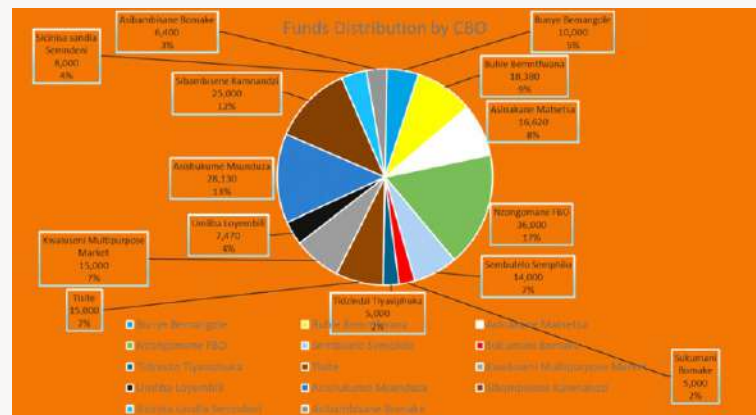
five from Mbabane, four from Nhlanguano, three from Siteki then Kwaluseni and Emphini.

CBO Awarding Criteria - A skills data collection exercise was conducted.

- A questionnaire providing:
- Nature of business
- Production Scale
- Frequency of production
- Skills Sharing techniques
- Financial Calculations – costs, returns and profits

### FUNDS DISTRIBUTION BY REGIONS

1. Nhlanguano with 4 CBOs got E60, 000.00, 29%
2. Mbabane with 5 CBOs got E75, 000.00, 36%
3. Siteki with 3 CBOs got E45, 000.00, 21%
4. Manzini with 2 CBOs got E30, 000.00, 14%



(a) The total amount distributed was **E210, 000.00**

(b) The number of beneficiaries is fourteen CBOs,







SOS Children's villages  
ESwatiní together with its  
other partners, schools  
and the children's  
consortium took to the  
street a strong message

**"STOP THE RITUAL  
KILLINGS NOW!"**

against the ritual killings  
in ESwatiní, in a march  
around the capital city of  
ESwatiní to Msunduzi  
sports ground.





The number of the killings rapidly increased during the period of the country's elections and the nature of the killings appeared to be for ritual purposes. It is then in this accord that the Children Consortium led by SOS Children's villages Eswatini, hosted a National Anti-Ritual Killing Campaign with



the aim of Raising Awareness on the killings and the need to eliminate these traditional harmful cultural practices. Also addressing the underlying causes of violence against women, including domestic violence and gender-based killing.



The campaign was in a form of a march in the Hhohho Region. and later speeches from the duty bearers that included but not limited to: the manifestations and prevalence of domestic violence against children, women girls, people living with albinism, the old aged and other vulnerable groups of the Kingdom of Eswatini; Ways and means to more effectively prevent,



prosecute and punish gender-related killings of women and girls, and on the work carried out on good and promising practices; The response of the state and other stakeholders to prevent domestic violence and respond and protect those subjected to such violence; Measures to implement to accelerate efforts for the elimination of violence against women.



# SOS meets the KING @ the 2018 Trade fair

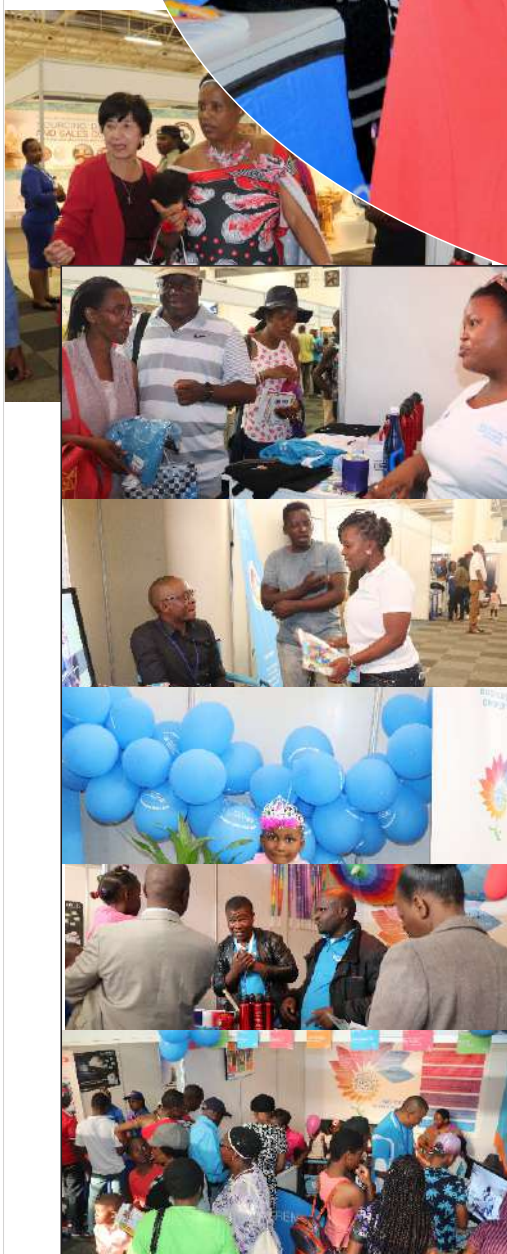


**DR.Irma Allen, (SOS advisory board member ) speaking to his MAJESTY KING MSWATI III, when e visited the SOS stall .**

SOS Children's villages attended this year's international tradefair with the theme "Connecting traders for 50 years". The office received much needed support from colleagues and attendance was much appreciated. OUR key message for the trade fair was "ONE LILANGENI CAMPAIGN". The other objective was to sell off our branded promotional items to the public and to receive donations. Sales were over E 4000.00 and we received about a E 1000.00 donations through the ONE LILANGENI CAMPAIGN.

The ONE LILANGENI CAMPAIGN is an SOS INITIATIVE to encourage everyone, including private businesses and people to donate just one lilangeni. corporates can donate their best selling products and share their profits with SOS to help reach more children in need of support. Even as an individual, you can support SOS by giving 1 Lilangeni donation or buy the donated products to donate in an indirect way. Apart from buying products such as SIHLOBO rice and UMNDENI BEANS, individuals can either donate via mobile money or send money to the organization's FNB ACCOUNT.

**Make your donation your ONE LILANGENI DONATION**  
Mobile money: 76400273  
Bank account: 62372140493 (FNB)  
Branch code: 280164







## Invest for funding growth

On the wake of the SOS 2030 STRATEGY, it became apparent that in order to sustain our work in a world of shrinking EUROPEAN AID, SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES must diversify its sources of funding. For a start, this means finding new sources of funding from new supporters. At SOS, these new supporters include individual sponsors, high net worth individuals, government and public funding, corporates and trusts.

As part of the ESAF region, SOS Eswatini has the following plan for the next 2 years; 'Build fundraising capacity of the National Association'

By doing so, to strengthen the financial sustainability of programmes by supporting the development of diversified and sustainable fundraising at National level, trickling down to each programme location.

Key to the delivery of this, the following must be in place;

- Ensure resources (particularly human resources) are made available at national level to raise funds
- Drive diversification and sustainability of fundraising sources at MA level
- Assess the level of resources invested in fundraising activities against expectations and targets
- Encourage board involvement in fundraising
- Support stronger board mechanisms to effectively monitor and evaluate fundraising results

Mobilizing funds in the 2030 strategy falls under strategic initiative 7. At the core of this initiative is investing for funding growth. For SOS Eswatini, this means;

- Developing and implement strategies for increasing government subsidies, as a duty bearer, we want government to lead with public support.
- Modernize international sponsorship eco-system by supporting national sponsorship programme and drive innovation in donor communications. All activities will be using online digital platforms to enhance effective communication and participation of the sponsors. The donor services application will come hand for that.
- Implement Institutional Partnership Development [IPD] Strategy. For the MA, this means that capacity and capability, relevant staffing, skills and structures in place for strategic and efficient acquisition with existing donors through prepositioning, targeting, and strategic partnership development.

As we raise, funds, we must maintain our strong heritage, good reputation and protect the brand. As such, the following statement cements the ethos of our values;

**'At SOS, we work with partners who add value to our organisation. We seek support from companies, prominent persons and other partners who believe in our way of working, and whose products, image and behaviour are not contradictory to the interests of children and our brand. When negotiating an agreement, we carefully consider its impact on our image and the net value of its public relations and financial contribution.'**



# DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

*"Leave No Child Behind for Eswatini's Development"*

This day was commemorated in the Lubombo Region at Ka-Shewula Primary School, and a number of neighbouring schools, Governmental Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations were in attendance. SOS was part of the event and the theme feeds directly to our initiative of promoting children and youth participation for them to contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities.

The Day of the African Child (DAC) is commemorated every year on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June in memory of the 16th June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa, during which students who marched in protest against the poor quality of education were brutally murdered by the then apartheid government in place in South Africa. The African Union (AU), uses the DAC to remember these children, to celebrate children in Africa as well as to inspire a sober reflection and action towards addressing the challenges that children in Africa face on a daily basis. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACERWC) meets and selects the theme for the DAC every year.

This year's DAC theme builds on the momentum created by the DAC 2017 theme "The 2030 Agenda for



Sustainable Development for Children in Africa: Accelerating Protection, Empowerment and Equal Opportunity." It does so by emphasising the need to mainstream children's rights in all (Agenda 2030) developmental programmes implemented by Member States. While the 2017 DAC theme focused on locating Africa's children generally within the 2030 Agenda, the 2018 theme highlights the need to ensure that 'NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND' by specifically targeting those who are not benefitting from Africa's growth and development. Thus, the overarching principle is inclusive development for children, that is, whenever undertaking to develop programs and policies for implementing Agenda 2030, children should be at the centre-stage and Member States should 'ensure that no child is left behind' in the drive towards sustainable economic development.



**Children from different schools performing on the day.**



# SOS EQIPS DIGITAL LEARNING IN RURAL COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Even young children in rural communities and public schools must learn digitally. At the same time, they of course have to be creative, play, learn to talk, sing, and express themselves both analogically and digitally. Across rural community public schools, this is a big challenge: computer skills has to be a part of education – but how in a resource-strapped country?

SOS Children's Villages Eswatini in partnership with ICT department at the Ministry Of Education And Training has the plausible answer. In July 2018, SOS and the ICT

department hand-over and officially opened three ICT Laboratories to Nhlanguano Central, Nsongweni Methodist and Mazombizwe High Schools. The ICT Labs were constructed courtesy of the donation of funds my Hermann Gmeiner Deutch-FONDS [HGFD]—a supporting and promoting association of SOS Children's Villages in Germany. multifaceted learning space.

During the handover, 22 desktop computers and furniture were donated for the internet-enabled laboratories. The schools also contributed 5 desktop computers, while the ministry of education and training also pledged to fill up the remaining computers. This will ensure that at least 50 computers are accessible to children, community, parents and teachers in each school. The use of technology will enhance learning experience and outcomes for children attending schools in most impoverished schools.

Even though the focus of the project is computer and digital access, the library and multi-media component offers countless information sources. Such sources include periodicals, journals, research papers, and business start-up manuals. It is hoped that local families and young out of school youth will starting coming just to read and to get literacy training there. We also hope that students and teachers will also use the space to include the community in what they are learning through presentations, tutoring, and other projects. The most important outcome of this project would be weaving together the schools libraries, ICT resources and the larger community into a multifaceted learning space.





# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD!

***"WITH HER: A SKILLED  
GIRLFORCE FOR ESWATINI'S  
DEVELOPMENT"***

On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare **October 11** as the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC), establishing a day to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. This international day promotes equal treatment and opportunities for girls around the world in areas such as health care, education, training, and freedom from violence and abuse. This day also serves to highlight gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys and promotes advocacy aimed at addressing the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world.

The International Day of the Girl Child, therefore, gives people and organizations the opportunity to raise public awareness of the different types of challenges that many girls around the world still face; to explore local and global solutions to these challenges; and to amplify the voices of girls as powerful change agents within their families, communities and countries. Between inequities in secondary education to protection issues, adolescent girls are uniquely impacted and should benefit from targeted investments and programmes that address their distinct needs. Investing in adolescent girls can have a formidable ripple effect to create a better country.

SOS Children's Villages continued to reaffirm its commitment to empower girls to lead healthy and secure lives. Girls have already changed the world for the better, and this generation has the power to end hunger and poverty.

The theme for the 2017 International Day of the Girl Child is **"WITH HER: A SKILLED GIRLFORCE"**.





# Improved Sanitation in Schools

An estimate of 1 of 10 girls in Sub-Saharan Africa miss school during menstruation (1), yet few people talk about these human rights as fundamental for improving access to education. With financial aid from the Grieg Foundation and collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Micro projects Division, SOS Children's Villages Swaziland constructed a three-cubicle disabled-

friendly female student toilet for Mbabane Central High and Mbabane Central Primary with one still under construction at Nkwalini Primary. Also distribution of sanitary wear was done in six schools. All these school fall under Mahwalala community according to SOS mapping where the Grieg project is currently being piloted. The access to clean toilets will enable girls to further their education by remaining in the school system.

A hand-over ceremony of the of the toilets was held at Mbabane Central High school which was graced by the presence of the IOR office. "Bringing toilets to school will ensure improved access to education", stated Principal Mr. John Gwebu at the newly constructed toilet handover ceremony held at the school and this was reiterated by school head girl who represented the girls student school, she shared her experiences as follows: "Instead of spending recess playing games or talking with friends, female school mates

spend their breaks in long queues resulting in late arrival in class and being reprimanded by teachers for late arrival this has come as a great relief to us as girls."

The Ministry of Education and Training Action Chief Inspector for Secondary Schools, Ms. Martha Shongwe praised the SOS Children's Villages for their efforts in ensuring girls access to education. She added that toilets are not just bricks and mortar but something that will go a long way in improving the quality of education for the learners. She Stated that this facility contributed significantly to achieve the Ministry's Guidelines of making the schools as a centre of care and support for the pupils. In addition, Ms. Shongwe made a plea to the school administration for taking all steps to maintain the cleanliness to ensure its durability of this world class infrastructure, which will contribute to the quality of life and education of the students and benefit generations to come.



## Sanitary Wear Distribution

Sanitary wear for girls was distributed to all partnering six schools Under Mahwalala Community. At initial planning for this activity, we had an idea of providing reusable sanitary wear to the girls to save cost but when consulting with the Ministry of Education and Training, department of school's health they stated that distribution of reusable sanitary wear was banned for health and hygiene issues. Four hundred and sixty-three (463) packs of four's (4's) were bought for this activity. As an office we thought it would be a once off distribution but some teachers came with an idea that if it is to be done that way it won't serve the desired purpose, they made a suggestion that it be distributed on monthly basis by so doing it will be really helpful to the girls. Three hundred and

eight (308) needy girls benefited from this initiative for at least four (4) months. The number of beneficiaries per school are as follows; Hermann Gmeiner Primary – 47; Hermann Gmeiner High – 55; Mbabane Central Primary – 38; Mbabane Central High – 47; Nkwalini Primary – 55 and SAIM Christian High – 66.

This is not viewed as just an activity, it is a mean to an end for building the girls confidence and dignity. Some of them come from poverty stricken families where providing them with sanitary wear is not a priority yet it is of paramount importance for the girls to be at ease whilst focusing on their school work. An assessment conducted revealed that girls often absent themselves from school when they are on their period or worse use materials which are health hazardous, this initiative seek to bridge the gap between girls from affording families and poor families as well as promote girls' attendance in school so they can also benefit as equal as their male peers.



## SOS turns 'Gogo' center into a community entrepreneurship center

**M**any children within Mphini community, under the Manzini region, struggle to learn and perform well in school in the face of enormous challenges, including learning disabilities, violence, sexual exploitation, drugs, and lack of supervision by adults. Concomitantly, in the same community many parents barely make a living as jobs and employment are scarce—they have difficulty providing for their families. This situation called for an urgent response.

SOS Children's villages Eswatini took the challenge to work with the Mphini Development Committee to find sustainable ways to solve some of the challenges the community faces. During a transact community walk, it became apparent that a shared community center could be utilized by both parents and young people, both in school and out of school. Within the community, there was an underutilized dilapidated community center, locally referred to as the 'Gogo' center. Together with the community, SOS decided to rehabilitate the community center and turn it into an innovation community space to offer after school homework help and tutoring with entrepreneurship. This will provide students with additional assistance and resources to enhance their academic success, as well as to promote self-directed learning and decision-making, build confidence and motivation, and develop a greater appreciation for education and learning.

Through its fundraising efforts, SOS developed a proposal to the Eswatini Telecom. Under the Charity Cup, organized by Premier League of Eswatini And National Football Association of Eswatini, Eswatini Telecom agreed to fund E50,000 towards the rehabilitation of the 'gogo' center to help Mphini residents get 'back to basics,' back to active community involvement in raising and educating all children with social skills and entrepreneurship. Children, parents, and other community members use the Center, which provide a haven from violence, sexual exploitation, drugs, and lack of supervision for children. During the day, the center offers a space for the parents to work in livelihoods income generation projects such as renting out equipment, sharing ideas on vegetable farming and other entrepreneurial ideas. This will be extended to the out of school youth. This initiative will support and impact about 20 families and 150 young people.

Additional E50,000 Funding for this has already been set aside from the partnership with Eswatini Telecom Charity cup in association with the Premier League of Eswatini and National Football Association Of Eswatini. In total, Eswatini Telecom has donated E100,000 towards this initiative. While the center is already being used, the official launch is under discussion.





## SOS FORGES A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH FOSCHIN GROUP TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

**F**ashion lifestyle retailer The Foschini Group [TFG] has pledged E157, 625 towards its corporate social investment initiatives for training five SOS participants in vocational skills. More than just a corporate mandate, the local stores with support from their regional support teams and head office are encouraged to get involved in the fight to alleviating poverty across Africa, including Eswatini.

As such, in alignment and support of the United Nation's Sustainability Goals [SDGs], TFG focusses on: [access to quality education](#), [zero hunger and access to clean water and sanitation through meaningful partnerships to reach the ultimate goal of 'no poverty'](#). This is also at the heart of what we at SOS. Our guiding principles are the UN SUSTAINABLE GOALS which were adopted in 2015 and led to the development of our 2030 Strategy.

Among the strategic initiatives, empowerment is a core mandate through which we strengthen young people's participation and prepare them for independent living with an emphasis on employability and community integration. With networks and support of corporates like TFG, SOS accompanies young people through the journey to independent lifestyles by coaching and mentoring, entrepreneurial and soft skills. Vocational training is one of the vehicles we use to get there with young people. The FOSCHINI-SOS PARTNERSHIP will pave a way for many more young people.

**The FOSCHNI GROUP believes that “without quality education, you won't alleviate poverty so it all works together. Our partners don't only mean the great organizations we work with, we've gathered our best asset, our employees and we're ready to create even more opportunities for positive change in local communities. Because, doing good never goes out of fashion,” says Mymoena Mooradd, CSI Manager at TFG.**

On her first visit to SOS Siteki and the Mpaka Vocational Training Center, the local Area Manager,

Sphiwe Dlamini appreciated the warm welcome to partner and work SOS Children's Villages Eswatini. She notes that 'we at FOSCHINI can also assist graduates of the vocational training programme to market their skills and uplift their lives with sustainable careers'.

In cooperation with the Mpaka Vocational Training Center, the 5 beneficiaries will be trained in professions that benefit the local market for which SOS currently does not have the required expertise and tools. These will be mainly agribusiness, carpentry, steel fabrication, building and plumbing, electrical wiring, fashion fabric and design, motor mechanic, and cooking and catering.

Since inception, TFG has been committed to supporting the communities it operates within. For 2019/20, TFG has pledged to pay E50,000 for all five beneficiaries and will inject another E57,625 in 2020/21.

**Dresses made by SOS children at the Mpaka vocational centre.**





# FAMILY

The SOS Children's villages hosted a Family Fun Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> September in the Mbabane village, where Corporate Companies were invited to Participate. The Family Fun day is an activity that is part of our fund raising. The started with the celebration of the Hermann Gmeiners' Day which is the birth day of the Founder Hermann Gmeniner. The children enjoyed a big cake baked by the mothers and some youths. There were fun games for children, including jumping castle, trampoline, football, tennis and other games. The day ended with families having a variety of meals in their family house that were provided by the corporates.

The family fun day is an initiative started in 2013 where corporates were invited to donate to spend time with children in their family house as each corporate was allocated a house and they were donating what they saw fit. In the first event the corporates donated items like school shoes, TV sets and blankets and some money. This initiative has grown over the years and there are companies that have supported this activity from its initiation.

"We would like to greatly appreciate the contribution made by these companies and we also would like to invite more companies/corporates to support the raising of funds by SOS Children's Villages." Said Thokozeni Maphalala the Programme director.





# FUN DAY

In the year 2018 the following companies attended and donated the following;

- **Liberty Life E10,000,**
- **Lidwala Insurance E25,000,**
- **Stanlib Insurance, 10 000**
- **DHL E125,000,**
- **Limkokwing 10 000,**
- **Royal Eswatini Police E10,000,**
- **SEC/EEC E25,000,**
- **SRIC E25,000**
- **FNB E25, 000**

- It is worth mentioning that the companies also supplied food for the day for their SOS Families and some even brought toys and other goodies for the children. This is mainly because as a National Association we are required to raise part of the yearly budget locally as a sign of ownership and responsibility as a nation. There are other companies like Nedbank and Swazi Bank who have contributed their CSR to SOS Children's Villages which was done outside the Family Fun Day and we would like to greatly appreciate their contribution. Our dream for this activity is to have as many companies as possible to support all the SOS Families in the three SOS Children's Villages

.It is also a good thing for the children to interact with the corporates as they get to be closer to the people who are already doing their dream jobs. It motivates them to work hard.

“We had a really good time with some youths from Limkokwin who came to our house to play with us games. I especially enjoyed braying outside and chatting to them about how I can shape my future”, says one child from house 7.





## Development of a Youth Strategy

You will never reach your destination when you do not know where you are going, how long it will take you to reach there? A strategy acts as a roadmap which helps any organization to focus and work towards achieving a common goal.

With the introduction of Strategy 2030 and prioritizing strategic initiative 3, SOS Children's Villages, Eswatini needed to develop a youth strategy that will help make sure young people are empowered to lead independent lives after SOS. The organization has engaged the services of a consultant to develop a five-year youth strategy for Eswatini member association. This strategy is developed in consultation with the young people, caregivers and staff of SOS Children's Villages so

that when it is completed, all stakeholders' inputs will be incorporated. The strategy will guide planning for youth activities as well as budgeting. The SOS Alumni will also use the strategy to come up with actions to be prioritized in a given year.

The organization has also assigned some staff members the responsibility to drive the strategy. Since this is aligned to youth development, there will be a youth empowerment coordinator in each Programme location to ensure the strategy comes alive. These coordinators will work hand in hand with other key players in child care and draw plans for youth empowerment which will be evaluated quarterly like all the other strategic initiatives.

### SOS youth study abroad!



It is still unbelievable that opportunities for overseas scholarships can be available for any capable youth at the right time. Things seem not to favor some of our young people after completing high school because they were not accepted into the local universities. SOS Children's Villages, Eswatini now works with two universities in the Republic of China on Taiwan: Chung Chou and Tzu Chi to prepare young people towards independence. The person responsible for strategic initiative 3, Miss Buyaphi Mahlalela recently visited these universities to forge partnerships on how the two organizations can work together. The young people were so happy to be visited by someone from home and had a chance to share their thoughts on how best their living conditions could be improved as they pursue their studies.

Buyaphi also had a chance to meet with all Swazi students studying at Chung Chou University. It was so humbling to see how these young people have become one big family. It was important to note that there were other young people from Eswatini, other than SOS who have taken the opportunity to improve their lives through taking the opportunity to study in Taiwan.

## Setting up an SOS ALUMNI

Every institution prides itself with the success of its products. The manner in which young people who grew up together end up contributing to the development of the communities and the country at large, is the yacht stick used to measure success! Like any other organization, SOS Children's Villages is always looking at ways in which the children who grow up in the villages end up being better citizens of this country.

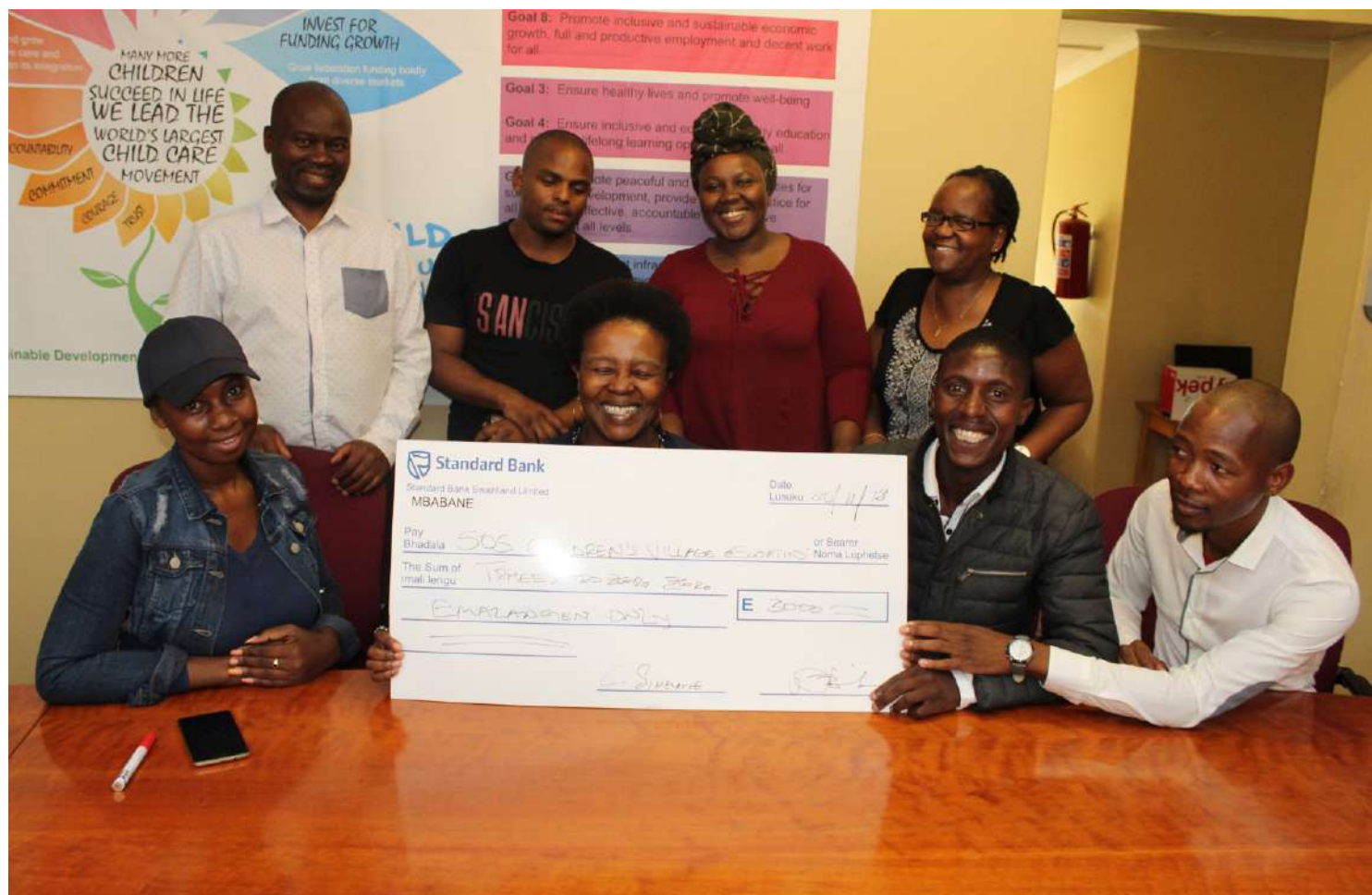
SOS Children's Villages, Eswatini, some years back did an exercise dubbed "Tracking of Footprints" which helped to track where each young person is. From that exercise, there was a great need to set up an SOS Alumni. These will be young people who grew up at SOS Children's Villages. The objectives of the Alumni will be to bring everyone together and see how those who are successful can support the less-successful and also plant back to SOS Children's Villages by helping younger children who are still growing through mentorship, internships, job-shadowing and coaching.

The two older villages, Mbabane and Nhlanguano have already started bringing the youth together and the ideas which are coming are just amazing! Nhlanguano chapter met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2018 in Manzini, where fourteen independent young people attended. They welcomed the idea such that they have already created a WhatsApp group where they post their ideas as to how best they can make this thing work. It was great to note that the young people understand they are the drivers of this Alumni. Mbabane Programme also held its initial meeting and the turn up was great. From the submissions, one can tell that this idea was long overdue. From the Mbabane meeting, the following resolutions were taken:

- Participants suggested that membership should be voluntarily, so to have only committed people who will serve the organization with integrity.
- Interested young people should have submitted their names by end of November 2018
- The committee shall be responsible for designing the working tools for the association.

These resolutions will help to move the idea forward.





## SOS ALUMNI COMPANY DONATES E3,000 FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

*The management of the Shisa Bhe, an SOS alumni investment company, has donated E3,000 To SOS Children's Villages programmes in support of children's Christmas gifts.*

*The chairperson of Shisa Bhe says they were inspired to do good and give back to the community as a socially responsible company. Speaking during the official check hand-over to the National Director, Samkelo Dlamini says 'philanthropy support and charity begins at home and we feel very privileged to have been part of SOS and now able to give back.' He continued to say that 'this is the beginning of a series of gifts to SOS and in the future the check will even become bigger as the company grows'*

### Shisa Bhe

Siyashisa Bhe Investments (Pty) Ltd, trading as Shisa Bhe Security, is a private security company, established by SOS Children's Villages Eswatini Integrated Youth in 2012. The collaborative minds have both academic and non-academic qualifications. This has helped build a sound company. The creation of this company came at the realization that there is scarcity of employment opportunities post tertiary study.

The sole purpose of Siyashisa Bhe Investment is to eradicate poverty and contribute towards job creation. The company employs former SOS CV children and young people in our communities.

Shisa Bhe Security currently employs thirty (30) highly trained security guards, a full-time security guard trainer and a General Manager. This staff's complement ensures

that the properties of our clients are secured always.

Shisa Bhe Security is currently providing guarding services to all SOS Children's Villages Eswatini locations and its Head office, Annadale School, Akuse Construction Sites, Bible Society Swaziland and private residential properties.

**Our Mission:** To ensure the safety of our clients' property and their lives by providing customized security and guarding solutions to our clients.

**Our Vision:** To become a leading private security services company using advanced security techniques and technology to provide customized private security/guarding services.

**Our slogan:** Your security is our greatest concern.

Siyashisa Bhe's long-term map is to establish series of entities under.



### Strategic initiative 3



**Empower young people**

*Family house constructed by Muzi*

# Muzi attains self dependency!

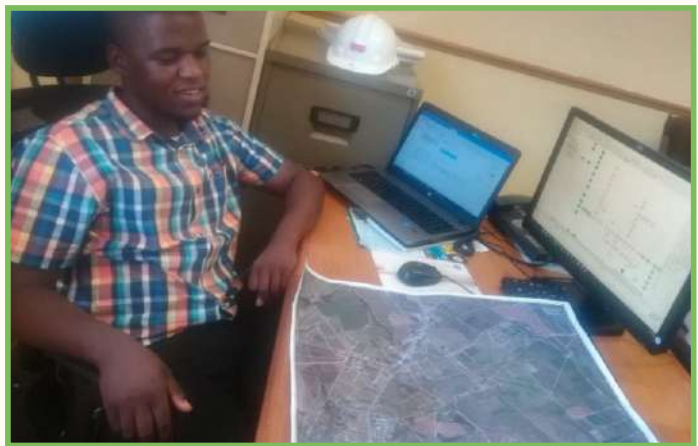
In 2004, the programme admitted a family of four children headed by their disturbed father who had recently lost his job. They were living at Maseyisini at a certain homestead on a temporal basis. The four children were practically living alone as their father more often than not left them without any guardian or means to live.

The family was admitted into the programme, like any other family, and was provided with material, educational and psychosocial support. Muzi who was the third born of his siblings was doing form 2 at that time and showed to be a very brilliant student as he passed well through his classes. He set for his Junior Certificate examination at Mbukwane High school and was the only student who obtained a merit pass which ultimately got him admission at Nyamane High School where he completed his form 5 in 2007 with an exceptional distinction.

Upon completing his form 5, he wanted to pursue a career in Medicine and therefore went to South Africa to study matric. He completed his matric but could not get a scholarship to study in South Africa and had to come back to Eswatini and he immediately enrolled with the University of Eswatini and pursued a 5-year degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering which he completed in October 2014. During his study, he attached with Eswatini Electrical Company and was recruited by the company after attaining his degree and quickly sent him to Scotland to pursue his masters in the same field.

He is now employed by Eswatini Electrical Company as the company's System Planning Engineer who is ultimately responsible for planning electrical networks in the country. He is also a member of the Southern African Power

**Pool where he works with other System Planning Engineers in planning the SADC power network.**



*Muzi in his workstation at Eswatini Electricity Company*

**Muzi has managed to build his family a decent house at Mahamba, where he started constructing their first house using his University allowance and after getting employment built a much bigger family house for his family and siblings. He continued to provide for his family on a monthly basis and is also planning to establish his own family in the coming years.**



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



From the 05<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018, SOS Children's Villages International in collaboration with Young Africa Leadership Initiative (YALI) convened a two-week youth entrepreneurship and leadership training for 60 young people from 26 African countries in Johannesburg, South Africa and six young people from Eswatini attended. Of the six who attended the training, three were from Mbabane, two from Nhlanguano and one from Siteki Programmes.

The objectives of the training were as follows:

- To equip young Africans with innovative skills and deepen their engagement in the process of shaping the continent's entrepreneurship and leadership pathway.
- To contribute to the reduction of youth unemployment.
- To create sustainable livelihood opportunities for young people.
- To contribute to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030; the African Union Agenda 2063; and the SOS Children's Villages International Strategy 2030 by empowering young people and providing them with a platform to learn new skills for job creation.

Through specific sessions and panel engagements, the training focused on topics such as:

- Youth perspectives on entrepreneurship, self-employment and job creation
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century youth entrepreneurship strategies, opportunities, possibilities and challenges
- Design driven entrepreneurship
- Business model canvas
- A, B, C of starting and growing businesses
- Skills for identifying business opportunities in rural and urban settings
- Cost-effective business innovation ventures
- Sustainable strategies for small scale businesses
- Economic and social strategies for responsible leadership
- Strategies for personal growth and development
- Life and soft skills, resilience and capacity building

The programme also included plenary sessions with professionals from corporate and social organizations to share their thoughts and motivate young people to lead Africa's transformation.

**what stood out for me is that “when starting a business, I have to start with the little I can afford and grow but if the business fails I have to stop and start afresh.”** Says Siphamandla one of the participants. Four of the conference participants from Eswatini managed to win in the completion and were awarded \$500 each which they will use to start their businesses. One of the participants, Khaya Hlabisa, from the Nhlanguano Programme was over the moon with joy because his bee-keeping business idea won an award worth 500 US Dollars.

This youth conference is the beginning of a journey to success for our young people, they have also become members of the YALI network.





# women's Month



In the month of **AUGUST 2018** all SOS female co-workers wore an all-black outfit, together with colourful doeks (head wraps).

This one-day event was a special high-tea in celebration of all the women at SOS CV Eswatini, in honour of their hard work and dedication. Once again, the event was inclusive of all women (with the exception of caregivers) and it was conducted by a SWABCHA affiliate.



Filled with immense enthusiasm, comradery and laughter, the day included topics of self-confidence, chronic illnesses, as well as general female health. It is safe to say that all women who attended the event left feeling informed, empowered as well as well fed.





# Men's Day



The member Association of Eswatini, in the month of June 2018 celebrated the men of the Association. All men were invited to attend the one-day event at a new establishment called *Emfuleni*. They were treated to traditional foods such as *Inhloko* as well as braaid meat and porridge.

The purpose of the day was to bring them together to discuss all male related issues pertaining to their general health. The talks were facilitated by the Association's wellness team, and conducted by the Wellness Service provider- SWABCHA. All in all, it was a fun-filled day with great reviews!





## Strategic Initiative 2

This strategic initiative has a focus on key elements of prevention of family break-down, including strengthening parents' ability to guide child development, managing their households, coaching children on education and career opportunities and to empower girls and women to lead change in their families and communities.

These key elements are delivered via two models of family strengthening

- Direct family empowerment: parental skills capacity building to strengthen families and child development support.
- Community empowerment for family empowerment: support of community

organizations (and local authorities) to strengthen families.

Partner to ensure access to supporting services, including education, health and economic empowerment. Establish the necessary preparedness and capability for effective responses to migration and emergency situations.

In Eswatini the Family strengthening is reaching a total of 1789 children in 2018 within Mbabane Nhlanguano and Siteki and the below stories show the impact made by the Family Strengthening.

Old family house

## Strengthen Families

### Piped water Installation for the Community

In Nhangano in the maseyisini Community "Tidzindzi Tiyasiphuka" is a Community-based organization (CBO) that is supported and has partnered with the programme since 2009. The CBO was initially made up of caregivers in the programme but has gradually opened up to other caregivers and youth who are not and never were programme participants. The CBO through a partnership with the programme has started a number of projects that they are doing for income generating projects which include peanut butter production, savings and credit scheme, gardening and recently a baking project. The CBO also has a centre that was constructed through partnerships with the programme and Government.

The construction of the Centre has also brought about secondary benefits to the community residents. The programme assisted the CBO to install pipes and water in the centre's yard which has been opened to benefit even the residents around and close to the centre. Over 20 families have made agreements with the CBO leadership to pay a minimum monthly fee to get 100 litres of water per week from the CBO's tapped water. Before this arrangement with the centre, the people (mostly children) had to travel very long distances to get clean treated water from community water taps for consumption. These water taps also, by virtue of being limited in number, had an inherent problem of long ques which resulted in children spending very long hours waiting for their turn to get water. This also exposed the children to an unlimited number of risks.

This has however changed for the 20 families who now getting tapped water easier, much quicker and at a higher scale than their neighbours. During the agreed dates and times, the centre comes alive with people (mostly children) coming to get water from the centre. The children are now travelling shorter distances, spending much lesser times in the smaller ques and quickly get back to their homes for other home chores. The benefiting families are ecstatic and excited about this arrangement and it is anticipated that the number of benefiting families will increase in the future.





New family house

# A Fresh Start!

“We are short of words on how we can thank SOS and its partners for such a beautiful home. It just feels like good having proper shelter” Narrates Princess Dlamini while standing outside next to their newly built house.

The family is in the Family Strengthening programme in the Mpolonjeni Community (Mbabane), both parents are alive but they are both mentally challenged and unemployed which makes it difficult for them to provide for their 2 children a teenage boy and a girl. Sethu the mother is the bread winner but because of her mental state she is not able to provide much for the family. They are being supported by SOS Children's Villages in the form of food parcels, school material and skills for both the caregivers and the children to improve on their livelihood. The only little income is received through the mother who sells empty bottles, plastic bags and

sweets in town. “We love our new home; we feel the same just like our neighbors unlike before when we used to stay in a shack. We even enjoy doing our house chores now as it is spacious” said Goodness one of the children while doing her cleaning.

The family has been living in a dilapidated house through working with partners and in this instance it is Swazi Bank/ Eswatini Bank the family has been supported to have a home through. The project has greatly improved the live of the family, proper housing is a basic need for every family, it has improved their standard of living. Sethu the mother is also fully involved in income generating projects which they do as a group in the Mpolonjeni community which involves production and selling of vegetable Atchaar, cleaning material and handwork.



# Internship Programme

SOS Children's villages Eswatini has an on-going internship programme under the following departments; HR, kindergarten (pre-school), ICT, Communications as well as Social Work. The duration of the programmes varies, depending on the department and the nature of the training available at the time. Thus far, the Association has seen very young, vibrant and driven interns pass through the programmes, and looks forward to seeing more young and eager people in the year to come.

The programme does require the interns to exhibit the Association's core values, to adhere to the Child protection policy, adhere to the Code of conduct, as well as any other relevant policy. Furthermore, the internship programme does bring out the following attributes in the interns; independence, ability to work in a fast paced environment, decision-making skills as well as experience in working for a Non-Profit Organization (especially a child centred one). Required attributes from the intern are communication skills, innovation, ability to follow instructions and eagerness to learn.

## My internship experience in 2018 at SOS



**Lesedie Matsimbe-Right**

The internship opportunity I have with SOS Children's Villages is a great chance for learning and professional development. Therefore, I consider myself as a very lucky individual since I am provided with an opportunity to be part of the Organization. I am also grateful for having a chance to meet so many wonderful people and professionals who lead me through this internship period. I am using this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and special thanks to DR. Loretta Mkhonta National Director (ND) of SOS Children's Villages Swaziland, who in spite of being extra ordinary busy with her duties, takes time out to hear, guide and keep me on the correct path and allows me to carry out my project at their esteemed organization.



**Nobahle Sibanyoni**

The experiences I got working for SOS children's Villages Eswatini were fascinating and the experience I got was enough to mould me as I advance into my career. Working with SOS enables me to understand some aspects of being a successful Human Resource Personnel. The first thing I realized was that effective communication is usually an essential aspect to growth. It is also important for an individual to have the ability of multi-tasking during the working hours. This allows for flexibility in the workplace.

At SOS, I realized that it is important to understand your role within the Association in order to be successful. It is important for people to involve themselves in internship programs, which I used to build a gap between the practical and theoretical knowledge.



**Xolani Dlodlu -left**

The experience of working as an ICT intern at SOS National Office is fascinating and the experience I am getting is enough to mould me as I advanced into my career. Words actually will never be enough to express my gratefulness. I will try my level best to express my gratefulness towards the staff for treating me so well since this is my first work experience in my field of study.

I am grateful that my internship at the National Office has been the best and I do not regret a day waking up to work everyday. I have to say, it was intimidating but the feeling died down once I met everyone at work and got settled in. I would like to appreciate all those who either directly or indirectly contributed to this internship and making my working environment feel like home.



# “I can gladly say thank you SOS”

**“I never knew the meaning of hardship until my husband passed away”** these are the words of Lomshado is a single mother who stays at Malagwane community which is one of the communities supported by SOS Children's Villages within the Family Strengthening Programme.

Hardship started when he passed away, I never had any set of skill to provide for my family, we would go to bed without anything to eat. At most we would have one meal a day. I started baking some scones and walked from one homestead to the other selling but the money received was not enough to satisfy the needs of my family” narrates Lomshado.

The family started receiving support from SOS in the year 2014, the situation was not good at all, and they did not have access to any essential services; no adequate meals, no clothing and no stable source of income. Lomshado had no set of skills to support her family. SOS started by supporting them with food parcel for their nutritional benefit, children were provided with educational support and clothing. Such services uplifted the family. **Through the community based organization which Lomshado is part of, she attended different workshops on skills development and she gained knowledge on financial management and making different products to improve her livelihood. She produces floor polish, dish washing liquid and peanut butter. All these products are sold and profits used to improve the situation of the family.**

There has been a significant positive change amongst all the members of the family. They all

now have a positive attitude towards life; “we had thought it's the end of life for us, were just hopeless said Sihle who is currently enrolled at Provident International College doing her final year on ICT. Now the future looks bright for us all, on weekends I work in a restaurant around town it helps towards the family budget.

Lomshado has been an active member within the community, she has been eager to learn and change the situation of her family. She has the heart of helping others in the community. She currently cooks at the Malagwane Child care center where SOS supports 100 children with breakfast and lunch on daily basis. A majority of the children have created good relationship with her such that some even visit her at her home place. The children like helping her at her home, they like being part of the gardening activities. “We enjoy granny's food, we wish we could stay with her so that we also eat supper here, says Sindiswa Mamba one of the children who schools and eat at the child care center.

**“I can gladly say thank you SOS Children's Villages for your support you really changed the life of my family. I am now doing Form 1 due to your support, I would have dropped out of school if wasn't for such”** says Fana who is currently doing Form 1 at Somnjalose High school.

Lomshado is a single mother to 3 children Nokuthula aged 25 years, Sihle 21 years and Fana 15. The father of the children passed away in the year 2009 and he was the sole breadwinner for the Family. “My husband would provide for me and my children, we never ran out of anything, he didn't even want me to go work.



Pictures showing Lomshado doing different jobs.









## Sports day

On March 2018, the SOS Children's villages Nhlangoan Staff had a sports day with the staff from Amitofo Care Centre. A number of activities were displayed which included, athletics, soccer, netball and volleyball. It was a day filled with fun and excitement as the two competed against each other. "This is a day to remember it was needed just to refresh", said one of the caregivers from Amitofo Care Centre.

In May 2018, the Nhlangoan Programme hosted a fun day where by two sister organizations (Amitofo Care Centre and Pasture Valley) were part of the event. It was a day filled with fun, as there were different games to enjoy. There was the jumping castle, egg race, athletics, soccer and netball. The children enjoyed themselves and were so excited to have their brothers and sisters from the other organizations. They took pictures together and had time to share on their experiences as they grow. "It is so amazing to see how these children mingle and welcome one another. You can tell that this has taken too long to happen," said the Social Worker from Amitofo.





# SOS TEAM BUILDING







*SOS Children's villages can never forget about its mothers, and they made sure to not only honour mothers, but to set aside three (3) days dedicated to just them. The first of the three part series was a day filled with information on their general health, as well as information provided to them by our service providers; namely SwaziMed, Building Society & Tibiyo Insurance Group. All mothers were in attendance as they learnt more about chronic diseases, self-confidence as well as general female related health issues. In addition, mothers learnt more on how their money is saved with the Association's pension fund, the benefits of medical aid, as well as the types of loans that can be taken from an affiliate bank.*

The second part of the retreat was held in the month of November 2018, and included all mothers. A psychotherapist conducted the two-day event where

**“ we know a child should be at the heart of a secure, loving, long-term relationship with a parent or caregiver, who provides positive guidance, trust and support”.**

### **MOTHERHOOD**

she discussed topics such as **mental health, emotional intelligence, financial management, as well as provided basic counselling for individuals.**

On the third day, mothers were recognised for their years of service with the Organization at large. Certificates of appreciation were presented to them by the Board Chairperson; Dr. T. Ntiwane, who was accompanied by the National Director (Dr. L. Mkhonta) and HR Manager (Wendzile Zwane). Mothers were dressed in formal wear, and were served traditional food- including tripe- in celebration of all the hard work that they do.





## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR CHILD SAFEGUARDING

As SOS Children's Villages, we are committed to ensure the protection of all children in our care. Latest statistics as well as daily media coverage reveal extremely high rates of child disappearances and killings. It is our duty as caregivers to empower our children not to fall prey of the perpetrators and keep them safe. Prevention is the key.

As core-care workers, we must teach our children the rules, and give them the confidence they need to be able to follow safety precautions. We need to emphasize their right of privacy and ownership, and that sexual advances from adults are against the law.

If they are involved and invested, children are more likely to remember and take action if someone tries to hurt or abuse them. One way of involving them would be developing a family plan of action for emergency and crisis, and practice and rehearse it with your children through role modelling and role-playing.

### Safety Actions for caregivers

- ❖ Know where your children are, and know who they know.
- ❖ Pay attention to changes in your child's behaviour.
- ❖ Do not label their lunch boxes or clothing.
- ❖ Do not let children go out alone.
- ❖ Teach your child your telephone number, how to contact you and a close friend.
- ❖ Pay attention to threats.
- ❖ Take many photos of your child and keep them current.
- ❖ Keep dental and medical records.
- ❖ Have a neighbourhood meeting so that children know safe houses in the neighbourhood where they can run in the case of an emergency. (to incorporate Shisa Bhe security strengthening)
- ❖ Older children should be encouraged to use their critical thinking and intuition, and to anticipate, for example, slow-driving cars in front of a neighbourhood or playground.

### Teach Your Children Techniques to Avoid Being Taken Away

In any potential abduction situation, there are windows of opportunity for the child to make choices that could save his or her life. Abductors win through intimidation, so it is very important to give your child good self-esteem and the confidence to carry through these possibly life-saving techniques. Consider practicing these techniques at home or school, with other parents and kids. The more kids practice, the more they will remember these techniques, and the more secure and confident they will feel in following through if they ever have to.

- ❖ Grab and hold onto something and do not let go. Grab a tree, grab a bike, grab a stop sign post, or even grab a different adult, because another adult is not usually involved in an abduction. This makes it harder to

disengage a child in an attempted abduction.

- ❖ Yell as loud as you can "Stop, Stranger!" — Teach your child that anyone that is not a mother or father is in the new definition of a stranger if they are trying to take you away.
- ❖ Windmill technique or swimming technique — Rotate arms in a big circle, preventing attacker from getting a good grip. This can turn attacker's arms inside out — which is a weaker position from which he could grab hold of the child.
- ❖ Make a lot of noise — Give a child a whistle on a necklace and teach them to blow on that whistle when they might be in danger. Bang on something, scream, be loud to call attention from others who might be able to help. A good commotion can frighten an abductor and by shifting the balance of power, turn the tables on them
- ❖ **Always travel with someone whenever possible, especially in awkward places.** It is always better to be with someone you know or in a group of people than walking alone
- ❖ If you must go somewhere alone, tell someone in your family or housemates where you are going and at what time.
- ❖ **Beware of needy strangers.** It is always nice to help people; Killers often prey on these sympathies to incite women and children to drop their guard. If someone tries to stop you for any reason—whether they need your help or are claiming to be helping you out of the goodness of their hearts—do not automatically assume their intentions are sincere.
- ❖ Say "no" if someone unknown asks for your help getting to/into his or her vehicle. Whether they are limping with a cane, carrying too many packages or whatever the reason is, if it sounds fishy, decline to help.
- ❖ Avoid giving directions to unknown people in isolated areas. If they really need directions, they will drive to the nearest service station or call someone on their mobile phone.
- ❖ **Run away.** If you feel threatened by a suspicious person or are approached by a would-be attacker, the best way to avoid getting hurt is to run away from this person and towards a busy public area. Escaping is the quickest way to end an attack.





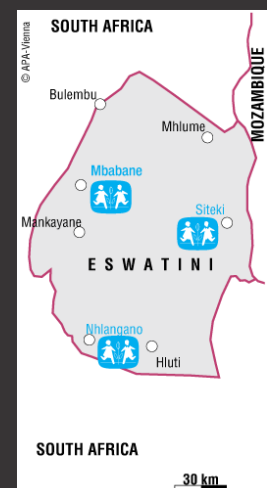


Over the years, we have partnered with some organisations, groups and individuals who wish to contribute towards our cause in providing a loving home for every child. We thank you so much for the much needed support.

- Nedbank
- National Maize corporation
- MTN Eswatini
- EEC (Eswatini electricity company)
- Edcon Group (Jet stores, legit, CAN, Edgars Active@ riverstone mall)
- Eswatini post and telecommunication corporation
- Lewis stores
- SRIC
- STANLIB
- FNB
- Lidwala Insurance
- DHL
- MacMillan Swaziland
- Woolworths
- Montigny Investments
- Baceth hardware
- Eswatini water services corporation
- Eswatini Royal Police
- Swanki
- Shiselweni forestry
- Waterford Kamhlaba college
- Building society
- Mrs Mona Ashraff
- PIES
- Mbuluzi Rotary
- Phumlile's Outdoor Catering/Anderson family
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- YKK
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- RSSC
- Welcome Supermarket
- Inkosinathi Pre-school
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**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**  
ESWATINI

# ADOPT A HOUSE!

An opportunity for your organisation to partner with us in providing quality care for the less privileged children.

## Partnerships

SOS children's Villages Eswatini is a social development organisation that provides a safe, stable and loving home for under privileged children. This we do with the help of benevolent donors, corporate organisations, individuals or groups through sponsorships and donations. Our sponsorship packages are designed to suit the ability, CSR goal and devotion of our donors and these include:

- Adopt a house for donors who want to adopt a house in any of our three villages (Mbabane, Siteki & Nhlangano).
- Sponsoring children's education
- Sponsoring an event
- Sponsoring a child's general welfare

• Becoming an SOS member/friend by committing a donation of a certain amount of money.

- Becoming a corporate friend through CSR/CSI
- Advertising in our newsletter
  - Supporting ONE LILANGENI CAMPAIGN by donating One lilangeni per day.

## Contacts

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web: [www.sos.org.sz](http://www.sos.org.sz)



SOS Children's villages Eswatini