

## ***MA Kenya's Annual Report for 2019***



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## Abbreviations

AAC	Area Advisory Council
ACCIK	Association of Charitable Children's Institutions of Kenya
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
CBC	Competency Based Curriculum
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CMCs	Community Management Committees
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Day of African Child
DCIO	District Criminal Investigation Officer
DCS	Department of Children's Services
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EOI	End of SOS Involvement (in education and health facilities)
SFC	SOS Family Care
FDP	Family Development Plan
FSP	Family Strengthening Program
MC	Medical Centre
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
NO	National Office
MOH	Ministry of Health
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OVCs	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PDB	Programme Data Bank
PLHIV	People Living with HIV & Aids
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loans Associations

## 2 SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Country Context

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

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

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

By the end of the year, the MA had a work force of 448 people (306 Females 142 Male); while 28 mothers retired over the last three years, with the Principal of KG Eldoret and a teacher from Eldoret School retiring in December 2019. The MA lost one staff, a teacher based in Nairobi HG Primary School.

During the reporting period, the MA also completed the recruitment of key personnel at the National Office including Senior Human Resource Officer (SHRO); ICT Manager; Finance Manager; Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Manager; Child Safeguarding (CS) Coordinator; Institutional Partnership Development (IPD) Manager; and Family Strengthening (FS) Manager. In total, the MA made 24 new recruitments with 30 exits (4 retirements, 5 end of contracts and 21 resignations).

## **2.2 Summary of Key activities undertaken in the year**

### **2.2.1 Alternative care**

Alternative care is one of the MA's care solutions to children who lack adequate parental care, particularly those who have lost parental care due to the death of caregivers or inability of the caregiver to provide the needed parental care. In line with the provisions of Kenya's Guidelines for the Alternative Family Care of Children (2014), alternative care should be provided based on key guiding principles, which include the best interests of the child, necessity, suitability, appropriateness and child participation. All efforts should be geared towards enabling children to stay in families within their communities, and the removal of any child from the family should be the last resort. In case a child is placed in alternative care, it should be the most suitable, temporary and plans should be put in place to support the child towards reintegration. This calls for monitoring and evaluation of each child placed in alternative care for appropriate interventions and preparations. The MA implemented the following key activities under Alternative Care in 2019;

#### ***Accredit and certify 66 SOS parents from the five locations***

In an effort to improve SOS parents' understanding on child development and hence enhance their Family Care programme, the MA association collaborated with Daystar University to train and certify 66 parents drawn from the five CVs on child development. The training has not only equipped the parents with skills and information in child and youth development, but it motivated them and opened up more opportunities for their career development in future. Areas of future training recommended by Daystar University include psychosocial support to carers; psychoeducation of children on emerging issues such as addiction to drugs, sex, pornography, use of cell phone, internet and online addiction; sexuality; cyberbullying; eating disorders; and parenting skills.

#### ***Reintegrate 50 children and youth to their families of origin in 5 locations***

The MA conducted a National training on SOS CV International Gate keeping targeting both National and Locational staff during which 25 participants were trained. The locational Programme Directors were tasked to sensitize and roll out the information to the staff at their locations. The new thinking about gate keeping led to location teams' support the process of preparing children for reintegration. It was evident that, children who had stayed in the SOS family for many years needed more time to prepare as opposed to those who stayed for a shorter period. 50 children and youth have been identified for reintegration and preparations are still ongoing to reintegrate them in 2020 as the MA upholds the principle of do no harm to children in the process of reintegration, as well as putting the best interests of the child at the centre of the process.

#### ***Place 100 children in SOS Family and Foster care in six locations***

A training on Alternative Care was conducted targeting 30 Locational Program Directors and Programme staff based at the National Office. The training improved the participants' understanding of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2009); Kenya's Guidelines for the Alternative Family Care of Children (2014); ongoing efforts to implement the guidelines nationally; the need to focus on the wide spectrum of available care options as

to reach many more children and youth; and the ability to respond appropriately to the needs of children who lack adequate parental care. In addition, the MA collaborated with the Government to train 30 foster cares in two locations (Meru and Eldoret), with 15 carers from Meru being certified and 6 children placed under their care with support from the Department of Children's Services (DCS).

***Strengthen the capacity of children and young persons' councils in SOS Family Care and foster care to participate on issues affecting them***

The Day of the African Child was celebrated by children and youth in all the MA's programme locations, with children and youth participating through songs, poetry, other theatre arts and speeches related to the theme (Humanitarian Action in Africa; Children's Rights First). This provided an opportunity for the children and youth to learn more and educate their peers and the adult population on their rights in general and the right to protection from manmade and natural disasters including floods, human conflict, drought and earthquakes.

Notably, one child from SOS Family Care was selected to represent Uasin Gishu County during at the national DAC celebrations held in Trans Nzoia County. The child joined other children drawn from all the counties in Kenya to develop a memorandum containing their plight and recommendations that was presented to leaders drawn from the County and National governments for policy action.

### **Child Safeguarding**

The MA recruited a substantive CS Coordinator at the National Office during the last quarter of the year, thus giving CS more prominence. During the reporting period, all the locations continued implementing actions to address gaps identified in locational CS audits conducted in 2018; a CS workshop was conducted for 30 staff drawn from all locations and all departments at the National Office. In an effort to entrench Child Safeguarding in the MA, more than 90% of the MA staff successfully did the online CS certificate course, hence promoting awareness on CS processes in the MA. The Board of Trustees also took lead in the monitoring and provision of guidance in CS by ensuring that the national CS register was a standing agenda item for discussion in all Board meetings.

### **2.2.2 Family Strengthening**

During the reporting period, the MA continued implementing FS programmes in five locations, as two locations (Meru and Kisumu) did not have adequate funding for significant FS programming. The programmes continued to provide services and monitor the progress of 7,013 children and youth and 3,622 families currently enrolled in FS.

The implementation of an innovative bio-centre project in Nairobi location was delayed by the prioritization of the original project site for a Slum Upgrading Programme by the government, compelling the MA to identify an alternative site in Soweto, Kayole. An accelerated work plan for the project's implementation was developed, with the completion dates set for the first quarter of 2020.

Lastly, the recruitment of a National FS Manager and IPD manager in the last quarter of 2019 will hopefully improve on the performance of FS programmes in the MA and the development of grant applications to expand the programmes for greater impact.

### 2.2.3 Education

SOS CV Kenya believes that through education and lifelong learning, the cycle of exclusion and poverty can be tamed. It is against this belief that the MA promotes quality education for children and youth within the SOS Family Care programme as well as Family Strengthening programmes in the communities within which SOS CV Kenya operates. Through collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the MA addresses situational barriers affecting access to education, retention and transition from one education level to another. To realise her desire for quality education for all children, the MA runs Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in the five programme locations (Nairobi, Mombasa Meru, Eldoret and Kisumu); three primary schools in Nairobi, Mombasa and Eldoret; one secondary school in Eldoret and a Technical Training Institute (TTI) in Nairobi.

The MA has seen a steady increase in the number of candidates sitting for their National Primary school examination. Despite the increasing trend, there was a reduction in candidature in Eldoret and Kisumu, while Mombasa had the highest candidature in the year under review. Table 1 below shows the summary and trend in candidature for KCPE learners under the SOS FC programme;

**Table 1: Analysis of candidature over the last three years**

	2017	2018	2019
Eldoret	12	15	13
Kisumu	11	16	13
Meru	11	14	16
Mombasa	18	13	21
Nairobi	21	14	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>78</b>

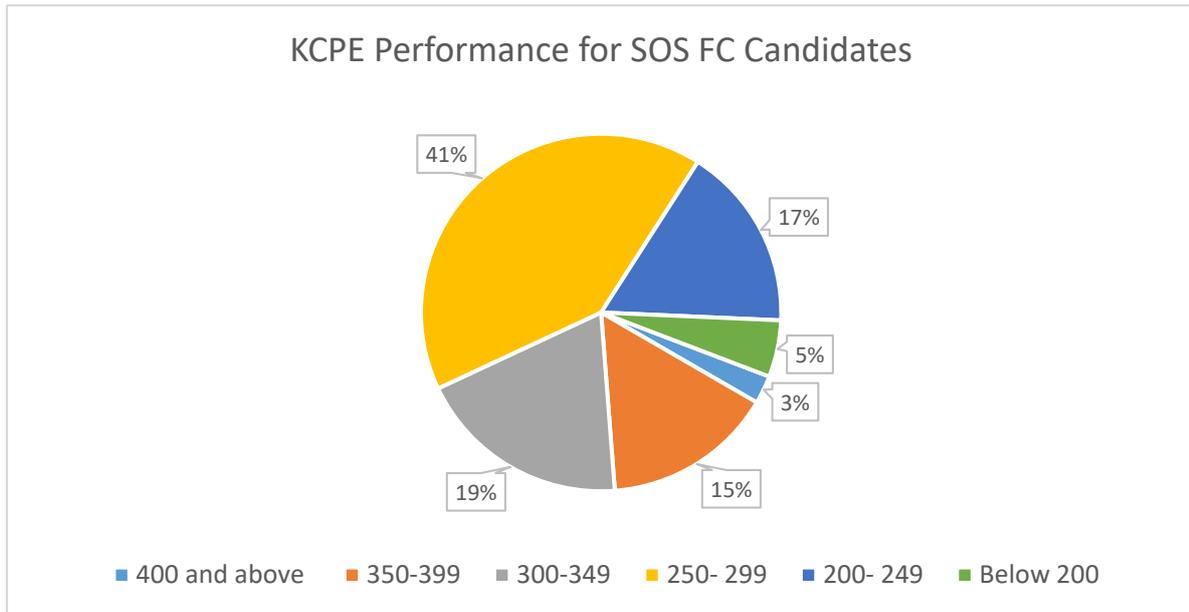


Figure 1: KCPE Performance for FBC Candidates

63% of SOS FC candidates scored more than 250 marks while 5% score less than 200 marks. The average mean score for the SOS FC learners was 283.7 marks. Figure 1 above shows the distribution of the marks.

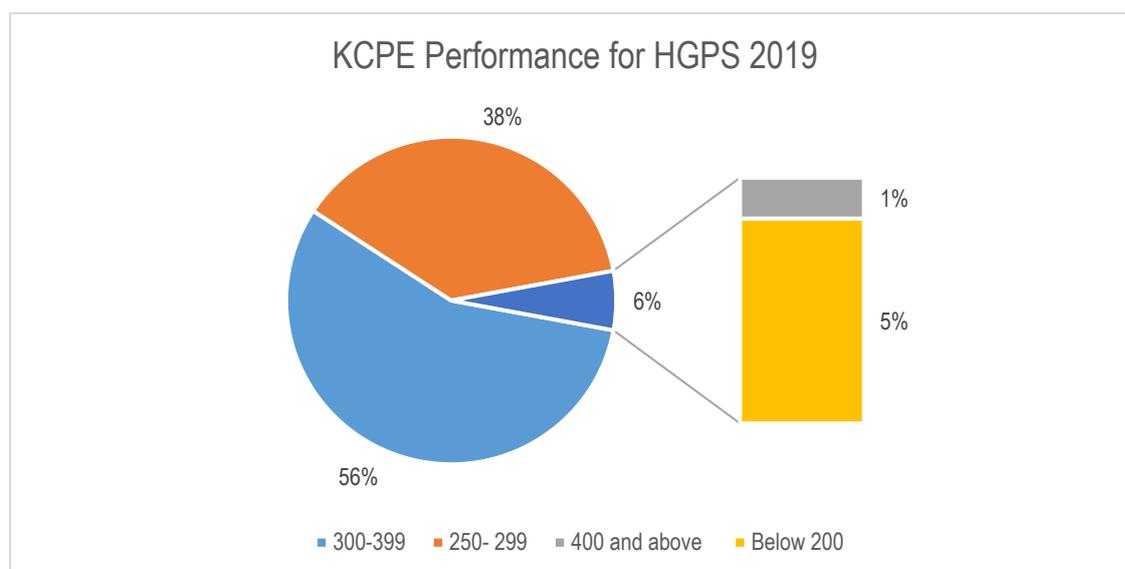
The following table below represents KCPE statistics for SOS CV KE's Hermann Gmeiner Schools over the last three years;

Table 2: HGPS Candidature over the last three years.

	2017	2018	2019
Mombasa	53	53	42
Nairobi	35	33	27
Eldoret	34	57	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>103</b>

There was a drop in the number of candidates sitting their exams in 2019. Eldoret had the highest reduction of 23 learners.

**Table 3: KCPE Performance for HGPS**



Despite the drop in candidature, 57% learners scored 300 marks and above with 38% scoring between 250 and 299 marks. The schools had 95% of the learners score satisfactory performance in their academics (refer to figure three above).

#### ***Capacity building of teachers on the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC)***

The basic education sector has undergone radical transformation over the last three years with the introduction of a new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) in all primary schools in the country. This necessitated training for all HGPS teachers and their kindergarten counterparts on the CBC. In this regard, the MA conducted trained 34 Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) who were charged with the responsibility of training teachers and SOS parents in the 5 locations. Subsequently, 96 teachers were trained on the CBC. Further, in partnership with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), the teachers were also trained in Kenya Early Years' Assessment (KEYA) for grade 3 to be able to support grade three pupils take the National Assessment. The parents and caregivers were also sensitized on CBC and their roles and responsibilities in understanding the individual education needs of their children. This sensitization will be sustained in 2020, as curriculum change is a progressive process.

#### ***Facilitate young people to access to quality Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)***

The Government of Kenya has invested a lot of resources in TVET with the realization of a critical need for technical skills by the industry. Despite the heavy investment, young people, parents and caregivers have harboured a negative perception of TVET institutions and the education they offer. In this regard, the MA conducted a public education campaign on the value of the technical skills offered by TVET institutions targeting youth, caregivers and youth co-workers. 90 SOS parents/caregivers and 165 youth were sensitized and as a result 40 young people willingly enrolled in TVET institutions within the year.

Further, 20 teachers from the Nairobi-based SOS Technical Vocational Education and Training institute were trained on the Competency Based Curriculum and Training (CBET). The TVET ACT 2013, calls for market responsive curricula and a closer collaboration between colleges and industries. The training was to equip the teachers with relevant skills to design courses that are responsive to market demands.

### ***Distance Intervention Program (DIP)***

Every year, SOS Kenya enrolls students in Hermann Gmeiner international college (Ghana) under the Distance Intervention programme (DIP). In 2019, three students graduated from the programme and they subsequently obtained admission in different Universities. Seven students also qualified for the programme, were enrolled in the college.

### ***End of SOS Involvement (EOI) in education facilities***

Based on an assessment conducted on the MA's health and education facilities in 2017 to ascertain the suitability of SOS CV Kenya in providing these services directly, the MA was found not to have the competitive advantage to do so. In addition, most of its facilities were not serving a significant percentage of its target group, hence the decision to end SOS CVI's involvement in the direct provision of these services. In this regard, the MA developed EOI proposals for the leasing of six educational facilities located in Nairobi and Eldoret (2 ECD centres, 2 primary schools, 1 Secondary school and 1 TVET in line with the Board of Trustees' decision to lease them. By the end of the year, advertisements had been placed in national Daily newspapers and the bidding process completed pending the opening of the bids and identification of a winning bidder in the first quarter of 2020.

### ***Improved capacity of parents and caregivers to promote discipline and academic performance among adolescents and abandoned children under their care***

Learning for life aims at the development of full human potential for meaningful and dignified life in a given context and through the stages of a child's development. Children display a range of behaviours that often reflect their perception of the situation they are in. Teachers and caregivers must consider children's developmental stages of understanding, ability to cope and skills acquisition as children are not the same. The parent's capacity in understanding the individual education needs of every child at different stages and mentor them is key to the support of holistic development of the child.

One of the challenges that the MA has struggled with is the challenging behaviour of most of the abandoned children especially during adolescence. To address this, 198 SOS parents and 20 youth care co-workers were sensitized on their roles in promoting discipline and academic performance of these children and understanding their different learning capabilities in order to interpret these children's behaviour and support them at individual levels.

## 2.2.4 Youth Empowerment

The MA's youth empowerment programme is characterized by comprehensive youth initiatives across seven locations aimed at empowering youth through life skills training, enterprise skills development; employability skills training for self-reliance; promotion of leadership and global citizenry skills; and linkage to employment or entrepreneurship opportunities. Below is a summary of the program's performance.

### ***Career orientation, Coaching and Mentorship***

The MA organised the third National Youth Summit in Eldoret location with the theme "Transforming education". The Summit brought together 121 youth drawn from all the five locations in the MA. The summit created a platform for the youth to interact, socialize and air their views; Engaged the youth in coming up with concrete resolutions and actions that were integrated in the MA's plans and budgets; and Enabled them to provide input to the National Youth policy, which is currently under review. Plenary talks by Key speakers were also incorporated, and the weeklong event culminated in a town hall discussion with the National Director on actions plans that the youth had developed during the summit. In his acceptance of the plans, the national director launched the ND's Award and challenged both the youth workers, youth and the Youth Coordinator to conceptualise and implement the award.

### ***Youth participation and capacity building for Youth Workers***

Youth participation in various fora plays a pivotal role in shaping and preparing youth for independent living. During the year, a number of initiatives were carried out in line with youth participation. Following the completion of ESFA Youth Entrepreneurial Training in Kigali- Rwanda, five youth from Nairobi, Kisumu and Eldoret disseminated the teachings to 30 other youth who congregated at Buru Buru CV. In addition, one youth from SOS CV Eldoret represented the MA in a fundraising event in Denmark under the Xellia pharmaceutical Program.

The MA also conducted a two-day training for Youth Workers from the five locations on the Program Database; and a three-day workshop on the development of the National Advocacy Strategy during which they gained in-depth knowledge on how to advocate for, with and by youth particularly concerning job opportunities and subsequently contributed to the development of a draft Advocacy Strategy for the MA.

### ***The Next Economy - strengthening vocational, employability and entrepreneurial skills***

Through The Next Economy programme, the MA benefited 593 out of a targeted 600 youth with life skills, entrepreneurship and employability skills, internship, job shadowing and employment opportunity. Although the programme ended in December 2019, the MA will continue to apply the lessons learnt from the TNE model to support youth across its locations.

To promote access to work experience and training, the MA worked closely with DHL under the International SOS-DHL partnership, courtesy of which youth had an opportunity to participate in various employment trainings. For instance, under mentorship program 24 youth were trained on life skills while in job shadowing, 14 youth joined DHL staff in Mombasa office and experienced work in several departments. Above all else, five youth underwent

internship at the DHL office in Nairobi after which based on their respective competencies, they were placed in Finance, Logistics, IT and HR departments.

During the reporting period, the MA held three locational workshops for care leavers from Eldoret, Nairobi and Mombasa locations to appraise them on the ongoing trends in SOS CV Kenya, the care reforms dynamics, the need for them to form a formal entity to engage in advocacy and support one another and ensure a structured way of communicating with the MA. A workshop for interim representatives of the care leavers was held in the last quarter of 2019, but unfortunately, the care leavers were not ready to form a formal and structured entity, instead calling for broader consultations. It was agreed that the interim officials would organize for the consultative forum and invite the MA during the first quarter of 2020.

### 2.2.5 Advocacy

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

#### *Contribution to improving public policies/ Laws in favour of our target group*

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

SOS CV KE also provided technical and financial support to the Department of Children's Services during its strategic planning of their Strategic Plan (2019- 2023). The planning was targeted at aligning it to the Medium Term Plan Framework III, other national and legal frameworks of the country as well as emerging issues in child protection programming such as care reforms, child trafficking, information and data management among others. SOS CV KE provided technical support in the areas of alternative family care, community programming and policy advocacy. This also provides us an opportunity to finalize the joint agreement between the Department of Children's Services and SOS CV KE for better implementation of programmatic actions and high level lobbying and influencing.

The Department of Children's Services seeks to undertake its planning for its Strategic Plan 2019- 2023 in order to align it to various regional and national frameworks. Through our strategic partnership with the Department, SOS CV Kenya has been requested to provide technical and financial support towards the realization of this. SOS CV Kenya will participate in the Strategic Planning order to influence areas of joint implementation at policy and programmatic levels.

*Capacity building in advocacy, policy dialogue, networking and alliance building.*

The Joining forces for Children Alliance finalized its Child Rights Situational Analysis Report and launched it during the International Human Rights Day celebrated on 10th December globally. The report was presented during a media breakfast meeting that was attended by over 30 journalists and other child rights actors in the country. The report highlights key successes and gaps in implementing various policies and programmes that affect the rights of children in Kenya. The gaps identified in the report will be used as advocacy asks to hold the government accountable towards the progressive realization of the rights of children in Kenya. SOS CV KE also participated in the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child during the Universal Children's Day on 20th November 2019. The celebrations brought together over 1000 participants from the country to take stock of our achievements since Kenya ratified the UNCRC. Two children from SOS CV KE programmes joined other 500 children in raising their voices.

The MA took part in meetings by the Association for Alternative Family Care of Children, of which it is a member. The Association works towards advocating for the implementation of the UN Resolution on Children without Parental Care in an effort to contribute to care reforms within the country. The Resolution was passed by the UN General Assembly by member states during the high level meeting in June 2019 and focuses on among other things commitment towards accounting for children without adequate parental care through data collection, placing emphasis on the factors that lead to separation of children and strengthening systems and structures that promote the care of children within the community.

25 participants from eight Programme Locations and the National Management Team developed the draft National Advocacy Strategy identifying key areas/ issues for advocacy by SOS CV KE. The Management will finalize the Strategy in its draft for endorsement and the Board in order to provide clear advocacy issues and agenda that can be championed.

SOS CV KE participated in the development and submission of the CSO Complimentary Report to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The report was submitted to the African Union Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in November 2019. Representatives presented the report to the committee from child-focused organizations in December 2019. SOS CV KE participated in the 15th CSO Forum on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the 34th Ordinary Session of the same. During the forums, SOS CV KE jointly with the representation of the ESAF regional office made presentations on children without adequate parental care before the Committee and influenced the Outcome Statement by Civil Society Organizations that was presented to the committee.

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

### 2.3 List of Board Members of the National Association

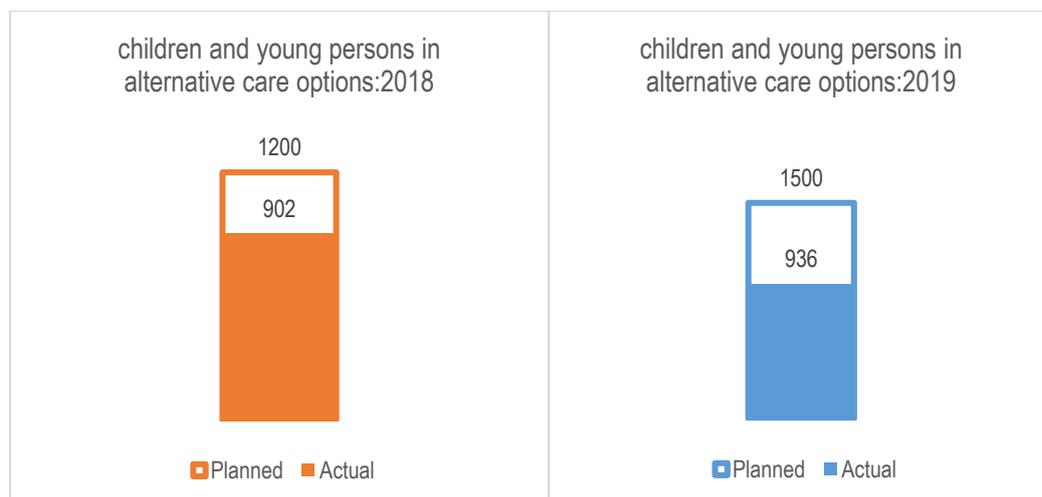
The MA's Board of Trustees (BoT) is comprised of professionals with a wealth of skills, experience in knowledge in different fields. The members serve on a voluntary basis, and as a show of commitment, they collectively sponsor one House in Eldoret Children's Village. Below is a list of the BoT members and their respective roles;

<b>BOT Member</b>	<b>Role/position in the Board</b>
Ms. Susan Kiama	Board Chairperson
Mr. David Abwoga	Deputy Chairperson
Mr. Benson Sande Ndeta (Arch.)	Board Member and Chairperson of the Fund Development and Communications Committee – he left the Board in 2019
Ms. Rita Okuthe	Board Member
Ms. Mercy Kiiru Wanjau	Board Member
Mr. Allan Wainaina	Board Treasurer and Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee
Ms. Catherine Khabure	Chairperson of HR & Administration Committee of the Board, SOS Children's Villages Kenya and also
Dr. Mary Mupa Madu (Ms)	Board Member and Chairperson of the Child and Youth Committee
Mrs. Aster Asfaw	Board Member and CVI Rep

Mr. Claudio Croce	Alternate Board Member, SOS CV Kenya and also Children's Villages International Representative (CVI Rep-SAF).
Ms. Ruth Ngobi	Secretary, Board of Trustees.

### 3 SECTION TWO: STATISTICS

#### 3.1 Alternative care



**Figure 2: Children supported in SOS FC (2018)**

**Figure 1: Children in SOS FC (2019)**

From Figure 1 above, the MA planned to support 1,500 children under the SOS Family based care program, 936 children and youth were supported during the reporting year accounting for 62.4% of the planned number of children. The number of children supported increased from the previous year (see the figure 2 above), 2018 where 902 children were supported.

<b>66</b>	SOS parents Accredited and certified for better care for children
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75 SOS parents were targeted for accreditation during the year under review, however the MA achieved 88% of the target, 4 did not pass the accreditation exams while five did not qualify for the course.

#### 3.2 Staffing

In 2019, the MA had a work force of 448 people (306 Females 142 Male); while 28 mothers retired over the last three years, with the Principal of KG Eldoret and a teacher from Eldoret School retiring in December 2019. The MA lost one staff, a teacher based in Nairobi HG Primary School.

## 4 SECTION THREE: FACILITY REPORTS

During the reporting period, MA Kenya continued to operate in five locations namely Nairobi, Mombasa, Meru, Kisumu and Eldoret, with two satellite locations (Busier and Suba) without Children's Villages. Below are summary reports from the five Children's Villages;

### 4.1 Mombasa CV

#### Overview

SOS Children's Villages Mombasa has continued to showcase its brand as the largest child welfare organization in the region. The Location has sustained its partnership with the county government and other stakeholders in ensuring quality care is provided for all children and it supported 137 children (63 girls and 74 boys) and 54 youth (36 males and 18 female) in the CV. An additional 109 families with 420 children and 93 youth were supported through the FS programme. The CV location runs a primary school and ECD center which had a consolidated population of 597 children (434 in primary and 163 in ECD).

#### Strategic Initiative 1: Innovative Childcare.

13 children from the CV accessed psychosocial support services during the year. For continuous support with regard to psychosocial support, the CV established a mentorship program as well as regular family meetings where life skills are imparted. The CV also supported children to access spiritual growth by supporting them to attend church youth camps and Madrassa classes for Muslim children.

Notable, co-curricular activities undertaken by the CV included the participation in the annual Kenya National Music festival competitions by five children who represented its various institutions reaching the national level of the competitions.

In line with re-integration, the CV relocated two children to Meru CV awaiting future integration to their families of origin. It was good news for the two siblings who previously were earlier categorised as abandoned when they were reunited with their biological sister following active tracing through the assistance of the Area Advisory Council (AAC).

#### Strategic Initiative 2: Family Strengthening

The family strengthening program continued to provide essential services including educational support, nutritional support, health services and vital registration. Education support was provided to children as follows; sixty children in primary and secondary received fees payment; examination fees was paid for one college student; 64 children received stationary support; 21 received school uniforms; and 24 children received school shoes. 13 caregivers and 15 children received health service support; and four caregivers were registered with NHIF after sensitization on the importance of joining the Fund. Nutritional support was provided to 17 families with unreliable source of income and those with poor health; and four children acquired birth certificates

During the reporting period, the FS caregivers received training on child care through monthly workshops aimed at equipping them with parenting skills, health education, dealing with adolescents, savings, child protection and participation.

Lastly, the three self-help groups formed to ensure that families have adequate resources made good progress during the reporting quarter. One of the groups held their first elections for office bearers while 11 members of one of the self-help groups were registered with KENINDIA insurance and under the last respect funeral cover.

### **Strategic Initiative 3: Empower young people**

The CV supported 25 young people (15 from the SOS Family Care program and 10 from the FS program) to attend the annual national Youth summit held in Eldoret. The young people participated actively in all activities emerging position 3 overall. A key outcome of the summit was an action plan that was presented to the national director for accountability. Young people from the facility were engaged in internships with DHL, Mombasa Law courts, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) and Nyali auto care during the reporting period.

One male and three female youth from the location were supported to enrol to various tertiary institutions. Two of the female learners joined Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) while the other joined Kwame Nkrumah University, Ghana. The male youth joined the University of Nairobi. Other notable activities undertaken by the CV include one –day job shadowing at the DHL offices in Mombasa by 10 youth from the CV; capacity development for young people on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ahead of the UNCRC@30 celebration that was held in Nairobi.

The facility registered 33 learners (21 SOS from Family Care and 12 from FS) for the KCPE National exams. While the school registered 42 candidates. The mean score for the school was 301.0 with Languages (English and Kiswahili), Social Studies and religious education scoring over 60% while Mathematics and science scoring on average 56.5%. The CV candidates recorded a mean score 283.4 while 70% of those in the FS program scored above 200 marks. Majority of the learners therefore attained satisfactory learning outcomes.

### **Strategic Initiative 7: Invest for funding growth**

The CV held two fundraising events during the year; through the two events and other minor activities, the location raised KES. 6,620,216.50 of the expected of KES. 9,200,682 accounting for 72% of the target.

## **4.2 Nairobi CV**

### **Overview**

SOS CVP Nairobi location is situated in the Eastlands region of the city and it is surrounded by 10 informal settlements with challenges ranging from insecurity, poverty and drug abuse.

The Children's Village hosted 137 children and 128 youth in different high schools, colleges and universities in and outside the country. The CV runs three schools, one ECD center, a primary school, a TVET and a Medical Centre (MC); school enrolment was at 193 for the primary section and 60 for the ECD section with 1 child from SOS Family Care in ECD and 68 in the primary school. The FS programme worked with 239 families, 642 children (322 M, 320F); 140 (66 M, 72 F) young adults and 276 (83 M, 203 F) adults. The Medical facility saw 48,621 clients majority being out patient and pharmacy clients. Ante Natal Care (ANC), Family Planning (FP) and tuberculosis clinics had the lowest clients averaging 50 clients in the year.

### **Strategic Initiative 1: Innovative Childcare**

#### *Sensitization of Children and youth on CS reporting*

The child safeguarding committee members conducted awareness creation to the 137 children and youth on child rights and CS reporting processes. Further, the children were made aware of the CS committee members who can be reached out in case of concerns on child safeguarding issues.

#### *Gate Keeping Training conducted.*

Three staff from the location attended a one-week training on Gatekeeping guidelines organized by the national office during which they were equipped with information and skills on the placement of children in appropriate care settings through a whole spectrum of engagements with key stakeholders and based on assessments and recommendations. The three staff subsequently conducted a Gatekeeping dissemination workshop for location staff from the FS and SOS Family Care. The dissemination was part of the preparatory stage for the initial assessments that will be conducted to all the beneficiaries to ensure that they are the right target group and also to determine whether they are in the appropriate care option.

#### *Assessment on an SOS family integrated into the community.*

The location conducted an assessment (evaluation) of the SOS family that was relocated into the community in 2018 to determine how the family was fitting in and learn lessons for consideration in future relocation of SOS families. The assessment was conducted by the Programme Director and Alternative Care Coordinator, and the findings indicated that the children were integrating well (physically and socially) within the community.

#### *Girls' mentorship events*

Representatives from 'Women in Leadership' from SANOFI International pharmaceuticals services convened a meeting with 48 girls in high schools, colleges, their mothers and aunts to mentor them on the benefits of science based courses and the opportunities in the field of sciences for girls. This was meant to motivate girls to take up more challenging courses as part of their career choices. Such forums are meant to change girl's orientation on science-based subjects and careers for equal gender based competencies in education and career development.

On the International Women's day 2019, the location collaborated with StarTimes and Akili Dada who organized a day's training on mentorship, goal setting, personal branding and emotional intelligence. This was organized for

young ladies from vulnerable backgrounds, where 17 young people from all 5 SOS Children's Villages attended. All the participants were awarded with certificates of participation.

## **Strategic Initiative 2: Strengthened Families**

### *Education support through school fees payment*

The government has subsidised secondary school fees for day schools under the Free Day Secondary Education (FDSE) program. The subsidy accounts for 70% of the fees while the caregivers pay the remaining 30 %. In 2019, 22 children were supported with school fees in their respective schools, hence enabling them to attend and be retained in school.

### *College and School Visits*

During the reporting period, 32 children and youth were monitored through school and college visits. The FS children and youth supported with education support in terms of subsidized school levies and educational materials. The visits were meant to follow up students' academic performance and identify issues that needed support from the school and students, which were to be addressed. Some of the students who had issues that affected their performance were supported.

### *Vocational technical skills support.*

In 2019, the FS program supported nine beneficiaries to enrol in college/vocational training institutions for technical skills training through an empowerment programme meant to give caregivers and youth requisite skills for starting their own enterprises or gain employment. The nine beneficiaries had completed primary and secondary level education but they were unable to enrol in technical institutions because of lack of college fees. They are undergoing a two-year course and will complete their studies in FY 2020.

### *Business Start-up Support*

During the reporting period and through the FS programme, the location supported 21 caregivers to start-up businesses. Some of the programme participants were starting up new businesses while others were expanding already existing businesses. Seven caregivers were supported to prepare business plans.

### *Businesses Visits conducted*

The community development workers, accountant and programme director conducted business visits to 25 caregivers who had been supported to start-up businesses from the year 2017. This was to monitor and evaluate how the businesses were performing. The members visited were positive with the support provided to them and the regular monitoring and evaluation visits by the FSP staff. Some of the businesses were doing well while others needed more support and the appropriate technical support was provided to them during the visits.

### **Strategic Initiative 3: Empower young people**

#### *Youth empowerment*

Mid in the reporting year, the youth department prepared and facilitated 3 youth from the location to attend the Youth Empowerment Training in Kigali. The 3 youth were from SOS Family Care and FS programmes. Upon their return, the location held a rollout sensitization programme during which they shared their learning and experiences with 19 of their peers, hence motivating them to take up available opportunities to increase youth participation.

Five youth were engaged in various industrial attachments; 10 out of 11 youth who sat for their high school examinations in 2018 joined various colleges and one youth did not join college due to delays in clearing from his high school. He will be joining college in January 2020.

#### *Education*

27 children from the location (16 from SOS Family Care programme) sat for their KCPE during the year and the best candidate scored 394 marks out of a maximum of 500. The best candidate from the alternative care programme scored 380 marks and the total average score for the alternative care programme students was 287.38. Selection for form ones concluded and placement of the students accomplished forms are still being received.

### **Strategic Initiative 7: Invest for funding growth**

Davis & Shirtliff Company Ltd donated a water heating system that was installed in family house 11. During the commissioning of the water heating system, the company also donated assorted foodstuff to the children. The function was attended by the area chief, who applauded SOS CV Kenya's efforts in addressing the plight of vulnerable children. The newly installed solar water heating system will help not only in reducing the high electricity bills for water heating and improve the children's health as bathing in cold water during the cold and rainy season poses a health risk to some children.

#### *Renewal of House sponsorship by Total Kenya*

The location hosted Total Kenya's CEO for the renewal of a house sponsorship and commissioning of a generator that was donated and installed by the company. Total Kenya supports two family houses and during the function, they conducted a tree planting session that involved children and staff. The SOS CV-KE National Director, Mr. Walter Odhiambo, witnessed the house sponsorship reactivation and the unveiling of the generator. The unveiling of the generator has improved the supply of power especially during power black outs.

### 4.3 Meru CV

Meru CV has 13 family houses and 2 active foster families and below is a summary of the beneficiaries in the CV:

<b>Department</b>	<b>SOS FBC</b>		<b>Youth empowerment</b>		
	Female	Male		Female	Male
Families/households			College	12	8
Children	44	62	TVET	5	15
Youth	16	31	Working		2
Total	60	93		<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>
Foster families	4	2			

#### **Strategic Initiative 1: Innovative Childcare.**

The CV was poised to enrol four children who were on the verge of losing parental care, as the parents were incarcerated, to foster care during the reporting period. However, upon assessment and introductory meetings, by the child admission committee, three of the parents were released from custody while their relatives did not consent to foster care for the children. The remaining child was eventually enrolled in the village under the SOS Family Care program.

During the reporting period, nine caregivers from the location received child development and protection certification from the MA's partnership with Daystar University. The caregivers expressed their appreciation for the course citing that they now understood child growth and development better and were better placed to nurture children at different levels of growth and development. Complementing the training the CV conducted a number of capacity building sessions for caregivers.

102 caregivers were trained on quality parenting and positive discipline during the period under review. During the training, the parents were made aware that, good parenting is more important than a good school to the academic success of a child, children learn moral values, manners, discipline from their home. It is their good upbringing, which helps them succeed in the future. Additionally, 36 staff from the CV were taken through the Care Promise guidelines.

13 caregivers (8 SOS caregivers and 5 foster parents) benefitted from the Fair Start Trainer of Trainers (ToT) capacity building training conducted by the Eldoret CV through the CISU Project. By the end of the training the care givers narrated that they felt more capable to provide children and youth a safer start in life and provide professional caregiving for children and youth after learning the importance of attachment and they can be able to monitor learning millstones as they better understood how learning takes place in different developmental milestones of a person.

The CV collaborated with Lumos and Bucharest Early Intervention Project (BEIP) to build the capacity of 28 key stakeholders and 16 staff from Meru on Kenya's Guidelines for the Alternative Family Care of children to enhance their knowledge on the available care options. In addition, the participants were taken through gate keeping guidelines with an emphasis on the need for effective gate keeping practices. The CV also conducted capacity-building sessions to members of the Local Area Advisory Council on child safeguarding with a focus on female genital mutilation and sexual offences. This was in a bid to equip the members of the council with legal backing for their safe guarding efforts. With regard to child safeguarding, the CV's CS location register was regularly updated during the year.

The CV integrated one family to the community in 2018. The family of eight (five boys, 2 girls and their mother) have since then been a source of anecdotal evidence that integration works. During the period under review, four children sat for their National examinations, 3 sat for their KCPE and 1 for KCSE). The three children who sat for all posted satisfactory marks being 252, 299 and 302 out of the possible 500 marks. One of the children was enrolled in Kenyatta University to pursue her undergraduate course in education. Monitoring visits have revealed that the family is more cohesive and resilient especially where education is concerned. The mother also exuded confidence with the autonomy provided being in the community. The children also felt that they participated more on decisions concerning the family more than when they were in the village.

During the reporting period, 17 children were prepared for re-integration. The families of origin were assessed for re-integration, and most of them were ready and willing to receive their children with majority of the families requesting for economic support especially where school levies are concerned while one family will require infrastructure renovation prior to re-integration.

Children from the CV participated in the sub county celebration of the Day of the African Child. 15 children from the CV presented a poem titled "African Child". The County Commissioner urged residents to ensure that child rights especially right to education is upheld, while also emphasizing the need to end child neglect that is rampant in the county. The CV also celebrated SOS day by visiting the Meru women's Prison; 23 children and 2 staff visited the facility. The main aim of the visit was to foster community service among the children and help them to understand the purpose of incarceration.

*Health care:* 139 children and youth acquired NHIF medical cards, hence providing them with subsidised access to quality health services. The SOS Family Care programme organized an annual medical check –up for all the children and youth to help monitor their health status and provide preventive health services like deworming. All the children and youth were tested and it was discovered one girl was expectant. All the others were in good health and those who had minor infections were treated.

### **Strategic Initiative 3: Empower young people**

#### *Education.*

The enrolment of children and youth in schools and colleges for the year 2019 was as follows;

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
HGKG Meru	1	2	3
Grade 1	1	1	2
Grade 2	0	4	4
Grade 3	2	3	5
CLASS 5	1	3	3
CLASS 6	5	5	11
CLASS 7	3	9	13
CLASS 8	7	11	17
TOTAL PRIMARY	19	36	55
FORM 1	8	6	14
FORM 2	3	8	11
FORM 3	8	7	15
FORM 4	4	7	11
TOTAL HIGH SCH	20	20	40
COLLEGE	18	32	50
GHANA	0	1	1
DAY SCHOOL PRIMARY			31
BOARDING SCHOOL			27
TOTAL			149
Stopped	1		1
PREPARATION FOR DEPARTURE		2	2

Other education activities conducted in the year 2019 are listed below;

*Remedial classes for form 4 students and class 8 pupils:* This was extended to all the form 4 students with a focus on the following subjects; Biology, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. The class eight pupils were also

supported in Kiswahili, Mathematics and Science. The activity objectives were to support the learners as they prepared for their national examinations to excel. The support bore fruits because at least the location managed to have three class eight learners get admissions to national schools after 2019 KCPE results were out.

*Back to school fun day:* The activity took place at the CV playground with the initial presentations happening at the ECD compound. The activity involved 95 children and youth (33 girls and 62 boys) and it was meant to sensitize youth on their education obligations and it served as a peer-to-peer mentorship forum where they advised each other on various issues ranging from education to relationships. The youth had also prepared some items like poems, solo verses, and bread eating competition for their entertainment.

*Students in college and TVET:* In 2019, the location had 41 youth in indifferent career trainings; 15 in college, 19 in TVET, 1 in National youth service and 6 in universities.

*KCPE results 2019:*

17 children from the SOS Family Care programme sat for their KCPE examination; internal analysis of the year's results revealed that the average score improved by 2.54 percentage points from 59.41 to 61.95. Of the 17 candidates only 2 who had not received placement letters by the end of the year. Three had been admitted to National schools, 2 in extra county schools and 10 in County schools. Below is a summary of the performance;

	Results	Frequency
1	350 Marks and Above	4
2	250 – 349 Marks	10
3	Below 250 marks	3

*Mentorship program:* 80 children (45 boys and 35 girls) held a meeting to discuss various issues affecting them and ways to address them. The gender-specific sessions were conducted organised by SOS CV staff from the location and facilitated by National Office staff. The main topics discussed were sexuality, discipline, truancy, academic performance, cleanliness, drug, and substance abuse. The national Office Youth and Development coordinator also took time to sensitize the 41 youth at the village on the youth programs portfolio.

*Academic performance sensitization meeting:* The Education and Training Manager and SOS CV Kenya's TVET principal met 48 youth (25 girls and 23 boys) and 9 SOS parents for academic oriented trainings under the objectives of building the capacity of the SOS parents in understanding effective parenting for youth and teenagers to be able to support their holistic growth; Sensitizing the high school youth on achieving academic excellence through time management; self-awareness/self-esteem and attitude change; sensitizing SOS parents and youth on TVET programmes and career choices; and to change their negative social perspectives and unlock the potential of technical and vocational education. In a separate meeting, 59 youth (38 boys and 21 girls) were given

an overview of TVET education in Kenya. The aims of technical training were well elaborated as well as the entry requirements.

*Youth/child participation standards:* 40 youth (25 girls and 15 boys) and 39 children (12 girls and 27 boys) and 13 parents were sensitized on youth participation standards. This was in effort to help have meaningful participation of children and youth in decision making in issues affecting them.

*Youth/children Council leaders training:* 13 youth/ children (leaders 8 girls and 5 boys) were trained on leadership traits and skills. In summary, they were taught Attitude and Behaviour Change (ABC) guide youth leadership. They were advised to improve on their leadership skills by having mentors, asking for feedback from seniors attending leadership trainings and through utilizing resources on internet like books on leadership. This was done to help the council leaders understand their roles and responsibilities as leaders and to help them cultivate good leadership qualities.

*Youth attachments:* 4 youth were assisted to secure attachments within Meru County while three others were attached in Nairobi and Kajiado Counties respectively. The different attachments are in line with the individual youths' careers/courses of study and therefore they provided a great opportunity to help them to deepen their understanding on job demands and competitiveness in the job market.

*Rites of passage:* Seven boys underwent rites of passage from childhood to adulthood and they graduated successfully.

#### 4.4 Eldoret CV

Eldoret CV hosts the SOS Family Care programme, Family strengthening programme, Basic education schools (ECD, primary and secondary) and a Medical Centre.

The SOS Family Care population in 2019 was 182 children and youth.

Children/young people	Male	Female	Total
Children	67	60	127
Young people	31	24	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>182</b>

The family strengthening program reached 265 children drawn from 75 households. Below is a summary of the population reached by the program

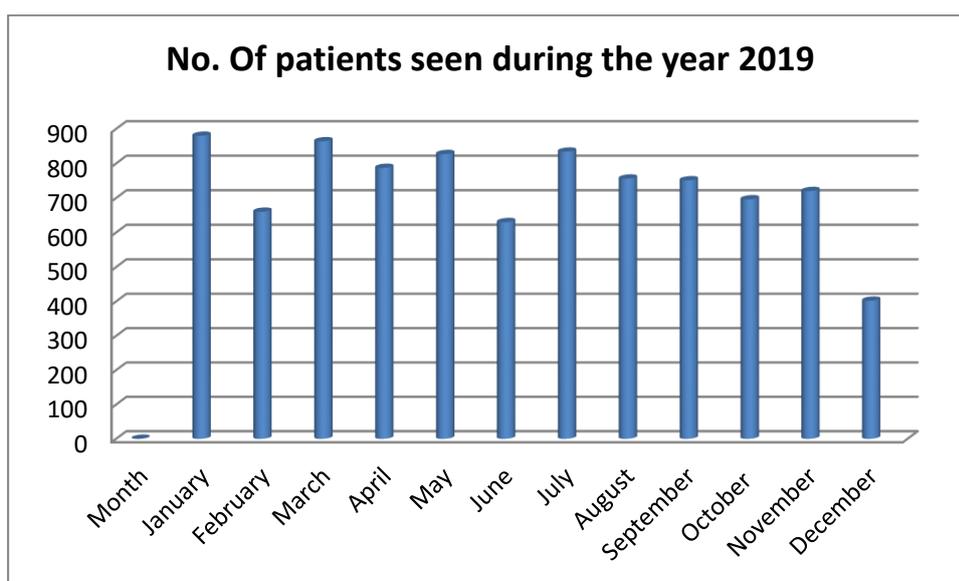
Children/young people	Male	Female	Total
Children (0 – 17yrs)	119	113	232
Young people (18yrs+)	23	10	33

<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>Male Headed</b>	<b>Female Headed</b>	<b>Total</b>
	7	67	74

Population in the Hermann Gmeiner schools are as summarised in the table below.

	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Potential</b>
Kindergarten	67	69	136	140
Primary	185	162	347	540
Secondary	71	36	107	160
<b>Totals</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>840</b>

The medical centre provided services to 8,807 clients over the reporting period with various services.



### **Strategic Initiative 1: Innovative Childcare.**

*Certification training for SOS parents:* During the reporting period, 14 parents successfully completed the certificate course in child protection and received their certificates. The graduation ceremony was conducted at Daystar University Nairobi campus and the grandaunts were drawn from all the five SOS children's Villages in Kenya. Grace Kaleha shared their memorable learning experiences, which covered the entire period of their studies, and this was a strong proof of key concepts that they learnt. Several other keynote speakers reminded the mothers of their dedication and focus on child protection concerns and other emerging issues surrounding childcare. The National Director and Family based care Manager applauded the mothers for the unwavering spirit in advancing their knowledge in child protection and safeguarding.

*Re-integration of children to their families of origin:* The exercise targeted 16 children from 9 families that were identified as the first cohort of assessment in the attempt to reintegrate children back to their community of origin. The alternative care committee members were divided into three different groups and were tasked to carry out the entire process of visiting the families and conduct the assessment. The exercise was successful and reports have been generated to guide and inform on the next steps to be taken.

*Transition of Parent:* One mother successfully completed her transition to retirement and has been supported to smoothly negotiate through the process. The mother has diligently served in the same capacity for the last 27 years. The house 9 mother had six months to mentor the new mother and help her build a lasting relationship and stable relationship with the children. The new mother has now assumed full responsibility of taking care of the children and managing other related duties.

## **Strategic Initiative 2: Family Strengthening**

Children have access to essential services for their healthy development – During the reporting period; the CV implemented a number of activities towards ensuring that children receive essential services among them were:

### *Education support*

The Family strengthening program had 209 children in school in various levels of education. Of these, 10 sat for their National KCPE examination while three sat for their KCSE during the reporting period. Half of the KCPE candidates scored 200 marks and above with only one scoring above 300 marks out of the possible 500 marks. The three KCSE candidates performed dismally with the best scoring a C-Plain and the other two scoring Ds. The dismal performance can be attributed to negative attitude towards learning by the learners, poor time management and low parental involvement by the parents. With this learning, the CV has set in place a peer mentorship program to support learners, close monitoring of learners to identify subjects where they perform poorly to support them through coaching and also sensitize parents on the importance of parental involvement in their children's education.

The program supported children in ECD and secondary school with 75% and 50% tuition fees respectively based on their needs. During the period under review, the program supported 14 pupils (7 boys and 7 girls) in ECD through partial fee payment and 23 students (13 boys and 10 girls) in secondary school. The support aims to ensure that children attend school consistently for good performance in their academics.

To ensure that more children have access to education, the CV under the Family-strengthening program encouraged caregivers to apply for the government sponsorships and scholarships available in the county. In the report period, five students (three female and two male) secured bursaries from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). This contributes to sustainability of the program since families that are more vulnerable would be able to tap into education support from the available government opportunities even after they exit from the program.

The education committee held an academic arena targeting the high school children from form 1 to form four from Family strengthening and SOS Family care programmes to promote excellence in academics and monitor their

performance. 18 youth (7 female and 11 male) and 15 caregivers (1 male and 14 female) from Family strengthening program attended the arena. The youth were grouped according to their academic classes and each group had time to go through their results picking out what was the hardest subject and the best subject and what can be done to improve on their performance. From the academic arena, the youth were able to form groups and choose group leaders for academic support through revision.

### *Health Support*

FSP continued to support children to access quality medical care through a cost-sharing strategy on laboratory and pharmacy costs at the SOS Eldoret Medical Centre. In 2019, the program supported seven children to access medical care at the facility by waiving their medical fees. Caregivers were sensitized and encouraged to enrol with the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) as a sustainable way of benefiting from health care together with their children. 12 new caregivers were enrolled under NHIF.

Additionally, the FSP in partnership with Uasin Gishu County hospital's department of nutrition conducted a nutritional assessment for children under 17 year during which 38 children were assessed. The physical dimensions of the body are greatly influenced by nutrition, particularly during the period of rapid growth in early childhood. Nutrition assessment is important to children as their physical and mental growth can be affected through deprivation of some nutrients or an excess of certain nutrients.

From the assessment, two children were found to be overweight and nutritional counselling was done. Four were mildly undernourished by two scores. A follow up is being done to make sure the children get proper care and diet to be in stable condition.

During the year, staff from the SOS medical centre and FSP team in partnership with the County department of Public Health in Uasin Gishu conducted 3 jigger control activities within Uasin Gishu. The objective of this exercise was to sensitize the community members on the effects, causes and control measures for jigger infestation. A total of 60 children and 14 adults were reached; and more than 133 houses were fumigated with insecticide to kill the chigoe flea.

### *Legal Support*

The program continued to support caregivers to get birth certificates for their children by paying for the birth registration fees. Eight children were supported with registration fee during the year. Caregivers continue to be encouraged to get birth certificates for their children since apart from providing them with a legal identity; it enables their children to easily access health care, education, protection and inheritance rights.

### *Life Skills Training*

The program held a reproductive health talk training to adolescents. The program had anticipated 25 children participating, but only 24 children (13 male and 11 female) attended. The objective of the training was to sensitize

the children on reproductive health. The children were taught on body hygiene and their responsibilities in promoting personal hygiene; and sexual reproductive health rights.

In the reporting period, a two-day life skills training was conducted for 20 children. The objective of the training was to bring together children from high school and instil life skills to them for use to deal with their day-to-day life challenges. The training targeted children from ages 14 to 18 and had five female and 15 male attending. The department engaged a facilitator to facilitate the sessions for the children.

*Girls' rite of passage*

Eight girls, all above 13 years, were supported to attend a one-week girls' rite of passage exercise facilitated by Majengo Catholic Women Association. Through the program, the girls were taught time management, sexual reproductive health, Spiritual growth, girls' rights and responsibilities, drug and substance abuse, leadership, health and hygiene.

*Fair start Parental Skills Training and Parental skills sensitization*

During the reporting period, the location conducted Fair start training for 20 caregivers. The training covered six modules over a two-weeks training period. The caregivers were taken through the various ways on how to take care of their children; especially those children who have gone through different forms of trauma making them vulnerable and at risk of losing parental care, or completely lose parental care.

28 caregivers (3 male and 25 female) were also sensitized on parental skills during a two-day sensitization-training workshop. Some of the training areas covered include understanding children's developmental stages, ways of establishing good relationships with children, effective discipline methods, roles of parents in parenting, how to teach children problem solving skills and goal setting and effective communication skills.

From the training, the caregivers were able to understand leadership skills for the family, essential roles such as guidance, teaching, and mentoring; which they are supposed to play in their children's lives so that they can be fully involved in shaping and moulding their children and even instil appropriate values and behaviours

13 program participants were supported with various IGA items as follows:

<b>Gender</b>	<b>IGA Support</b>	<b>Livelihood Activity</b>
1 female caregiver	saloon items	Hairdressing
4 female caregivers	ewe sheep	Sheep Farming
5 female caregivers	maize and beans	Selling Cereals
1 male caregiver	Assorted metal work tools	Jua Kali artisan
1 female caregiver	Wool	Making Sweaters

1 youth	assorted shop items	Mini shop keeper
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Capacity building of families through business start-up support is one of the program sustainability strategies of ensuring that the caregivers are in the position of attaining self-reliance and be able to provide for their families.

*Kitchen Garden/Nutrition support.*

25 caregivers were supported to establish kitchen gardens through the provision high yielding vegetables seeds and other farm inputs. These seeds included Kales, Spider Plant (Saga), African Nightshade (Managu), onions, carrots and coriander. 20 caregivers were also supported with hybrid maize and fertilizer. Through the support, the families were able to get food for their children thus improving on their nutritional status, with the surplus harvest being sold to cater for other family needs.

*Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Training*

The CV Trained 28 (16 from FSP and 12 from SFC) youth on sexual and reproductive health rights. They were taken through sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy prevention, sex education and sexuality, personal hygiene and managing interpersonal relationships.

*Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Support*

The program supports both caregivers and youth to pursue Technical, Vocational Educational and Training (TVET). Three female youth have since graduated from certificates courses in ECD education, hairdressing and biomedical engineering respectively, during the year. Additionally, 9 youth and one caregiver have been supported with tuition fees to undertake different vocational courses.

*Child rights promotion*

In the year under review, the program trained members of three child rights clubs in public primary schools on rights and responsibilities as enshrined in the UNCRC, Children’s Act and Constitution. They were supported to sensitize their peers in their schools on the same with the aim of reaching out to many children on awareness on their rights, hence improving prevention of violation and reducing incidences of child abuse within the community.

81 people including Village Elders, members of the Area Advisory Council (AAC) and Community Management Committee (CMC) were also trained on Child Protection and Documentation of Cases by the Family Strengthening Coordinator and a Children’s Officer from the Department of Children Services. The training focused on their roles and responsibilities in child protection, documentation of cases, existing legal frameworks and available services in child protection. At the end of the training, action plans were developed by the participants and all agreed to carry out the activities they pointed out with the guidance and oversight of the appointed village elder Chairman and the AAC Chair for the Locational AAC groups.

### *Uasin Gishu County Day of African Child Celebrations*

SOS children's villages Eldoret took part in celebrating the Day of African held at Sosiani Primary school with other stakeholders within the county. 47 children drawn from Family strengthening and SOS Family Care participating in the celebrations. The children had presentations for the day and they listened to speeches from the speakers present. The presentations were about the African child and it was evident that the children have knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

### **Strategic Initiative 3: Empower young people**

*Youth placement in colleges and internships* - The eleven youth who completed their high school education in 2018 went ahead to make college applications and they were placed by KUCCPS to pursue careers of their choices. Among them, eight are studying certificate courses and two are studying Diploma courses. Two students, who completed their studies at the HGIC in 2018, were admitted at the Nelson Mandela University and United States International University (USIU) and are progressing well with their studies. In addition, two students in TVET also proceeded for their industrial attachment during the reporting period.

*Third Edition of the Youth Summit and Alumni meeting*- Eldoret location hosted the annual youth forum during the year. More than 121 participants drawn from the five locations attended the event. The 5-day event included motivational talks, a clean-up exercise, focus group discussions, a trip to Lake Bogoria and action planning. The youth had an interactive session with the different facilitators as well as with the National Director. They learnt the importance of having their priorities right in life and they set personal goals on how to improve their lives.

A meeting of the location's care leavers was held in Eldoret in the reporting period. During the meeting, the care leavers received information on global shifts in childcare programs; programs running in SOS CV Kenya; the different forms of care under the UN Guidelines and National Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children; the changes affecting the organization and the need to have the care leavers form a formal entity to help themselves, engage in advocacy on care reforms and related issues and engage the MA in a more structured manner. The care leavers nominated interim officials for the location and developed a work plan for implementation.

*Life Skills Training for reintegration* - 22 youth in colleges took part in a day long training to prepare them for transition. They were highly and effectively prepared to focus on key areas of their lives even as they get ready to exit the program in the next few years. The focus was to help the young people to build realistic and lasting relationships with the members of the community and their relatives, handling exit anxiety, learning to communicate their needs effectively, and managing resources at their disposal among other key skills. They were also encouraged to take up short course offered by the government besides their core courses since most of our youth are undertaking TVET courses, which go hand in hand with careers.

In addition to the training, nine youth in colleges moved into a semi-independent living as a step towards their transition. These youth have so far learnt skills in financial management and decision making which gives them

the confidence to live within the community. While, nine other youth were successfully resettled into the community following the completion of their studies.

#### *Youth education performance and graduation*

In the course of the year, the youth in colleges were able to sit for their end of semester examinations as well as the major national examinations that marked transition to another module or level. Their performance in these examinations was above average for most of them with seven obtaining credit, one student having a retake and one failing in the exam. Further, Six youth also graduated in colourful ceremonies in Kenya, while two others graduated from the HGIC in Ghana.

#### *Education - KCPE and KCSE Analysis*

In 2019, thirteen children from SOS Family Care sat for KCPE exams, which marked the end of Primary Education. 69% (9) scored 250 marks and above; with scoring more than 300 marks. 11 sat KCSE during the year and as at the time of reporting their scores had not been received.

#### *DIP and Middle Year Program (MYP)*

During the year, three youth from the location were recruited for the DIP programme after sitting and passing the Baseline exams. On the other hand, two other youth sat for the entrance exam into the Middle Years Program (MYP) and passed with an average of 63% and 60%; this gained them admission into the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) program for the year 2019/2020. In addition, 2 others completed their IB Diploma examinations and graduated mid in the year under review. Furthermore, one of the CV youth earned a place as a full diploma student to pursue a two-year international Baccalaureate diploma course at SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College after passing with a distinction.

#### *Improved academic performance*

In an effort to improve academic performance, a study program for CV children and youth was conducted in the evening and during school holidays. The target group was primary and secondary school students. 83 children in primary school and 50 youth in secondary school benefited from the activity. The primary school children had holiday homework books which assisted them revise the work covered in school under the supervision of the SOS parent while some of the high school students formed study groups.

Remedial classes were conducted for candidate classes during the school holidays. The target group was 13 Std. 8 candidates and 11 form 4 candidates. They were assisted by the HGS teachers in revising work covered in previous classes. The participants remarked that it was beneficial as they were able to do plenty of revision work hence; they are adequately prepared to sit for the national exams to be held in October and November.

## 4.5 Kisumu CV

### Overview

The Kisumu CV is tucked on the hilly slopes of Riat in the lakeside city of Kisumu. The CV supports 15 families with a total of 145 children (77 girls and 68 boys).

### Strategic Initiative 1: Innovative Childcare

*Re-integration of children to their families of origin* – The CV began the preparation process for the integration of children to their families of origin. A sensitization exercise was conducted during the celebration of SOS Day where parents of children under SOS Family Care program were present. Further, the CV conducted psycho-social support for children whose houses were targeted for re-integration. The support will continue till such a time when the children will be comfortable and willing to re-integrate with their families of origin. Lastly, the CV has collaborated with Agape Children Ministries, an organization that has been conducting integration of children in the community, to support the CV in the process of re-integration.

*Certification training for SOS parents* – during the period under review, 10 SOS parents and care givers were trained and certified by Daystar University. The CV Alternative Care Coordinator attended a Fair Start training aimed at improving the well-being of employees as well as children and youth by providing practical methods and tools for the daily tasks of caregivers. 10 caregivers identified for kinship and Foster care were trained on the 7 modules of the Fair start training. This will give them the opportunity to support other children within the community and to support other parents who are doing fostering or kinship care within the community. The Alternative care manager conducted a training for CV care givers/parents and staff. The training covered; SOS Care Promise, Case Management, reintegration, Gate keeping, Alternative Care Options, Physical relocation into the community, Improving mothers working condition, child sponsorship new dimensions, and CS Audit.

### Strategic Initiative 3: Empower young people

*Life skills* – Youth and children in the Village received various life skills sessions in the reporting period. During the first and second term school holidays, 50 youth and 60 children were taken through problem solving, decision making and handling peer pressure sessions. This was possible through partnership with Impact Kenya. Additionally, 50 youths were trained on financial literacy with an emphasis on establishing a saving culture. 12 youths have completed various YALI online courses after being introduced to the platform. One of the youths applied for Talent and Nurturing scholarship on the same platform. The YALI platform offers courses such as understanding rights of women and girls, understanding human rights, fundamental of business, strategy to personal growth and transparency and governance. The facility, through partnership with Come Initiative (a talent development organisation) conducted three sessions for CV children. Among the talents nurtured during these sessions were: drawing, music, drama and the spoken word. Further, 50 youth were taken through a session of career identification and development. This session came at an opportune time as some of the youth who had completed secondary school were able to identify courses to apply for in college while others in secondary school (the majority) had an opportunity to select courses that would introduce them to careers of choice. This was also

emphasised by the immediate former Principal of Kisumu Boys School who gave all grade 6 to form 4 students a talk on career guidance and counselling, academic performance, positive discipline and individual counselling.

The new education curriculum emphasises growing a holistic individual; part of the curriculum prescriptions is community service learning. During the half term break, 46 (21 female and 25 males) youths from the facility took part in cleaning the deliverance church near the village.

*National Youth summit* – 17 youth from the facility attended the third National Youth Summit; the summit that was held in Eldoret brought together youth from all MA locations. During the summit, youth were taken through life skills, Sexual, and reproductive health sessions; they also got an opportunity to air their views and participate in community service exercise.

*Mentor ME initiative* – Youth from the facility were introduced to the Mentor ME initiative; sessions held were the beginning of a journey that would see the youth identify and strengthen areas for personal growth. SOS CV Kenya alumni from Mombasa facilitated the session.

*Career development* – All the youth from the CV participated in an exchange visit to Moi University. The visit was aimed at providing youth with tertiary education experience, expose them to careers and the courses pursued to attain the same. The youth were guided on course entry requirements including the demystification of the subject clustering and points required to access the courses. Additionally, the youth were sensitized on TVET education by the Technical training Institute head from Nairobi.

*Youth care professionals meeting* – 4 youth officers from the CV held a meeting to review the youth care guide as well as address youth issues encountered in their work. The Alternative Care Coordinator who facilitated in the review of the youth care guide graced the meeting. The meeting also deliberated on issues that need to be well captured in the guide to ensure a conducive environment for youth work in the MA; among the issues proposed for further consideration were youth development, participation, care, education and capacity development, health and after care.

*The Next Economy Project* – during the period under review, completion of TNE batch 2 core life skills training. 111 participants completed the training. Of the 111, 35 completed the employability training with 18 being placed on internship while 33 completed the entrepreneurship training. The training sessions were complemented by coaching sessions that were conducted to both individuals and groups.

Youth coaches also conducted visits to corporates to establish internship and job opportunities for youth. Additionally, the coaches hosted prospective corporate institutions for breakfast in a bid to secure internship and placement opportunities.

The TNE project ended at the close of the period under review, the close out meeting that conducted an evaluation of the project was conducted in Naivasha. The evaluation sort to document challenges, successes and lesson

learnt during the implementation of the project. The meeting ended with a graduation ceremony of youth who had completed batch one and two cycles of the program.

### **Busia Integrated Child Care Programme and Suba OVC Support Programme**

The Kisumu CV and PD support these two satellite programmes with the Busia programme serving 1,032 child and youth beneficiaries in different alternative care settings with a range of services including education, food, economic strengthening, shelter, child protection and psychosocial support during the year. On the other hand, the EGPAF-funded OVC support programme supported 5,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children with essential services including education, health, psychosocial support, child protection, economic strengthening, shelter and food.

### **Conclusion**

The MA wishes to sincerely thank the Partner Supporting Associations (especially Denmark and Netherlands); the IOR; Institutional donors (including DFID, EGPAF, University of Maryland); numerous individual and corporate sponsors; community stakeholders; the Government of Kenya; SOS CV Kenya Board of Trustees; staff; caregivers; care-leavers; child and youth participants for their undying financial, material, technical and other support towards serving children with inadequate parental care in Kenya.