




## Back to the future

### Innovating Beyond Traditional Child & Youth Care Practices





## The SOS Children's Village Programme



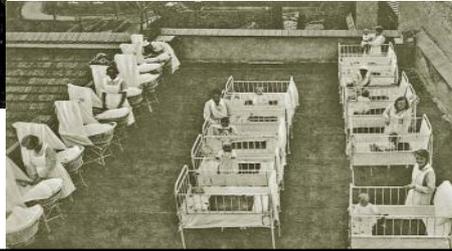
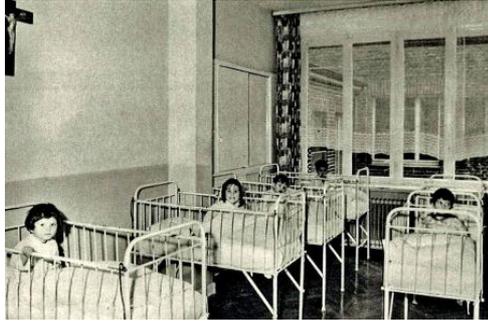
- ❑ How the SOS Children's Village started: **context**
  
- Innsbruck,  
Maria Theresien Strasse  
1945
  
- Post WW II context
  
- People from the community:  
deeply affected by the situation  
of children & motivated to do  
something



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
SOUTH AFRICA

## The SOS Children's Village Programme

How the SOS Children's Village started: **assessment**



- Large orphanages
- No constant reference person/ attachment figure
- Separation of siblings
- Gender segregation



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## Background to SOS Children's Villages

- The SOS model has been successfully replicated in over 134 countries globally
- The replication has often been more in terms of **physical set-up** rather than in the **approach to the development** of the programme
- SOS is now keeping the proverbial **"finger on the pulse"** of the **situation of children** and **adapting** the programme accordingly, aiming at making the **"best possible response"** and so achieve the **"greatest impact"** possible in the lives of children
- SOS challenged to move beyond our **so-called comfort zone** & try **new ways** of working



**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SOUTH AFRICA** **Innovating in line with changing external environment**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SOUTH AFRICA** **Implementing the UN guidelines**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ALTERNATIVE CARE OF CHILDREN**  
A United Nations framework

Governments from all regions are implementing the UN guidelines

The **“best interests principle”** determines the appropriate care option for a child

**Promoting parental care**  
Empower vulnerable families to care for children themselves

**Range of care options – For children requiring alternative care – formal & informal**

A pool of accredited foster carers in each locality

Residential care – small and in a setting as close as possible to a family or small group

Where large residential care facilities (institutional) remain, alternatives should be developed



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## Implementing the UN guidelines

### UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

- **Case-by case responses** – for families and children
- A range of **quality alternative care options**
- Is it necessary to take the child into care?
- Is the setting appropriate (quality individualized care) and from a range of possible options?



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## Implementing the UN guidelines

### UN Guidelines Principles

**1.Necessity:** Any decision to remove a child from his/her family should be a measure of last resort

**2.Appropriateness:** If it is necessary to place a child in alternative care, the setting chosen suits the situation and needs of the particular child

### SOS programme principles

1.Our focus is on child development within a caring family environment

1.Social support networks for children & their families are strengthened

2.The **best interests** of the child forms the basis for all decisions & actions

3.Children are **involved in finding solutions** to the challenges they face in their lives



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## Implementing the UN guidelines

### Care System Reform (more than De-I)

- Develop alternatives (a systems approach)
  - Kinship and extended family
  - Formal fostering
  - Small group residential
- Range of appropriate options (not a hierarchy)
  - To ensure case-specific responses



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## Learning, Involving and Leading

- Sustainable strategy encourages new forms of care models
- Funding models changing

- Governments, UN and others are influencing
- Consistent with SOS strategy
- New co-worker generation

**Evolution**

- ❑ SOS challenged to quickly do things differently
- ❑ Adapt to environment

**Building use, quality, staffing, education, health, partners and monitoring?**



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## Implementing the UN guidelines

- The situation of children is the starting point for developing a programme  
(Tools: Programme self-assessments, CRSA & the feasibility studies)
  - The SOS Innovation approach doesn't  
look at closing of the CYCC's
- There is need to reflect on existing responses and come up with most  
relevant and effective responses to the needs of young people.
  - We make efforts to reduce institutional  
features of child and youth care

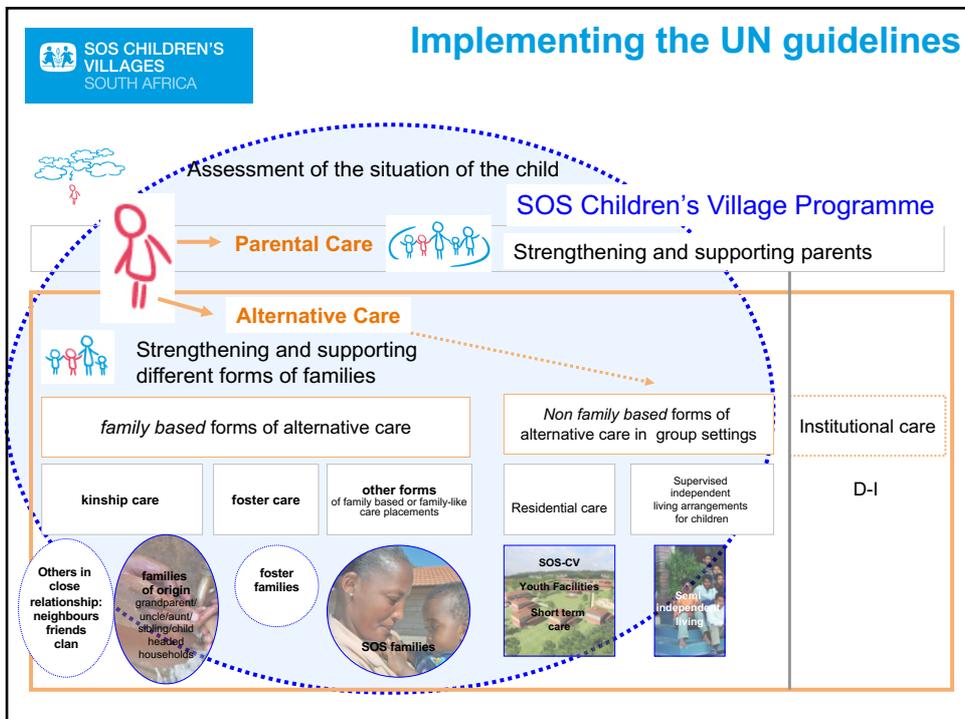
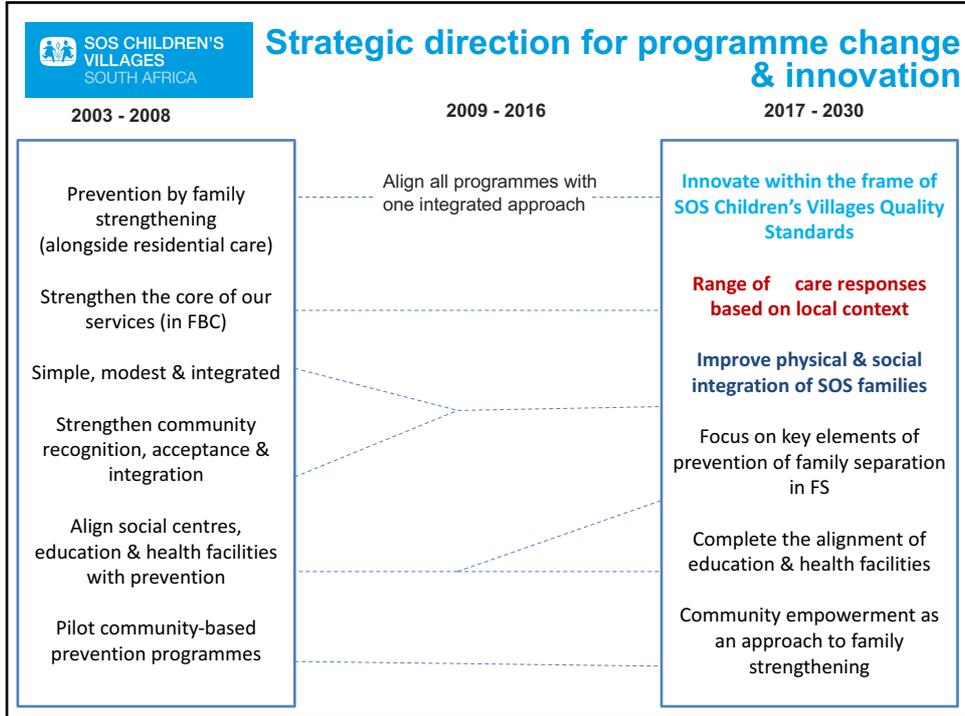


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## Innovating beyond CYC practices

### De-institutionalization:

- SOS supports the global drive to de-institutionalize
- We broaden our range of care options and improve community integration.
- Our residential CYCC's remain at the core of our strategy going forward.
- **Do you see any institutional features in your CYC model, and what can  
you do to correct this ?**





## Alternative CYC Innovations

We contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals

- Prevent family separation and ensure quality alternative care



**We develop and** implement a range of care responses. This includes **SOS quality foster care**, that better balances cost and quality, and alternative care models

We innovate within the frame of SOS quality standards and

- a) improve the **physical and social integration** of children and young people in the community
- b) promote modern and **gender-sensitive programme practices**.

We deepen integration in order to **increase impact** on children's lives. We grow alternative care where the need is greatest & **form partnerships**



## Avenues towards improving integration of SOS families

**SOCIAL INTEGRATION**

- Done in conjunction with physical integration of **SOS families into the community** or;
- Whilst SOS families are still living within the classic children's village / CYCC

**PHYSICAL INTEGRATION**

- SOS families living in existing community rather than in classic Village/CYCC
- Opening up the CYCC setting to allow for **integration with neighbouring community**
- Decisions based on **assessments** and **quality considerations** and **costs**

## Physical & Social integration

### BENEFITS OF INTEGRATION

- Promotes the principle of **“normalisation”**
- Improved integration of children in the local community
- Greater engagement of children and SOS families in their development & that of the family
- Stronger partnerships with other stakeholders (**government, NGO's & community organisations**)
- Increased autonomy of SOS CYCW's – there is **real benefit** to the child when the CYCW is **fully responsible** for the care of the child (**and not the organisation**)

## Strategy 2030





# The SOS Children's Village Programme

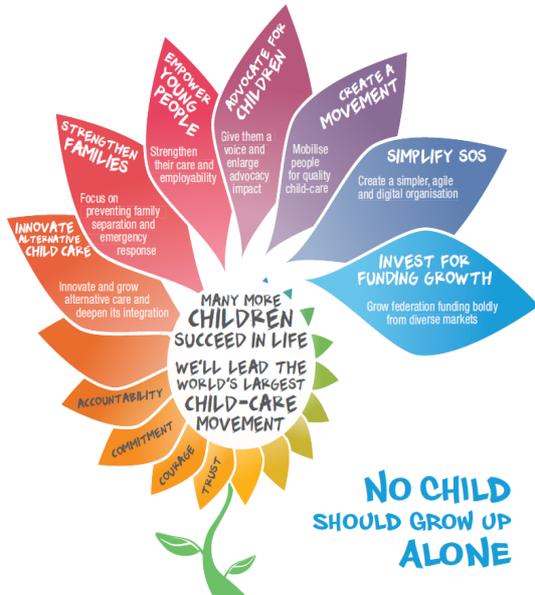


It takes a village to raise a child

Adapt, maintain uniqueness and increase our leadership and impact on millions of children lacking suitable parental care



# Thank you



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