



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
MAURITIUS

NO CHILD SHOULD GROW UP ALONE

NEWSLETTER 2021
Issue No. 13

Chairperson's Message



In our SPECIAL COVID-19 Newsletter of May 2021, we had the opportunity of apprising you of how we, at SOS Children's Villages Mauritius are coping with the upheaval brought about by the current pandemic. The health and safety of the children who are under our care and of our programme staff continue to be a priority; our SOS families are staying safe. High standards have been set in terms of sanitary and safety measures. In addition, outbreaks of contamination are managed and monitored according to guidelines of the authorities.

We are also responding to the social and psychological impact of the pandemic on our children and young people. The Board of directors and myself value and recognise the hard work of our management team to put in place a series of initiatives, in order to occupy usefully the children and young people in our family like settings. In addition to provision of remedial classes, to compensate for the limited hours of formal education, special attention is being paid to the holistic mental health well-being of the children and young people.

Moreover, our Family Strengthening team has also been, actively, bringing assistance within the community. Our aim is to continue giving support to vulnerable children and preventing these children from being separated of their biological family. We can be proud of these achievements especially in providing assistance to children in need of educational support and basic necessities.

Management and our programme staff have been working relentlessly in the difficult circumstances, generated by the pandemic. The Board and I, thank them for their commitment to the cause we have all undertaken and which we all serve with passion and dedication.

Whatever we have achieved for the children and young people has been made possible with the generous assistance and support of our sponsors and friends of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius and in my own name, I thank and wish all our benefactors and well-wishers of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius a happy and safe festive season and a very happy new year.

Ms. Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong (Retired Judge)
Chairperson – SOS Children's Villages Mauritius

What we do

When children can no longer live with their families, we work with communities and state partners to provide children with loving and supportive alternative care.

We work with children, families, communities and states to prevent family breakdown and ensure that children's rights are met.

Child Protection is Everybody's Business

WHAT WE DO

Prevent cases of child abuse and reducing the number of incidents in our facilities and programmes.

Making Child aware of their rights and their active role in child protection.

Inform children, co-workers, board members, family and community members, volunteers and partners about the child protection policy and related procedures (awareness, prevention, reporting, responding).

Encourage co-workers directly involved with children to apply the skills needed to contribute to each child's development and protection.

Foster open and honest discussions on child abuse in national meetings and workshops in all programmes and facilities amongst all stakeholders.

Put in place fair, secure and transparent reporting channels in all types of programmes that guarantee the right of stakeholders to be heard.

Forming an active network of protection so that all children and adults in our organisation are safe and protected

SOS Children's Villages is committed to creating and maintaining a caring and protective environment which promotes its core values, and prevents and addresses child abuse and exploitation. In order to ensure Child Safeguarding, SOS Children's Villages Mauritius is guided and abides to SOS Children's Villages Child Protection Policy, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and local law.

Why is Child Protection important?

We aim at giving quality care to children within our facilities and programmes. Child abuse and neglect can be 100% preventable with proper training, resource person, implication of all stakeholders, monitoring, awareness campaigns and adequate programme response.

Studies have showed that Child abuse and neglect, can be disastrous in the personality construction of the child. For some it can become a severe trauma, while for others it may affect their self-esteem and their life decisions. For example, 95% of sexual abuse perpetrators, were themselves victims of sexual abuse during their childhood.

Our Programme team provides holistic support to victims of Child abuse. Child Safeguarding tools like Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Audit allow us to mitigate risks and strengthen our organisational structure, from a Child Protection perspective.

Challenges

Ensuring Child Protection can be very challenging! COVID-19 has caused a lot of instability around the world since two years and SOS facilities have been facing many challenges like lockdown, isolation, home schooling, etc. Instability causes frustration, which causes abuses.

Recruitment of caregivers is one of our major challenges, and some are not fully educated to understand concepts like child psychology, child abuse, adolescent phase, etc. Consequently, this may cause conflict, ill treatment and child abuse.

Children who are committed to our residential care institutions already have post-traumatic issues. Some of them show many challenging behaviours, due to their social and family background, or psychological/psychiatric problems. Adding to that, adolescent phase and life in community, Child Protection is a real challenge.

Child Rights and Child Participation

It is primordial for children to know their rights in order to be active stakeholders of Child Protection. Trainings are given to children regarding their rights and responsibilities. Furthermore, platforms like Children Council and Youth Council allow children and young people to have a voice, be part of decision making and participate in village and community activities.

Dear friends of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius,

Welcome to the thirteen edition of our Newsletter!



It has been almost two years since we felt the first impact of the coronavirus. The fragile sanitary environment, full of uncertainties, has put our resources under extreme stress. Our programme responses and operations have been rethinking to fit the 'new normal'.

Throughout this journey, our mission, vision and values inspire the people who work with us to deliver on our promise to keep children and young people safe.

Without the courage of our dedicated team, we would have not succeeded in giving the most suitable pedagogical and psychosocial responses to more than 90 children entrusted to us by the Child Development Unit (CDU) in our SOS Family Like Settings, and to more than 700 children (250 families) through our Family Strengthening programme, living in pockets of poverty.

It is to be noted that, during the year, families living in the communities (Family Strengthening programme) are struggling in meeting their basic needs. The economic situation prevailing in the country and the need to stay with their children at home (no physical presence at school) have largely affected their financial conditions. Consequently, the distribution of more than 100 food vouchers to needy families has consolidated their access to appropriate material support and basic needs, motivating them on their path to become self-reliant.

Education is a fundamental right to children as guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC article 28(1)). In the Annual report 2020 - 2021, the Ombudsperson for Children, recognised the contribution of our Educational and Learning Centre (ELC) in delivering quality early childhood education to more than 80 children from deprived locations of Curepipe.

The degree of mental, psychosocial and emotional stability of a child will influence the success and timeframe of our pedagogical interventions. That is why, following an engagement and interventions assessment, we offer therapeutic interventions (psychosocial support, counselling, communication dynamics, art therapy, hyperactivity solutions, yoga, family therapy) to children, young people and families. The therapeutic experiences revealed to improve the self-esteem, concentration, resilience and positive attitude of participants, enabling them to face life challenges with a new dream.

Child Safeguarding and the child's best interest are at the centre of our organisational culture! Therefore, we are focusing in building a strong and resilient frame for a secure environment as a key motivator to influence the pedagogical impact on our programme participants. During the year, one of our Programme staff, has been trained by SOS Children's Villages International to facilitate the on job capacity building of our caregivers. The expected set of skills ranges from house management to conflict management aiming at addressing the needs of children and young people. With the increasing number of young people (more than 50%) in our SOS Family-like Settings, it is vital that our caregivers are well equipped to accompany this shift from children needs to adolescents needs. The implementation of our youth empowerment programme by experience staff will continue to guide them towards their independent living.

Moreover, following strict Covid-19 health and safety procedures, we have put in place mechanisms ensuring that the voices of children and young people are heard. The success of our programme interventions, in our family-like settings, rely on the high level of participation of our children and young people. Thus, we will continue to respect the uniqueness of each child and young people by offering the tailor made pedagogical and psychosocial approach that they deserve.

There is still a long road ahead, questions to be answered and situations to confront. Despite this, our enthusiasm and our capacity for work are undiminished. We are convinced that we can only move forward by adapting to the new reality and by promoting sustainable change. And to do so, the participation of each and every one of you is essential.

My team and I would like to thank every one of you for the commitment and dedication you have shown in the pursuit of guaranteeing our promise of care.

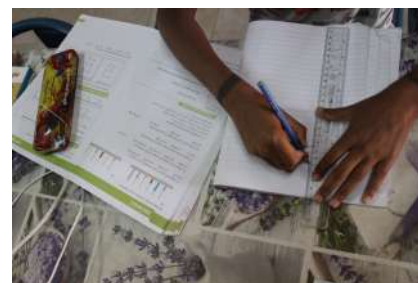
**Christiano Arlanda - Deputy Managing Director
SOS Children's Villages Mauritius**

Impact du Covid-19 sur notre système éducatif...



Ces deux dernières années ont eu un impact avec des conséquences sur notre système éducatif. Nos enfants n'ont pas été épargnés non plus. Le confinement était une nouveauté au sein de la communauté, et personne ne connaissait les retombées, que ce soit physique ou mentale, qui allaient déjouer notre quotidien. Les premières semaines, tous les enfants sont restés confinés dans leur maison respective, sans heure de jeu ou de sortie dans le village comme nous n'étions pas préparés pour l'étape suivante : le confinement et la suite.

Connaissant nos bénéficiaires et les problèmes socio-émotionnels rattachés à leur personne, ils n'allaient pas tenir longtemps entre les quatre murs sans activités. Avec l'équipe de programme, nous avons planifié une certaine routine dans le village afin de permettre aux enfants mais aussi aux mamans SOS de pouvoir souffler hors de la maison. De l'activité physique pendant les heures de jeu aux heures éducatives, une planification énorme était de rigueur. Les enfants en primaire pouvaient suivre au quotidien leurs programmes éducatifs. Pour ceux au secondaire, la tâche s'annonçait difficile car nous ne possédions pas assez d'outils informatiques. Les devoirs arrivaient via WhatsApp, Google Classroom ou Edmodo. Nous avons dû nous improviser en enseignants pour assurer la prise en charge de nos grands. Nous avons mis sur place des classes de rattrapage pour ceux qui allaient prendre part aux examens de classement national ou international et dans l'après-midi pour les premières années au collège. La motivation et l'enthousiasme étaient présents. Nous avons pratiqué les mathématiques, la lecture, la dictée, la grammaire, les verbes et les tables de multiplication. Nous avons eu une bonne participation et une réelle motivation pour suivre les cours en présentiel. Les devoirs maison étaient faits pour le lendemain sans aucune protestation.



La reprise des écoles fut différemment que d'habitude, des jours alternés de classes. Même avec ce changement, les enfants étaient tous excités à l'idée de sortir du village. La compréhension était de mise car même les adultes avaient besoin d'un bol d'air frais en dehors de leur maison. Même si les écoles étaient ouvertes, la situation était compliquée, avec des jours alternés de classes en présentiel. Les cas augmentaient et la situation devenait préoccupante quand nous devions isoler certaines maisons car nos enfants étaient en contact avec des enfants positifs à la COVID-19.

Fermeture des écoles...

Quelques semaines de cela, les écoles fermèrent leurs portes en raison de l'augmentation des cas auprès des élèves et le personnel éducatif. Les classes en ligne reprurent de nouveau. Après avoir pris en considération la durée et la qualité du programme télévisé, nous avons décidé que la meilleure solution était d'avoir des classes en présentiel pour les enfants. Comme l'école maternelle et le « Education and Learning Centre » de SOS Villages d'Enfants Maurice étaient fermés, nous avons demandé la participation des éducateurs afin de pouvoir combler le vide encouru pendant la période de confinement.



Les petits des premières années de primaire ont été envoyés dans notre centre à Curepipe tout en respectant les protocoles sanitaires en vigueur : trois journées par semaine avec des classes formelles et non-formelles, tout en mélangeant jeu et éducation. Comme ils sont en petits groupes, les enfants peuvent avoir une attention particulière pendant les heures de classe.

Les grands des classes primaires peuvent quant à eux suivre les cours à la télé et ensuite ont des leçons de rattrapage avec nos intervenantes éducatives. Une attention spéciale est accordée aux élèves de grade 6 pour leur examen final. Avec l'aide de DHL et l'équipe du programme de renforcement de la famille (Family Strengthening programme) de SOS Villages d'Enfants Maurice, nous avons pu acheter des tablettes que nous avons mis à la disposition des grands. Les tablettes sont munies de carte puce individuelle et disposent de toutes les applications nécessaires pour les cours en ligne. Nos grands enfants sont totalement autonomes quant à leur classe et les horaires. Ils possèdent beaucoup de ressources et s'adaptent facilement à la situation. Cependant, une supervision constante est de rigueur. Les enfants aux besoins spéciaux ont aussi été pris en considération avec des classes en ligne mais aussi des accompagnements personnalisés avec nos intervenants. Autant que possible, nous avons trouvé une solution pour que tout le monde puisse accéder à l'éducation mais nous sentons un manque dans nos services et nos demandes. Nous voulons être totalement équipés en terme d'outils et d'infrastructures informatiques : acquisition d'ordinateur portable, tablettes et des imprimantes professionnelles afin que nos enfants soient plus autonomes pour les devoirs, les recherches en ligne ou d'autres services éducatifs. Sur une autre note, le besoin d'accompagnateur éducatif est primordial afin de pouvoir soutenir nos enfants. Nous savons que nos enfants sont très demandeurs et avoir des accompagnateurs en petit groupe sera plus efficace comme solution hélas, trouver des enseignants pour travailler avec nos bénéficiaires est une rude épreuve de nos jours.

Sailendra Veerappa
Psychologue développemental
SOS Villages d'Enfants Maurice

A new way of learning...

It's been a tough year for everyone but with the beautiful smile on the children's faces come hope. Despite the difficult year, we have been working hard to ensure children and young people get the support they need to continue to go to kindergarten, school or training and take part in other activities.

Children and young people are busy studying at home in this time of pandemic. *Steve, one of the young boy, really enjoys online classes because it allows him to stay connected with his teachers and school friends. *'I have to concentrate instead of just listening! My teachers always ask questions to know if I have well understood!'* says Steve.

*Ken, 16-year-old, is doing a course in refrigeration and air-conditioning. He wakes up early and gets ready for the online courses that starts at 8.00 a.m. *'I enjoy using tablets. I can sit down in the village yard...relax and follow the courses!'* he laughs. Ken puts lots of effort and commitment in his studies.

The children are adapting themselves with the new methods of learning. *'I have online classes every day! At school, I raise my hands to answer! Now I have to unmute the microphone and talk!'* *Romeo smiles.

If goes without saying that the children and young people are exploring the full potential of online learning technology!

Celebration of the World Children's Day!



World Children's Day is celebrated on 20th November each year. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). It is a key opportunity to celebrate children as rights holders and a day to promote their social and emotional well-being!



The World's Children's Day is an important annual celebration at SOS Children's Villages. This year's theme for the World Children's Day 2021 was "A better future for every child." On that day, various activities were organised at SOS Children's Village Beau Bassin and Bambous to mark this special day

The children also featured their art on the exterior wall of the hall. They drew beautiful flowers, put their handprints and wrote some of their rights like health, education, home, food and love. The day continued with some music and refreshment! The beautiful art displayed on the wall reminds us that every child has the right to develop to his full potential, to quality education, participation and non-discrimination.



The children were sensitised on their rights. They drew pictures, recited poems, played fun games, danced and wrote their rights on a piece of paper which they hung on a wish tree.



The children and young people have featured their art on the wall

First trip in the metro!

'Next station! Next station!' *Tom could not stop telling his friend *Alexis while playing.

It was a first and unforgettable journey in the light rail for Tom and his SOS brothers. During the trip, Tom kept asking question to his SOS mother as he wanted to know more how the vehicle operates. The children really enjoyed their trip in metro while admiring the landscape around.

Since the opening of the Metro Express stations in Mauritius, a number of children had fun going on outings using this new means of transport.

SOS Children's Villages in Mauritius celebrates founder's day - SOS DAY

SOS Children's Villages worldwide Organisation started in Imst, Austria, where Hermann Gmeiner founded the first SOS Children's Village in 1949. He was committed to helping children in need - children who had lost their parents, their security and their families as a result of the Second World War.

With the support of donors and collaborators, the organisation has expanded to help children all over the world. Today, SOS Children's Villages is supporting thousands of needy children, young people and families in 136 countries and territories. Our care solutions include alternative care, aftercare, family strengthening, advocacy and partnership for quality care.

On June 23, SOS Children's Villages in Mauritius joined the rest of the world in celebrating 'SOS Day' in honour of the 102nd birth anniversary of the founder Hermann Gmeiner.

With warm applauds, the children and young people of the village choir showed up on stage with a song on child's right. The day continued with a short play adapted to the story of SOS Children's Villages. The children also presented their SOS family-like model through drawings on Bristol paper and explained how the SOS values shape their family life. It was an afternoon full of joy where everyone left the celebration feeling uplifted by the talents of the children and happy to have paid tribute to the founder.



Hermann Gmeiner - founder of SOS Children's Villages



"I wish you a Happy Mother's Day. I sometimes did some little mischiefs but you were always by my side. I hope you will forget it.... I thank you mum for your care and love."

Mother's Day Celebration

There is an old saying that 'a mother's work is never done'. Like most mothers around the world, SOS mothers experience highs and lows, face challenges and overcome them, enjoy happy memories but remember the sad ones too. For many, their work at SOS Children's Villages goes beyond the call of duty. It continues even after the children move out of their SOS family.

At SOS Children's Village Beau Bassin and Bambous the children expressed their love to their SOS mothers by doing handmade cards.

*Jenna, aged 14, dedicated a poem to her SOS mother: 'Dear mum...I wish you a Happy Mother's Day. I sometimes did some little mischiefs but you were always by my side. I hope you will forget it.... I thank you mum for your care and love.'



Handmade cards crafted by the children!



The benefits of art therapy!

This is a safe and creative area for children! The environment is peaceful and inspiring. Enter into Ti-Kaban and you will see the children busy doing a jewelry box from recycling materials! Ti-kaban is the name chosen by the children for the art therapy class.

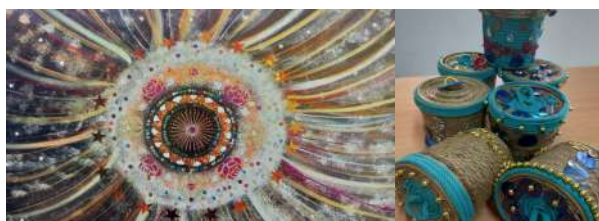
The Art therapy class targets children with learning disabilities, those who have behavioural or social problems and those who experienced a traumatic past. Moreover, besides the creative and developmental part of the activity, the Art therapist also works on the emotions of the children. As a result, it becomes a place where children feel secured and at peace. Ti-kaban is, therefore, a safe bubble for children to explore and heal from their past traumas, boost their self-esteems and shape their emotions and identity construction positively.

In addition to Art therapy, activities like kickboxing, yoga and Early Childhood Development (ECD) are part of our therapeutic project. These few activities allow the children to concentrate on specific development of

competencies, and also work on specific psychological related issues.

It is to be mentioned that our project is linked with the United Nations Guidelines for the alternative care of children. Along with existing therapeutic activities, we are now aiming at new interventions related to the mind and the body. Therefore, a sensory house project, which will explore the senses like use of sound, aromatherapy, touch, lights, sounds and pottery will be set up.

To conclude we can proudly say that we are now observing the benefits of those therapeutic activities on our children, in terms of communication skills, socialisation skills, self-esteem and happiness.



Drawing on canvas and jewelry boxes made by the children during Art therapy sessions!

'Now I will be able to give a natural home remedies if someone does not feel well! It's free of charge!'

The miraculous benefits of medicinal plants...



Have you ever thought of having your own garden with plants of medicinal value? *Sakha, 15-year-old, has decided to set up a medicinal garden with the help of his SOS siblings.

'They are just right there! You can use them for medicinal purposes!' says Sakha to everyone who visits her medicinal herb garden. In the small garden, you will see herbs like

Ayapana, turmeric, ginger, broadleaf plantain and citronella.

Having a medicinal garden in the village is a sense of accomplishment for the children. They want to educate their friends about the miraculous benefits of those plants and how to use them!

'Now I will be able to give a natural home remedies if someone does not feel well! It's free of charge!' smiles Sakha the group leader of this medicinal gardening project. The children are determined to make their garden flourish!

Thanks to all donors for planting a tree of hope in the life of all the children and young people at SOS Children's Villages in Mauritius!

FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

SOS Children's Villages works to help families stay together.

Besides alternative care for children who have lost parental care, SOS Family Care Programme operates as a hub to support vulnerable children and prevent Child abandonment through the Family Strengthening programme.

From counselling to skills development, parents are empowered with the resources they need to overcome their difficulties.

More than
500 children...
↓
60 young people
↓
700 families ...
received regular
support this year

Empowering Families

Distribution of food vouchers and hygiene kits to beneficiaries of the Family Strengthening programme

More than 100 families living in difficult situations have received food vouchers and hygiene kits during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Parents and young people were also supported through regular counselling and mentoring through WhatsApp and regular phone calls by the SOS social Workers.

Since November 2021, some 50 new families were registered in the programme.



A place to call Home

Cindy and Jean Philippe have recently faced many life challenges including financial problems. They were renting a house in a locality where social scourge reigned. This was their day-to-day, as well as many other members of the locality. In these conditions, Cindy and her husband found it very difficult to run their month and provide adequate care to their five children. However, sacrifices and support from the Family Strengthening (FS) programme brought light to the family. Cindy and Jean Philippe now have their own house. Thanks to the FS and their collaborators, the family of Jean Philippe is now so proud to have a place to call home!

'The feeling of becoming the owner of your own house is just so amazing', states Cindy.



Cindy, Jean Philippe and their children

Youth employability

Job-specific, technological and language skills are needed in the job market nowadays!

Through the Family Strengthening programme, SOS Children's Villages Mauritius supports young people in finding job opportunities and enabling them to move ahead for their professional lives.

Emilien and Danilo, two beneficiaries of the Family Strengthening programme are looking forward completing their ICT training with the support of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius!



Emilien and Danilo pose with the Deputy Managing Director of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius

All children should have the right to go to school and acquire the skills they need to become independent...

The Day of the African Child is celebrated every year on 16 June.

It honours those who participated in the Soweto uprising in 1976 on that day.

It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children.

This year's theme was "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children."

DAY OF AFRICAN CHILD

In June 2021, SOS Children's Villages Mauritius was amongst the countries selected to participate in the continental forum organised by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). Congratulations to Laurel for her online participation in the ACERWC. She made a nice speech on 'equal opportunities for all' and 'child rights'. Laurel and her family are beneficiaries of the Family Strengthening programme.

In the same way, the Day of African Child was also celebrated at Children's Village level. The children and young people marked the day by advocating for their rights through drawings. One of the rights written to illustrate a drawing was, '*all children should have the right to go to school and acquire the skills they need to become independent*'.



Drawings made by the children and young people

PORTRAIT OF SARAJANE



Sarajane is doing a bachelor's degree in communication.

My name is Sarajane! I'm 22-year-old. It's been a while now since my family and I are enrolled in the Family Strengthening programme of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius. I am proud to say that this programme has supported my family to become self-reliant and has contributed a lot to my personal growth.

I'm an active member of the youth programme of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius. Since my early teenage years, I've had the opportunity to participate in several social and developmental activities organised by the Family Strengthening programme. I still recall my participation to the Youth employability training where I learnt a lot, in terms of skills needed in the workplace such as self-management, leadership, communication, decision making and so on. It was an enriching experience and this training will help me become a better professional one day.

The Youth Programme taught me about the negative impact of substance abuse, which unfortunately forms part of our society. I was so happy to learn from professionals and of course, I always had lot of questions after each session. I also took part in awareness sessions on 'teenage pregnancy' and its consequences on young people.

In my journey to independence and self-reliance, I have continuously received support and guidance. My main objective is working for a bright future and become economically independent. Furthermore, despite various challenges in my life, I have had the chance to achieve some academic goals such as going to university. Today I have the possibility of being a University student and I am thus very grateful for the support and guidance towards me, and seek forward for more amazing experiences in my life.

Thanks to the Family Strengthening programme! I have a great sense of appreciation towards SOS Children's Villages Mauritius for supporting my family and I!

Sarajane

'I will never forget you Raju...'

Imagine parting with a loved one, you are so fond? Quite difficult and emotional, isn't it? *'Raju will soon leave the village!'* these are the words of SOS mother Georgette, who could not imagine herself saying goodbye to her beloved son *Raju. Nursed under the loving care of Georgette, Raju has grown up into a confident young man during his stay at the village.

At the village, it is a tradition to give a thoughtful goodbye to children who start a new chapter of their lives. A farewell party was organised for Raju where all the children, SOS mothers and staffs enjoyed the last moments of togetherness with him. On that day, the children have fun dancing with Raju. *Amelia, one of the young people could not miss the last opportunity to sing a lovely song for her SOS brother. Of course, the children make these last memories with Raju unforgettable!

The party ended with a special meal and a speech about Raju. *'I will never forget you Raju. You have always looked on the bright side of life! I will miss you my son'* says Georgette with tears trickling down her cheeks! Raju gazed at his mama with a smile and his heart melted with these kind words. Georgette promised visiting Raju at his foster's parents place from time to time!



Farewell of Raju - Raju posing with the programme staff and his two caregivers

*Names of all children and young people have been changed for privacy reasons.

Training workshop for caregivers

Despite numerous challenges in regards to the alternative care programme, this year was, also, marked by a capacity-building workshop for caregivers. It is a tailor-made Initial Training Programme (ITP) designed by SOS International, which focuses on 44 competencies for caregivers.

These competencies include SOS parent self-development, SOS family development (safe, caring, nurturing environment), child and youth development and SOS Organisation (Caregiver as part of the organisation).

The 5-day workshop explored, as well, mission, vision and values of SOS Children's Villages, and

our local Organisational structure. During the workshop, caregivers were able to self-assess themselves, to participate in open and honest discussions on daily care of children and young people, and address the challenges as well.

A few months later, we are able to observe the positive impact of the training in terms of motivation, responsibility, response to crisis, family bonding and general quality care. A decrease in number of cases of child incident is also noted, while some caregivers are showing great leadership at village level.



Team Building: Celebrating the UEFA Champions League 2021

The Staff of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius are the foundation of the organisation and their physical, social and emotional well-being and sense of belonging are crucial.

A Staff Engagement Committee composed of staff of all different departments was set up. The committee is committed in helping the organisation to look after the needs of the SOS workers to maintain high staff morale. Since the committee was constituted, various recreational events and welfare activities were organised to create a friendly work culture and to develop team spirit and unity among the staff.

In July, the Staff Engagement Committee in collaboration with the management set up a fun team-building activity for all the SOS co-workers. A penalty shootout interdepartmental competition was organised where each facility represented a team in the UEFA League 2021. With the beautiful colours of the sun in the sky, the staff dressed in their red, white, yellow, green, blue...clothes proudly showed support to their team. The day started with the official opening speech by the Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Christiano Arlanda, followed by some traditional games and the penalty shootout. It was an enjoyable day where each team participated interactively in the different team building games while applying the principle of fair play. It was a great fun for the men as well as the women who could not wait for their turn to kick the penalty shootout....of course trying to score one or two goals! The day ended with the reward ceremony where the participants received a medal for their participation.



EDUCATION AND LEARNING CENTRE

The Education and Learning Centre at Curepipe started its operation in April 2011. It is an entity of SOS Children's Villages Mauritius, along its promise to promote education, a facility for the early childhood and development of underprivileged children. The philosophy is that children should have access to quality education according to their stage of development.

The school welcomes on yearly basis 80 children (including 10 toddlers), mainly from vulnerable families of the region. With a dedicated and experienced team of educators, the school puts much emphasis on learning through play and the development of the child's potential.

A social worker provides necessary support to the parents of pupils to address the root causes of child neglect and abandonment. The school is open to other children, thus promoting an inclusive education.

The activities are not limited to education only. There is also empowerment of parents to support

the educational development of their children. The pre-primary school is registered with the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA) and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.



Christmas Celebration at SOS Children's Village Beau Bassin



On 23 December 2021, the Hon. Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, the Hon. Mr. Avinash Teeluck, Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage, the Hon. Mrs. Kalpana Devi Koonjoo-Shah, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare and the Hon. Mrs. Fazila Daureeawoo-Jeewa, Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity were welcomed to SOS Children's Village Beau Bassin.

The official part of the ceremony started with the decoration of the Christmas tree by the Hon. Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth with the children. The day continued with the Christmas Carols by the Children and young people of SOS Children's Village Bambous accompanied by musicians of The Conservatoire National de Musique François Mitterrand.

This was followed by the arrival of Santa and distribution of gifts by the Hon. Prime Minister to the children and young people. At the end of their visit, the four Ministers visited the handicraft exhibition where the young people showcased their talents through handmade items crafted during the artisanal sessions. It was a memorable day for the children, young people and SOS co-workers!

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

BOARD DIRECTORS

Mrs. Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong	Chairperson
Ms. Anushka Gopaul	Children's Villages International Representative Easter and Southern (ESAF) Region
Mr. Christiano Alfredo Arlanda	Board Director (Deputy Managing Director)
Mr. David Alan Astor Oxenham	Board Director
Mrs. Kan Oye (Doreen) Fong Weng-Poorun	Board Director
Mrs. Marie Danielle Low Kwan Sang	Board Director (Company Secretary)
Mr. Marie Gilbert Michel-Ange Renel	Board Director
Mr. Sydney Ah Yoong	Board Director

WAYS TO HELP

Financial Support

One-off or sporadic donation (JuiceBy MCB 5988 26 46).

Cheque to the order of 'SOS Children's Villages Mauritius'.

CSR (our registered NCSRF no. NCSRF/2017/0131).

Regular contributions by bank standing orders

- Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd: 000113527195
- State Bank of Mauritius Ltd: 62010100066902

Donation in Kind

Foodstuff, school materials, hygiene kits, etc.

Volunteering

Educational support and tuition.

Employee engagement (cleaning, fun day, developmental activities, etc..)

THANK YOU

"It's easy to do good when many people help" - Hermann Gmeiner, Founder of SOS Children's Villages

This quote sums up our commitment in the delivery of our care promise especially during this difficult time.

Thanks to our incredible donors, partners, collaborators and supporters who have continuously supporting us and doing more than they have to do, to ensure that we achieve our mission!

We are really encouraged by what you have done to make our vision possible. Your amazing support makes a big difference and bring a smile on the children's faces. Thank you for being with us at a time that must also be very difficult for you.

Our Vision

Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security.




CONTACT DETAILS

SOS Children's Villages Mauritius

Head Office

 G. Ythier, Mare Gravier, Beau Bassin
 (+230) 455 0295 / 455 0968
 soschild@soscvmauritius.org
 www.soscvmauritius.org

Fundraising Department

 (+230) 455 0821 / 5 988 26 46
 info@soscvmauritius.org
 <https://www.facebook.com/SOS.children.mu/>