



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SOS Children's Villages Greece (the "Village") was founded in June 1975, is recognized as a Special Charitable Institution under the provisions of article 18 of L.D. No 1111/72 and is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs. The Region of Attica with a decision taken in 2020 re-verified the charitable status of the Village up to 2024.

The object of the Village is to provide a range of services to support children and young people in difficult circumstances to become their stronger selves. The Village works with families, caregivers and communities to prevent crises that can lead to child-family separation. The Village in the family-like care programs provides to children and young people, who have been deprived of family life for a variety of reasons, a reliable caregiver as well as a home and a community.

Due to the resignation of the President of the Board of Directors for personal reasons, it was decided to proceed to elections of a new Board of Directors. The new Board of Directors consists of seven members, comprising the President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer and three members. The election of a new Board will take place in March 2026.

Construction of the first Village at Vari, Attica, commenced in 1979 and was funded mainly by the Hermann Gmeiner Fonds Organisation based in Munich. The first family was formed in 1979 and was set up in the SOS Vari Village in August 1982. As at 31 December 2023, there were 5 families consisting of 5 mothers, 3 aunts and 23 children.

The operations of the Village were extended in May 1997 to include the SOS Plagiari Village at Thessaloniki, at which there were 6 families consisting of 6 mothers, 3 aunts and 25 children at 31 December 2023. In connection to this, the Village operates an office in Thessaloniki since 1989.

The SOS Village in Thrace was completed in 2009 at which there were 5 families consisting of 5 mothers, 4 aunts and 20 children at 31 December 2023. One Daycare Center for handicapped children and operates at the Village and at 31 December 2023 provided support to 25 children on a weekly basis.

Since 1992, the Village operates a Youth House in Paleo Faliro, which takes care of children when they become young adults and have to leave the Village. As at 31 December 2023 the Youth House was taking care of 19 fully-dependent and 18 semi-dependent teenagers.

A Youth House operates also in Thessaloniki since December 2004. As at 31 December 2023, the Youth House was taking care of 7 fully-dependent and 6 semi-dependent young adults.

The SOS Babies Home I operates in Marousi since May 2009 and is a program for abused babies and infants. As at 31 December 2023, 7 babies and infants were hosted.

At the same time the Village has initiated a Foster Care program for the support of the babies, infants and children given from all our SOS programs to Foster Care or to adoption following the implementation of the 4538/2018 law. As at 31 December 2023, 32 babies, infants and children were under the support of this program.

The Village operates a Social Centre in Kypseli, Athens since 1999, which provides help to all children who need it, and to couples that have difficulties raising their children. As at 31 December 2023, the Center provided support to 210 children and 105 families. Moreover since December 2018 an Educational and Family Support Center (Centre of Daily Care – Athens) operates in Kypseli, as an extension to previous program, which as at 31 December 2023 provided support to 240 children and youth.

From September 2009, a Social Centre for children and families in need is operating in Kalamata. The Centre as at 31 December 2023 provides support to 130 children and 82 families. Moreover the Educational and Family Support Center operates in Kalamata, as an extension to previous program, which as at 31 December 2023 provided support to 110 children and 17 adults.

The Village also established a new office in Heraklion, Crete in 2011. Since June 2012, a Social Centre for supporting families in need was put in operation and, as at 31 December 2023, provided support to 130 children and 75 families. Moreover since January 2019 an Educational and Family Support Center operates in Heraklion, as an extension to previous program, which as at 31 December 2023 provided support to 75 children.

Since February 2018 the new SOS Children's Village Crete in Heraklion started operating. It consists of 3 SOS Houses, an administrative building, a playground and a small 5x5 football court. As at 31 December 2023, there were 3 families consisting of 3 mothers, 4 aunts and 21 children.

Since April 2012, the Village operates one Social Center in Thessaloniki which provided care for 100 children and 55 families as at 31 December 2023. Moreover since January 2014 an Educational and Family Support Center operates in Thessaloniki, as an extension to previous program, which as at 31 December 2023 provided support to 290 children and youth.

Since October 2012, the Village operates one Social Center in Komotini which provided care for 60 children and 25 families as at 31 December 2023. Moreover, since January 2018, operates a Social Center in Sapes which provided care for 135 children and 94 families as at 31 December 2023.

Since March 2015, a Social Center is operating in Piraeus and as at 31 December 2023, was supporting 75 children and 40 families.

Since September 2016, a Social Center operates in Ioannina supporting at 31 December 2023, 110 children and 56 families.

Since September 2017, a Social Center operates in Patras, supporting at 31 December 2023, 140 children and 65 families. Moreover since September 2020 an Educational and Family Support Center operates in Patras, as an extension to previous program, which as at 31 December 2023 provided support to 120 children and youth.

Since September 2020, a Social Center operates in Mytilene-Lesvos, supporting at 31 December 2023, 90 children and 60 families.

With the full financial support of SOS Children's Villages International, of SOS Children's Village Austria, of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State of Tyrol, the Village Association continued offering a variety of supportive activities for refugee and immigrant families through the Social Centers in Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion, Ioannina, Patras and Mytilene. Also, the Village has hosted up to June 30th, 2023 at the SOS Children's Villages in Vari and in Plagiari single-mother families with their children from Ukraine. The program supported 19 families with 37 children.

In 2024, following the decision of the Ministry of Labor and Welfare (Minister's decision 40494/3.5.2022) the Village will continue declining the number of the children protected in the Villages as per maximum 23 per program and the SOS Babies Home will transfer all the children to SOS Children's Village Vari and will temporarily suspend its operation.