

**SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh** 

# **Child Safeguarding in Family Like Care Setup**

**International Child Safeguarding week** 

Organized by: Keeping Children Safe (KCS)

Presenter
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Child & Youth Safeguarding Focal
MHPSS National Focal
SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh



## A Global Legacy of Care

- Founded in 1949; operating in Bangladesh since 1972
- Global Presence: 138 countries, 75+ years of experience.
- Vision: Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect, and security
- Mission: We build families for children in need, we help them shape their own futures, and we share in the development of their communities.
- "No child should grow up alone."





### Where we work

### SOS Children's Villages in Bangladesh

- SOS Children's Village Dhaka (1972)
- SOS Children's Village Rajshahi (1979)
- SOS Children's Village Khulna (1982)
- SOS Children's Village Chattogram (1989)
- SOS Children's Village Bogura (1995)
- SOS Children's Village Sylhet (2011)

SOS Children's Villages International is working in 138 countries around the globe







## **Our Programme**

- Alternative Care
  - Family Like Care (FLC)
  - Youth Care- SGH and SIL
  - Family Strengthening- DFE and CFE
- Kinship Care
  - **Education and training** 
    - Early Childhood Care and Development
    - SOS Hermann Gmeiner Schools/Colleges
    - SOS National Training Centre
  - Employment and entrepreneurship training
  - Emergency Response



## Characteristics of our programme

The best interest of the child and young person is at the centre of our work

The programme is always an integral part of the national and local child protection system

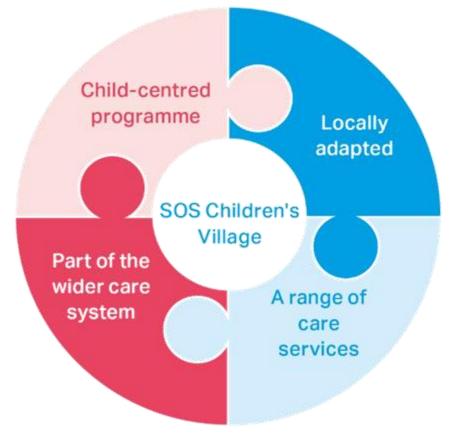


Figure: Characteristics of an SOS Children's Village as presented in the SOS Care Promise

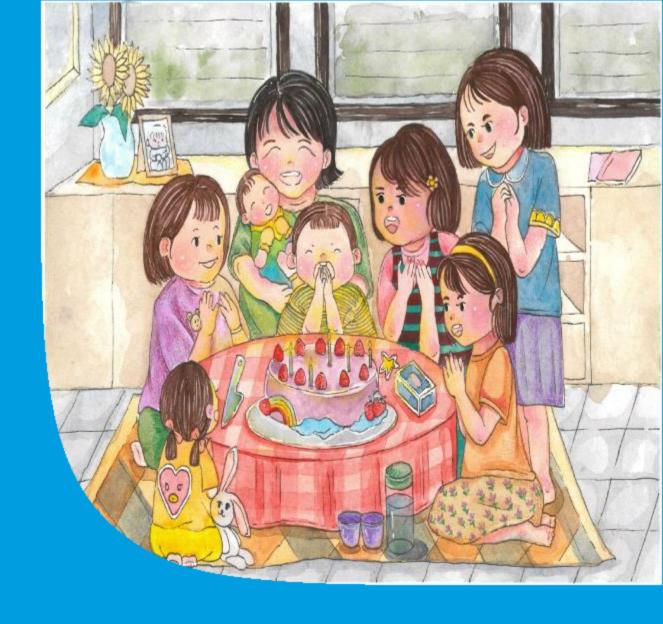
Every programme considers their legal, cultural, social-economic and political context

To achieve our desired impact we work with a range of interlinked services



## Alternative care

"An arrangement in which a child is provided full-time care by a caregiver outside the child's/young person's family of origin."



Glossary, Programme service descriptions, page 66



### Overview: key characteristics of our core alternative care services

CV

Family like care (FLC)

House or flat usually provided by SOS

Children's Villages and usually not the

caregiver(s) private home

Home

ranny nike care (r 20)		(SIL)
Residential care	Residential care	Independent living with regular supervision
Children/young people in need of a stable attachment figure they can bond with and who cannot, are not ready or do not want to live in a family-based setting	Children (+3 years)/young people in need of temporary alternative care, with explicit wish to live in a group setting or for whom family-based care is not yet an option; who are in need of highly professionalized care	Young people (usually +18 years) who no longer need a caregiver on a daily basis, not yet ready to live autonomously
Max. 6-8 children/young people per family	Max. 6-8 children/young people per group	Usually alone or with a few peers in a shared apartment
At SOS Children's Villages called SOS mother(s), usually qualified care practitioners	A (multi-disciplinary) team of caregivers providing care in a rotation system	Youth care worker specialized in matters of integration and leaving care
	Residential care  Children/young people in need of a stable attachment figure they can bond with and who cannot, are not ready or do not want to live in a family-based setting  Max. 6-8 children/young people per family  At SOS Children's Villages called SOS mother(s), usually qualified care	Residential care  Children/young people in need of a stable attachment figure they can bond with and who cannot, are not ready or do not want to live in a family-based setting  Max. 6-8 children/young people per family  At SOS Children's Villages called SOS mother(s), usually qualified care  Residential care  Children (+3 years)/young people in need of temporary alternative care, with explicit wish to live in a group setting or for whom family-based care is not yet an option; who are in need of highly professionalized care  Max. 6-8 children/young people per group  At (multi-disciplinary) team of caregivers providing care in a rotation system

House or apartment for the small group

home can be property of or rented by SOS

Small group home (SGH)



Supervised independent living

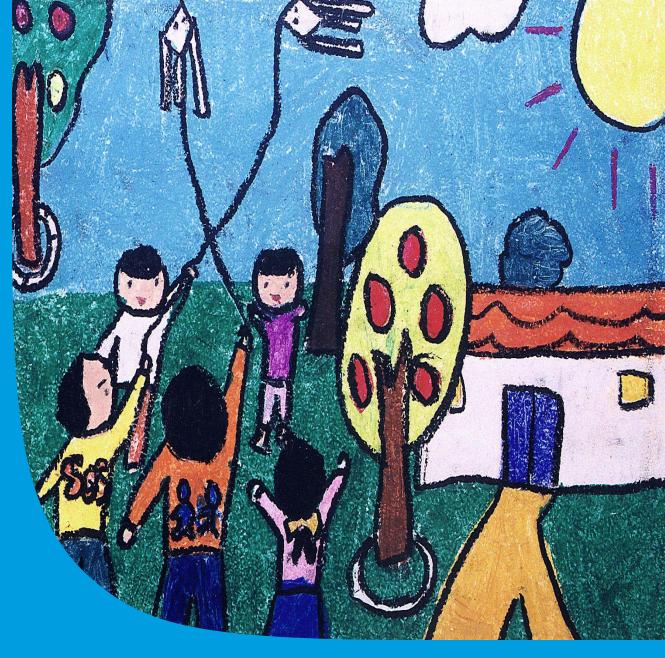
House/apartment usually rented and

ideally the young person signs the

contract with the owner

## **Small Group Home**

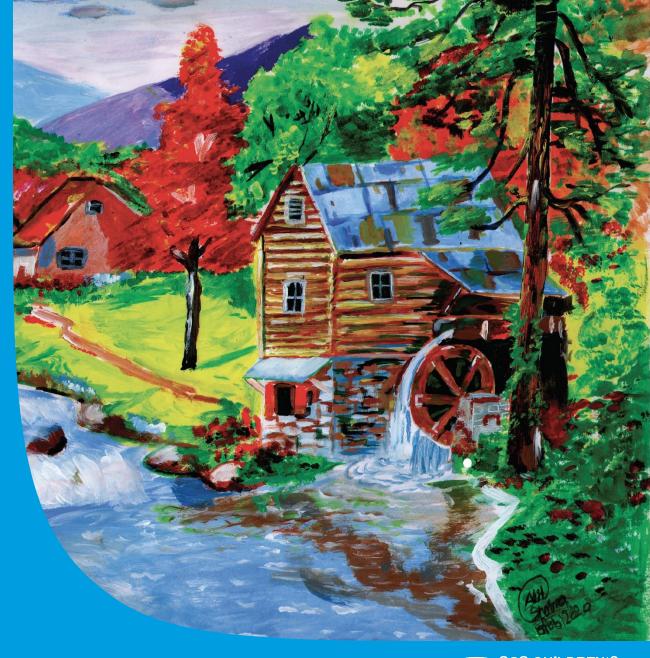
Children/young people in need of temporary alternative care, with explicit wish to live in a group setting or for whom family-based care is not yet an option; who are in need of highly professionalized care





# Supervised independent living (SIL)

Young people (usually +18 years) who no longer need a caregiver on a daily basis, not yet ready to live autonomously





## **Approach and activities**

#### **Direct alternative care service provision**

#### All alternative care services...

- are provided in family or family-like settings
- offer a safe and stable environment to children and young people and ensure child and youth participation
- are set up in a way that **children's and young people's rights** are realised and protected
- are of the **shortest possible duration**
- are delivered following a case-management approach

The **caregiver** is a **central figure** in the care process and can count on the availability of support through **care support staff** 

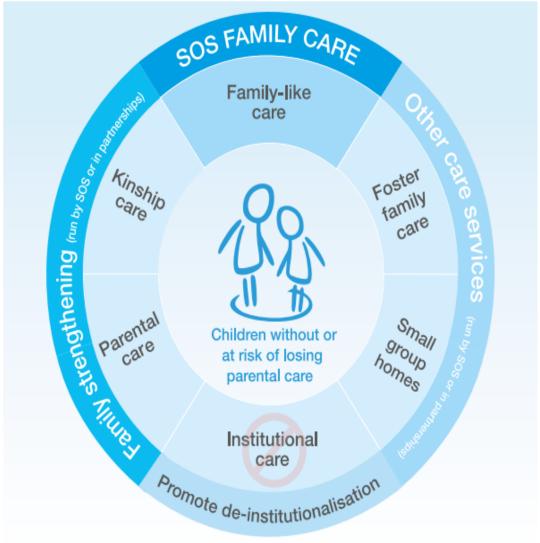
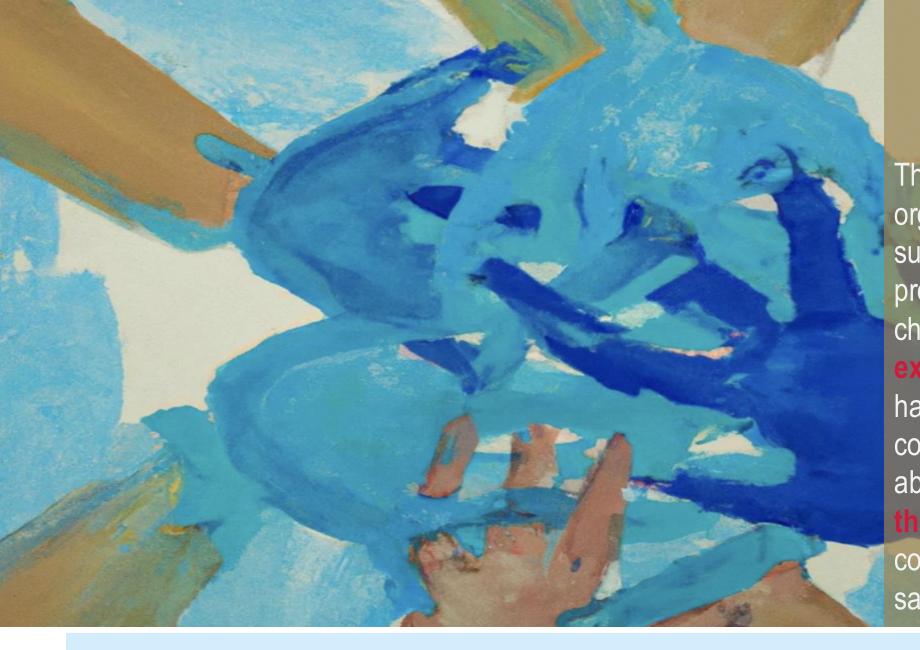


Figure 4: Promoting and providing a locally relevant range of care options





# Child and Youth Safeguarding in SOS Children's Villages

that responsibility organizations have to make sure their stuff, operations and programmes do no harm to children, that is that they do not expose children to the risk of harm and abuse, and that any concerns the organizations has about children's safety within organization and communities is child safeguarding.



## GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD AND YOUTH SAFEGUARDING IN SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

#### **EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT**



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children



Child Safeguarding Standards by Keeping Children Safe

#### SOS POLICIES



SOS Care Promise [EN, FR, SP, AR, RU]



Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy [EN, FR, SP, RU, AR, GE]

#### REGULATIONS



Code of Conduct Regulation [EN, FR, SP, AR]



Child and Youth Safeguarding Regulation [EN, FR, SP, RU, AR, GE]



Sexual Misconduct Regulation [EN, FR, SP, AR)



Misconduct Incident Management Regulation [EN, FR, SP, GE]



Misconduct Investigation Regulation [EN, FR, SP, GE]



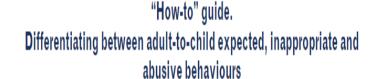
Support for Persons Affected by Child and Youth Abuse Regulation [EN]

### **Policy Support Documents**

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children
- Child Safeguarding Standards by Keeping Children Safe ( KCS)
- Child & Youth Safeguarding Policy
- Child & Youth Safeguarding Regulation
- Code of Conduct Regulation
- Misconduct Incident Management Regulation
- Misconduct Investigation Regulation
- Sexual Misconduct Regulation (PSHEA)
- Support for Persons Affected by Child and Youth Abuse Regulation

### **WORKING DOCUMENTS (HOW-TO GUIDES)**







"How-to" guide.

Differentiating between child-to-child normal, problematic, and abusive behaviours



"How-to" guide.

Misconduct Incident Management

[EN, FR, SP]



"How-to" guide.

Conducting Safeguarding Investigations
[EN, FR, SP]



## "I'VE GOT RIGHTS!" " RE



#### UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD In Youth-Friendly Language

Everyone under 18 has these rights.

ALL CHILDREN have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor.



When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

4 The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

You have the right to be alive.

You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.



You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a FAMILY that cares for you.

10 If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.

You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.



12 You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

15 You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

16 You have the right to privacy.

17 You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

18 You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.

You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.



21 You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.



24 You have the right to the best HEALTH care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

25 If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.



26 You have the right to HELP from the government if you are poor or in need.

27 You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

28 You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.



Your EDUCATION should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

30 You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.



32 You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

33 You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

34 You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

35 No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

36 You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

37 No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

You have the right to PROTECTION and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

39 You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

40 You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

41 If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.



42 You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.



43 to 54 articles explain how governments and international organizations like SOS Children's Villages and UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected.

SOS Children's Villages thanks UNICEF for kindly permitting the use of their youth-friendly text for this educational poster.

unicef (9)

For more information visit www.sos-childrensvillages.org



**SOS turns UNCRC** rights into reality for children without parental care!





# Four Pillars of Safeguarding Approach

- AWARENESS
- PREVENTION
- REPORTING
- RESPONDING



## **Our Integrated Safeguarding Cycle**

#### 1. AWARENESS:

- Mandatory E-Learning for all staff, board members, and caregivers.
- Educating children and young people on their rights and how to stay safe.

#### 2. PREVENTION:

- Local Mapping & National Context Analysis.
- Proactive Safeguarding Risk Assessments & Risk Registers.
- Mandatory background check while recruiting a staff.
- Adherence to necessary policy and regulation for all staff and stakeholders is a must.

#### 3. REPORTING:

- Clear, accessible channels for reporting concerns.
- Culture of transparency and accountability.

#### 4. RESPONDING:

- Structured Incident Management & Investigation processes.
- Regulation on Support for Persons Affected (providing psychological, and need based other support).





## **Deep Dive: Prevention in Action**

Proactive Prevention: Identifying and Mitigating Risks

- Local Mapping: Understanding the legal and social welfare context at every programme location.
- Safeguarding Risk Assessment:
  - A systematic process for programmes and functions.
  - Uses a dedicated "Risk Register" template.
  - Key Innovation: Actively involving children and young people in risk assessments through participatory tools.



## Deep Dive: Responding with Care and Quality

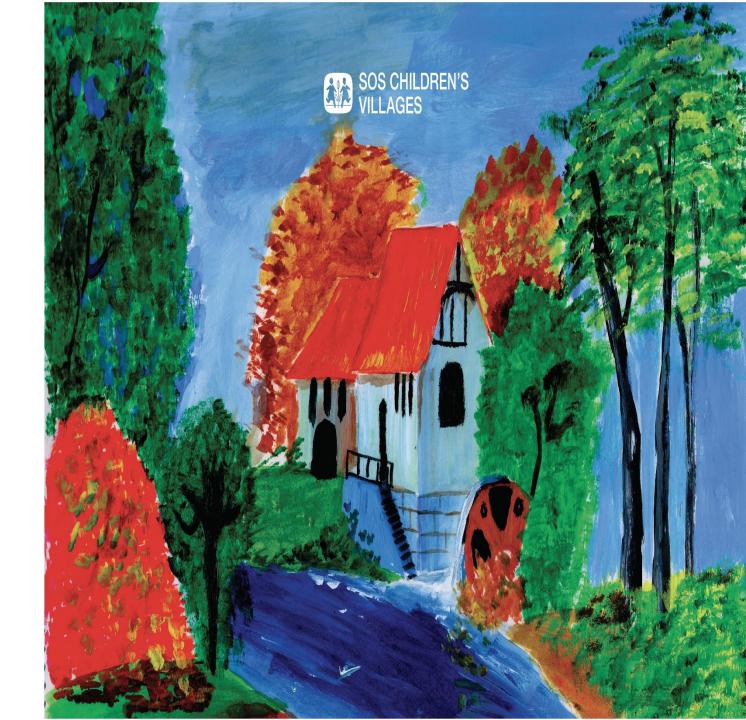
Ensuring a Robust and Caring Response

#### 1. Support for Affected Persons:

- a) A dedicated regulation ensures tailored support (psychological/financial) for those who have experienced harm.
- b) Includes Individual Support Plans and Agreements.

#### 2. Quality in Investigations:

Quality Assessment Tool used postinvestigation to ensure procedural integrity and continuous learning.



## **CYS Reporting & Responding**

- Child friendly reporting channel to report any CYS concern
- 1. Child & Youth Safeguarding Team
- 2. Incident Management Team
- 3. Person of Trust each adult can act as a person of trust
- 4. Dedicated e-mail address and website to share any safeguarding concern
- 5. Suggestion Box
- 6. Government-operated child helpline no
- 7. Whistleblowing system
- 8. Ombudsperson
- Well Defined Case Management Process





#### INCIDENT ASSESSMENT

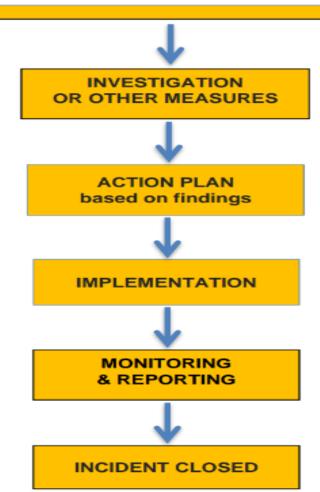
**Escalation required?** 

No => Normal programme led process Yes => Escalated one level up

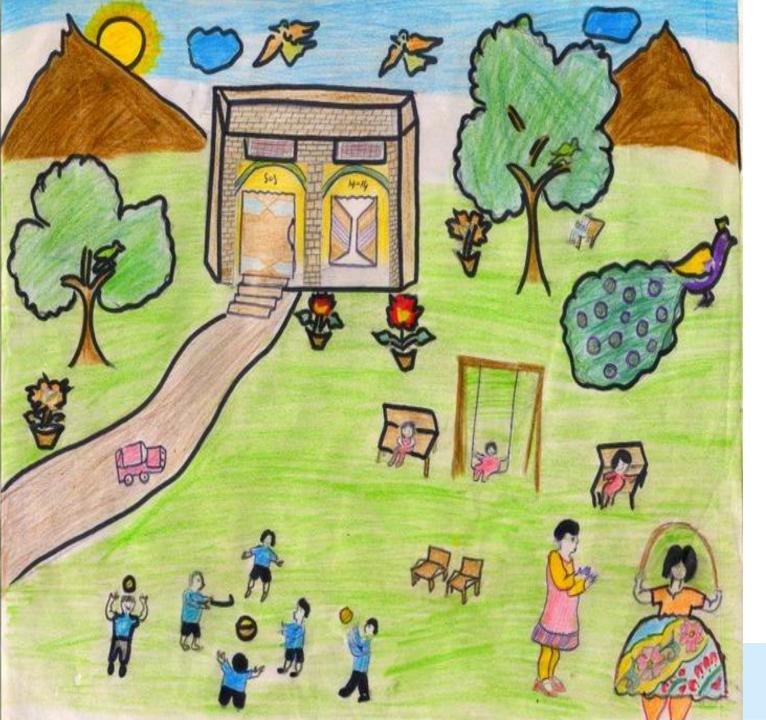
Does any of the criteria for the GSC to get involved in a monitoring role apply?

No ⇒ Normal MA led process

Yes --> MA proactively informs the respective IOR about the incident.







## Monitoring & Accountability: Ensuring Compliance

Measuring Impact and Ensuring Continuous Improvement

- Annual Integrated Safeguarding Survey: Monitors policy compliance across the federation.
- Safeguarding Country Profiles: Publicfacing profiles for transparency and accountability with partners and donors.
- Mandatory Audits:
  - Every location audited at least every 3 vears.
  - Assesses effectiveness and gathers direct feedback from children and youth on their safety.





## Local Impact: Our Network & Resources

A Global Network United by a Common Goal

- ensuring support and implementation worldwide.
- Dedicated Projects:
  - **SFP 1.6:** Strengthening safeguarding in high-risk environments.
  - **SFP 1.10:** Providing immediate support in crisis situations.
- Multilingual Resources: E-courses, webinars, toolkits, and manuals available in multiple languages.



# Our Commitment to Transparency

Sharing Our Journey: Public Reports & Reviews

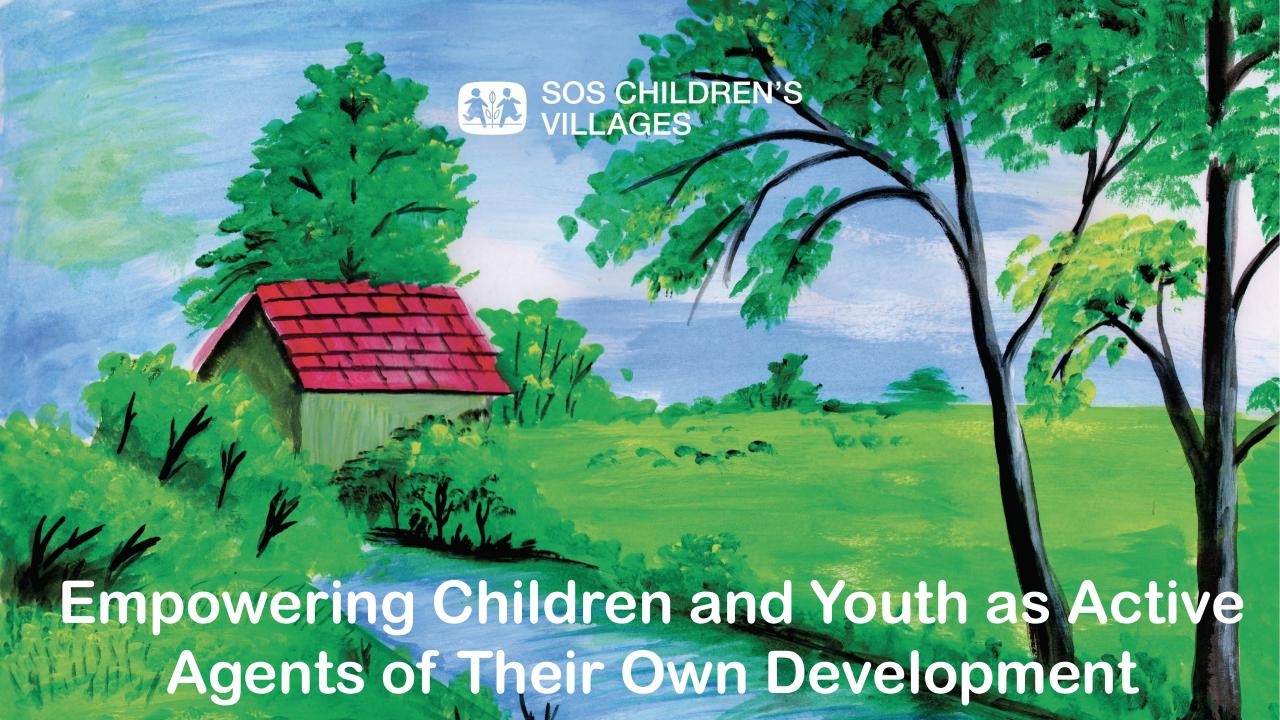
- Child & Youth Safeguarding
   Annual Report
- Child & Youth Safeguarding
   Dashboard Report
- Bi-annual Policy Implementation
   Progress Report
- Independent Child Safeguarding Review (ICSR)
- Immediate Safeguarding Support
   Project Report



"The young people's participation changed their entire view of the world around them."

Boy 17, SOS Bangladesh





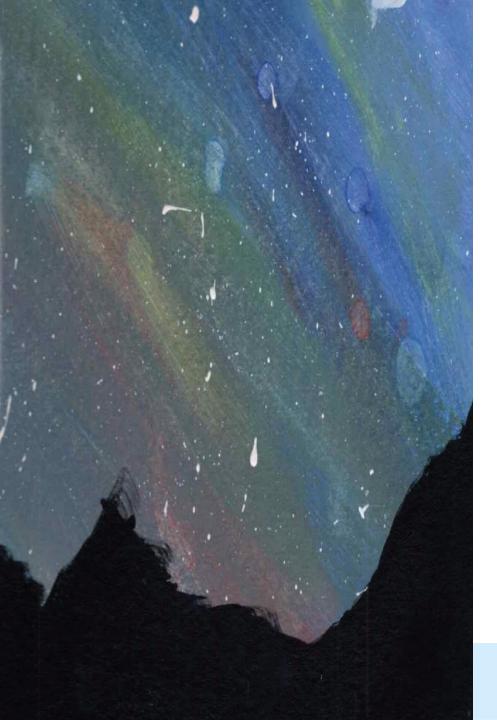


## **Our Philosophy of Participation**

#### More Than Beneficiaries: We Are Partners

- We believe in the inherent right of every child and young person to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- Our approach is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically the right to express views freely (Article 12).
- Participation is integrated at all levels. From personal development to programme governance and community safety.





## **Shaping Individual Futures**

#### Individual Development Plan (IDP)

- Co-created Plans: Every child and young person actively participates in creating their own Individual Development Plan (IDP).
- Ownership & Agency: The IDP is not done for them, but with them, fostering ownership over their life goals.
- Personalized Roadmap: It serves as a personalized roadmap, guiding them towards their aims and success in education, career, and personal success.

## "I Decide My Future". (IDF)

- A dedicated programme teaching young people about their leadership, confidence, self worth, rights and corresponding responsibilities ensuring Lundy Model.
- Prepares them for independent living and informed citizenship.





## Safeguarding Our Environment: Participation in Risk Assessment

"Our Safety, Our Voice: Participatory Safeguarding"

- Children and youth are essential partners in identifying risks.
- They participate in Child and Youth Safeguarding Risk Assessments to:
  - Identify risks both within and outside the programme.
  - Provide their unique perspectives on what makes them feel safe or unsafe.
  - Contribute suggestions that directly inform the safeguarding action plans.
- This makes our safeguarding measures more relevant, effective, and trusted.



## **Governing Our Community: Committees and Councils**

### **Leaders in Training: Governance and Decision-Making**

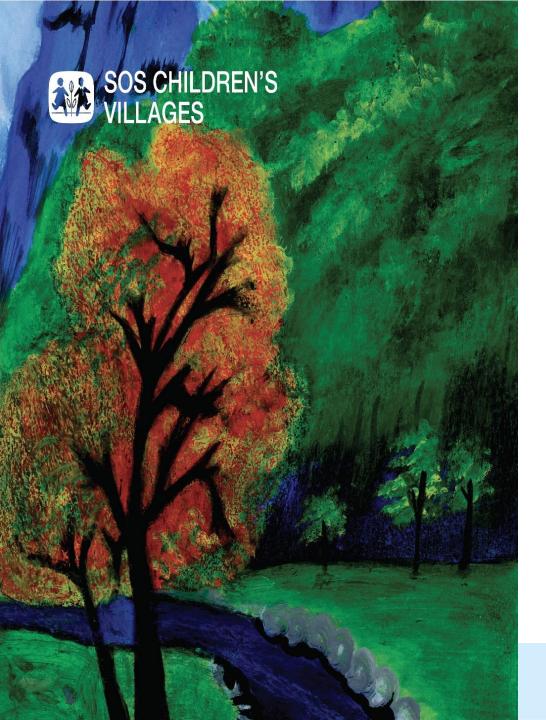
- Children's Village Committee:
  - A platform for direct participation in addressing community concerns and decision-making.
- Children's Council & Youth Council:
  - Elected bodies that build **leadership**, **management**, **and advocacy skills**.
  - Engage in community projects and learn about social and global responsibility.
  - Ensure that the voices of their peers are heard at a governance level.
  - Participates in National Management Team (NMT) Meetings to share their views.

#### Participation in Budget Preparation:

- Practical involvement in managing resources for their homes or projects.
- Teaches crucial skills in financial literacy, planning, and transparency.







## **Building Sustainable Futures: Youth Empowerment Programmes**

#### From Youth to Future Leaders

- YouthCan! & Youth Power:
  - Empowering youth for a sustainable and self-reliant future.
- Focus Areas:
  - **Skills Development:** Providing market-relevant technical and soft skills.
  - **Mentorship:** Connecting youth with positive role models.
  - Civic Engagement: Teaching young people to be active, responsible members of their society.
- **Goal:** To foster a generation of capable, confident, and contributing young adults.



## The Ripple Effect of Empowerment

#### For the Child/Youth:

- Boosted self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Development of **critical life skills** (communication, problem-solving).
- Stronger sense of **belonging** and ownership.

#### For the Programme:

- More relevant, effective, and responsive services.
- Stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.
- Fulfillment of our mandate and ethical commitment to children's rights.

