

Child and Youth Participation in Organisational Protection

One of the guiding principles of SOS Children's Villages' Child Safeguarding Policy is the participation of children: their opinions, choices and experiences are taken into account when assessing the short- and long-term impact of any decision made on their safety. Children will also have the opportunity to contribute to the planning and implementation of child safeguarding measures.

That is why both the National Safeguarding Team and the local teams try to be always in contact with the children to gather their opinions on the implementation of the policy in their programmes.

A few years ago, a group from the village of Gran Canaria created a video explaining this policy through a character, a superheroine, POPI. Although other user-friendly materials on protection were available, once the policy update was approved at the end of 2023 and after holding discussion groups in all SOS Children's Villages Spain locations, it was concluded that POPI should be the one to communicate the news. The work then focused on two groups of boys and girls, one in Gran Canaria, which had created the character and another in Madrid. They began to work with an illustrator and designer. In addition to contributing, the first group was asked for permission to use their creations and work on them.

On the other hand, material collected from the 'good treatment vaccine' activity, worked on by almost 1,000 children and adolescents from all SOS Children's Villages programmes in Spain, was used. There, they gave their 'recipe' for being treated well.

The group of children from Madrid compiled all the information they had from their classmates and thus completed the friendly version of the Child

Safeguarding Policy:



This user-friendly version of the Policy was launched and shared with children, adolescents and young people on the last 25 April, the International Day Against Child Abuse. Thanks to the generosity and participation of these groups of children, a card game is currently being developed.

In [this video](#), Aya from SOS Children's Villages Spain recounts her experience creating POPI.