

Member association:	SOS Children's Villages Ukraine
National director:	Lukashov Serhii
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Date & MEDIABOX-ID of most	
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NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT



Acronyms and Abbreviations Used	
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany
CYS	Child and Youth Safeguarding
CFE	Community Empowerment for Family Empowerment
DE-I	Deinstitutionalization
DFE	Direct Family Empowerment
ERP	Emergency Response Program
EU	European Union
FFC	Foster Family Care
FS	Family strengthening
GD	Grant Director
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
HR	Human Resources
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MPs	Members of Parliament
ND	National Director
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PSAs	Promoting and Supporting Associations
PDB2	Program Database 2
RBM	Results-Based Management
SIL	Supervised Independent Living
See Far CBT	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
SPO	Sponsorship
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
YC	Youth Center

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2 pages)

[An executive summary is a short overview of the information that is written in the rest of the report. Complete the summary after you have written the rest of the report to offer a very brief insight into the highlights of the MA annual report.]

1. National context and stakeholders (½ page)

[Provide a summary of major changes in the national context and key partners]

As of 1 January 2025, an estimated 6.2–6.3 million children under the age of 18 reside in Ukraine. The situation of children remains critically challenging due to the prolonged impact of the full-scale war. A significant proportion of children face material poverty, limited access to quality education, healthcare services, and safe living conditions. Approximately 70% of children experience material deprivation, while the need for protection services, psychosocial support, and family-strengthening interventions has increased substantially.

Around 70,000 children in Ukraine are officially recognized as deprived of parental care. However, the vast majority are not biological orphans; rather, they have lost parental care due to poverty, disability (of parents or children), war-related circumstances, forced displacement, or the lack of accessible community-based social services. Large-scale internal displacement, the return of families to damaged communities, destruction of infrastructure, and a severe shortage of social workers have further limited children's and families' access to timely and quality support. These factors increase the risks of family separation, re-institutionalization, and long-term negative developmental outcomes.

During the reporting period, the national context was marked by significant institutional changes. Major leadership rotations took place within the Government and key child protection bodies, including changes in the Minister of Social Policy, the Representative of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Children's Rights, and the leadership of the National Social Service and the State Service for Children. At the regional level, particularly in Chernivtsi and Poltava oblasts where the Association operates as an implementing partner of DI projects, changes also occurred among officials responsible for advancing deinstitutionalization policy. This required adjustments to advocacy and programmatic priorities, renewed coordination processes, and the establishment of new working relationships. At the same time, these transitions created opportunities to strengthen dialogue and enhance interagency coordination.

In this context, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine reinforced its strategic cooperation with national and international partners. The organization deepened its institutional dialogue with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service, and the Council of Europe, ensuring regular information exchange on progress in child protection reforms, deinstitutionalization, and the development of family-based care during wartime.

At the national level, key partners included the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the Ukrainian Child Rights Network, parliamentary subcommittees, and the Coordination Centre for the Development of Family-Based Care. Cooperation focused on legislative advocacy, strengthening child rights monitoring mechanisms, improving social service standards, and supporting the implementation of the deinstitutionalization reform.

At the regional level, systematic cooperation continued with Chernivtsi, Poltava, Lviv, Kyiv, and Mykolaiv regional administrations and local communities. The primary focus was on strengthening accessible family-oriented services, preventing institutionalization, and supporting families in vulnerable situations. Particular attention was given to improving the quality of services within family-based care, strengthening the professional capacity of foster parents and preventing parental burnout through supervision mechanisms, psychological support, and peer support initiatives. While keeping its focus on complex model of social services, Association continued its emergency response projects for victims of the war, especially in the areas, close to the frontline - as the humanitarian situation in the country had significantly worsened during the year.

Despite the severe security and institutional challenges, the reporting period became a time of programmatic adaptation to the war context, consolidation of partnerships, and enhanced systemic impact on child protection policy and reform processes in Ukraine.

2. Member association analysis (1 page)

[Concisely summarise 2-4 main findings per topic below]

Strategy implementation status [see 2.1]

Achievements

- Comprehensive service delivery across the care continuum SOS Children's Villages Ukraine ensured integrated support across alternative care, family strengthening, youth care, advocacy, HR, and internal systems, maintaining continuity of care despite wartime disruptions.
- An international monitoring mechanism for DI (in the context of negotiations with the EU) was launched, proposals to 13 regulatory acts were submitted to legislators, a campaign covering 4+ million people was conducted, and DI policies were implemented in communities. SOS Children's Villages Ukraine confirmed its position as a key partner in reforms in the field of child protection.
- Over 100 vacancies were filled, supervision was strengthened, insurance was introduced in frontline regions, IT infrastructure was modernized, processes were automated, new partnerships ensured financial stability, and 371 media appearances and a new podcast strengthened the brand's reputation.
- All areas demonstrated consistency: joint FFC/FS procedures, inter-project case conferences, integrated approach in communities (28 communities). This strengthened the continuity of support and improved the quality of work.
- Within the FFC, FS, and SIL, stable and high-quality support for children and families is provided: 100% of children in the FFC had an IDP and a full package of psychological, educational, and medical services; 68% of

families in the FS achieved self-reliance; 100% young people who left foster care and completed the SIL are transitioned to independent living.

- The Association has integrated the RBM approach by applying it to standard projects and embedding results-based principles into systemic processes.
- SOS Children's Villages has official memoranda in 2 regions of Ukraine (Poltava and Chernivtsi regions) stating that we are an implementing partner in the implementation of the DI Strategy (Strategy to ensure every child grows up in a family environment), in other regions, each project, both standard and grant development projects, contributes to the implementation of the regional plan for the implementation of the DI strategy.
- SOS Children's Villages Ukraine won first place in the national competition "Charitable Ukraine-2024. Charity in Defence of Ukraine" in the category "Charity in the Field of Child Protection and Assistance."
- SOS Children's Villages Ukraine ranked 34th in the "TOP 100+ Public Transparent Charitable Organizations of Ukraine" by the Ukrainian Philanthropists Association based on its performance in 2024.

Challenges

- The escalation of hostilities, power cuts, and security instability have made it harder to reach families, worsened the psychological state of children and adults, and increased the burden on specialists.
- A large number of parallel projects; lack of highly professionals on the labour market; lack of necessary qualified specialists in the regions. Overloading the team reduced its ability to adapt quickly and work strategically. Staff burnout caused by working in constantly stressful conditions.

Lessons learned [see 2.2]

- **Challenge** - Reforms in the field of child protection are critically dependent on the political context. Political instability and lack of strong political will for deinstitutionalisation, particularly at regional levels, slow down the reform and cause advocacy plans losing their relevance.
- **Challenge** - Limited staff capacity and wartime workload increase burnout risks and undermine consistent task performance.
- **Challenge + Observation**. In remote and high-risk areas, ensuring access and service continuity requires mobile and community-embedded delivery models
- **Observation + Good practice**. Multi-level cooperation across international, national and local structures is essential for achieving and sustaining systemic child-protection reforms.
- **Observation**. Behaviour/adaptation concerns often mask deeper trauma, requiring trauma-informed approaches and longer-term family support.
- **Challenge + Observation**. The UNICEF donor is strategically important, however, the donor's approaches to grant budgeting have a number of significant limitations for implementers, and approval procedures during implementation constantly jeopardize the achievement of results, meeting deadlines, and keep the project team on the verge of burnout.

Cross-cutting topics [see 2.3]

- **SOS Children's Villages Ukraine** has a mature and systematic Child and Youth Safeguarding model integrated into all programs, with regular risk assessments, mandatory annual staff training, and effective, accessible, and confidential complaint and reporting mechanisms.
- Strong institutional capacity is ensured by specialized national and local safeguarding teams, and cooperation with the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights further strengthens the child protection system through joint training and professional exchange.

Sustainability actions [see 2.4]

- **A strong team as a key organizational asset.**
SOS Children's Villages Ukraine continues to invest in professional development, psychological support, and staff retention, ensuring stability and high-quality service delivery for children even under the challenging conditions of war. Substantial investments were also made in strengthening the energy resilience of offices to provide staff with reliable and comfortable working conditions during frequent power outages.
- **Robust integrity and transparency mechanisms**
The organization strictly adheres to safety and ethical policies, promptly responding to all reports of misconduct (10 cases in 2025), and consistently passes audits and monitoring missions, reinforcing donor confidence in its operations. The Supervisory Board is competent, highly motivated, and ensures regular independent oversight of the Organization's activities.
- **Financial sustainability** remains closely linked to the diversification of funding sources. Despite the challenging economic environment caused by the war, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine secured over EUR 5 million in institutional grants in 2025 and continues to actively expand partnerships and funding streams.
- **Community partnerships as a key element of sustainability**
Close cooperation with local communities, including the provision of premises for service delivery, strengthens project sustainability and expands opportunities for implementing services across the region.

3. Overview of programme(s) (¼ page)

[Briefly describe major results and learnings from the programmes]

In 2025, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine ensured the integrated implementation of Standard, Development, and Emergency projects, collectively advancing the 2025–2027 strategic objectives: strengthening families, developing family-based care, supporting children affected by the war, and reinforcing Ukraine's child protection system. The implementation of these projects followed a Nexus approach, integrating humanitarian, development, and protection actions. In 2025, the organization also strengthened Child and Youth Safeguarding policies to ensure the protection of children and youth in all programmes, alongside evidence-based approaches to MHPSS.

Standard projects provided structured support to vulnerable families, foster families, and youth, enhancing the quality of alternative family care. FFC services gave children access to psychological, educational, and healthcare support, while foster parents received guidance in managing trauma and preventing burnout. DFE services improved family stability, resilience, and caregiving capacity. CFE components strengthened collaboration with communities, promoting local interagency coordination mechanisms. Standard projects also transitioned to a Results-Based Management (RBM) approach, enabling more structured monitoring of outcomes and programme effectiveness. Overall, these projects demonstrated a shift from emergency assistance to sustainable family care and systemic strengthening aligned with the priorities of the deinstitutionalization reform.

Development projects implemented 11 initiatives during the reporting period, strengthening social services, psychosocial support, family-based care, and household economic resilience. In Kyiv and Chernihiv regions, over 19,000 individuals received integrated support, including psychological assistance, humanitarian aid, and access to education. Projects in Volyn, Poltava, and Kyiv regions contributed to the development of family-based care, preparation of foster care candidates, and capacity building in local communities. National advocacy was significantly strengthened through cooperation with the Parliament, the Ombudsman's Office, civil society partners, and the launch of the "Silenced Voices" campaign, which reached over 4 million people. [2025 Development projects](#)

Emergency response projects provided large-scale support in high-risk regions, combining case management, cash assistance, MHPSS, and family care support. Special attention was given to children injured as a result of the war, through comprehensive services, advocacy for amendments to national regulations, and strategic investments in rehabilitation infrastructure. Mobile and community-based service delivery models ensured access in Kherson, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Poltava regions. Psychosocial camps using the See Far CBT methodology demonstrated notable improvements in children's emotional well-being.

Each project is embedded within the organization's strategic vision and reinforces SOS Children's Villages Ukraine's work across its established areas of presence.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NATIONAL CONTEXT AND STAKEHOLDERS (2 pages)	6
1.1. General description of national context (1 page)	7
1.2 Key partners at national level (1 page)	8
2. MEMBER ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS (5-7 pages)	10
2.1 Strategy implementation status (2-3 pages)	10
2.1.1 Alternative care	11
2.1.2. Family strengthening	11
2.1.3. Youth care and employability	12
2.1.4. Advocacy	13
2.1.5. Human resources	14
2.1.6. Internal processes and digitalisation	14
2.1.7. Fund development	15
2.2. Lessons learned (1 page)	16
2.3 Cross-cutting topics (¾ page)	17
2.4 Sustainability actions (¾ page)	17
3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME(S) (½-1 page per programme)	18
3.1 Standard projects	18
3.2 Development projects	19
3.3 Emergency response projects	20
ANNEX 1: Hyperlinks to related materials	21
ANNEX 2: Summary of major activities of the MEMBER Association	22

NATIONAL CONTEXT AND STAKEHOLDERS (2 PAGES)

1.1. General description of national context (1 page)

[Summarise significant changes that occurred in the context since the most recent Child Rights Situation Analysis and mid-term plan analysis, the effect these had on the MA, and how the MA staff responded]

- As of 1 January 2025, an estimated 6.2–6.3 million children under the age of 18 reside in Ukraine children are among the groups most affected by the war.
- Approximately 70% of children in Ukraine experience material deprivation, lacking access to basic goods and services such as adequate nutrition, safe housing, education materials, or healthcare. This represents a dramatic increase compared to pre-war levels.
- Since the start of the full-scale invasion, thousands of children have been killed or injured, and many more have been exposed to shelling, displacement, and traumatic experiences.
- Ukraine has around 70,000 children deprived of parental care, the majority of whom are not orphans, but children separated from their families due to poverty, disability, war-related factors, or lack of adequate support services.
- Hundreds of thousands of children have experienced internal displacement, while many others have returned to communities with damaged infrastructure and limited social services.

Child Rights Situation

The war has significantly increased risks to children's rights, particularly the right to family care, protection, education, health, and psychosocial wellbeing. Family separation, loss of caregivers, parental death, injury, or displacement have heightened the risk of neglect, institutionalization, and long-term harm to children's development.

Although Ukrainian legislation prioritizes the right of every child to grow up in a family environment, the availability and quality of prevention and family-strengthening services remain uneven across regions. Families affected by poverty, disability, mental health challenges, or war-related trauma often lack timely access to integrated support, increasing the risk of unnecessary placement of children into institutional care.

The mental health and psychosocial needs of children and caregivers have risen sharply and exceed the current capacity of public services. Foster families and alternative care providers also require strengthened, ongoing support to ensure stability and quality care for children.

Systemic Challenges and Opportunities

The prolonged crisis necessitates a Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus approach, combining emergency response with long-term system strengthening. Key challenges include limited financial resources, workforce shortages in social services, and disparities in service provision between regions, especially in frontline and war-affected areas. At the same time, the crisis has accelerated cooperation between the state, civil society, and international partners. There is growing political and professional consensus around the importance of prevention, case management, deinstitutionalization, and community-based services as the most effective ways to protect children's rights and ensure their best interests.

Throughout the year, the political landscape in Ukraine changed repeatedly, and significant personnel and institutional changes in the Government and key child protection bodies took place, including the replacement of the Minister of Social Policy, Representative of the Parliament Commissioner for Child Rights, heads of the National Social Service and the State Children's Service, as well as several managers at the regional level in the project implementation regions, in particular in Chernivtsi region (head of the children's service, First Deputy Head of the Regional Military Administration, Child Protection and DI Reform Implementation Officer). As a result of this reshuffle, some of the project's advocacy tasks were postponed or lost their original relevance. At the same time, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine responded promptly to the landscape change, established cooperation with new stakeholders and ensured continued systematic interaction with the aim of advocating for changes in policies and practices in the interests of target groups.

SOS CV Ukraine has significantly strengthened institutionalised cooperation with key international stakeholders, specifically the relevant Directorates-General of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service and the Council of Europe. This cooperation involved initiating and maintaining a regular dialogue to provide near real-time information on the actual status, progress and structural challenges of reforms of alternative care and child protection systems, with a clear focus on DI and the development of foster family care. The dialogue embodied both in direct communication with representatives of these institutions and within the existing formats of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, coordinated by the EU Delegation to Ukraine. In addition, SOS CV Ukraine participated in key international forums and dedicated advocacy events, raising issues of children's rights and DI as part of discussions on security, recovery and reconstruction in Ukraine.

1.2 Key partners at national level (1 page)

[In **Table 1.2**, analyse key partners at the national level, particularly the effectiveness of the partnership]

Table 1.2 Key partners

Name of partner	Description (purpose of partnership)	Progress in last year (key actions taken)	Effectiveness of partnership (contribution to results)	Formal agreement signed
European Commission: DG ENEST	Real-time monitoring of reforms in the field of democratic institutions to provide information on the assessment of Ukraine's progress in the process of achieving EU membership.	Terms and regularity of information exchange agreed as an independent mechanism for monitoring reforms leading to deinstitutionalisation and strict implementation of the Strategy for Ensuring the Right of Every Child in Ukraine to Grow Up in a Family Environment for 2024-2028	Provided credible independent data that strengthened Ukraine's reform assessment in EU accession reporting	no *Cooperation between SOS CV UA and EU institutions takes place under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and the EU-Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue.
European Parliament: Standing Rapporteur on Ukraine; EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee; Human Rights Division of the European External Action Service				
Representative of the Parliament Commissioner for Child Rights (I. Suslova, O. Cherviakova)	Promoting advocacy within the scope of monitoring compliance with human and civil rights in children's rights protection	Submitting proposals to resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on preventing and responding to violence and abuse against children. Joint advocacy of strategic and policy documents; coordinating efforts in the development of foster family care and children's rights protection	Influenced adoption of stronger government resolutions and policy documents on violence prevention and family-based care	Yes, under the Memorandum between SOS Children's Villages and the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) Office, as well as within the expert working group at the Child Rights Protection Centre under the Ombudsman's Office, where a representative from SOS CV is an official member.
Ukrainian Child Rights Network Civil Association	Strengthening advocacy for the exercise of children's rights under the UN Convention on		Amplified joint civil society voice, leading to better alignment of	Yes – based on SOS Children's Villages

	the Rights of the Child, introducing international and European standards by strengthening the impact of civil society institutions in the development, implementation and monitoring of state policy in children's rights and the development of social services for families with children in Ukraine.		national policies with CRC and EU standards	membership in the Association
Tetiana Skrypka (Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Family and Children's Affairs of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy)	Involvement of stakeholders in identifying problems and prospects for reforming the childcare and support system at the local level, including through the lens of their vision of their responsibilities, challenges and potential opportunities for representatives of local authorities in implementing the reform (developing foster family care and services that prevent children from losing their family environment and ending up in institutional childcare), practical view of the implementation of the tasks of the Strategy for Ensuring the Right of Every Child in Ukraine to Grow Up in a Family Environment by representatives of the non-governmental sector working in the field of social services and implementation of the tasks of the Strategy.	Meetings of MPs and SOS Children's Villages representatives with interdisciplinary working groups on the Strategy implementation in communities in Chernivtsi region; identifying legislative obstacles and practical application of own and delegated powers for the full-fledged involvement of local authorities in the implementation of reform tasks; identifying possible ways to strengthen the role of local authorities in the exercise of their powers; drafting proposals for legislative initiatives and changes, taking into account the practical experience of communities and relevant non-governmental organisations. Participation of SOS Children's Villages representatives in the work of Parliamentary Subcommittees at the invitation of MPs to develop draft legislation.	Contributed practical field evidence that shaped targeted legislative proposals to remove barriers to DI reform	no
Tetiana Tsyba (Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Social Protection of Children Affected by the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine since 2014 of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Social Policy and Protection of Veterans' Rights)			Contributed practical field evidence that shaped targeted legislative proposals to remove barriers to DI reform	no
The Coordination Centre for Family Upbringing and Child Care Development	Methodological and expert support for the development of foster family care, planning and implementation of	Expert and communication support for the project, promotion of awareness-	Strengthened methodological base and public support for foster care expansion and institutional closure	Yes (Memorandum in Chernivtsi and Poltava regions, where SOS CV is

	measures to transform the childcare system	raising campaigns advocating the DI.		designated as the DI reform implementing partner)
Chernivtsi Regional Military Administration	Strategic coordination and support for the implementation of DI and the development of foster family care at the regional level	Institutional support for the project, participation in planning activities, coordination with relevant structural units and territorial communities.	Enabled effective regional coordination, accelerating DI progress across Chernivtsi oblast	Yes (Tripartite Memorandum with the CC, CRMA and SOS on DI implementation)
Municipal (urban-type settlement) councils of territorial communities in Chernivtsi region (5 communities)	The partnership with territorial communities is about to jointly plan and implement measures aimed at ensuring the right of a child to grow up in a family environment by developing foster family care and accessible social services at the local level. The partnership involves the introduction of a minimum package of integrated social services for children and families in difficult life circumstances, strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, enhancing the capacity of local services and specialists, and developing preventive and support mechanisms for families with children.	The partnership with communities in Chernivtsi region focused on piloting approaches to developing foster family care and preventive social services as part of the DI reform. Representatives of local authorities, children's services and social services were actively involved in joint planning, assessing local needs and aligning cross-sectoral activities. This increased their awareness of deinstitutionalisation, the role of foster families and the needs of target groups, laying the foundation for completing the piloting in current communities and scaling up the project to new communities in the next period.	Successfully piloted family-based models in 5 communities, creating replicable practices and raised local ownership of DI	Yes (Project implementation agreements)

2. MEMBER ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS (5-7 PAGES)

2.1 Strategy implementation status (2-3 pages)

[Briefly explain the achievements and challenges that the MA experienced during the reporting period. Please refer explicitly to the mid-term objectives that you included in your mid-term strategy. Include relevant information about progress of actions for federation, achievement of desired results, changes in key performance indicator values, and implementation of planned actions.]

2.1.1 Alternative care

In 2025, the FFC service was implemented in four Standard projects: Kyiv, Poltava, Mykolaiv, and Ivano-Frankivsk Programmes and in one development project 'On the Road to Recovery', which was implemented in Kyiv, Chernivtsi, and Mykolaiv regions. The FFC service has two components: 1. comprehensive ongoing professional support for foster parents; 2. individual support for each child by means of case management.

Main achievements:

85% of foster parents demonstrated stable mental condition, necessary for adequate childcare, as a result of access of parents to psychosocial assistance services. Among children in alternative care forms, 79% demonstrated stable positive social connections, indicating the effectiveness of family-centred and psychosocial assistance;

100% of FFC children and youth had relevant individual development plans and access to comprehensive psychological, educational and corrective services;

Positive results were achieved in education and life skills development: 76% of FFC children had satisfactory academic performance, which was made possible by additional classes, speech therapy and individual support.

100% of children received the necessary medical support in accordance with their individual needs.

Observations:

- Mostly, parents seek assistance for their children's adaptation to new family circumstances and educational environments, overcoming the effects of traumatic experiences, as well as difficulties in their children's interactions and behaviour.
- There are frequent requests regarding communication problems between foster parents and children, as well as about the emotional stability of parents and the prevention of parental burn-out.
- A deficit of parental competencies in sexual education and child upbringing has been identified.

Challenges:

- Emotional exhaustion of parents/caregivers, which reduces their ability to interact with children in a stable manner.
- Lack of motivation of some parents to cooperate, their low level of involvement in the work, their passive attitude, and their failure to follow the recommendations of specialists, which makes it difficult to achieve lasting changes.
- Difficulty of working with the consequences of traumatic experiences of children in the absence of systematic support from adults.
- Exacerbation of psychological conditions of children, youth, and adults due to military actions and forced displacement and, as a result, an increase in the number of children aged 6–11 with aberrant behaviour.
- External factors: Due to prolonged power outages, there are systemic limitations on two-way online communication: both specialists and beneficiaries do not have a stable means of communication to provide and receive services.

Lessons learned:

- Working with children's behavioural and emotional difficulties is ineffective without parallel work with parents.
- Requests for children's adaptation and behaviour often mask deeper traumatic experiences and the need for long-term support.
- Improving parenting skills (particularly in terms of boundaries, trust, and sexual education) has a positive impact on the dynamics of family relationships.

Best practices:

An interdisciplinary approach (psychologist, speech therapist, social educator) based on an agreed family support plan yields positive results faster than isolated interventions by the same specialists.

2.1.2. Family strengthening

Prevention remained a core priority of SOS Ukraine's mission to ensure every child has the opportunity to grow up in a loving family. During the reporting period, support was extended to vulnerable families at risk of losing parental care through both standard and grant-funded projects, with efforts focused on achieving synergy wherever possible. During the reporting year, activities under the Family Strengthening direction were focused on the implementation of Strategic Objective 2 of SOS Ukraine National Strategy 2025-2027– "Strengthening the stability and resilience of vulnerable and foster families." The strategic objective foresees that by 2028 at least 80% of vulnerable and foster families supported by SOS Children's Villages Ukraine in the regions and communities of implementation of standard projects are stable, resilient and have access to quality social services that respond to their individual needs (family self-reliance). Implementation of this objective during the reporting period was carried out through 4 standard projects implemented in Ivano-

Frankivsk, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Kyiv regions, and was ensured through the provision of family strengthening services using a combination of two approaches: DFE (Direct Family Empowerment) and CFE (Community Empowerment for Family Empowerment).

Achievements

In 2025, the Family Strengthening direction was relaunched after a prolonged focus on emergency response since the start of the war. Results-Based Management (RBM) and PDB2 were implemented. Operational procedures aligned with the Programme Services Regulation and Programme Structure were developed. A guidance document outlining cooperation between FFC and FS in the child reintegration process was also developed.

In 2025, DFE services within standard projects were provided to 758 families, including 1351 children. During the year, 68% of families receiving services through the DFE service achieved self-reliance. Detailed information is provided in PDB2. Although the 78% self-reliance target for 2025 was not achieved, the results can still be considered an achievement given the complexity of the target group and the external circumstances related to the ongoing war. Within the framework of standard projects, 5 children were reintegrated into their biological families from alternative care.

Grant projects also supported the achievement of the SOS Strategy through the provision of DFE services. Within project "Strengthening comprehensive support for the reintegration of returned children" 79 children from occupied territories were reintegrated into 35 families. Through the case management approach, comprehensive support was provided to vulnerable families across projects, including 10 families under "On the Road to Recovery" and 3,978 families under "Support in psycho-social recovery and normal life rebuilding for the families with children in Kyiv and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine". CFE services aimed at strengthening community capacity for family empowerment were delivered within four standard projects, as well as the following projects: "Protect the Children", "Supporting Better Care Reform in Volyn oblast by strengthening social services and childcare system", "Facilitation of Deinstitutionalization process in Chernivtsi region of Ukraine", "National Advocacy", "On the Road to Recovery," and "Support in psycho-social recovery and normal life rebuilding for the families with children in Kyiv and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine", "Scaling up Better Care Reform in Poltava oblast by strengthening alternative child care system, providing integrated social services and benefits and return and reintegration". As a result, 12800 participants were reached through community-based family strengthening activities. Strong coordination between projects was another important achievement, ensuring consistency of approaches, effective resource use, and continuity of support for children and families.

Challenges

The ongoing war remained the primary challenge, with escalating security risks and increased shelling. The resulting trauma in society, rising poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, loss of fathers due to mobilization, and even the death of parents is increasingly putting more children at risk of losing parental care. The majority of families DFE participants were internally displaced (61%), experiencing chronic stress and trauma due to loss of family members, housing, and income, as well as prolonged displacement. Ongoing housing instability limited the ability to engage families in consistent, long-term support. 8 children (from 4 families) under SOS support lost parental care. Late family involvement and low parental commitment to change reduced the window of opportunity for timely prevention of child separation. 9% of children in standard projects had a disability status and 16% special educational needs, which required specialized skills, tailored approaches, and additional resources to ensure inclusive and effective support.

2.1.3. Youth care and employability

Care for young people was ensured within the framework of the **Supervised Independent Living (SIL)** service: social support for young care leavers with the aim of helping them become independent and successful individuals. The program provides support in obtaining education, vocational training, developing life skills, and adapting to society. The service is being implemented in Standard projects of three programs: Kyiv, Poltava, and Ivano-Frankivsk. A separate component of this service is temporary accommodation for young people (up to 3 years) in a social apartment, which operates in the Kyiv program.

Achievements

According to COMPASS/PDB2 data, during the reporting period, 100 % young people who completed SIL support achieved independence upon leaving the program.

The young people demonstrated the ability to independently meet their basic needs, make responsible decisions, use available social services, and plan their future lives. The results obtained showcase the effectiveness of comprehensive preparation for independent living, which included social support, the development of life and professional skills, psychosocial assistance, and individual planning for the transition to independent living.

In the SIL Kyiv program, 20 young people had stable employment or self-employment, representing 58.8% of program participants. Employment resulted from a combination of career guidance support, employment skills development, and individual job search assistance. In other programs, young people are

still studying at vocational institutions, so none of them were employed in 2025. In order to develop employment skills, career guidance classes were held within the SIL program for young people aimed at identifying professional interests, assessing personal competencies, and planning career steps. According to the assessment results, 83% of SIL youth demonstrated at least an average level of employment skills formed.

Challenges

The most significant impact was induced by security risks (missile attacks, air raid alerts, power and heating outages), which led to exacerbating psychological stress on parents, children/young people, and specialists. In response, the security landscape was constantly monitored, the necessary equipment for employees and participants was purchased, activities were adapted to security precautions, and training in mine safety and first aid was held.

A decreased willingness among young people to leave foster families: young people aged 18+ who are eligible to start semi-independent living remain in foster families/large foster families (family-type children's homes) due to fear of the challenges associated with the unstable situation in the country. In response to this challenge, we are giving young people more time to make decisions and are actively preparing them for independent living to reduce anxiety and achieve emotional stability.

Best practices:

Young people participate in European and all-Ukrainian youth events. Experience in advocacy, representing the interests and needs of Ukrainian youth at international and national levels:

- Three young people took part in the international youth camp “New Horizon” (Croatia);
- One young person participated in a European youth event in Strasbourg at the European Parliament;
- One young person joined the information advocacy campaign “Muffled Voices. The System Needs a Reboot”.

2.1.4. Advocacy

In 2025, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine's advocacy efforts were centred on achieving the Organization's strategic goals, primarily Strategic Goal 5 – asserting SOS CV UA as one of the leading partners in the Deinstitutionalization (De-I) Strategy by 2028. At the same time, advocacy served the driving force for achieving other strategic goals, ensuring the scaling of change, the dissemination of effective practices, and systemic improvements for children and families with children.

As an umbrella activity, advocacy is orchestrated by the Program Director and Advocacy Advisor, who carry out GR at international and national levels, determine strategic priorities and tools for interaction with key stakeholders, and integrate advocacy tasks into the portfolio of standard and grant development projects in order to achieve synergy and consistency.

The framework advocacy tool is the Advocacy project being implemented with funding from SOS WV. At the same time, all SOS Children's Villages projects – both standard and development projects – contribute to the achievement of advocacy goals. For instance, the Children's Living Places project has strengthened international advocacy through SOS Denmark's support in building contacts with EU countries and key stakeholders in the field of child protection. The BMZ De-I 2 project aimed to revise the national standard for social services for preparing young people from foster families (FFC) for independent living, combining national advocacy with the development of services in communities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions. The Better Care Volyn and Better Care Poltava projects focused their advocacy efforts at the community level, fostering the update of local interagency cooperation policies, the creation and financing of gatekeeping services, and the improvement of the quality of care in foster families. The SwPL (On the Road to Recovery) project ensured advocacy in the current context of challenges and needs of foster families, particularly in terms of imperfect legislation.

All advocacy efforts in 2025 were aimed at improving policies and practices at various levels for the well-being of children and families with children and were based on the National Deinstitutionalization Strategy. Priority was given to policies related to gatekeeping, the development of comprehensive services in communities, the support and development of foster family care, and the prevention of and response to child abuse incidents. This approach combined the expertise of Child Safeguarding, Advocacy Advisor, and international standards, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At the international level, a key achievement was the launch of an international monitoring mechanism for the DE-I reform in the remit of Chapter 23 of Ukraine's negotiations with the EU. In 2025, regular dialogue with EU institutions was established, a modus operandi for analytical materials and recommendations was agreed upon, as well as a regular reporting format.

At the national level, 13 draft statutory instruments and proposals for legislative changes were submitted, a large-scale campaign “Muffled Voices” took place reaching over 4 million people, and research, forums, expert events, and advocacy training for FFC parents and young people were held.

At regional and local levels, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine acted as an implementing partner for the De-I Strategy, facilitating the development of regional plans, the adoption of local policies, the creation of interagency mechanisms, and the introduction of social service packages in 28 communities across four regions.

Despite these achievements, advocacy work took place in the light of considerable challenges, including global political changes, personnel instability at the national level, limited political will for systemic reforms, and resistance to transformation at the local level. At the same time, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine maintained consistency and systematic approach to advocacy efforts, ensuring steady progress toward exercising every child's right to grow up in a family environment.

2.1.5. Human resources

Achievements

- Support for changes in the organizational structure and scaling of the Organization's activities.
- Large-scale recruitment of personnel in conditions of high workload and geographical spread. Ensuring full staffing of projects. In total, more than 100 vacancies have been closed in various functional areas of the Organization.
- Key management positions were filled by internal HR team resources, without involving external recruiting providers.
- Some vacancies, including managerial ones, were closed through internal professional growth of employees, which allowed for the effective use of internal human resources potential and reduced the need for external recruitment.
- Parallel operational administration of about 25 projects.
- Introduction of life insurance for staff members in front-line regions.
- Providing support to employees in organizing their professional learning and development.
- Providing professional psychological supervision and stress management activities, in order to prevent burnout. Organizing training on leadership for the managerial team to develop necessary skills in times of changes.

Challenges

- The lack of candidates with relevant experience in the regions of program implementation. Competition in the labor market for skilled professionals, particularly due to differences in compensation levels and employment formats.
- Combining speed of hiring with quality selection under high workload conditions.
- The need for rapid adaptation of personnel to new programs or projects.
- Staff turnover due to the security situation, relocation, overload, health issues, etc.
- A large number of parallel processes causing overload of the staff.
- Limited HR resources with a large volume of operational work.

2.1.6. Internal processes and digitalisation

Achievements

Among the main achievements for 2025, it is worth emphasising the preparation of all SOS Children's Villages Ukraine offices to work in challenging conditions. Despite constant power outages and lack of heating, the offices continue to operate as usual. Since some employees work remotely, they were also provided with charging stations, recommendations on Internet providers that work during power outages, and assistance with connection and configuration. All employees have modern laptops and all the necessary modern licensed software required for efficient and effective work. Network and server equipment has been upgraded to ensure the full functioning of all necessary systems and applications.

Training on the use of IT systems and applications is held on an ongoing basis, aimed at improving security on the Internet and when using hardware. Process automation is constantly being implemented; approvals, vacations, requests for departmental assistance, and much more have already been automated. A general calendar of events in the Organisation was created and is being used effectively, as well as our own intranet, workspaces for the Organisation's projects, and structured information storage. Most applications are adapted to work from a smartphone, which greatly increases work efficiency when it is not possible to charge a laptop. Employees can stay online from their smartphones. Digitisation of access control and full monitoring and notification in case of fire or smoke in offices. Extended monitoring of equipment and network infrastructure, updating of cybersecurity policies, Internet security, and others took place.

Challenges

The main challenges we faced in 2025 were a significant shortage of necessary equipment in Ukraine and a reluctance to cooperate with us due to the complexity of our procedures. Due to conscription measures, many service centres for equipment maintenance reduced their activities or closed altogether. There is a significant shortage of personnel among IT service providers, including communication providers, so even a small request now takes much longer to resolve. There is a shortage of spare parts for equipment repairs. Repair times are usually delayed by 2-3 months, so we must take this into account and keep replacements in stock for the repair period. Employees often find it difficult to move between offices to provide operational

assistance to colleagues, as only 40% of the IT team can move freely between locations and projects. There is a shortage of personnel on the labour market for more effective work in cybersecurity and information protection.

2.1.7. Fund development

Communications and brand

Continued advancing SOS Ukraine's goal to build a sustainable, trusted, and recognizable brand as a key advocate for children's rights, including in the context of emergency response, and a partner in deinstitutionalization reform.

Enhanced the organization's national visibility and reputation by winning 1st place in the "Charity in the Field of Child Protection and Assistance" category at the National Competition "Charitable Ukraine," recognizing 2024 performance.

Key achievements in 2025 include:

Secured 371 media mentions over 11 months, reaching an estimated audience of 15.7 million readers.

Produced a series of storytelling videos promoting SOS Ukraine work in frontline regions, including Kharkiv and Kherson, highlighting support for injured children and their families.

Launched the organization's first-ever podcast, "PRObatkivstvo" (English: About Parenthood), focusing on children without parental care, those seeking family, support and love, as well as the adults who can stand alongside them.

Contributed to the development and implementation of the advocacy-communications campaign "The System Needs a Reset: Hear the Voices of Children in Institutional Care," collaborating with multiple departments to promote childcare system (deinstitutionalization) reform.

Fundraising

Established new corporate partnerships (Luxoptica, Intertop, Wear me) and expanded cooperation with existing partners (Bayer, IC Consulente, Metro, Radisson, Raben, Foodbank, FM Logistics, Foxtrot, DHL, Buller, Porsche, P&G, Oriflame), including both financial and in-kind support. Successfully continued and renewed ongoing partnerships, ensuring stability of funding for key programmes.

4 285 658 UAH – financial support (Corporate and individual donors, events)

3 565 498 UAH – in-kind support

Grantraising (IPD)

Improved strategic alignment with donors

Recognizing that alignment with donor priorities and strategic frameworks is critical for shortlisting and approval, the team conducted a systematic mapping of donor priorities throughout 2025, covering more than 20 institutional donors.

Enhanced competitiveness through integrated programming

To respond to donor expectations, proposals increasingly adopted multi-sectoral approaches, which are more attractive to institutional donors than stand-alone interventions. New concepts were designed to integrate child protection, MHPSS, education, livelihoods, community resilience, and advocacy where relevant.

In 2025, six grant proposals to institutional donors were successfully approved for funding.

International sponsorships (SPO)

Successfully supported the transition of the sponsorship program from Luhansk to Poltava, enabling the recruitment of new sponsorships for the Poltava program through PSAs and ensuring continuity and growth of the sponsorship portfolio.

Contributed to the Enhanced Sponsorships Project (Phase 2) aimed at digitalizing SPO processes, which enabled approximately 1,500 sponsorships to transition to a fully digital journey, resulting in reduced printing and postage costs and improved operational efficiency.

Challenges

1. Operational overload reduces capacity for strategic fundraising
2. Ensuring sustainability of fundraising strategies amid staff transitions and limited team capacity
3. Increasing complexity in aligning donor expectations with rapidly changing emergency contexts
4. Sudden donor priority changes can lead to missed opportunities or the need for rapid redesign of proposals (e.g., Swiss Solidarity)
5. Partner selection in consortiums can be time-consuming, and tight deadlines leave little time for thorough due diligence.
6. Meeting SPO campaign deadlines – high work intensity during campaign periods, compounded by the ongoing war situation in Ukraine, made timely delivery challenging.
7. Collecting unidentifiable photo and video materials – ensuring materials are anonymized remains difficult, as identifiable images or videos cannot be used for anyone outside the international sponsorship programme.
8. Geographical dispersion of children and families – programme participants are spread across multiple countries (Ukraine, Poland, Italy, Germany), creating logistical and coordination challenges.

2.2. Lessons learned (1 page)

[In **Table 2.2**, insert the main lessons learned from the reporting period and the actions taken to overcome challenges, capitalise on good practices, or use observations to improve programmes. If desired, briefly explain how you elicited and managed lessons learned during the reporting period.]

Table 2.2 Lessons learned

Type	Lesson learned	Action(s) to be taken	Status of action
Challenge	Political instability and the lack of strong political will for deinstitutionalization (DI) particularly at regional levels slow down the reform and cause advocacy plans losing of their relevance	Review and update the stakeholder map whenever staff or leadership changes take place; Adjust advocacy priorities in line with shifts in the political context	In progress: the process of updating the stakeholder map; adaptation of plans continues throughout the year
Challenge	Limited staff capacity and wartime workload increase burnout risks and undermine consistent task performance	Optimise HR processes (redistribute workload, eliminate duplicated functions); Accelerate vacancy closure using combined recruitment methods (internal and external pipelines); Ensure stable working conditions (insurance, adaptation plans, technical support)	Ongoing: systematic vacancy closure continues; insurance has been introduced; technical support for staff is being strengthened
Challenge	Delayed family engagement and low parental motivation reduce the effectiveness of separation prevention and make it harder to achieve sustainable change in case management	Align FS & FFC collaboration pathways, including shared assessment logic, joint planning, and regular case conferences	Ongoing: FS/FFC operational procedures have been developed; integration with community practice is underway
Challenge + Observation	In remote and high-risk areas, ensuring access and service continuity requires mobile and community-embedded delivery models	Establish access mapping and risk-informed route planning; Standardize safety SOPs (evacuation, Psychological First Aid, mine safety) and implement flexible field schedules	Ongoing: mobile routes and partner locations are functioning; safety SOPs are being adjusted to regional conditions
Observation + Good practice	Multi-level cooperation across international, national and local structures is essential for achieving and sustaining systemic child-protection reforms	Maintain regular dialogue across all levels: EU institutions - national authorities - local communities	Ongoing: multi-level engagement continues across international, national and local platforms
Observation	Strengthening internal human capacity through staff development, supervision and continuous learning improves organizational resilience and service quality	Expand Learning & Development with targeted programmes for specific roles	Ongoing: several leadership positions have already been filled internally; L&D activities continue regularly
Observation	Behavior/adaptation concerns often mask	Strengthen trauma-informed support	Ongoing: PSS packages and

	deeper trauma, requiring trauma-informed approaches and longer-term family support	by using standardized tools, offering regular family-support services, and improving clinical supervision	supervision are being expanded; integration of Trauma-Informed Care into assessments is underway
Good practice	A multidisciplinary approach (psychologist, speech therapist, social pedagogue) following a coordinated family support plan leads to faster positive results compared to stand-alone interventions	Institutionalize multidisciplinary case conferences (frequency, team composition, protocol); Expand access to specialised services (speech therapy, correctional services, Special Educational Needs support)	Implemented & scaling: the approach is in use; the network of specialists is being expanded
Good practice	Socio-emotional recovery camps using evidence-based methods demonstrate a strong PSS impact for children with complex trauma, including improvements in emotional stability, social interaction and coping skills	Scale camps to regions with the highest demand	Implemented & scaling: Expanding outreach for camps

2.3 Cross-cutting topics (¾ page)

[Outline national initiatives, actions, and/or main changes noticed in cross-cutting topics, such as child safeguarding, gender equality, HIV/Aids, environment, human rights, disabilities, etc.]

Child and Youth Safeguarding

SOS CV Ukraine ensures a safe and protective environment for all children through strict and consistent adherence to the Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy. Child and Youth Safeguarding system is integrated into all programmes, activities, and services, and are treated as a core organisational priority. All SOS staff, consultants, and other personnel involved in work with children are required to complete mandatory annual Child and Youth Safeguarding training to maintain a high level of awareness, responsibility, and professional competence in preventing and responding to any form of harm.

Effective, accessible, and confidential complaint and feedback mechanisms are fully in place and available to both children and adults. These mechanisms allow concerns, incidents, or suspicions to be reported safely and without fear of retaliation, ensuring timely and appropriate response in line with internal procedures and international safeguarding standards.

Child and Youth Safeguarding risk assessments are systematically conducted across the SOS CV Ukraine programmes, projects and operational contexts to identify potential risks, prevent harm, and strengthen protective measures.

Dedicated National and Local Safeguarding and Incident Management Teams ensure a timely, coordinated, and child-centred response to all safeguarding concerns. The team is responsible for receiving, assessing, and managing all Child and Youth Safeguarding reports in a confidential, professional, and impartial manner. Within the framework of cooperation with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ukrainian Ombudsman), specialised training sessions were delivered. These trainings were aimed at strengthening the child rights protection system and further enhancing the Child and Youth Safeguarding system within the organisation.

2.4 Sustainability actions (¾ page)

[Describe measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the member association. Relate the response to the type(s) of sustainability that the MA is striving for: e.g. social, political, financial, etc.]

The main asset of SOS CV Ukraine is its team and the reputation the team has built as a provider of high-quality childcare and family support services. We use all available means to retain qualified staff and

maintain their professional capacity, including regular training, supervision, stress management activities, team-building events, and targeted support during critically challenging periods (e.g., in 2025, a specific internal regulation addressing hardship conditions was developed). We are grateful to our donors for making these measures possible and consider this support a key investment in the quality and continuity of services for children.

We strictly follow safeguarding policies and regulations that protect our professional integrity and reputation. In 2025, the organization responded appropriately to all whistleblowing signals received (10 cases during the year), ensuring timely and effective resolution of the issues raised. In addition, SOS CV Ukraine remains fully open to audits and monitoring missions. In 2025, five audits and monitoring visits were conducted with positive conclusions, confirming compliance and high-quality programme implementation.

From a financial perspective, sustainability remains particularly challenging, as the organization heavily depends on international aid due to the economic crisis caused by the war. At the same time, SOS CV Ukraine applies a prudent and forward-looking financial management approach. Through conservative budgeting, continuous cash flow monitoring, and careful management of currency fluctuations, the organization ensures operational stability and programme continuity even in a volatile macroeconomic context. Regular external financial audits, strong internal control mechanisms, and transparent financial reporting reinforce donor confidence and accountability. This structured financial governance framework enables SOS CV Ukraine to respond flexibly to emerging needs while maintaining long-term sustainability.

Therefore, financial sustainability continues to be strengthened through proactive fundraising. Our aim is to diversify funding sources. We will continue collaboration with PSAs by providing high-quality narrative and financial reports, as well as communication materials for engagement with local donors in PSA communities. At the same time, we will further develop innovative project proposals for institutional donors, including governmental and intergovernmental institutions such as the European Union and United Nations agencies. In 2025, funding secured from these sources amounted to EUR 5,089,175.31. During the year, six grant proposals submitted to institutional donors were approved. In addition, two grant applications prepared for PSAs received confirmed funding. In total, eight grant applications were approved, including one local institutional grant from UNICEF. This represents significant progress in diversifying funding sources and reducing the financial burden on PSAs.

Understanding the challenging economic and security situation in Ukraine, which creates serious obstacles to generating local income, SOS CV Ukraine will nevertheless intensify national fundraising efforts through various channels. Strong cooperation with local communities and partner municipalities also contributes to sustainability, as in some cases premises are provided free of charge for project implementation. We will continue to strengthen and expand this cooperation.

3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME(S) (½-1 PAGE PER PROGRAMME)

*[Provide a **brief overview** of each programme location. If a Progress Report is available for the programme, simply paste the executive summary below. If a Progress Report is not available, summarise the programme learnings from the reporting period including achievements, lessons learned, risks, and sustainability actions.]*

3.1 STANDARD PROJECTS

The four Standard projects operate in diverse humanitarian and socio-economic contexts, ranging from relatively stable regions to frontline areas. Together, they form a coherent portfolio that supports SOS CV Ukraine's transition from large-scale emergency response towards early recovery, system strengthening and sustainable family-based care, in line with national child protection reform and deinstitutionalization (De-I) objectives. Looking at the course and the results of the past 2025 year through the lens of the priorities of SOS Children's Villages Ukraine Strategy 2025–2027 we can say that four Standard projects are directly aligned with these priorities.

Standard projects delivered systematic support to foster families and family-type children's homes, reinforcing the Strategy's emphasis on family-based alternative care. FFC services ensured continuous social, psychological, and pedagogical support to foster parents and children, addressing trauma, behavioral challenges, and caregiver burnout. Children in foster care benefited from improved emotional stability, educational support, and access to specialized services (psychologists, speech therapists, medical care). Foster parents reported strengthened caregiving capacity and increased confidence in managing complex child protection cases. Youth leaving care was supported through gradual preparation for independent living, reducing risks of social exclusion and secondary vulnerability. These achievements demonstrate tangible progress toward the strategic objective of ensuring that children deprived of parental care grow up in quality family-based settings, not institutions.

Also, Standard projects contributed directly to the prevention of family separation and reduction of risks of institutionalization. Through DFE services, vulnerable families received integrated social, psychological, educational, and material support based on individual assessments and case management. A significant proportion of families reached improved stability, self-reliance, emotional well-being and coping capacity, enabling them to continue caring for their children without external intensive support. A gradual shift from emergency aid to sustainable support is quite evident across the projects which correlates with the strategic objectives. The combination of humanitarian responsiveness and long-term programming illustrates effective application of the Nexus approach promoted in the Strategy. It should be also noted that the Standard projects played a significant role in strengthening local child protection and social service systems. Through CFE components, projects actively collaborated with local authorities, social services, education, and health providers. SOS CV Ukraine increasingly acts as a partner of communities, contributing expertise, service models and coordination mechanisms. In the regions of our presence, projects supported the development of referral pathways, intersectoral cooperation, and professional capacity of local specialists. This systemic engagement enhances sustainability and supports the state's responsibility in child protection, aligning with national reform priorities. The projects thus move beyond direct service delivery to system-level impact, a key strategic ambition for SOS CV Ukraine. In this way the four projects reinforce SOS CV Ukraine's positioning as a leading actor in De-I implementation. Practical evidence from the projects demonstrates viable alternatives to institutional care, grounded in family strengthening and foster care.

While contexts differ significantly across regions, the four projects have lots of elements which unite them. They all share unified case-management methodology, safeguarding standards; they maintain the high quality of project implementation and stay effective even during the war. The interventions are not isolated, they complement each other, they are consistent and contribute to the strategic goals of the organization.

3.2 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In 2025, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine implemented 11 development projects aimed at achieving the organization's strategic goals in the areas of child rights protection, development of family-based care, strengthening social services, psychosocial support, economic sustainability of families, and national advocacy. The projects were implemented both at the national level and in individual regions of Ukraine.

A significant focus was placed on the psychosocial recovery and stabilization of families affected by the war. In the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions, more than 19,000 people from vulnerable families with children, including IDPs, foster and guardian families, received comprehensive support. This included humanitarian aid, access to education, psychological and psychosocial services, and measures to improve economic resilience. A separate result was the creation of a day care service for children with disabilities.

Development projects made a significant contribution to the reform of better care and deinstitutionalization. In the Volyn, Poltava, and Kyiv regions, a set of measures was implemented to strengthen community capacity: conducting research, training candidates for family-based care and specialists, recruitment and information campaigns, creating interagency working groups, mapping and implementing integrated social services. More than 1,200 children gained access to social and MHPSS services, and families with children received targeted cash support. Economic stability for vulnerable families was a separate focus area. Through online entrepreneurship training and grant support, beneficiaries were able to start or develop their own businesses, which contributed to their financial independence and social integration. Within the framework of projects for the return and reintegration of children, families received step-by-step support after traumatic experiences, with a focus on safety, psycho-emotional recovery, and adaptation to life in new communities. One of the development projects, National Advocacy, serves as an umbrella and framework for coordinating the efforts of advocacy organizations at the national, international, and municipal levels.

In 2025, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine strengthened its cooperation with Ukrainian MPs, the Ombudsman's Office, and civil society, and also intensified its participation in the international advocacy space. The Silenced Voices information and advocacy campaign reached over 4 million people, significantly raising awareness of the priorities of deinstitutionalization reform. An innovative achievement of the year was the development of the Children's Living Places project, including the launch of construction of the first residential cluster for large foster families and the conduct of a national study on financial support for family-based care. All development projects were implemented in synergy with standard programs and humanitarian projects, ensuring systemic impact and sustainable results for children, families, and communities.

During the reporting period, development projects were implemented in such regions of Ukraine as Kyiv, Chernihiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Chernivtsi, Volyn, Poltava, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECTS

In 2025, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine implemented a diverse portfolio of humanitarian and early recovery projects that collectively made a substantial contribution to the implementation of the Organization's Strategy 2025–2027. Across all ERP projects in 2025, a total of 94,600 participants were reached, including 55,127 children. Operating in a context of intensified hostilities, ongoing displacement, and growing pressure on public services, SOS CV UA effectively translated strategic priorities into practice, while simultaneously reinforcing systems, partnerships, and community capacity. Across all projects, implementation in 2025 remained firmly aligned with the core objectives of the Strategy: protecting children affected by war, strengthening families to prevent separation, promoting family-based care and deinstitutionalization, and building sustainable, community-based service delivery systems grounded in Nexus principles. This strategic alignment also guided key programmatic decisions during the year. As part of the transition toward a more focused Nexus-oriented model and in response to shifting donor priorities toward frontline and heavily affected regions, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine completed a responsible phase-out of its humanitarian operations in Zakarpattia oblast (Uzhhorod location) in 2025. This allowed the organization to reallocate resources to areas with higher protection risks and more acute humanitarian needs. Rather than functioning as isolated interventions, projects across priority regions formed a coherent response ecosystem, combining direct assistance, humanitarian case management, psychosocial recovery, cash-based support, and capacity building of local actors. This integrated approach ensured both immediate relief and longer-term system strengthening in line with the Humanitarian - Development Nexus framework.

One of the interventions to be highlighted is the scale and quality of protection and recovery services for children with injuries. Through specialized holistic support for injured children, SOS CV UA ensures continuous access to psychosocial, educational, medical, and social services, which help children and their families to overcome war-related traumas. Notably, the Injured Children project achieved tangible advocacy results, contributing to national-level regulatory changes that expanded access to disability status and state protection for civilian children injured by war. Strategic investments in pediatric rehabilitation infrastructure further strengthened the resilience of the national health system and ensured continuity of care under wartime conditions. Throughout 2025, projects consistently addressed one of the Strategy's highest priorities: preventing child-family separation by stabilizing and strengthening vulnerable households. Cash assistance, in-kind support, and social services under humanitarian case-management enabled families to meet basic needs, reduce stress, and remain together despite displacement, income loss, and insecurity. Significant emphasis was placed on family-based care, including foster families, adoptive families, guardianships, family-type children's homes as well as children returning from abroad, all benefited from our targeted cash support programmes. In 2025, substantial in-kind support was provided to equip IDP large family-type children's homes (DBST) with essential household items, heating systems, and basic infrastructure, ensuring safe, dignified, and comfortable living conditions for children and caregivers. This reinforced our efforts regarding the national deinstitutionalization and positioned SOS CV UA as a reliable operational partner to state child protection systems. Beyond direct service delivery, 2025 marked a great deal of efforts toward strengthening community and institutional capacity. Across regions of its presence, SOS CV UA invested in training social workers, psychologists, educators, and local service providers; equipping child-friendly and community spaces; and supporting partner organizations through sub-grants.

Despite extreme and prolonged insecurity, SOS CV UA ensured continuous access to psychosocial, social, and child protection services in some of the most volatile regions of Ukraine like for example Kherson, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Poltava. Across these regions, SOS CV UA successfully applied not only static but also mobile and community-embedded service delivery models, which proved critical where static services were unfeasible or unsafe. Mobile teams combine psychological, social, pedagogical, and speech therapy services, enabling children to receive support in familiar and safer environments such as schools, kindergartens, and community centers. Frontline interventions bring clear qualitative outcomes for children and families. Thanks to our work, they reduced anxiety and emotional distress, improved parent-child interaction, and enhanced coping skills among children exposed to prolonged stress and trauma.

Another intervention which proved to be very efficient in terms of trauma overcoming is socio-emotional recovery camp. The camp programme applied evidence-based child-appropriate psychosocial approaches for conflict-affected children, including recovery activities and the See Far CBT methodology, enabling participants to restore a sense of safety, improve emotional regulation, rebuild peer connections, and develop healthy coping mechanisms. Qualitative outcomes demonstrated meaningful improvements in children's emotional stability, self-expression, social interaction, and resilience, highlighting the value of intensive, time-bound interventions for children with accumulated stress and trauma. Overall, the camps represented a strategically important investment in deep psychosocial recovery, reinforcing SOS CV UA's commitment to quality, needs-based mental health, and psychosocial support for war-affected children.

Cross-cutting across all interventions in 2025, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine systematically applied AAP principles to ensure that our assistance remained relevant, transparent, and responsive to the needs of children and families. Through multiple communication and feedback channels, including hotlines, digital platforms, and on-site feedback tools, the beneficiaries/participants were able to provide feedback, submit complaints, or on the contrary letters of gratitude. Child-friendly feedback mechanisms ensured that children's voices were heard and considered in programme delivery. Overall, AAP strengthened trust with communities, enhanced programme quality and accountability, and reinforced SOS CV UA's commitment to people-centered, rights-based humanitarian and early recovery action.

ANNEX

ANNEX 1: HYPERLINKS TO RELATED MATERIALS

Topic	Person responsible	Source of information	MA file should be saved to:	Hyperlink
Actual statistics of the MA	N/A	Compass report accessed via the following path: Compass -> Federation Steering -> Statistical Key figures -> SKF Beneficiaries / SKF staff -> filter for MA and year	No longer required	Statistical Key Figures - Power BI
List of board members	National director	MA fills in template list of board members	Federation planning & steering: MA annual reports	SOS CV Ukraine List of Board Members.xlsx
MA mid-term plan	National director	MA fills in template for mid-term planning	Federation planning & steering: Mid-term & annual plans	SOS UA 2025-2027 strategy fin.docx
MA annual plan	National director	MA fills in template for annual planning	Federation planning & steering: Mid-term & annual plans	N/A
ERP/HFP annual plan	National director	MA fills in Companion templates	Not applicable: provide link only	War in Ukraine - Documents - Budget & HFP proposal 2026 - All Documents
MA website	National director	Member association website	Not applicable: provide link only	https://sos-ukraine.org/
Online directory page for MA	National director	SOS Online Directory	Not applicable: provide link only	N/A
Financial report	Finance Director	MA fills in its own templates	Not applicable: provide link only	Annex 3 Financial report.xlsx
Short Report of the number of participants	Monitoring Group Lead/ M&E Manager	MA fills in its own templates	Not applicable: provide link only	Annex 4 Short Report of the number of participants January-December 2025 (1).xlsx
HR data_2025	HR Director	MA fills in its own templates	Not applicable: provide link only	Annex 5 HR data_2025.xlsx

ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATION

[Provide an overview of major activities that occurred at the national level for the reporting period (e.g. audits, trainings/workshops, visits, etc.). Please mention which mid-term objective these activities support and what the results of the activity were.]

Major activities of the MA	Date	Corresponding national mid-term objective	Results
Conducting a training on the development of leadership competencies for leaders and managers of the Organization.	October/Nonember 2025	Personnel development, retention and reducing turnover, increasing of efficiency	Improved team interaction, increasing of engagement and accountability for results. Increased trust and psychological safety in teams.
Conducting of trainings on safeguarding for all employees. Conducting of specialized trainings for local IMT (Incident Management Teams).	May 2025 December 2025	Following the requirements of regulations and policies of the Organization	Full compliance with safeguarding policies and regulations. Increased level of safety for employees, beneficiaries and partners. Reduce the risk of breaches. Better preparedness to respond to incidents.
Stress management for SOS Team	July 2025	Personnel development, retention and reducing turnover, increasing of efficiency	Reducing the risks of burnout. Strengthening a culture of care and psychological safety. Improved interaction and support in the team.
Visit of the Austrian Ambassador to Ukraine and the Social Affairs Attaché at the Austrian Embassy to SOS Children's Village Brovary	May 2025	Advocacy for child protection, family-based care and psychosocial support, strengthening partnerships and international cooperation	Strengthened dialogue with the Austrian Embassy in Kyiv, and increased visibility of the situation of children and families under the care of SOS Children's Villages Ukraine. Showcased the implementation of the family-based care model and reinforced mutual commitment to continued cooperation and support.
Visit of Members of Parliament of Ukraine, the Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine to SOS Children's Village Brovary	July 2025	Advocacy for family-based care and deinstitutionalization, strengthening cooperation with national authorities	The parties agreed to explore further cooperation on analysing the current child protection system, shaping a shared vision for its reform, and contributing to the development of legislative changes.
Visit of the First Lady to a family under SOS Children's Villages Ukraine support in Poltava	November 2025	Advocacy, strengthening partnerships, promoting integrated, family-based support services and increasing visibility of program impact	Enhanced visibility of family strengthening services and advocacy for family-based care. Demonstrated synergy between UNICEF-funded and Standard projects, and the provision of comprehensive support to families.

NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

External audit of the project “Addressing Systemic Gaps – Support to Child Welfare Systems Reforms” conducted by EMPACTA GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft	June 2025	Strengthening organizational accountability, financial management and transparency in program implementation to ensure high standards of governance and effective use of donor resources	The assessment was positive, confirming overall compliance, while identifying opportunities to further improve the efficiency of financial management and enhance transparency of procedures.
Independent external audit conducted by the German Desk of Grant Thornton Audit Limited Liability Company	May – June 2025	Strengthening organizational accountability, financial management and transparency in program implementation to ensure high standards of governance and effective use of donor resources	The audit confirmed that key operational and financial processes comply with established standards and that the internal control system effectively supports the efficiency and transparency of the organization’s activities.
Audit titled “Integrated intersectoral child safeguarding response to the devastating effects of war and floods in south-eastern parts of Ukraine” conducted by AC EMPACTA LLC	January 2025	Strengthening child safeguarding oversight, accountability and continuous improvement of organizational practices	A positive assessment confirming the effectiveness of safeguarding measures and overall compliance.
Independent audit of the project “Rebuilding Hope in Ukraine: Assistance to war-affected families with children in Buchanskyi district,” conducted by Kreston Ukraine	March – April 2025	Strengthening organizational accountability, financial management and transparency in program implementation to ensure high standards of governance and effective use of donor resources	The assessment was positive; no violations were identified, no comments were raised, and no recommendations for improvement or enhancement of financial management were provided.