



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
PAKISTAN**

a loving home for every child!



JANUARY 2013

Dear Friends,

As another New Year dawns we recall all our previous hopes and dreams of a better future. These have not materialized but, 'hope springs eternal in the human breast' and, once again, I wish for all of you a happy and prosperous 2013. May it be personally happy and healthy and see a turn in the fortunes of our beloved homeland. There is a tiny glimmer of hope. May we be blessed with leaders who can steer us out of the difficult situation in which we are placed and show by example that we are capable of doing better – much better. We are fortunate to have so many advantages and there is great potential in our people. The disillusionment and rot that has set in must end and it will, if only we can set our moral compass right.

The outgoing year has seen a surge of sectarian violence which is a cause for great concern. Added to this, two incidents occurred, which directly impact the lives of children. The first, which shocked the entire world, was the barbaric attack on Malala, a brave champion for girls' education. The other was the attack on health workers, which threatens the future of the nation's children. Such incidents gravely jeopardize the future of Pakistani children, and make interventions, such as ours, even more important. As we provide quality education, and a healthy environment to thousands of children, we play our part in ensuring their well-being.

We are surrounded by a sea of despondency but SOS bears proof to the fact that, given the chance, we are second to none. We continue to grow steadily and are able to do so, only because there are so many of you who share our concern for the deprived in our midst. Thank you for your confidence and your support. This enables us to plan for steady growth and prove to the world that, in the context of philanthropy, we rank with the best. I never get tired of repeating that, outside Europe, ours is the only local association which finances its work through its own initiatives and is not dependent on funding from the umbrella organization, SOS Children's Villages International - the world's largest orphan care charity, operating in 133 countries. The credit goes to all of you who support our work and our volunteer committees, which ensure high levels of performance. Please keep up this support as spiralling costs make life more and more difficult, especially the cost of constructing new establishments.

Reports from the various projects follow but I will present a brief update on new, under construction and planned facilities to give an idea of the scope of our work.

The SOS Children's Village Jamshoro was occupied last August, and the repaired facility in Muzaffarabad, which will later be a Youth Home, is ready to be commissioned as a temporary Village. A new school building has been constructed, to replace the one which was destroyed in the earthquake, and a primary school, donated by HSBC, completed in Rawalakot. SOS Youth Homes have been constructed and occupied in both Faisalabad and Multan, financed by corporate and private donations, and Faisalabad saw the addition of a high school for girls, financed by Samsung.



The construction of SOS Children's Villages in Quetta, Peshawar and Muzaffarabad is proceeding apace. SOS Sialkot was able to purchase land adjacent to their Village for a school, through a specific donation from the UK. Another large donation from the UK will enable them to start construction. Land, and a substantial financial grant, have been donated for a project in Khairpur, by the Chief Minister of Sindh. A youth facility and school are planned for Islamabad. Construction of a project in Rawalakot will commence shortly.

Donors often prefer to support facilities in their own area and the following needs will help you if you are considering a donation. This can be in the form of sponsorship of children, financing the cost of a classroom, a family home or more. Please contact the National Office if you require further information.

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| ★ Quetta - completion of the infrastructure | ★ Jamshoro - construction of auditorium |
| ★ Peshawar – family homes and youth home | ★ Khairpur - family homes, youth home and school |
| ★ Sialkot – school and youth home | ★ Muzaffarabad – family homes, school |
| ★ Islamabad – school and youth home | ★ Rawalakot – family homes, youth home and school |

The list is formidable but, I realized long ago, that we should continue to plan as we consider necessary and ensure that no effort is spared to do the best possible for the children entrusted to our care. The rest will follow. Please tell others, who may not be acquainted with SOS, about our work, and invite them to visit the nearest project. In all these years we have never turned away a deserving child and aim to have a presence in as many locations as possible.

An ambitious plan we are embarking upon is that of installing solar power facilities in all the Villages. With exorbitant electricity costs and constant load shedding this has become a necessary option. The only deterrent is the expense and we will be presenting feasibilities to potential donors. In the meantime the SOS Pakistan UK Supporters Group has donated the cost of solar water geysers in the Islamabad Village, which still has no gas supply.

I would like to express special thanks to all the volunteers I mentioned earlier, as they are the ones who take on the responsibility of establishing and managing projects in their area. These are invariably individuals of high calibre who are giving back to society, and making such a big difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Special thanks also to our Support Groups abroad who work hard to publicize our work and raise funds. The diaspora is known for their concern for deserving causes and if any of you would like to start a chapter in your area please get in touch with me.

The real proof of our efforts is the success of the children who pass through our hands and enter the mainstream. There are so many who are now well settled in life and living happily with families of their own. It is such a pleasure to greet them when they come for the reunions and their happiness makes all the effort worthwhile.

Let me pass on to you their gratitude and thank you for your support in changing their lives. To quote from the letter of one of them “ I came to an SOS Village at the age of four years.... My family is so huge:so many people connected with open hearts... I am now ready to explore the world ahead of me. I thank you with all my heart for making my dream come true without making it appear difficult at all... Thank you is too small a word to let you know what ur love and support have meant in my life”.

May God bless you for caring and may the happiness you bring into the lives of others be returned to you in full measure.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Souriya Anwar
President

www.sos.org.pk





LAHORE

This Village presently houses 125 children with 45 more living in the Youth Home. The children have had another busy year with many supporters ensuring that all special occasions were appropriately celebrated. Two weddings were arranged in which, as always, the children enthusiastically participated. The annual reunion of those who have left was also another happy event, as they returned to introduce their spouses and children.

For the second consecutive year, an intensive dengue prevention campaign was launched and, fortunately, there were no incidents of the disease.

Two sessions of month long volunteer programmes are organized in the summer and are eagerly anticipated. Students from many different colleges and schools help the children with their homework and also plan various extracurricular activities, which they thoroughly enjoy. During the summer the children are also permitted to visit their relatives for a short vacation and, those who are left behind, go to other SOS Villages for a holiday. This year they went to the Dhodial and Rawalpindi Villages where they enjoyed making new friends and visiting places of interest.

During Ramzan the children enjoyed iftaris arranged by different individuals and sponsors. The Eid mela was a grand affair where houses set up different stalls and children spent their Eidi. Many people visited and distributed Eidi to the children. The owners of Tony & Guy Salon generously donated Rs. 300,000 as well as distributing Eidi. The last day of the year was celebrated with a huge bonfire and a big party for all the children in the Village.

Many friends contribute to the quality of life through donations or various programmes. AkzoNobel, donated 15 computers for the School, Village and Youth Home. On Independence Day, students from LUMS held a quiz programme and distributed gifts amongst the children. LSE students invited them to visit their campus for a tour and a party, while Beaconhouse students invited the children for their Annual Funfair.

HSBC has been a generous donor to our educational facilities all over the country through their 'Future First' programme. They have recently donated an English language laboratory to the school, which will shortly be installed



DHODIAL

The SOS Children's Village in Dhodial is occupied by 157 children and the adjacent community school has 877 students. The Youth Home is situated in Abbottabad and has 27 boys in residence.

Like every year, the year 2012 was filled with different activities and happenings. Children went for vacations to the Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Sargodha Villages. As always, they had a most enjoyable time, while making new friends and visiting different historical and recreational places.

Right To Play, an NGO, hosted a party in the Village on Women's Day, and the children were engaged in different activities such as playing games, singing and drawing. Later a volley ball coaching camp was also arranged by the same NGO, providing basic training to the children.

A reunion of former SOS children took place in March, which ex- SOS youth attended, along with their spouses and children. They met their old friends and reminisced about the time spent at SOS.

Children, accompanied by the staff, visited 7 AT Regiment, Batrassi where they were welcomed by Col. Jahangir. They were given a tour of the facility with an explanation about the rearing of horses and mules. A horse riding show was organized for their entertainment and they were also given the opportunity to ride themselves.

A fund raising gala evening was organized by the Red Crescent Society in the Village and people from various fields were invited. It was a very successful event and guests gave generous donations for the welfare of orphans.





KARACHI

The Karachi Village upgrading and renovation is nearing completion. The upgrading has given the premises a new look and had a positive impact on the morale of the mothers, staff and 130 children residing there. The Class IX and X Board Examination results have been good and enrollment in the Intermediate classes has increased at the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School.

Child Protection Day, to raise awareness about child rights, was held with the collaboration of AGHS. Another three day workshop was organized to discuss important topics relating to child development. Level of the youth has shown improvement with two of the boys standing out this year - one has gained admission to a college of engineering and the other is in the second module of the chartered accountancy course.

The Technical Training Institute in Korangi has almost all the workshops operational. The recently added automobile workshop is proving to be very popular. Four students from the TTI have topped the Sind Board Electrical Examination. The success of the institute depends on jobs secured and, to achieve this, TTI Board members are providing all possible help.



RAWALPINDI

There are 142 children presently residing in the SOS Children's Village and 44 in the Youth Home. The school enrollment is 445 and almost 300 students attend the technical training centres.

The year has been a busy one for the children and they have had many visitors including students from Saitama University, Japan who introduced them to Japanese culture. Since Tanveer, one of the boys from the Youth Home who was orphaned by the AJK earthquake, has recently gone to Japan on a scholarship, this was especially interesting for them.

Besides laying great stress on their academic advancement, every effort is made to provide the children with other activities which will ensure their well rounded development. They enjoyed many recreational and educational trips during the year, including visits to various parks and scenic spots. Serena Hotel introduced them to the working of a hotel and, a very special event, was the invitation to the British High Commission to join in the celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Several organizations including Citi Bank, Philip Morris and Serena Hotel arranged competitions and events for the children. During their visits they distributed gifts and organized different activities such as painting competitions, story telling and playing cricket, bringing much happiness into their lives.

This interaction is immensely beneficial for them and also a rewarding experience for the visitors. A group of doctors from Kulsum Hospital arranged a free camp for blood screening of all the children, mothers and staff for hepatitis. The NGO BARDASHAT and students of Fast University arranged the screening of a cartoon film. A group of boys attended a one night camp organized by PIA. This was arranged to educate the participants about discipline, which is so important for everyone. National Book Day was celebrated by the National Foundation Centre. Our children participated in the quiz show and won many prizes. They also went to the Cricket Stadium for the opening ceremony of the T-20 Faisal Bank Cup where they inaugurated the ceremony by singing the National Anthem and Milli songs.



FAISALABAD

A big achievement during this year was the construction of the Youth Home facility, donated by Dobotex - who also previously donated the auditorium - and the Girls' High School, donated by Samsung. Both facilities are now operational and we are grateful to the donors who made this possible. There are 41 boys in the Youth Home and 120 children in the Village.





A Family Festival, arranged by 'Friends of SOS', was organized in March. The children participated by putting up different stalls and thoroughly enjoyed the event. A large number of guests attended, which resulted in a collection of almost a million rupees. 'Fun Day' was organized by volunteers and 'I am Pakistan', an NGO, held a party for the little ones with face painting, competitions and many exciting events.

Child Protection Day, to raise awareness about child rights, was held with the collaboration of AGHS. Another three day workshop was organized to discuss important topics relating to child development.

A month long summer camp was held in June. Many volunteers from different schools helped children with their home-work and also participated in various extracurricular activities. At the end of the session a party was arranged by the volunteers.

The inauguration of a kitchen took place in the Girls High School. It was established by funds donated by Phillip Morris International. The girls are attending cooking classes and learning many new and interesting dishes.

Rescue Team 1122 arranged a two-day workshop with the Youth Home boys. The training session covered topics such as Emergency Civil Responsibilities, Life Saving Measures, Disabilities and Methods to Control Fire.

Standard Chartered Bank, in collaboration with Allied Hospital, arranged an eye camp in the Village. They had an awareness session with the mothers relating to eye safety and protection of the eyes.

Ramzan is always an important month in the Village and Eid was celebrated with great fervour. The DCO, Mr. Nasim Sadiq, visited on Eid day and distributed gifts to the children.

SARGODHA

There are 123 children in the SOS Village and 27 boys in the SOS Youth Home. Many interesting activities added to their enjoyment of life.

They were invited to the PAF Mushaf Base Sargodha to attend a flower exhibition, along with children from many other schools. They were fascinated by the variety of colourful flowers and enjoyed playing on the swings. The children were served ice cream and later gifts were presented to them. The commanding officers offered to help SOS boys to avail the opportunities in the Pakistan Air Force.

SOS in collaboration with AGHS and Tang-Wasaib arranged a function to raise awareness about the need for prevention of child abuse and promoting education for all. The SOS children actively participated in various tableaux, songs and skits relevant to child rights and the importance of education. The event was very informative and enhanced the knowledge of the children regarding their rights. They were served burgers and soft drinks after the function.

The Asia-Pacific Photo and Drawing Contest 2012 was arranged in the Village during the summer vacations. It was based on a theme focusing on early childhood care and education. The children enthusiastically participated in the contest and learned about the need for adequate nutrition, good health care and a safe stimulating environment.

Students of the M.A. Social Work department at the University of Sargodha arranged a trip to Lahore for a group of children. They visited interesting places and had an enjoyable meal before returning home.

MULTAN

There are 147 children in the SOS Children's Village and 33 boys in the recently completed youth facility, for which several donors provided funds. One of the residential units was donated by Monsanto and the other by National Bank. Loyal friends of the children, Mr. & Mrs. Imtiaz Sheikh, yet again, provided substantial support to enable the completion of the project. The Embassy of the Netherlands also made a generous contribution for the provision of a technical training centre, which is part of the complex. The capacity of the school has been increased to 1300 and the children are excelling in their studies. One of the girls has qualified for the M.Sc. (Sociology) degree, another is in the final year of the Masters (Psychology) programme, whilst another 26 are also attending college.





Many corporate and official visits took place during the year.

* The Ambassador of Brazil, Mr. Alfredo Leoni visited the village and appreciated the efforts undertaken by the organization.

*Mr. H. G. Scheltema, Ambassador of the Netherlands also visited and was very impressed by the remarkable efforts SOS is making in shaping the lives of orphans.

Besides the donation for the youth facility he donated 17 computers with LCD screens.

*Dr. Hameed Raza Saddiqi, Vice Chancellor of British University and College visited the Village and school and offered to provide free admission to SOS children for higher studies.

*The US Rotarian President and his wife visited the facility. The children presented a colourful programme and the Rotary Club played a cricket match with the SOS team, who won. Prizes were distributed to the winners.

'Friends of SOS' have been very active during the year and collected considerable donations for the project. They organized trips to amusement parks and restaurants, besides sponsoring every 'iftari'.

The Ramzan campaign of envelopes, as in previous years, resulted in a substantial collection of over a million rupees. Targeting the private educational institutions, this campaign creates awareness among 10,000 students by distributing SOS leaflets and blank envelopes for donations.

The Children's Festival held in March was once again a great success. More than 2000 people attended the event, enjoying the puppet show organized by the Rafi Peer Theatre group, different varieties of food and other fun filled activities. This annual fundraiser was sponsored by the National Bank of Pakistan and helped raise over Rs.800,000.

SIALKOT

This has been an eventful year for the 92 children in this Village and also witnessed positive achievements in studies. Like past years, this too, was outstanding with a 98% passing ratio. Two boys did their matriculation while one of the children got admission in the ACCA course.

In January a cricket match was again held between the doctors team and SOS Sialkot boys. The match took place in the premises of the Village, followed by refreshments.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi was celebrated with full religious fervour. Children paid tribute to our Holy Prophet (PBUH) by reciting Naats and Darood.

Rescue 1122 arranged a one day training workshop. They demonstrated how to save a drowning person and how to control emergency fires, using different materials and fire extinguishers. The children were very interested in the topic and listened intently to the advice given.

As usual Ramzan and Eid were celebrated with great enthusiasm. Children were treated with delicious iftaris at McDonalds and other places. On Eid day they were taken to their favourite restaurant and later to Play Land to make their happiness complete.

QUETTA

There are presently 84 children admitted in the Quetta projects and the local community is gradually becoming involved. Considering the situation in the area this is understandably slow, but makes such a difference.

Ramzan is a time when many donors offer iftari and other gifts. Ufone arranged a sumptuous iftari and their employees volunteer their time for the benefit of the children. An NGO, Intensifying Power of Deprived Human (IPDH), organized activities in the Village which included a drawing competition, painting and a badminton match. Later prizes were distributed amongst the children, which encouraged them to take part in different competitions.





The Frontier Corps have been a source of consistent support to our work and have donated one of the family homes for which they also provide dry rations. In the summer they sponsored a visit to Hana Lake for all the children and served them lunch in the FC mess. The Pakistan Army Southern Command has arranged for free treatment and medicines for all the children. Another staunch supporter of SOS, Ms. Rahila Durrani MPA, donated a second family home. There is a shortfall in construction expenses and appeals are being made for funding so that the project can be completed. Sponsorship of the children is also required to make the project self-sustaining.

On Children's Day, the Village celebrated the birthdays of those children falling in the month of April. The children were excited and very happy. Later face painting for the younger children and mehndi for the older girls was arranged. Children were shown their childhood pictures on a projector that added to their delight.

Winters in Quetta are bitterly cold. Last year a friend of the children – who resides in the US - paid the expenses for the children to visit other parts of the country in their winter vacation. This year he has repeated the generous offer and the children are enjoying their stay at the Jamshoro and Karachi Villages.

ISLAMABAD

The children are happily settled into their new homes and are enjoying looking after their surroundings and, especially, the kitchen gardens. There are 95 children presently being orphaned by the AJK earthquake. Although the project is the community is already very encouraging and it is providing and Ufone have assisted with developing the playgrounds many others, including Green Volunteers have helped in many other ways. During the month of Ramzan, iftar was donated almost every day.

P&G organized a cricket match in the Village. Pakistan's domestic cricketers played a friendly cricket match with the boys and gave useful tips. At the end they distributed t-shirts, caps and cricket accessories.

The children were taken to Murree as a reward for doing well in the final term examinations. They had a pleasant time and particularly enjoyed the chairlift. After having a picnic in the hills they returned home. Besides this they have been on regular outings to the zoo, Daman-e-Koh, Fatima Jinnah Park and other interesting places.

Students from Head Start School, who do volunteer work in the Village on a regular basis, arranged a movie show for the children. They thoroughly enjoyed the animated movie and were treated with cold drinks and popcorn after the programme. They have also set up a library in the Village.

The participation of NUST students in SOS activities is also remarkable. Besides providing free tuition they organize games and recreational activities on a regular basis, which is of enormous benefit for the children. USAID has donated an English language laboratory. This will soon be established and will be very beneficial for the learning of English language skills.



admitted, the majority new, the response of valuable support. CDA and gardens and

JAMSHORO

The highlight of the year was the completion of the SOS Children's Village Jamshoro, which admitted the first batch of children in April 2012. Mr. D.M. Baloch, Co-Chairman of the Jamshoro Managing Committee is providing outstanding support to the project and is a valuable asset to the SOS community.

The Village is fully functional and already has 18 children. They are all admitted to the Syed Panah Ali Shah Model School. This Village, like all the others, is already busy in organizing activities and educational trips.

During the summer break the children visited Sindhology and Sindh Museum and were able to explore the culture of Sindh. Independence Day was also celebrated with great patriotic spirit. Although the children admitted here are basically from very poor families, belonging to backward rural areas, their performance was worth seeing.

On the occasion of Eid, a mela was organized in the Village and on the second day of Eid they were taken for a picnic, arranged in the gymnasium of Sindh University and they even enjoyed boating on the River Indus.





SOS Children's Villages-UK Pakistan Supporters Group

c/o Business Systems Limited
12 Smith's Yard,
Summerley Street, London, SW18 4HR
Tel: 020 8946 5301
E-mail: sospsg@bsluk.com

SOS Children's Villages Pakistan-USA

P.O Box 34604 Bethesda Maryland
20817, Washington D.C USA
Tel: 301-983-4006 Mob: 202-210-4419
E-mail: rukhsana627@gmail.com

SOS Children's Villages-Canada Pakistan Supporters Group

Apt. 406, 77 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R
3R8, Canada
Tel: 416-9660100 Cell: 416-4503340
E-mail: tmhaque@gmail.com

Friends of SOS Children's Villages Pakistan-Kuwait

P.O Box. 22412, Safat, 13085, Kuwait
Tel: 0965-4832291, Fax: 0965-4849532
E-mail: amamuji@gmail.com

SOS Children's Villages Pakistan

National Office

Ferozepur Road, Lahore-54600
Tel: 042-35918035-6, 3591784-7
Fax: 042-35917843

E-mail: national@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Lahore

Ferozepur Road, Lahore-54600
Tel: 042-35917803, 35943906

E-mail: lahore@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Sialkot

Airport Road, Khambaranwala, Sialkot
Tel: 052-3224906, 3241768, Fax: 052-3553827

E-mail: sialkot@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Rawalpindi

Opposite High Court, G.T. Road,
P.O Box 1379, Rawalpindi.
Tel: 051-4490510, 4490511

E-mail: rawalpindi@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Multan

Industrial Estate, Sector No.1, Multan
Tel: 061-6538481-82, 6514144 Fax: 061-6538480

Email: multan@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Sargodha

49-Tail, Main Faisalabad Road,
Near Board of Secondary Education, Sargodha
Tel: 048-3212828 Fax: 048-3224306

E-mail: sargodha@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Dhodial

C/O Iqra Academy, Mandian Abbottabad
Tel: 0992-383885 Fax: 0992-334537

E-mail: dhodial@sos.org.pk

www.sos.org.pk

sponsored by:

P&G

National Office New telephone numbers

+92-42-35918035-6

+92-42-35917846-7

SOS Children's Village Islamabad

Near Police Academy, opposite NUST University, H-11, Islamabad
Tel: 051-5821582

E-mail: islamabad@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Faisalabad

Chak No.199/R.B, Gatwala Post
Office, Gatwala, Faisalabad.
Tel: 041-2421667

E-mail: faisalabad@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Karachi

153-Deh Mehran Jinnah Avenue
Malir Halt, Karachi.
Tel: 021-34592202, 34593035

E-mail: karachi@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Quetta

Near Kidney Center
Samungli Road, Quetta.
Tel: 081-2871693 & 081-2835649 Fax: 081-2839474

E-mail: quetta@sos.org.pk

SOS Children's Village Jamshoro

Near Sindh Textbook Board
Jamshoro Campus of University of Sindh
Deh Mohro, Jabal Taluka, Kotri
District Jamshoro, Sindh
Tel: 022-9213404

E-mail: jamshoro@sos.org.pk

SOS Rural Support Programme Kasur

Near Wapda Office, Defence Colony, Khem
Karen Road Kasur.
Tel: 0492-765629

E-mail: srckasur@yahoo.com