

**'I have always  
wanted to become  
a Chef'.**

Ousainou Sidibeh – SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia  
Programme Participant.



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**

Truly

**BONDING**

with a child has the

**POWER**

to change the world.

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**Become a friend of SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia**



As a kid, I have always wanted to become an engineer, here I am now! On the first day, I started my internship at a local Internet Service Provider, I was assigned to configure a router which I have never done despite completing a diploma and certificate in Soft and Hard Ware application. In my mind it was difficult, I smiled and was also nervous at the same time. Well, this was an interesting experience. As time goes on I learned more and was able to do a lot in the first two months.

Omar is was an

intern at DK Telecom . After 6 months of internship, Omar was appointed a Team Leader.

„Serving as a team leader was very challenging and comes with a lot of expectations and leadership” Omar Said.

„I led a team of four young people and part of my role as a leader is to assign tasks and responsibilities to team members, supervise and give technical advice to achieve customer satisfaction,” says Omar.

**‘The life skills training I had whilst in contact with SOS Children’s Villages in The Gambia, helped me a lot to be able to face such a situation’.**

Omar Njie – SOS Children’s Villages Participant

At DK Telecom, part of Omar and his team

tasks was to configure wire and wireless equipment devices for residential and corporate customers, identify customers needs for the right technology, give customers helpdesk support, and give advice on the right equipment and tools as per customer needs. In 2022, we supported more than 100 customers with technical support,

this was a remarkable achievements not only for me but for the team and the company,” Omar narrated.

Omar is calling on the government of The Gambia and its partners to empower more young people and invest in them for sustainable development. Meanwhile, he applauded the SOS Children’s Villages for their continue support to children and young people.

„Through the support of SOS Children’s Villages many young people are gradually becoming self-sustainable and contributing to the development of the state, Omar added.







SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia has been active in the field of Children's rights and committed to children's needs and concerns since 1982. Focusing its work on children without parental care and children of families in difficult circumstances. Over the past 40 years, SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia continue to run programs on Alternative care, Youth Empowement Family and community strengthening programmes among others. Cooperation & partnership have been strengthened with government, multi-lateral donors, and like-minded organizations through joint projects funded by foreign ministries and cooperation.

Last year SOS Children's Villages The Gambia celebrated 40 years anniversary. Part of the 40 years celebrations was to promote and highlight SOS Children's Village's work in The Gambia for the past 40 years, fundraise for our programmes, and increase sponsors and cooperate donors. The goal also was to increasing visibility and Strengthening our advocacy and position the oranziation for funding and the leading voice children and young people. The celebration was celebrated in three dimensions, an **Open Day**, a **March pass**, and Grand **Fund Raising Gala Dinner**. <https://sosgambia.org/main/info/sos-childrens-villages-in-the-gambia-40thanniversary-highlights-2022/>



## Open Day.

The Open Day highlighted all the projects, programmes and services offered by SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia, including STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE YOUTHS IN THE GAMBIA (SERVY), the SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, (SNIP), the Youth Training and Employability Project, ( YTEP), SOS Children's Villages Mother and Child Clinic , the SOS Children's Villages Mother and Adult Training Center , the SOS Children's Villages Schools. The event was graced by the Minsters of Youth and Sports and Gender, Children and Social Welfare. Also in attendance were cooperate



partners and diplomatic representatives, Private sector representatives, Civil Society Organisations, UN Officials National leaders, Media houses, children and young people, and Staff. The open day was an opportunity for stakeholders from the government of The Gambia and partners to have a first-hand insight into SOS Children's Village's work in The Gambia. The event was organized in a form of an exhibition where guests were allowed to go

through all the stalls which had our diffident projects, ask questions, and interact with the staff to gain more information or knowledge about the projects. Several statements including the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare and the National Director were delivered.







The **Fundraising Gala Dinner** was held on the 10th of December 2022 at a local hotel. The event was graced by SOS Children's Villages partners, government representatives, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Media houses, individuals, SOS Children's Villages retired staff and current staff, and well-wishers. The event was co-chaired by two of our participants from

SOS Children's Village Bakoteh and Basse. Some of the highlights of the event and activities were: Performance by children and young people statements delivered by partners and from the National Association( National Director). Awards and recognition were also presented to long-service partners, gala



dinner sponsors, and also to staff. The event was also an opportunity to unveil our National Brand Ambassador and to raise fund for our projects and programmes. The event was used as a platform for networking too. Many thanks to partners and sponsors for their usual support to SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia,

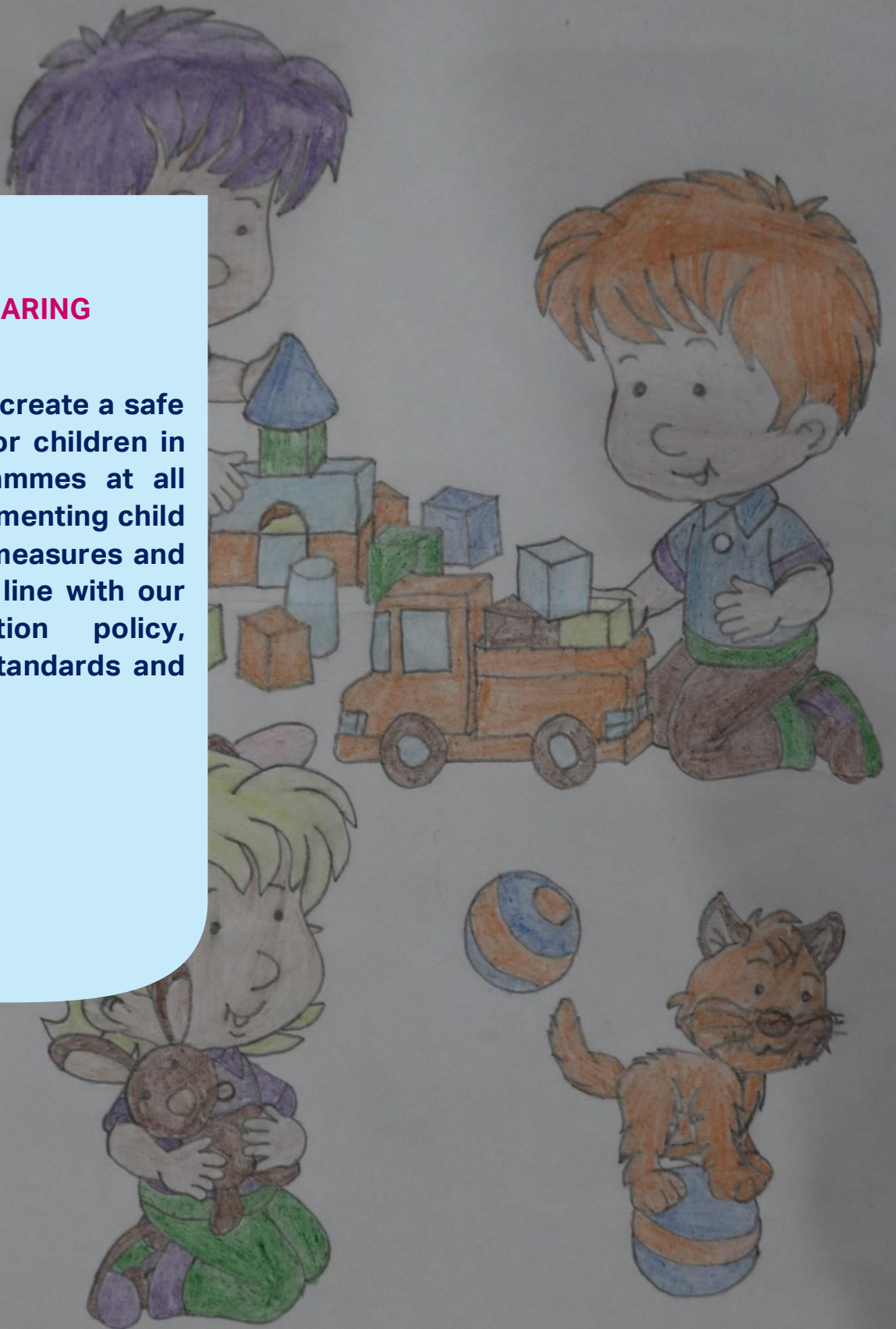
together we can do more!



## CHILD SAFEGUARING

We commit to create a safe environment for children in all our programmes at all times by implementing child safeguarding measures and procedures in line with our child protection policy, international standards and best practices.

SOS Children's Villages





We design prevention and awareness measures to equip children, parents, caregivers, educators, families of origin and community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect children against dangerous, risky, violent and abusive situations. A strong focus is put on preventing violence against children, including gender-based violence, sexual coercion, abuse and exploitation, abusive disciplinary practices, and other forms of discrimination.

Quality care and Child Safeguarding continue to be integral parts of our day-to-day work. We continue to strengthen our procedures and processes to ensure all children and participants are safe within a conducive environment. Child Safeguarding (CS) case management has been strengthened with the introduction of Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) to effectively and efficiently manage safeguarding incidents.

This ensured greater understanding of issues related to sexual and gender-based violence at the click of a button. Moreover, we build capacity in sexual and reproductive health in addition to positive parenting and discipline for Caregivers to increase the rate of prevention of CS case in line with the findings of the risk assessment

Training of project implementing partners, SOS children and youth's families of origin, and service providers on the child protection policy and procedures. The training strengthens the capacities of persons who directly or indirectly work with the organisation to ensure protection and quality data on child protection and its reporting procedures. This includes families of origin of programme participants, service providers and co-workers. This is to ensure increase knowledge on our child protection policy and procedures by all stakeholders and partners.

To consolidate initial SRHR interventions, scale up initiatives and to introduce new preventive, mitigating and resilience measures. A Smart communication platform was established (WhatsApp Chatbot and Smart Broadcast) for children and youth, SOS Mothers and Family Assistants in both locations by SOS CV Implementing partner – The Web Way in November 2022. More than 150 users access these platforms from November and December 2022. We will continue to improve our system and procedures by innovating ways to ensure everyone is protected and has access to support.

# SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia APPOINTMENT BRAND AMBASSADOR



Ebrima Cham, formerly known as Barhama is one of Gambia's finest Entertainer and POP Star. He is a singer, a song writer, an instrumentalist, an actor and an activist who has spent a lot of his life using his diverse talents to entertain and educate his audience and the nation.

His career began in 2016 after a high force of inspiration and motivation from his environment and the people around, the problems facing society and the world at large.

Ebrima does not only sing to entertain, but he also uses music as a tool to create awareness on crucial matters and critical national issues, thereby creating impact on the lives of people. Some of his songs and performances include awareness on Gender & Sexual Based Violence, Child Protection and Human Rights, Climate change, Peace and Reconciliation, Transitional Justice, Employment, etc.

In June 2019, he represented The Gambia in the UNFPA Summit in Dakar, Senegal, to serve advocacy performances on the protection and promotion of the rights and welfares of women and vulnerable group.

**National Brand Ambassador for SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia**





## Francisco Unmamuno, SOS Children's Villages International Representa- tive for The Gambia Visits The Gambia

The Children's Villages International Representative visited The Gambia as part of his annual visit. The visitation was from the 20th to the 24th of February 2023. Mr. Unmamuno had several meetings and engagements with National Management Team, Managers, Project Heads, SOS Parents and Young People. During his four-day visit, he also made a presentation on the Theory of Change during his meeting with the National Management Team (NMT). Mr. Unmamuno also paid a visit to Basse, Soma and Farafenni projects. The overall objective of his visit was to support the National Association in their drive to ensure quality care and services to our participants, beneficiaries and partners.



**A journey of a thousand miles begins with just a step!**

## Isatou' s Story -Trainer

My **Trauma-Informed Practices Training** began when we were nominated to attend a mental health program organized by management in July 2022. I was so excited because mental health has always been a topic I was interested in. However, this journey shaped me to have a broader view of Mental Health, I learned that ***"an empty lantern provides no light and self-care is the fuel that allows your light to shine."***

This is one of the quotes that I fell in love with the most. One might wonder why the quote above became one of my favorites during this training, well, it is because of few reasons. Firstly, before attending the Mental

Health sessions, I had no idea what self-care truly meant. It was a phrase that almost everyone would use and I became an advocate of self-care. On many occasions, I missed lunch breaks, because I loved to do things well; but I failed to learn new skills. The Trauma-Informed Practices training helped my colleagues and me to understand what self-care truly meant – it is not about "fanciness! Self-care meant eating on time, taking regular breaks, interacting with colleagues, learning new things, etc. It is also asking yourself what you need and following through on the honest answer. I learned how self-care can help me love and support those around me, how self-care can help me wear someone's shoes and feel their situation and be able to give them back their shoes compassionately but most importantly how self-care and well-being can help the organization and its staff put on their trauma lens. I learned how some people experience trauma at different levels. How this mean death (not physical death) but one that could be a social death, psychological death, or emotional death. This made me reflect on how I had advocated for self-care but I was not really practicing what I was preaching. From lesson learned I started to take regular breaks, and eat on time and I learned new skills. Today I am happy to be practicing self-care and urge my colleagues to experience self-care for a happy and healthy workplace. The training prepared me to be a trainer and I am thrilled to share the knowledge that I learned with other SOS colleagues and beneficiaries.





# 5 Years Strategy Planing Workshop

Earlier in 2022, the National Association of SOS Children’s Villages in The Gambia had a five days workshop to develop a National Strategy for 2023-2027. The five days event brought together programme participants and key stakeholders from SOS Children’s Villages Regional Offices for West Central and North Africa. The session was opened by the Regional Director Mr. Beniot Piot and facilitated by Regional Strategic Planning Team. The outcome from the Planning session was successful. Strategies and lesson learn from previous programs and project were also reflected in the developed strategy document. Prior to the strategy developement workshop, consultations were held with the Government of The Gambia,

partners, associates , children and young people to get their inputs or recommendations in the document.







## SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia Host Regional Meetings

In its attempt to ensure conformity with SOS Children's Villages Programme Quality, The SOS Children's Villages annually brings together staff from countries in the West, Central, and North African regions to reflect on their work, services, and programs in these countries. SOS

Children's Villages in The Gambia hosts the

**Regional Program Development, Institutional Partnership, Communication, and Brand Meetings** in the Gambia. The Meeting brought together **100** participants from **21** countries and also from our international and regional offices. The meetings to take place from the 10th to the 21st of July 2023 at the Bakadaji Hotel. **The team of this year joint meeting "Programmatic quality at the heart of innovation, Scaling impact through improved internal collaboration to Boost external communications for greater**

**impact."**The meeting was opened by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of The Gambia. She was joined by the Regional Program Director, National Director SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia and the Helena representative of Hermann Gmeiner Fund – HGFD who also emphasized on the importance of the meeting. In her statement, she thanked SOS Children Villages for their work to ensuring that No Child Grows Up Alone. She also highlighted the importance of Partnership and collaboration to support children and young people.







**Consultative  
Workshop  
'Alternative  
Child Care  
Options'**



Children lacking parental care has slightly increased according to the SAC - IN The Gambia. Despite the fact that children are valued in The Gambia, some of them lack parental care". The concept of 'children without parental care' refers to all children not in the care of at least one of their parents, for whatever reason and under whatever circumstances.

The situation of these children is a serious concern because they do not enjoy parental care, as requires by the Covention on the rights of children (CRC). They are therefore deprived of the opportunity to "grow up in a supportive, caring and nurturing family environment". Some of them are exposed to risks

of abuse, violence, and exploitation. Meanwhile, the governing principles of alternative care established by the UN "Guidelines for alternative care" stipulate that "children living without their parents, or outside of a family environment, should be an exception and a measure of last resort, determined by judicial authorities for the best interest of the child. Earlier this year, SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia with partners including the Ministries of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Justice and Child Protection agencies and organisation held a two days concultative session with the aim to discuss the situation of children in need of care and look deeply into the introduction of new care options in The Gambia for the children in need of care. This includes foster care, kinship care , adoption and family like care .



## key lesson learnt for a susccesful implementation

- **The importance of Government's Commitment on Foster Care and Kinship Care.**
  - **The importance of adequate financing**
- **Ensuring capacities of both families and stakeholders are important to achieving this project**
  - **Commitments from foster families**
    - **Awareness raising**





## Meeting with President of The Republic of The Gambia

The National Management Team of SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia led by the National Director Jean -Pierre Kouamin paid a courtesy call meeting with the President of the Republic of The Gambia

The purpose of the courtesy call was to brief the Head of State of SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia work and also to introduce the new Director who was appointed last

year.

The team and the President related to Child Rights and Empowerment and Women Empowerment.

discussed a lot of issues Protection, Youth Employability as well as

"We are very happy with SOS Children's Villages, and you are filling a gap in the country".

**President of the Republic of The Gambia  
His Excellency Adama Barrow**

**Courtesy call visit  
State House of The Gambia.  
Date: 4th of April 2023**

President Barrow thanked SOS Children's Villages



for the level of work and support to children and young people. He noted that these support "put a smile on many Gambians faces and changtheir lives". President Barrow pledged his government's support to SOS Children transiting into the community by having the right policy and environment to guarantee their smooth transition. adding, " SOS Children's Villages is doing a very good job ancomplementing the work of Government". on his part, the National Director of SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia reaffirm the organization commitment to supporting children and young people – especially vulnerable children and promoting the rights and welfare of Young people and families in The Gambia.

## Commorating International Women's Day 2023

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March every year. This year 2023, the International Women's Day theme is "Embrace Equity", a call to governments and world leaders to provide equity and end gender inequality.

While equality includes providing the same resources or opportunities to an individual or a group, equity, on the other hand, necessitates allocating exact resources and options required by the individual or a group after recognising their different circumstances and backgrounds.

The National Association held a symposium on the theme at the National Office on the 8th of March 2023. The participants took the opportunity to review the National Association's Gender Action Plan. The event was attended by the Senior Management Team, SOS Parents, and Young People. [ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023 – SOS The Gambia \(sosgambia.org\)](https://www.sosgambia.org) A live webinar was also held and organized by the International Office Region in Dakar, Senegal. Our National Association is committed to supporting children and families on their journey to self-reliance, whilst putting a special focus on ensuring equal opportunities for girls and boys and thus on improving gender equality especially equal access to technology



### Review of National Association Gender Action Plan

An hour session was also dedicated to review the National Association Gender Action to see how far the Association has gone in the drive to realisation of the gender equality.





'My earning is not much though, but what I want is to earn a lot and save for tomorrow.

All the earning I have goes to feeding, rent, and my children's education that the issue. I sell ice at the school and at the local mall which I started recently.

Now I am lucky to be part of the SOS Children Villages Project which has helped me a lot. Before I joined the project, I was in a very difficult situation.

When I sell today I could not sell the next day because the profit I made was not able to support me for the next day for me to buy the necessary items I need for the next day.

So, through the BMZ Project, I was able to sell again, pay my rent, pay my children's school fees, and many more for myself. I want my business to grow to a level that I will not rent again and support my family. My family is not strong, they are suffering and all of them depend on me. everyone comes to me for everything. So, whatever I have, I try to support them. If I don't have I tell them

I pray for my business to become stronger and stronger to the level of having my own company just to see that my children become successful. I sell local juice (Baobab, coffee, mint, strawberry, banana, and Kabba). Some time ago, my business was not doing well and was challenging.

You will not expect me to sought out my need with the little money I make from my business, I had to pay rent, school fees, and other family issues so it was challenging, but I tried to manage. At some point, I only had to sell only baobab and coffee juice because of the little money I had. So, when the BMZ Project came, I was able to increase my sales and prepare a lot of varieties to sell.

The only challenge is facing is the lack of electricity. This is a very big challenge for my business. Sometimes I lost all that I have prepared due to the ice, Now I am seeking help to have a solar fridge to ease the burden. My ice is in high demand, clients come from far away like the capital city to buy my ice. This makes me happy. I put the juice into plastic bags and sell them. In fact, the process takes time. I can start from the morning till at night.

**'When I sell today I could not sell the next day because the profit I made was not able to support me for the next day for me to buy the necessary items I need for the next day'.**

**Jankey Beyai**  
**Participant** - Community Strengthening Through Green Economy and Education (CSGEE) Project

I want a solar fridge it will help me a lot in my business because my family depends on this. My family members also help me in my business. I cannot do it alone.

Sometimes when clients come to buy ice and realize that there is no ice, they get angry citing that they come along and there is no ice. This makes me sad and shame because I want anytime if someone comes to buy, the s available. I want my clients to be happy

There was a time when we go out our clothes all smells a lot of smoke. When we go out people will know that we are from the dumpsite. All the house will be on smoke, you cannot leave your food without covering it. Sometimes we go to our friend's houses. Our children get sick. Sometimes the smell is so bad that you cannot sit outside. Sometimes if the smoke starts, our children do not go to school, and sometimes they get sick, we go get them medicine.

When the smoke enters the house, we are the ones who get water and put the fire off. Sometimes before the fire services come, we are already tired. Sometimes at midnight, the fire from the dumpsite starts. We all get up and try to save our families because the fuel station near the dumpsite can make it worst. They have stolen a lot of our belongings when we are not around due to the fires at the dump site.

When the SOS Children's Villages project came we could not believe it. Now whenever we have a program we don't have to be ashamed anymore. But before when you 'have a program here, is the time the dumpsite is set on fire All our guests will leave due to the smoke from the dump site. Sometimes our family members call us and ask us about the situation at the dump site. It has been a while since we did not see any smoke or encountered a bad smell or see flies since the project began.

Before I joined the SOS Project, I was not have profit in my business. But after the training I got from the project on Business plan and Management, SOS Children' Villages helped me venture into other business such as charcoal making and many other things. They did not stop there, they also taught us how to care for our children and their rights , eg right to food, health and education. We learnt all that during the project.

What made happy about the project is that , the support given to us. If i was not supported, today I will not reach here, even if I wanted it to be at this stage whithout the support of SOS Children's Villages I will not be here. Everything is about money and if you don't have that you will not achieve your dreams.

I want my business to grow to a level that I have my own company. Today all my children go to school, there was a time I could not pay my children school fees because I was not having money. But since the business started I enrolled them him in school ( the eldest son) now he is in grade 10. Currently he also engage in appreticship and luckily if he finish his education, our situation might improve.



I was not educated, so I will love my children to be educated, so I have to get up and work to make sure they have the education that you never had. So that tomorrow when they have their families, they will support them.

My wish for my children is that, the way I suffered, I don't want my children to go through it. One of my boys is currently into auto mechanic and the other one is into football the eldest. They are all brilliant and if I have help they will all be successful.

My children motivates me, if I don't have children I will not be active like this. But when I remember my children with the hope they have in me it makes me active. Even if I am sick, I always remember how will my children go to school or eat, so this keeps me moving. If I don't go to sell, my children will help me sell because I thought them also how to go about it. So from the sales money, I pay rent, pay the electricity bill, and their school lunch.

**'My wish is to have a solar fridge and my own company.**

**If I have it, it will solve all my problems. I will help all my children and also my family members who need help.**

**So that I can break the cycle of poverty'.**

Jankey

**Am used to the school children they call me aunty all the time. Sometimes I even give them ice, sometimes if they tell me they don't have lunch, I give them or some will ask for credit. Me too I have children and she knows the importance of providing for them. Them saying ' aunty aunty sell me, sell me makes me happy '.**

Jankey was enrolled at the SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia Sustainable Waste Management to Reduce Child Rights Violation at the Bakoteh Dumpsite. The Project was aimed at Children and families in the neighborhood of Bakoteh dump site are protected from health, environmental, economic risks and violations of Children's rights which includes Jankey's families. The Sustainable Waste Management to Reduce Child Rights Violation Project was a two years project from November 1st, 2020 -2022 ( 26 months), with a cost of 42 Million GMD (Gambia Dalasis).

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ), SOS Children's Villages Hermann Gmeiner Fonds Deutschland (HGFD), and Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) and implemented by SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia. The project has directly benefited 200 families (including 1000 children and 50 youths) 100 representatives of local partners and decision makers (City Administration, Dumpsite Management, NGOs, and Community-Based Organisations), and indirectly benefited 10,000 people targeted through mass sensitization/awareness creation.

**Participant (Jankey), Sustainable Waste Management Project to Reduce Child Rights Violations at the Bakoteh Dumpsite.**

# International Children's Day 2023.



SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia with Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare , partners such as Child Fund The Gambia and other stakeholders including children commemorated the Day of The African Child earlier this year on June 16 with the



theme: 'The Right of the Child in Digital Environment'. The event was graced by the Minister of Gender , Children and Social Welfare of The Gambia.

SOS Children's Village in the Gambia  
2023 edition



# Youth Power



## WHAT IS THE YOUTHCAN! PROJECT ALL ABOUT?

### YOUTHCAN! PROJECT:

YouthCan! is a global partnership between SOS Children's Villages and the private sector which empowers young people who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it by helping them transition to independence and decent work.





SOS Children’s Villages in The Gambia has been approved to implement YouthCan! this year 2023.

YouthCan! entails mentoring, partnership, TVET with internships to support and enhance youth employability in its programmes through partnering with relevant partners to mitigate unemployment, crimes, and poverty faced especially by the most vulnerable young people in our societies. The project calls for both private and public sector partnership to ensure that

vulnerable young people have the best start in life.

SOS Children’s Villages in The Gambia goal is to officially launch the project in September 2023. Mr. Tijan Betts , the National Youth Coordinator, SOS Children’s Villages in The Gambia is the Team Leader for the Youth Can Project in The Gambia.



Mr. Betts thanks the organization for the project

and look forward to the impact. “Once again, congratulations to NA Gambia,” he added.

[Tijan.betts@sosgambia.org](mailto:Tijan.betts@sosgambia.org) For more on the project click this link: [https://sosgambia.org/main/info/sos-childrens-villages-](https://sosgambia.org/main/info/sos-childrens-villages-in-the-gambia-joins-the-global-youthcan-project/)

[in-the-gambia-joins-the-global-youthcan-project/](https://sosgambia.org/main/info/sos-childrens-villages-in-the-gambia-joins-the-global-youthcan-project/) .







EDRISA JABBIE

BINTA D. BOJANG

FATOU SECKA

Fatou Jaiteh

Kalilou Touray

MBYE BABUCARR JALLOW

# SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia National Youth Forum



Youth Participation is a fundamental right established in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. When children and young people have an active voice, they can shape their future as well as the future of the communities they live. Children and young people are the experts of their own lives. SOS Children's Village in The Gambia is committed to providing platforms and safe spaces for their full meaningful participation in all matters that concern them, and their everyday lives. SOS Children's Villages programmes are designed to support children, young



people and their peers, and to improving policies and practices. The National Youth Forum is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition youth forum in NA Gambia, established through the SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia Youth Network to enhance youth participation at the national level including young people in all SOS CV Gambia programmes (FS, AC, schools and IPD project) and key stakeholders that are actively involved in youth programs with the **goal** to strengthen youth participation by creating a safe space to

showcase their talents and voice and challenges faced daily by them in the areas of Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Mental health, sexual reproductive health, substance misuse and career guidance with the theme: **Youth Engage Change**. The event was graced by the Managing Director ACCESS Bank, DHL, YMCA, National Youth Council, representative from the Drug Law and Enforcement Agency, Youth Representatives from different organisations and youth groups. Young people took the center stage to deliberate on thematic areas, Duty bearers also discussed on the theme with finding solutions on youth unemployability and many other issues faced by young people.





## Meeting with the Minister of Gender, Children & Social Welfare

We were pleased to have been received by the Minister of Gender, Children, and social welfare at her Ministry. The visit was aimed at briefing the Minister and her Ministry on our 40th-anniversary celebration and to discuss issues relating to Gatekeeping, Foster Care, and Child Protection.

The delegation was led by the National Director Jean-Pierre Kouamin and staff from Programme and Finance departments.

SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia used the occasion to thank the Minister and her team for audience and collaboration between the two entities.

SOS Children's Villages will continue to strengthen its relationship with the Government through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of The Gambia to ensure that „No Child Grows Up Alone.“





The main aim of the meeting was to introduce the new National Director for SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia Jean Pierre Kouamin. Additionally, it was also an opportunity to update the Minister about our work in The Gambia and how we can strengthen our partnership with his Ministry and of course the Government of The Gambia.

We are happy that the Minister through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs is committed to supporting SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia in achieving their goal of ensuring no child grows up alone.

## **Meeting with Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs**



## Trust Bank visits SOS Children's Villages

The delegation was led by Mrs. Njilan Senghore Managing Director and the Cooperate Manager who were accompanied by the National Director paid a visit to SOS Children's Villages

The visit aimed at getting first-hand information about SOS Children's Village's work in The Gambia and how they can partner with SOS Children's Villages to support vulnerable children, young people, and their families. During the visit, they had the opportunity to tour our facilities and projects in our Bakoteh location and interact with staff and participants.

SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia takes this opportunity to thank Trust Bank Gambia Limited and look forward to strengthening this partnership.







## SOS Children's Villages signs cooperate partnership agreement with Trust Bank

SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia and Trust Bank, The Gambia signed an MoU for the sponsorship of one family home in Bakoteh in March 2023.

As part of her corporate responsibility, the bank on the 8th of June 2023, pledged to support a family house in SOS Children's Village, Bakoteh for the next 5 years beginning 2023. The SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia and Trust Bank officially unveiled the Family House that they have committed to support.

The unveiled ceremony was attended by the Managing Director, and Senior Management team from Trust Bank, SOS Children's Villages Management, Children, Staff, and the media.



**Thank you for the partnership and we look forward to working harder together in the coming years to ensure that No Child Grows Up Alone.**

**Jean-Pierre Kouamin  
National Director**

Mr. Kouamin thank the Trust Bank for the partnership. He stressed the need for support to children and young people adding that through partnership SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia will ensure that children and young people reach their full potential.

In his remark, , the National Director, Jean-Pierre Kouamin also thanked Trust Bank for the Corporate Social Responsibility and the thoughts to support the vulnerable in society something he termed as „most valuable.“ „Will also encourage other cooperate partners to emulate the good example of Trust Bank.



**'We put in place a system focused on providing children with reliable, secure and happy family unit'**

**Madam Nyillan**

Madam Nyillan Senghore, the Managing Director

Trust Bank in her statement "Today's occasion marks a significant milestone in our effort to give back to society and to make a difference in the lives of those who need our support the most and those who call SOS Children's Villages home. It left all of us at the Bank inspired to be better and to do better for the sake of humanity. We saw in place a system focused on providing children with reliable, secure and happy family unit".



Turkish Cooperation and Development Administration (TIKA) handed over 100 items of catering equipment to the SOS Children's Villages Regional Mother and Adult Training Center in The Gambia.

The Mother and Adult Training Center in The Gambia is a center for training professional and empowering change makers. The training center has empowered over 1500 people in different areas over the past 30 years. The center offers Certificates and Diplomas in Catering and hospitality, Sewing,



**TIKA (Turkish Embassy, The Gambia).**

**Hands Over Catering Equipment to the SOS Regional Mother and Adult Training Center**

"The donation of these items will modernize the kitchen at the Training Center and also boost the center's strive towards ensuring standards and quality service for customers and students accordingly to the director of the center" **Mrs. Ellen Maraizu- Project Director**



Social Work, adult literacy, and numeracy.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is a perfect alternative

to academic education, offering not only education and career support, but also opportunities for personal growth and poverty reduction. „The purpose of the donation is to ensure effective skills training in areas of cooking and pastry, housekeeping and restaurant service. Furthermore, the donated items will facilitate the transfer of skills most needed in the hospitality industry," says Mrs. Sule Bayar, TIKA Banjul Coordinator. "We look forward to cementing this relationship, especially in our Youth and Women Empowerment Projects and many more and thank you to the Republic of Turkiye through TIKA for choosing to support SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia," National Director SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia said.



## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT OR GET INVOLVED?

### CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE LIFE SPONSOR A FAMILY HOUSE

This service entails the provision of funds to partly sponsor the running cost of a family house at the SOS Children's Village in Bakoteh. The funds provided will be used for clothing, medical, educational and food expenses of the children within the chosen family house.

SOS Children's Villages will promote the brand of the sponsor in their website, social media platforms, newsletters, brochures and in their documentaries. Expected contribution: USD 10,000.00 Annually.

### SPONSOR A DIGITAL VILLAGE

The Digital Village project aims to provide access to ICT infrastructure for the SOS Children's Villages Basse programme participants and develop their digital literacy skills. The programme participants will have access to computers and Internet connectivity as well as receive ICT training, to be able to utilize the technology efficiently. The Digital Village project primarily targets the SOSCV families, including the care givers (SOS Parents), children and young people, who are the main beneficiaries of this project and also the community. Expected contribution: USD 6,000.00



A photograph of a woman with short dark hair, wearing a pink t-shirt and blue jeans, sitting on a swing. She is holding a young child in a blue and white plaid shirt and blue jeans. They are both smiling and looking to the right. The background is a blurred green landscape.

## BANK DETAILS

### Transfer within The Gambia

Bank Name: Trust Bank Account  
Name: SOS Children's Villages Donation Acct  
Account Number: 110-807424-01  
BBAN Number: 002203108074240170

### Transfer outside The Gambia

Bank Name: Ghana International Bank, London Swift  
Code: GHIBGB2L  
Beneficiary Bank: Trust Bank Limited  
Swift Code: TBLGMGM

**For More Information Please Contact SOS Children's Villages  
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**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**

Content owner @Fund Development & Communication Department / SOS Children's Villages in The Gambia