

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



ALDEIAS  
INFANTIS SOS  
CABO VERDE

Member association:	Cabo Verde
National director:	Dionísio PEREIRA
Reporting period:	2021
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Date of report:	24.03.2022

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. National context and stakeholders

Cabo Verde continues to have an atmosphere of political stability. Two elections (legislative and presidential) were held in the context of the Covid19 Pandemic without any big issue. The Pandemic, as well as the severe and 4 consecutive years of drought, also contributed to the worsening of the national economic situation, affecting negatively the social situation in the country. At the economic level, tourism, which accounts for 25% of the national GDP, suffered a drastic fall, decreasing by more than 70%. Inflation, which in 2020 was 0.6%, rises to 1.5%. Current income decreased by around 30% and unemployment among the working population rose to 14.5%. With regards to social, there has been an increase in poverty and unemployment. It should be noted that, in the population of around 500,000 inhabitants, there are 186,000 poor people, of whom 115 are in extreme poverty.

To deal with this situation and mitigate its effects on the population, the government adopted a set of emergency socio-economic measures, which ended up dictating a significant increase in public debt, which was already, before the Covid19 Pandemic, very high (124% of GDP in 2019, 151.1% of GDP in 2020 and 153.9% of GDP in 2021).

Specific to children's situation, the number of homeless children has increased in the main urban centres of the country, namely in the capital Praia, in the port city of Mindelo, on the island of São Vicente and in the tourist city of Santa Maria, on the island of Sal. Even without having updated statistical data, it is noticeable the increase in cases of child labour as well as cases of sexual abuse of children. Recent data released by the National Police, indicated that:

- of the 13,869 perpetrators of crimes identified, 1.5% were minors (a total of 204). 30 suspected perpetrators of these 204 crimes were under 12 years of age;
- of the 18,096 victims of crime identified throughout 2021, 3.4% were minors (a total of 607), and were essentially victims of sexual abuse. 139 of these 607 children were under 12 years of age.

SOS Children's Village in Cape Verde in collaboration with various entities (central and local governments, UNICEF, economic operators from public and private sectors), could also provide support through:

1. alternative care services in 2 locations, supporting 164 children and young people;
2. family strengthening services (via Social Centre) in Mindelo – São Vicente, benefiting 29 families and 124 children;
3. entrepreneurship and employability training (EET) in Assomada, covering 53 young people;
4. care training (CT) in São Domingos – as own adventure, thus with local income.

At last but not least, two big achievements to be shared:

- A proposal **of law on Parental Responsibility were formally delivered** to the National Assembly in November 2021; and
- Every **SOS parent and aunties were trained** in care and **recognized by the State as care professionals**.

## 2. Member association analysis

## Strategy implementation status

## Achievements

**In the field of alternative care:**

- **164 children and young people adequately cared for**, in a safe and family environment provided through the **2 villages, 2 youth care and 1 supervised independent living arrangements**;
- 11 children and young people **reunified** with their biological families and 5 young people reintegrated; and
- **Children's participation and protection** mechanisms improved through regular trainings of children's and dynamization of child's committees/club.

**In the field of family strengthening:**

- **124 children better cared for** by their families;
- 20 families with **improved housing conditions**, of which two were built from the scratch, replacing the tin houses where they initially lived in;
- **18 families trained in small business management** and financial education and in income-generating activities;
- 20 families with an **income-generating activity established** thanks to the allocation of microcredits; and
- 17 partners involved and contributed in the implementation of the project;

**In the field of young people employability:**

- **53 young people**, 32 girls and 21 boys, aged between 15 to 22 years old **trained and certificated in financial education**;
- **94 children and young people** (8 with disabilities) trained **on digital skills** within the framework of **YouthLinks**;
- 12 former SOS youth **coached** on how to develop and management of small business, being 6 could integrated in labour market;
- 37 adolescents (including trainees from the community) trained in 3 practical trainings (1 in carpentry & pallet, 1 in gardening and 1 in hairdressing);

**In the field of advocacy:**

- **Proposal of law on Parental Responsibility formally delivered** to the National Assembly in November 2021;
- Relevant partners and **national authorities engaged** in the implementation of the Parental Responsibility Campaign at the national level.

**In the field of Human Resources:**

- **Capacity of employees reinforced** through numerous trainings (e.g. in the field of employee's mental health; Ability to Handle Pressure at Work; Conflict Management and Mediation, etc.) and we also shared our knowledge and exchange experiences with the SOS CPLP Countries (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries);
- Every **SOS parent and aunts trained** in care and **recognized by the State as care professionals**;

**In the field of ICT:**

- 94 children and young people from the two villages participated in training in skills development and **digital literacy**, within the scope of the YouthLinks;
- **Digital marketing tools** used as a route to foster fundraising (crowdfunding & QR code) and sponsorship (Facebook lead).

**In the field of Fund Development and Communication:**

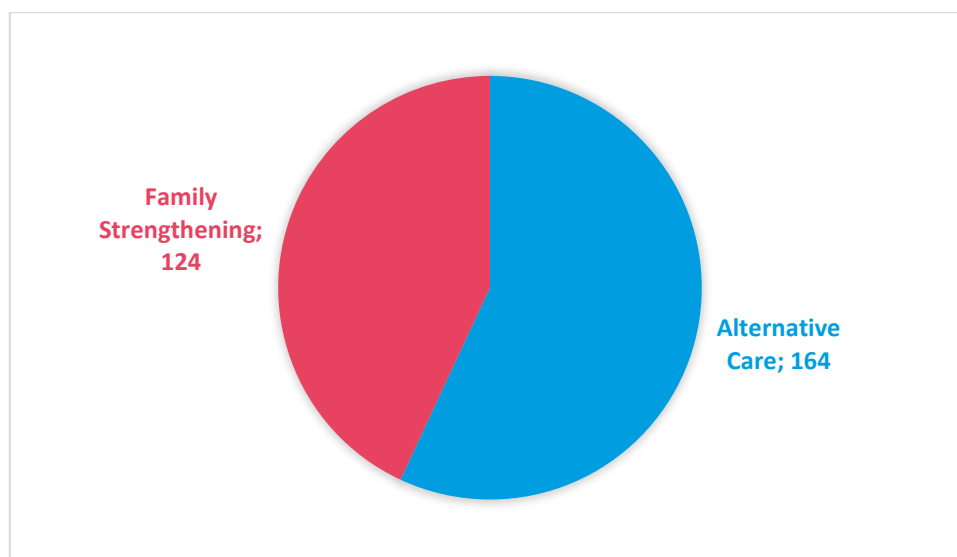
- Despite the negative repercussions of COVID-19, FR including public funding collected 60% of its cash income objective in 2021 (equivalent to CVE 28,3954,738\$00), **representing roughly 19% of NA running cost**.

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>In the field of alternative care:</b> one of the biggest challenges faced, during 2021, was related to the "new" profile of our target group, composed mostly by teenagers, with a history of drug abuse, who have already been on the streets or with severe disabilities, making the programmes have to adapt the answers to these children;</li> <li>▪ <b>In the field of family strengthening:</b> the prolongment of the Covid19 pandemic, managed through the prolongment of the foodstuff support to families;</li> <li>▪ <b>In the field of Human Resources:</b> as the major challenges faced was the lack of a clear career plan and employee expectations as well as the simplification of process and the dismissal of 21 co-workers.</li> </ul>
Lessons learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Tailored training</b> to young people with <b>disabilities</b> yields better result;</li> <li>▪ Trainings for young people with disabilities might take longer than planned;</li> <li>▪ The formal framework <b>agreement signed with HGFD</b> for the implementation of EET Assomada, that includes a <b>multiyear plan and budget</b> (for 2021 to 2023), give the stability to the programme location and enables the <b>focus on improvement of services</b> delivered;</li> <li>▪ Failure to register beneficiaries in PDB2/ProDIGI leads to inadequate follow-up of the programme progress/performance.</li> </ul>
Cross-cutting topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the field of <b>Gender</b>, we continued to assume a gender sensitive approach, by admitting all young people without gender discrimination. For instance, in the Entrepreneurship and Employability Training (EET Assomada) programme unit in Assomada of the 75 trainees, 27 were female and 48 males, while through family strengthening services in Mindelo, of the 29 caregivers supported, 26 were women and 3 men;</li> <li>▪ In the domains of <b>social integration, education and disabilities</b>, all the trainings carried out at the EET Assomada, aimed at vulnerable young people capacity building towards autonomy. Of the 75 trainees enrolled, 9 has disabilities. Within the total of 164 children living in our SOS families, 18 children have disability;</li> <li>▪ Regarding <b>environment</b>, within the range of trainings offered by EET Assomada, three are environment friendly, namely: gardening, woodworks (transforming pallet in furniture) and cut-and-sewing that recycle used clothes;</li> <li>▪ Related to <b>human rights, the child safeguarding (CS) &amp; participation, women &amp; girl's empowerment</b> approaches continued to be a must in all our programmes and activities. For instance, a child protection committee as well as children assembly, through which children and young people are sensitized about their rights and trained how to auto protect.</li> </ul>
Sustainability actions
<p>Related to sustainability actions, efforts have been made by all programmes.</p> <p>In Mindelo, the majority of supported families through family strengthening services, have reached a certain level of resilience that have been enabling them to absorb and overcome the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19. With the activities carried out during 2021, the following results were reached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20 families are enrolled in an IGA, 5 have a steady employment and 3 occasional jobs;</li> <li>▪ 20 of the 29 supported families are living in a better housing condition;</li> <li>▪ 2 VSLA formally established.</li> </ul> <p>In São Domingos and Assomada, <b>greenhouse and pig breeding projects</b> were implemented as part of the <b>village's sustainability</b>. the implementation of these 2 projects not only contributed to the diet but also helped to save money, with the sale of the leftovers.</p> <p><b>By December 2021, our subsidy-related self-sufficiency situated at 19%.</b></p>

### 3. Overview of programme(s)

In 2021, as per previous years, we continued to be physically present in the 3 locations, being in Assomada (since 1984), in São Domingos (2003) and in São Vicente (2008). As the main services, we delivered alternative care in the locations of Assomada and São Domingos, comprising each one of 11 SOS families (being 1 integrated in the community and 1 converted into temporary placement) and 1 youth care and a family strengthening (via Social Centre) in Mindelo – São Vicente. Complementarily, we implemented an Entrepreneurship and Employability Training (EET) in Assomada and a Care Training (CT) in São Domingos – this last as own adventure, thus with local income.

Concerning beneficiaries, we have supported throughout 2021 a total of 288 children and young people, being 137 girls and 151 boys. Of this total, 164 were supported through alternative care (78 girls and 86 boys) and 124 children (60 girls and 64 boys) through family strengthening. 2 SOS families are integrated in the community (1 per village).



Through Entrepreneurship and Employability Training we could reach 75 trainees (48 females and 27 males).

94% of children and young people in alternative care and family strengthening were enrolled in formal or non-formal education. Of this total, 89% had satisfactory educational, 4% less comparing to last's year percentage. Decrease observed mainly due to children with disabilities.

In the field of Advocacy, after succeeding to put the issues of parental irresponsibility in the national agenda in 2020, through positioning and campaigning, we have, in the last November, formally delivered a project law at the National Assembly. To remember that, report from the National Commission of Human Rights and Citizenship (2019) informs that 55.9% of children under 18, live without the presence of their father.

With regards to Human Resources and Organizational Development, two topics marked 2021. On the one hand, we had the **restructuring of personnel** imposed by unfavourable economic-financial circumstances, leading to the **dismissal of twenty-one (21) employees by the end of 2021**, especially Administrative and General Services and Maintenance employees, and, on the other hand, **every SOS parent** as well as aunties, after completing a care training delivered in our CT São Domingos (in accordance to the national care modules), were **certified and recognized by State as care professionals**.

In the field of **Fund Development and Communication**, despite the negative repercussion of the pandemic of COVID-19, it was possible to **collect 60% of the set objective for the year**, which is the equivalent to CVE 28,3954,738\$00, representing roughly **19% of NA running cost**.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND STAKEHOLDERS (2 pages) .....	7
1.1 General description of national context (1 page) .....	7
1.2 Key partners at national level .....	9
2. MEMBER ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS (5-7 pages) .....	10
2.1 Strategy implementation status (2-3 pages) .....	10
2.1.1 Alternative care .....	10
2.1.2 Family strengthening .....	11
2.1.3 Youth care and employability .....	12
2.1.4 Advocacy .....	13
2.1.5 Human resources .....	13
2.1.6 Internal processes and digitalisation .....	14
2.1.7 Fund development and communication .....	15
2.2 Lessons learned (1 page) .....	15
2.3 Cross-cutting topics .....	16
2.4 Sustainability actions (¾ page) .....	16
3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME(S) (½-1 page per programme) .....	17
3.1 Programme location: Assomada .....	17
3.2 Programme location: São Domingos .....	18
3.3 Programme location: Mindelo .....	19
ANNEX 1: Hyperlinks to related materials .....	20
ANNEX 2: Summary of major activities of the MEMBER Association .....	21

## 1. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND STAKEHOLDERS

### 1.1 General description of national context

Cabo Verde continues to have an atmosphere of political stability, even after two elections (legislative and presidential) were held in the same year, in the context of the Covid19 Pandemic. The Pandemic, as well as the persistent and severe drought resulting from the lack of regular rainfall, have contributed to the worsening of the national economic situation and, consequently, affecting negatively the social situation throughout the archipelago, but also contributing to the increase in the demands of the most vulnerable people for institutional support, in order to face the difficulties, they are confronted with. At the economic level, tourism, which accounts for 25% of the national GDP, suffered a drastic fall, decreasing by more than 70%. Inflation, which in 2020 was 0.6%, rises to 1.5%. Current income decreased by around 30% and unemployment among the working population rose to 14.5%.

To deal with this situation and mitigate its effects on the population, the government adopted a set of emergency socio-economic measures, which ended up dictating a significant increase in public debt, which was already, before the Covid19 Pandemic, very high (124% of GDP in 2019, 151.1% of GDP in 2020 and 153.9% of GDP in 2021).

At the social level, there has been an increase in poverty and unemployment, with emphasis on exclusion and precariousness of work, strongly affecting the income of many families, as well as the level and quality of their lives, dragging many of them into poverty. It should be noted that, in the population of around 500,000 inhabitants, there are 186,000 poor people, of whom 115 are in extreme poverty.

The precarious housing conditions, characterized by the small number of condominium owners, the lack of sanitary infrastructures as well as the unavailability of water, make the lives of families and consequently of their children difficult. The number of homeless children has increased in the main urban centres of the country, namely in the capital Praia, in the port city of Mindelo, on the island of São Vicente and in the tourist city of Santa Maria, on the island of Sal. Even without having updated statistical data, it is noticeable the increase in cases of child labour as well as cases of sexual abuse of children.

Even more serious are the recent data released by the National Police, which show that:

- of the 13,869 perpetrators of crimes identified, 1.5% were minors (a total of 204). 30 suspected perpetrators of these 204 crimes were under 12 years of age;
- of the 18,096 victims of crime identified throughout 2021, 3.4% were minors (a total of 607), and were essentially victims of sexual abuse. 139 of these 607 children were under 12 years of age.

In order to respond to some of these situations that afflict families and the entire Cape Verdean society, but always bearing in mind the limitations of its means, SOS Children's Village in Cape Verde has collaborated with various entities (central and local governments, UNICEF, economic operators public and private sectors, international partners such as HGF, SOS VE Monde, among others), which made it possible to provide assistance, either to institutionalized children, or to those benefited remotely or indirectly, through the following:

5. Ensuring full protection and vaccination of children in alternative care by the organization;
6. Psychological support to all employees affected by the impositions resulting from the health restrictions of Covid19 and guarantee of vaccination for all;
7. Empowering many families to better care for their children, providing training in child care and income-generating activities;
8. Support for families to improve their housing conditions;
9. Empowering young people for economic entrepreneurship;

10. Emergency care for some adolescents and psychological support for many children;
11. Creating conditions for the processes of reporting cases of violation of children's rights to be fluid and facilitated;
12. Facilitation of processes for the implementation of Municipal Committees for the Defense of the Rights of Children and Adolescents;
13. Raising awareness of the authorities and society as a whole to be involved in child protection processes.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), namely **SDG 17 – Partnerships and Means of Implementation**, recommends that the goals will only be achieved through a renewed commitment of cooperation and a broad global partnership that includes all interested sectors, encouraging partnerships public, public-private, private, and with civil society.

The role of partnerships has gained more and more relevance in the current context and has become an essential tool for the development of any organization, regardless of its nature, size or financial capacity. This makes it more evident for an NGO such as SOS Children's Villages Cabo Verde, not only for the transversal nature of its intervention, but also for the need for collaborative work to carry out its mission.

In our case, many partnerships have been established and nurtured seeking to improve our impact and reach. Among those with whom we have been collaborating, the following ones should be highlighted: Cabo-Verdean Institute of Child and Adolescent, Municipalities of Tarrafal, Santa Cruz, São Domingos and São Filipe, Institute of Employment and Professional Training, National Assembly and Ombudsman's Office.



## 1.2 Key partners at national level

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), namely **SDG 17 – Partnerships and Means of Implementation**, recommends that the goals will only be achieved through a renewed commitment of cooperation and a broad global partnership that includes all interested sectors, encouraging partnerships public, public-private, private, and with civil society.

The role of partnerships has gained more and more relevance in the current context and has become an essential tool for the development of any organization, regardless of its nature, size or financial capacity. This makes it more evident for an NGO such as SOS Children's Villages Cabo Verde, not only for the transversal nature of its intervention, but also for the need for collaborative work to carry out its mission.

In our case, many partnerships have been established and nurtured seeking to improve our impact and reach. Among those with whom we have been collaborating, we listed in the table below the major ones.

**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
<b>Cabo-Verdean Institute of Child and Adolescent</b>	Besides the Cabo-Verdean Institute of Child and Adolescent we are the main alternative care service provider in the country. Thus, this partnership was established aiming at improving the childcare system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewal of the partnership agreement;</li> <li>▪ Admission and care in the SOS families of children forwarded by the Government;</li> <li>▪ Organization of several joint actions in the field of advocacy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The cost of care of 33 children placed in SOS families paid by the Government;</li> <li>▪ National Child and Adolescent forum organized.</li> </ul>	Yes
<b>Municipalities of Tarrafal, Santa Cruz, São Domingos and São Filipe</b>	This partnership was established as a way to avoid the uprooting of children from their community and be placed in alternative care programme far from their reality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of 2 SOS families integrated in the community, supporting 10 children;</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the Municipal Child Protection Committee, engaging several stakeholders;</li> <li>▪ Definition of collaborative mechanism and priority areas for joint work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 SOS families integrated in the community, operating with shared costs between SOS and the 2 municipalities;</li> </ul>	Yes
<b>Institute of Employment and Professional Training</b>	In 2018, the MA decided to start an EET Programme Unit in the premises of closed Kindergarten. Thus, there was a need to collaborate with institution that has expertise on the subject.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During the year under report, the Institute of Employment and Professional Training provide support in the implementation of the trainings on arts in pallet and locksmiths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two trainings carried out benefiting 27 youth.</li> </ul>	Yes

<b>National Assembly</b>	This partnership is, essentially, based on the need that we have to put forward our proposals for laws aiming at improving the living conditions of children in our target group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization of a Child and Adolescent Forum at the National Assembly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children were given voice to discuss about their right and present their concerns to the duty bears.</li> </ul>	Yes
<b>Ombudsman's Office</b>	This partnership seeks to promote and safeguard child rights, through collaborative work in the field of advocacy, aiming at public policies effectiveness in favour of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of joint campaign on parental responsibilities, which aim at sensitization of parents to assume their responsibility related to their children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted to the National Assembly legal proposal for parental responsibility</li> </ul>	Yes

## 2. MEMBER ASSOCIATION ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Strategy implementation status

#### 2.1.1 Alternative care

Through the Alternative Care services, in 2021, we could provide home to **164 children and young people** through **20 SOS families, 2 SOS families integrated in the community, 1 emergency house, 2 youth care programmes** and **1 semi-independent living programme** in two locations, namely Assomada and São Domingos.

Of the 164 supported children and young people, 78 was female and 86 males. The average age situated in 14,7 years, being the youngest 3 years old while the oldest 26 (with disabilities that hinder her to live and autonomous live and unavailability of family to support). In relation to the reason why they were placed in our alternative care programmes, **154 (93,9%) are social orphan**, 7 (4,27%) were due to abandonment and 3 (1,83%) orphan from the both parents. **98% has, at least, one parent alive**. There is no official and desegregated data on the number or rate of children without parental care or at risk of losing it. Nevertheless, analyses of some key information showed that, in 2019, 55.9% of children under 18 years old lived without the presence of their father and in about 2/3 of cases, women are the main responsible for the support and care.

In the co-worker's side, in total **86 individuals**, being **35 (40,7%) SOS parents and aunts**, **16 (18,6%) education/social staff**, 12 (14%) in administration and 23 (26,7%) in maintenance and general services, composed the teams in the 2 abovementioned programme locations, that effortlessly guaranteed the care and protection every child and young people need to become their strongest self. Efforts, that have revealed to be critical to ensure emotional stability, especially considering the pandemic times we lived during the last 2 years.

The main achievements and challenges are listed in the table below:

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>164 children and young people adequately cared for, in a safe and family environment provided through the 2 villages, 2 youth care and 1 supervised independent living arrangements;</li> <li>11 children and young people reunified with their biological families and 5 young people reintegrated;</li> <li>2 SOS families integrated into the community (1 per village), operating with shared cost with local authorities;</li> <li>9 new children placed in our alternative care programmes in Assomada and São Domingos;</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children's participation and protection mechanisms improved through regular trainings of children's and dynamization of child's committees/club; and</li> <li>▪ Every young people with 14 years old and above, trained in Sexual and Reproductive Health Education. Workshop facilitate by VERDEFAM (Cape Verdean Association for the Protection of the Family).</li> </ul>
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of the biggest challenges faced, during 2021, was related to the "new" profile of our target group, composed mostly by teenagers, with a history of drug abuse, who have already been on the streets or with severe disabilities, making the programmes to adapt the answers to these children;</li> <li>▪ Very low child per family ratio (5.8) as a result of the decrease in the number of admissions in recent years.</li> </ul>

### 2.1.2 Family strengthening

The delivered of family strengthening services in the country was, during 2021, guaranteed through the implementation of two projects solely in Mindelo, one of the 3 locations where we intervene in the country:

1. One has to do with an **LNF project, financed by HGFD, within the covid19 funding mechanism** and closed in December 2021. In summary, the project was designed to lend a hand to the 31 beneficiary families (26 of the 29 headed by women) in Mindelo whose 124 children used to stay on the streets. The overall objective was to contribute to strengthen the resilience capacity of the vulnerable families so they can absorb and overcome the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19;
2. The second, has to do with a **project financed by BMZ, covering the period from 2021 to 2024, to support 200 families and 800 children from 4 communities** on the island, aiming to empower vulnerable families from Mindelo so they can autonomously support, protect and care for their children, enabling them to grow within a caring and protecting family environment with their rights and needs guaranteed.

The first, (LNF project), as per approved, was implemented from August 2020 to December 2021, focusing on two major components, namely:

- Component 1: Guarantee the access to livelihood and basic needs to 31 vulnerable families;
- Component 2: Ensure economic empowerment through (self)employment, implementation of Income Generate Activities (IGA) or Village of Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) as a strategy for survival and resilience.

From this project, the following table summarises the results achieved and challenges faced:

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 124 children better cared for by their families;</li> <li>▪ 20 families with improved housing conditions, of which two were built from the scratch, replacing the tin houses where they initially lived;</li> <li>▪ 18 families trained in small business management, financial education and hygiene and safety in income-generating activities;</li> <li>▪ 20 families with an income-generating activity established thanks to the allocation of microcredits;</li> <li>▪ 28 children from 12 families with better sleeping conditions thanks to the provision of beds and mattresses;</li> <li>▪ 29 families and 124 children, totalling 242 people, aware of the standards of hygiene and prevention to COVID 19, thanks to the biweekly sending of messages and the allocation of hygiene and protection materials;</li> <li>▪ 29 families sensitized on the importance and benefits of the positive parenting;</li> <li>▪ 17 partners involved and contributed in the implementation of the project.</li> </ul>
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	<b>A particular note regarding the field of housing improvement which, even though not being part of the organization's current practices, proved to be extremely important for the improvement of the general conditions of the lives of those we help.</b> Families benefited by the house improvement, have experienced a new breath of hope and the joy of being able to raise their children with the desired safety.
Challenges	Related to the challenges face, the followings are noteworthy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prolongment of the Covid19 pandemic, managed through the prolongment of the foodstuff support to concerned families.</li> </ul>

Related to the second (BMZ Project), though in the early stage of implementation, the followings should be retained related to the achievements and challenges:

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Municipality aware and engaged in the project implementation;</li> <li>▪ Partnership agreement established with CBO's, local authority and network representatives, for the project implementation;</li> <li>▪ 1 Community Based Organization, officially registered and 1 ordinary assembly held amongst the members;</li> <li>▪ Baseline assessment carried out and 200 families selected and characterized;</li> <li>▪ A practical workshop on natural soap production delivered to 8 families;</li> <li>▪ Day centre facilities partially renovated and equipped.</li> </ul>
Challenges	<p>Related to the challenges faced, it should be reported the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some initial delays caused by the project approval process, some bureaucracy related to banking account opening and internal requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additionally, it is worth to mention that, the baseline study shows that the family structure in Mindelo has been changing, and the number of children per family foreseen in the project will be a little bit less. Therefore, the definition of the families as primary beneficiaries led to a decrease in the number of children from 800 and approx. 600.</b></p>

### 2.1.3 Youth employability

The expertise of CV Assomada in the implementation of an employability programme, started in 2018 with the embarkment of the national association in the YouthCan! and GoTeach. Thanks to these two initiatives, launched and implemented in partnership with DHL and the State Department in Charge of Professional Trainings, the programme could implement from 2018 to 2021 some training courses to young people from the SOS families as well as from the surrounding communities.

To consolidate the previous experiences, an Entrepreneurship and Employability Training (EET) programme unit was developed and submitted for approval. Finally, the project got approved, by HGFD, and will be implemented from 2021 to 2023, focusing on the young people's capacity building, in the domain of practical skills (e.g. in the area of gardening, hairdressing, and meat processing, packaging and sale, etc.) and entrepreneurship improving thus, our impact on them. By establishing this programme unit, we intent to, ultimately, ensure that Care leavers and young people with disabilities are self-sufficient, one year after exit programme.

Based in Assomada, this project was designed to benefit 750 young people (250 per year), from all the three programme locations where we intervene, namely: Assomada, São Domingos and Mindelo (whether from SOS families, family strengthen programme or other alternative care), during 2021, the followings were achieved:

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 53 young people, 32 girls and 21 boys, aged between 15 to 22 years old trained and certificated in financial education;</li> <li>▪ 2 boys started their professional training in Portugal;</li> <li>▪ 94 children and young people (8 with disabilities) trained on digital skills within the frame of YouthLinks;</li> <li>▪ 26 young girls, from the community trained in hairdressing. A training delivered in partnership with Institute of Employment and Professional Training;</li> <li>▪ 12 former SOS youth coached on how to develop and manage small business, being 6 could integrated in labour market;</li> <li>▪ 2 practical trainings implemented (1 in carpentry &amp; pallet and 1 in gardening), benefiting 11 adolescents (3 girls and 8 boys);</li> <li>▪ 1 SOS young boy attended apprenticeship in DHL agency and 2 could conclude successfully internship in a mechanic company;</li> </ul>
Challenges	<p>As challenges, the followings were faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weak engagement of trainees, that we have been mitigating through the involvement of trainees in the programme implementation as well as through designing of the courses linked to the trainees needs</li> <li>▪ Weak engagement of key partners, managed through regular contacts;</li> <li>▪ Late approval of the project leading to late start of its implementation, managed through postponement of related activities.</li> </ul>

#### 2.1.4 Advocacy

In the field of Advocacy, in 2021, the MA prioritized the consolidation of ongoing actions, in terms of:

- Creation of the law on parental responsibility, with the aim of regulating the exercise of parental responsibility in Cape Verde;
- Creation of the Solidarity Fund for Child Protection and Wellbeing, to guarantee a transparent and consistent funding for civil society organizations working in the field of child care and protection;
- Realization of the Children's Parliament, as a way to foster the political and civic participation of children in the domain that affect their life.

These advocacy actions aim to guarantee adequate parental care for all children, as well as ensuring the effectiveness of laws and effective implementation of public policies in the country.

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Proposal of law on Parental Responsibility formally delivered to the National Assembly</b> in November 2021;</li> <li>▪ Relevant partners and national authorities engaged in the implementation of the Parental Responsibility Campaign at the national level;</li> <li>▪ Children's Parliament held in partnership with UNICEF, Ministry of Education, ICCA and the National Assembly;</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development engaged in the creation of the Solidarity Fund for Child Protection;</li> <li>▪ III Edition of Ideas with Coffee held, with relevant partners, for the consolidation of recommendations on Parental Responsibility in Cape Verde.</li> </ul>
Challenges	<p>As per 2020, as one of the major challenges faced during 2021 in the domain of advocacy, we continue to have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The incompatibility in speed between us and the public sector, which has led to the shelving/delay the progress of some processes (e.g. approval of the revision of the Statute for Children and Adolescents).</li> </ul>

### 2.1.5 Human resources

With regards to Human Resources and Organizational Development, two topics marked 2021. On the one hand, we had the restructuring of personnel imposed by unfavourable economic-financial circumstances, leading to the dismissal of twenty-one (21) employees by the end of 2021, especially Administrative and General Services and Maintenance employees, and, on the other hand, every SOS parent as well as aunties, after completing a care training delivered in our CT São Domingos (in accordance to the national care modules), were certified and recognized by State as care professionals.

The table below shows the achievements reached and challenges faced:

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restructuring of the workforce done and, in consequence, the ratio child per co-worker improved;</li> <li>▪ Capacity of employees reinforced through numerous trainings (e.g. in the field of employee's mental health; Ability to Handle Pressure at Work; Conflict Management and Mediation, etc.) and we also shared our knowledge and exchange experiences with the SOS CPLP Countries (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries);</li> <li>▪ Every SOS parent and aunties trained in care and recognized by the State as care professionals;</li> <li>▪ Employees Engagement Survey conducted at national level, having the results presented to NMT and an action plan was developed to address identified gaps;</li> <li>▪ All SOS parents, aunties and youth educators participated in a retreat in the island of Maio;</li> <li>▪ 2 Retired SOS mothers honoured for the long collaboration with the organization;</li> <li>▪ Pension for retired the SOS mothers readjusted.</li> </ul>
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As the major challenges we have faced in the domain of Human Resources is the lack of a clear career plan and employee expectations as well as the simplification of process.</li> </ul>

### 2.1.6 Internal processes and digitalisation

During 2021, in the middle of the pandemic of covid19, new technology and communication revealed to be of extreme importance to keep people connected and business running.

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 94 children and young people from the two villages participated in training in skills development and digital literacy, within the scope of the YouthLinks;</li> <li>▪ Beneficiaries and co-workers used ICT tools and platforms for professional training and skills development;</li> <li>▪ Digital marketing tools used as a route to foster fundraising (crowdfunding &amp; QR code) and sponsorship (Facebook lead).</li> </ul>
Challenges	<p>On the challenges side, it was difficult to reach the planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optimization of the daily performance of co-workers, due to the low operational quality of the IT terminal equipment;</li> <li>▪ Continuous and optimized use of digital (productivity) tools in everyday task.</li> </ul>

### 2.1.7 Fund development and communication

With the objective to raise 26,400,000 CVEs to support the quality care and sustainability of programmes in mind, the department of Fund Development and Communication could, during 2021, achieved the following results and faced the below mentioned challenges:

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Despite the negative repercussions of COVID-19, FR including public funding collected 60% of its income objective in 2021 (equivalent to CVE 28,3954,738\$00), representing roughly 19% of NA running cost;</li> <li>▪ Of the above-mentioned income, 67% came from local sponsors, 21% from government, 5% from corporate and 7% from public grant, single gift, merchandising and events;</li> <li>▪ Local sponsorship continuous to be one of the main local fundraising sources of revenue. The strategic focus was on increasing the number and value of committed givers, and in 2021 the amount reached was superior than established in the annual plan;</li> <li>▪ The situation in regard to government subsidies is also encouraging. In 2021, SOS Cabo Verde mobilized 47.318 euro, having as a main source of this income, the agreement with government through the Cape Verdean Institute of Children and Adolescents (ICCA), referent to the cost of children referred by them to our alternative care programmes;</li> <li>▪ The Strategic Communication plan was developed in order to promote the MA as credible brand which is helpful in attracting funds from various institutional donors, corporate bodies and the general public;</li> <li>▪ Thanks to the hard work of FDC and PD Department, two projects was financed by HGDF (Family Straightening Program in Mindelo and Entrepreneurship and Employability Training);</li> <li>▪ Finally, but not less important we ended the year with the MA scored 95% in the annual quality review for services offered to international sponsors done between September 2020 and September 2021.</li> </ul>
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of the biggest challenges today is the lack of automation that result manual intervention that puts the delivery of our projects at risk for being late and over budget;</li> <li>▪ In other hand, our public grants, in 2021, delivered above expected results due to limit funding opportunities for our unique target group;</li> <li>▪ The re-structuring of the FDC department will demand to rebuild the team with a reduced number of staff but still ambitious targets.</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Lessons learned

**Table 2.2** Lessons learned

Type	Lesson learned	Action(s) to be taken	Status of action
Good practice	When PD and FDC work closely on the proposal's development, the changes to get the proposals approved increases significantly	Continue the approach in 2022	On going
Challenges	Prolongment of the Covid19 pandemic led to extension of the foodstuff support to families	Make projects flexible to easily adapt to adverse situations	On going
	Weak engagement of key partners	Keep regular contacts and maintain them informed	On going

	Weak engagement of trainees	Link the courses to the trainees needs and keep the project flexible and dynamic	On going
Lessons learned	Trainings for young people with disabilities might take longer than planned	Flexibilization of the trainings in the content and timeframe	On going
	Failure to register beneficiaries in PDB2/ProDIGI leads to inadequate follow-up of the programme progress/performance	Communicated to IOR and action planned for 2022	Planned to 2022
	Tailored training to young people with disabilities yields better result	Flexibilization of the trainings in the content and timeframe	On going

### 2.3 Cross-cutting topics

As **cross-cutting topics**, during the period covered by this report, SOS Cabo Verde continued to tackle the followings:

- **Gender** by assuming a gender sensitive approach, admitting all young people without gender discrimination. For instance, in the Entrepreneurship and Employability Training (EET Assomada) programme unit in Assomada of the 75 trainees, 27 were female and 48 males, while through family strengthening services in Mindelo, of the 29 caregivers supported, 26 were women and 3 men;
- In the domains of **social integration, education and disabilities**, all the trainings carried out at the EET Assomada, aimed at vulnerable young people capacity building towards autonomy. Furthermore, a special attention was given to the young people with disabilities, since they are twofold excluded (from the formal education and socially). Of the 75 trainees enrolled, 9 has disabilities. Within the total of 164 children living in our SOS families, 18 children have disability;
- Regarding **environment**, within the range of training offered by EET Assomada, three are environment friendly, namely: gardening, woodworks (transforming pallet in furniture) and cut-and-sewing that recycle used clothes;
- Related to **human rights**, the **child safeguarding (CS) & participation, women & girl's empowerment** approaches continued to be a must in all our programmes and activities. For instance, a child protection committee as well as children assembly, through which children and young people are sensitized about their rights and trained how to auto protect. Furthermore, a clear, transparent and simple mechanism for reporting and responding of any CS incident is in place all the programme locations.

### 2.4 Sustainability actions

Related to sustainability actions, efforts have been made by all programmes.

In Mindelo, the majority of supported families through family strengthening services, have reached a certain level of resilience that have been enabling them to absorb and overcome the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19. With the activities carried out during 2021, the following results were reached:

- 20 families trained in small business management, marketing and personal marketing;
- 20 families are enrolled in an IGA, 5 have a steady employment and 3 occasional jobs;
- 28 families included in the government social protection programme, 11 of which benefiting from RSI (Social Inclusion Income);
- 20 of the 29 supported families are living in a better housing condition;



- 10 families trained in the financial education (action delivered in partnership with local authorities, Cape Verdean Women's Organization and State department in charge of professional training;
- 2 VSLA formally established.

In São Domingos and Assomada, greenhouse and pig breeding projects were implemented as part of the village's sustainability. the implementation of these 2 projects not only contributed to the diet but also helped to save money, with the sale of the leftovers.

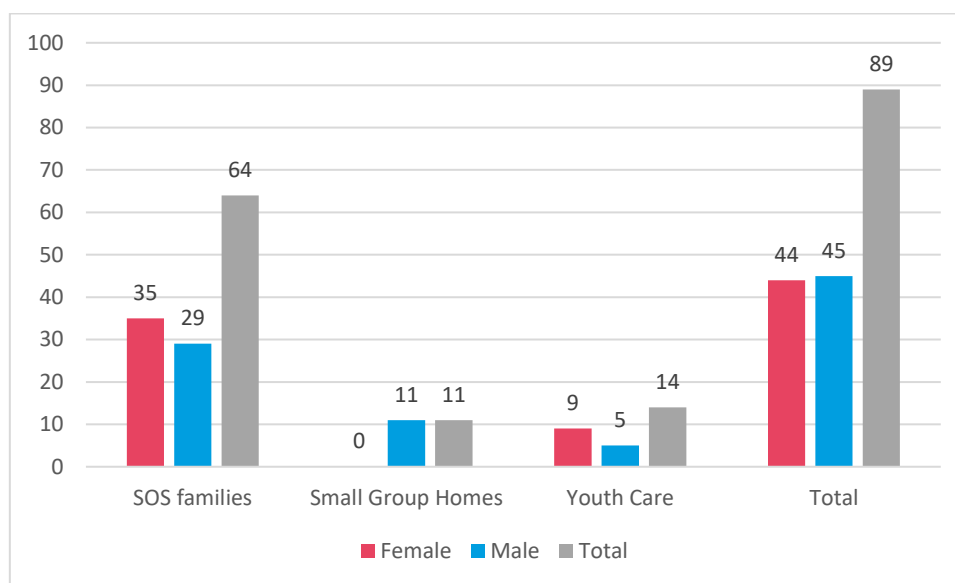
By December 2021, our subsidy-related self-sufficiency situated at 19%.

### 3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME(S)

#### 3.1 Programme location: Assomada

The SOS Children's Village Assomada, the first to be implemented in the country, after the approval of an EET programme unit, embodied, during 2021, 4 programme units, namely SOS Family Care (SFC), Small Group Home (SGH), Youth Care (YC) and Entrepreneurship and Employability Training (EET).

Through alternative care services (comprised by SFC, SGH and YC) a total of 89 beneficiaries (44 girls and 45 boys).



With regards to EET, through the 5 training courses delivered in 2021, a total of 75 trainees (27 female and 48 male) were reached.

As the major achievements reached during 2021, the followings are noteworthy:

- Children living in SOS families enjoyed a safe and family environment;
- 2 children reunified with their respective family, after due assessment;
- 82% of school-age going children had satisfactory performance;
- 100% of children covered by the national vaccination plan (including covid19 for eligible ones);
- 100% of the caregivers all staff are vaccinated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine;
- The SOS handball team sport also participated by young people form the community won first-place cup in 2 tournaments;
- Every SOS Mother's trained and recognized by the State as care professionals; and
- SOS parents elected a new spokesperson among them.

As the main challenges faced, highlights go to:

- The health situation of some of SOS parents that required special attention and treatment outside the country;
- Restructuring of personnel, that led to termination of contract of 4 colleagues from the village; and
- Water shortage in the village due to 4 consecutive years of droughts in the country.

One note of sorrow: Nilton Pereira, a very sociable, happy and full of dreams boy, unfortunately met death by drowning at sea during the exchange program at beach. Nilton will continue to be remembered, by everyone for his charisma and simplicity. May his Soul Rest in Peace!

### 3.2 Programme location: São Domingos

The SOS Children's Village São Domingos, completed, in October 2021, 17 years on the date of its opening. After all these years, the programme continued with the same focus and determination, in providing care and support to children who are at risk of losing or who have lost parental care, as well as to support their respective family and communities, since it is our belief that the best place for a child is, undoubtedly, the family. Despite all the restrictions, challenges and limitations imposed by the Covid19 pandemic, in 2021, we managed to guarantee a loving home for 75 children (33 girls and 42 boys), distributed to 10 SOS families, one integrated in the community and 1 youth care.

Contributed to the fulfilment of our mission and achievement of the goals set, the followings:

- 90% of school-age going children had satisfactory performance;
- Level of school performance of children with Especial Needs improved, as a result of the installation of didactic room meant to ease the acquisition of basic knowledge in the field of calculation, writing, reading, etc. in a pleasurable/playful way;
- Approx. 80% of the beneficiaries were trained in ICT;
- Children's Committee active and carrying out activities of interest to/with children;
- Children with an improved diet through the implementation of greenhouse and pig breeding projects. *A good part of the food used in the families, such as lettuce, potatoes, beetroot, radishes, some herbs and papaya trees are grown in the village;* and
- Medical check-up performed on 100% of children in partnership with local health centres.

Additionally, within the scope of the grant program of the General Directorate for Social Inclusion for civil society organizations working in the field of care, the Care Training Centre unit from the Children's Village São Domingos was selected to implement the Care Professional Training Project - Level II. The training aimed to train all SOS Caregivers, providing them with essential tools in the care provided to children. As a result, 100% of SOS parents and aunties were trained and recognized by State as care professionals.

Regarding the challenges faced, it should be noted that despite all the gains, the admission of adolescents over 8 years old (as first try to adjust our response to the new profile of children without adequate parental in the country), amongst which some with street experience and drugs abuse, defied the "normal" life in the village, leading to increase the level of stress for Caregivers. As a measure to surmount this challenge, a reflexion on the future profile of SOS parents has started and a partnership was established with a specialized organization in the fight against drug's use.

It should also be noted that we received many important visits, among which we highlight the following: Visit by the new President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Visit by the Minister of Health, by the Ombudsman, by the Secretary of State for Social Inclusion, by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the President of the Superior Council for the Judiciary and the President of the City Hall of São Domingos.

### 3.3 Programme location: Mindelo

Despite the challenges and limitations imposed by the pandemic, the result of intervention carried out with 29 families, within the LNF project, is an irreversible gain. A particular note regarding the field of housing improvement which, not being part of the organization's current practices, proved to be extremely important for the improvement of the general conditions of the lives of those we help. Families benefited by the house improvement, have experienced a new breath of hope and the joy of being able to raise their children with the desired safety.

In general, 29 of the 31 families supported by this project have seen their resilience capacity strengthened and, thus managed to absorb and overcome the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19.

From the intervention carried - resilience of families to Covid19, the main results achieved are listed below:

- 20 families with improved housing conditions, of which two were built from the scratch, replacing the tin houses where they initially lived;
- 18 families trained in small business management, financial education and hygiene and safety in income-generating activities;
- 20 families with an income-generating activity established thanks to the allocation of microcredits;
- 28 children from 12 families with better sleeping conditions thanks to the provision of beds;
- 29 families and 124 children, totalling 242 people, aware of the standards of hygiene and prevention to COVID 19, thanks to the biweekly sending of messages and the allocation of hygiene and protection materials;
- 17 partners involved and contributed in the implementation of the project.

Concerning the vaccination against covid19, of the 29 families, all the families have received, at least, one dose of the vaccine. On the Social Centre staff side, 100% is vaccinated with the two doses and some with the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Regarding the challenges, we have faced the followings:

Challenges	Corrective actions taken
Prolonged of the Covid19 pandemic	Prolongment of the foodstuff support to families
Unpredictability of costs and poor assessment of housing intervention needs	Correction in some of the previous interventions and detailed analysis of the housing condition and forecast of unforeseen events

Finally, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year, a new family strengthening was approved for this location. **A project financed by BMZ, covering the period from 2021 to 2024, to support 200 families and 800 children from 4 communities** on the island, aiming to empower vulnerable families from Mindelo so they can autonomously support, protect and care for their children, who grow within a caring and protecting family environment with their rights and needs guaranteed.

## 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	Member support advisor	LUCY Report accessed via the following path: LUCY → Finance management → Reports → Statistics → Actual statistics	<a href="#">Federation planning &amp; steering: MA statistics</a>	<a href="#">Actual statistics</a>
List of board members	National director	MA fills in <a href="#">template list of board members</a>	<a href="#">Federation planning &amp; steering: MA annual reports</a>	<a href="#">List of board members</a>
MA mid-term plan	National director	MA fills in <a href="#">template for mid-term planning</a>	<a href="#">Federation planning &amp; steering: Mid-term &amp; annual plans</a>	<a href="#">Mid-term plan</a>
MA annual plan	National director	MA fills in <a href="#">template for annual planning</a>	<a href="#">Federation planning &amp; steering: Mid-term &amp; annual plans</a>	<a href="#">MA 2021 annual plan</a>
MA website	National director	Member association website	Not applicable: provide link only	<a href="http://soscaboverde.org.cv">http://soscaboverde.org.cv</a>
Online directory page for MA	National director	<a href="#">SOS Online Directory</a>	Not applicable: provide link only	<i>Insert hyperlink of specific page for the MA</i>
Progress reports	National programme director	Programmes fill in <a href="#">template for progress reports</a>	<a href="#">Federation planning &amp; steering: National &amp; programme reports</a>	<a href="#">Progress report LNF FS Mindelo</a>

## ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATION

Major activities of the MA	Date	Corresponding national mid-term objective	Results
Establishment of individualized work plan for each children and young people with special needs, supporting them to reach their maximum autonomy.	February	More children cared for through a range of options delivered in partnership with relevant stakeholders.	100% of children and young people with special needs better supported.
Strengthening of children's participation mechanisms through the training of children's and youth committees.	June		Members of the children's club with capacity strengthened on child rights and protection subjects.
Organization of a National Programme Development Workshop.	March		Programme staff with better understanding on Care Promise and Self-assessment tool carried out by all the programme.
Implementation of YouthLinks as a way to foster the acquisition of digital skills of all children and young people.	August	Young people are prepared for independent living when leaving programmes.	94 children and young people (8 with disabilities) trained in digital skills.
Organization of the III round table with key stakeholders with the parental responsibility on the menu.	November	We are key national advocacy actor for the children of our target group.	Key stakeholders with a say in the process of approval for the submitted law, engaged.
Organization of joint reflection between the municipal protection committees.	November		Position of the organization as child care and protection programme reinforced.
Carry out a Competence Capacity Assessment to all NMT team.	December	Reinforcement of staff capacity.	
Submission and management of 2 projects according to M&E standards and RBM approach.	September	26,400,000 CVEs raised to support the quality care and sustainability of programmes.	2 projects funded (FS Mindelo and EET Assomada).
Launching of digital and telemarketing campaigns.	June		126 new sponsors mobilized.
Implementation of crowdfunding as a way to diversify fundraising channels.	December		1 international partner mobilized and Eur 700 raised.