ANNUAL REPORT
2016

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March 28th, 2016
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1.1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF SOS CHILDREN’S VILLAGE IN ANGOLA IN 2016

1.1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY

Not very many countries have endured as much as Angola. Generations were affected by decades of deprivation of access to basic services as well as infrastructure vital for social development and economic growth. In recent years, there have been successful reconstruction programs, including roads, airports, bridges, hospitals and schools. Although the Angolan government is beginning to make progress towards rebuilding, widespread poverty challenges are evident. World Bank (2016) indicates 45 percent of the Angolan population living below the poverty line. The 2016 Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ranked Angola 149th out of 186 countries which shows a very low human development. In fact, the country continues to face daunting challenges on the social sector where women and children, much more receptive to the consequences of poverty, suffer every day from the related problems. Child poverty is considered to be an obstacle to survival and development of children in Angola with negative effect in the levels of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual development. According to the MDG report released in 2015, a considerable amount of the population (38 percent) does not have access to safe water sources. Consequently, the mortality rate for children under five is around 17 percent. In terms of child’s rights realisation, Angola is making progress towards a consolidated and comprehensive Children’s Act. From the point of view of the legislation nature, various important instruments have been created, with stress to the “11 Commitment on Child” (2008) and recently the Law 25/12, of August 22, 2013 – Child Full Protection and Development. Preliminary studies however suggest that the situation continues to be worrying, with the involvement of children as cheap labour in construction, agriculture and cattle breeding, shoe-cleaning, car-washing or engaged in other informal labour, but some resorted to petty crime, begging, and prostitution.

Over last year as a whole the economy was dragged down by low oil prices and a poor performance from the non-oil sector, as industry was hobbled by the limited availability of foreign exchange for imported inputs. The current cost of living in Angola can best be described as astronomical. The price of petrol rose 39 percent to 160 kwanza ($1.19) per litre. Transport costs are readily tacked onto anything, and as the price of petrol continues to rise, so does the cost of basic items in Angola. Inflation accelerated to 42 percent at the end of 2016 from a single digit inflation registered in 2015. Consequently, unemployment rate increased to 26 percent in 2016 from 23 percent in 2012 (World Bank 2016).
1.1.2 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION’S RESPONSE TO THE CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY

A1  Number of programmes that have fulfilled all quality requirements for implementing the SOS CVPP

Target: in 2 existing Programme Locations

The Children’s Villages Programme Policy implementation is a major change in the federation and the SOS Children’s Villages in Angola strategized to prepare for implementation by applying the global implementation process for the alignment of 2 existing programmes to the SOS CV Programme Policy. CV Lubango and Huambo were selected on the basis of alignment opportunities and leadership capacity. CV Lubango managed to complete the eight quality requirements and met important milestones such as the programme strategy and programme proposal. CV Lubango qualified for re-innovation and follows a subsequent approval process for the beginning of implementation in 2018. CV Huambo on the other hand reached some 70% preparation for policy implementation and is expected to hold its Location Development Workshop for strategy development and programme proposal submission in 2017. A total amount of AOA 2.300.000 (USD 18.000) in consultancy fees and logistics was spent in CVPP preparation for implementation so far.

Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:
- Programme Strategy and Programme Proposal developed for CV Lubango.
- Feasibility report available, Programme Idea and Programme Concept developed, staff orientation conducted, Programme Director indicated (promotion of existing Village Director) in CV Lubango and Huambo.

Main challenges and mitigating factors:
- Professional consultants for feasibility studies are scarce in the market and fees are appalling. Guided by a hired consultant, the involvement of SOS staff in data collection was necessary to reduce costs.
- Language barrier on the side of the local leadership staff to produce well written documents. Extensive proofreading and adjustments were necessary with the involvement of more capable co-workers across the National Association.

Major plans for 2017:
- Conduct a rapid assessment of the remaining programmes.
- Decide on the way forward with all education and health facilities.
- Present a programme proposal for CVPP implementation in Huambo location.
- Develop midterm plans for existing programme locations.
- Finalise a programme proposal for Cunene (a new programme location).
A2  Number of children and young adults in SOS families and other forms of family-based care

**Target: 419 children in 2016**

The national programme response towards children without parental care continued to be dominated by SOS families living in the SOS Children’s village’s compounds. Unfortunately other forms of alternative families are not being adequately explored due to internal and external factors outlined in our challenges box below. A total number of 367 beneficiaries (314 children and 53 youths) were assisted within our national SOS family based care in 2016 as detailed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Locations</th>
<th>Children within the National Family Based Care</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huambo</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubango</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benguela</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>160</strong></td>
<td><strong>154</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Locations</td>
<td>Youth within the National Family Based Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubango</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benguela</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>184</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: National FBC beneficiaries as at December 2016

The total beneficiary number is 12.5% below the target set for the year. As informed, quality care concerns compelled the decision to reduce the maximum number of children in a family house from 11 to 7 children. In addition, improvements in the gatekeeping process and systems, mainly around exhausting possibilities for children to remain with their biological relatives, have drastically slowed the number of child admission in our residential care.

Despite the challenges to grow on the number of beneficiaries within other forms of family based care, the national programme continues to rejoice about the single but very successful foster care case involving one former SOS child who over the past decade is being fostered in a non SOS caring household from upper middle class, that holds strong human rights values. The child is receiving a privileged education and will enrol university next year. Given the current partnership challenges, this case is inspiring the organisation to consider a gradual expansion of an SOS driven foster care initiative in the same approach. In addition, the National Association piloted temporary care within SOS Children’s Villages premises. The initiative involved 6 children in a life threatening situation that required immediate survival support in a family set-up while a process is initiated to find a more permanent and supporting family environment in the community.

In what youth empowerment is concerned, interventions revolved mainly around youth education on decision-making skills, academics and employment promotion. Platforms such as the annually organised national youth camp and student’s associations within our schools provide the youth with the opportunity to express their views and have an input on programmes that affect their lives. Partnerships for youth development allowed 4 young people to secure employment with well-established corporate partners and 16 youths advancing their studies in prestigious universities outside the country (with 2 new students from Family Strengthening enrolling quality tertiary education on construction engineering in Brazil).

The total FBC expenditure of AOA 245.089.320 (USD 1,914,760) for year is considered to be very high and calls for an immediate programme review to explore more cost effective care forms.
Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:

- 367 children assisted nationally.
- 75% passing rate among programme Family Based Care children.
- Programme directors from our three programme locations in Angola accompanied by their programme staff, including field officers and CBOs, got together for the 2016 national alternative based care forum.
- Local guidelines on foster care, Kinship care and temporary care have been developed.
- 4 children assisted on a temporary care arrangement.
- 16 youths (3 new admissions in 2016) are pursuing their studies in qualified universities outside Angola with one graduation and employment in USA and 4 completing in 2017.
- 90 adolescents and youths from FBC and FS enjoyed 4 days of their holidays together in a lovely camping area at the Herman Gmeiner School in Lubango.
- 4 youths successfully integrated as independent adults and 3 reunifications with biological relatives in the Lubango Programme.

Main challenges and mitigating factors:

- The per child monthly cost of Akz 51.255 (USD 400) is still very high and does not reflect the lower middle class in the country. The inclusion of foster care by non SOS families will help reducing costs and increase on the number of children.
- Lack of adequate legislation for alternative care in the country together with low capacity internally and among our potential partners are cited as the chief impediments for other forms of family-based care to be aggressively explored. Capacity on alternative care has been initiated. Reinforcement of the internal team is being explored. The Association is seeking to enter into formal agreements with potential partners to support alternative based care initiatives.
- Programme management and leadership instability in one location. As immediate intervention, a new Programme Director was hired and staff changes were made within the Family Based Care and Family Strengthening. A recruitment process to fill the Youth Co-worker position is to be initiated.
- The drastic increase in the cost of living in the country has significantly reduced the capacity of our programme families to support survival and development needs of our children. Lessons are being gathered from CV Huambo farming initiative that enabled families to secure substantial amount of food for consumption and selling. 5% increase was consented in the family budget nationally.
- Children on temporary admission staying longer than 6 months within the SOS families due to the complexity of the investigative process and the lack of human capacity on the side of the organisation.

Major plans for 2017:

- Enter into formal partnership with the government and key stakeholders for the implementation of other forms of family based care.
- Seek public and corporate partnership to promote youth employability.
- Conduct an academic performance survey among programme children and young people.

Child Safeguarding

General Objective: Keep our children safe from abuse neglect and any harm

In order to achieve the above objective the SOS Children’s Villages in Angola rolled out the four principles of the child protection policy by creating (i) Awareness and establishing adequate (ii) Prevention (iii) Reporting and (iv) Responding mechanisms. Relevant staff members participated in regionally organized capacity forums on general child safeguarding knowledge and specific training on investigation. As a result, protection knowledge haven been widely disseminated among staff and children beneficiaries and structures and systems within Family Based Care were established and are helping preventing and responding to child protection issues. Focal point individuals (people of trust) have been nominated and protections committees with a role in child protection have been established in all programme locations.

Our annual child maltreatment analysis reports 15 occurrences (20% decrease from last year) of child abuse and neglect known to our child protective structures. Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, three faced food neglect; five were physical abused through corporal punishment; one suffered sexual abuse and six were emotionally offended. About 60% of abusers were the victims’ teachers (physical and emotional abuse), with 45% being SOS parents as perpetrators (physical abuse and food neglect) and one adult strange to the child’s victim (as sexual offender). Investigations around those believed responsible led to verbal
warnings (to moderate physical and emotional offenses) and exoneration (to false allegations). Amongst the high profile case we registered one criminal prosecution and incarceration (male adult sexual offender) and one staff dismissal (SOS mother physical abuser). Findings call for the need to have childcare employee candidates undergo criminal record checks and required screening as a condition of an employment contract. There is also a need for increased teacher training in the area of child management and discipline. In addition, teachers should be held as legally accountable for their use of corporal punishment with children.

Although teenage pregnancy had declined from 17 cases in 2010 to 0 cases in 2015, 2016 saw another raise with 5 teenagers involved in unintentional pregnancies. As realized, there was no apparent violence to have sex. In all case teenagers reported pregnancy being mainly a result of individual curiosity for sexual activity derived from viewing graphic internet material and pressure from boyfriends. The responses could therefore mean that affected young girls were not necessarily in control and making their own choices. It should be noted that most of the girls individually dropped the mainstream school after 5 months of pregnancy and requested support to academic and vocational training the following year. Also interesting in the fact that all but one of the cases happened in a programme location where leadership challenges are being faced.

**Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:**
- Angola is making progress towards a consolidated and comprehensive Children’s Act. important instruments have been created, with stress to the “11 Commitment on Child” (2008) and recently the Law 25/12, of August 22, 2013 – Child Full Protection and Development.
- Prevention has been largely attained in the national programme.
- Reporting cases of child abuse and neglecting is starting to immerge.
- Children and families are being supported to claim child’s rights.

**Main challenges:**
- Lack of internal coordination of child safeguard interventions.
- Lack of development of public programs that place children in the center.
- Alcohol and substance abuse is making children to be exposed from their earliest years to poor parenting, neglect, abuse and psychological trauma.
- Child poverty is widespread.

**Plans for 2017:**
- Engage a dedicated staff to coordinate child safeguard interventions nationally.
- Develop and implement a child safeguard annual plan.
- Child protection refreshment for teachers and staff members directly dealing with children.
- Implement a “zero immature pregnancy” programme initiative for programme teenagers.

**A2 Number of children and young adults in families of origin (Family Strengthening)**

**Target: 2163 children in 2016**

During the reporting period 1.198 children were assisted in their families of origin, as illustrated in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Locations</th>
<th>Nº of families</th>
<th>Children within the National Family Strengthening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huambo</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubango</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benguela</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>299</strong></td>
<td><strong>625</strong></td>
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</table>

Table2: National FS beneficiaries as at December 2016
The national programme has not reached the intended number of beneficiaries for the following reasons. There was an attempt for Family Strengthening Lubango to expand the programme into a new location and reach 800 children. This could not be achieved due to the late submission of the Programme Proposal. In addition, the predefined targets for the programme in Benguela could not be achieved allegedly because of changes in the programme coordination and the termination with the community based partner that was supporting admissions there. In any case, growth has been purposefully slowed down to let programme move beyond the rhetoric of access to focus more on quality while preparing for significant programme growth. Management programme visits and structured internal audit exercises have revealed the need to improve service quality and to strengthen capacity across community based partners. Following are the main identified gaps between current services and standards:

- Family development process needs to be better structured and effective and needs to ensure children, families and communities make their own decisions about the care and services they receive. In many cases Family Development Plans are not updated and beneficiary families do not even keep a copy of it.
- Gatekeeping is carried out by programme professionals but in many cases is not often aided by members of the community and local service providers. Transparency and referral of children and families to appropriate services could be compromised.
- It is debatable whether microcredit loans in the programme are being effective in enhancing vulnerable families’ income and their overall wellbeing. Families are failing to repay loans and crucial aspects of families’ social wellbeing is not being adequately attended to and improved. There are serious concerns about the quality of life of many of them in terms of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and habitational needs.
- Programme monitoring needs improvement. Programme Databases are not updated and the notebooks to monitor home visits are not always signed.
- There are families staying longer than 5 years in the programme.

On the basis of the findings, development plans were agreed for each individual Family Strengthening Programme location. We believe its implantation will allow cluster of services provided to children, families and communities maximizes benefits and minimizes risks, so that children may grow and develop.

**Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:**

- Food parcels distribution drastically reduced with the engagement of families in self-development activities.
- 63% overall passing rate among programme children.
- 2 additional students admitted in a prestigious university in Brazil under our corporate partnership initiative.
- Advocacy on behalf of children was necessary to secure 80 new identity documents.
- 12 families successfully exited as self-reliant families.

**Major Challenges**

- The AOA 2.458 (USD 19) per child monthly cost is an extremely low investment to move family out of the vulnerability in which they are.
- No meaningful partnerships were formed with other organisations and institutions in combined efforts for the care and support of vulnerable children, their families and communities.
- Low National Office capacity to effectively monitor and support programme development.
- Difficulties in staff retention at programme level.
- Heavy community dependence on SOS support.
- Family beneficiaries moving to remote villages outside the programme catchment scope.
- Low programme capacity to effectively monitor family development planning at community level.
- The extreme poverty in which many families are and the lack of community support.
- Lack of community based child protection mechanisms to act as the frontline protection response for children and their families.

**Plans for 2017:**

- Implement a national Family Development Planning workshop.
- Establish the national FSP Coordinator position.
- Prioritise issues for implementation within the operational plans developed for individual programmes.
147 active local sponsors made regular contributions (with 22 newly engaged sponsors), a number which is very close to our 200 sponsors targeted for the year. The extension of the international package of services to local sponsors was part of the strategy for committed givers retention. Structured programme tours and face-to-face presentations were considered to be the two most effective channels for engaging new sponsors.

**Target 2: Raise AOA 40,000,000 (US$312,500)**

The AOA 54,400,322 raised from private sources exceeds the set target by 36%. This was mainly due to highly committed corporate that organized extra campaigns to mobilize funds on our behalf and for the great success in having running cost of all family houses in CV Lubango sponsored by local business partners.

**Target 3: Achieve 28% (AOA 164,132,860) of government contributions towards our programme running costs**

We fell 32 percent short of our government funding target. We continue to be challenged to have the government fulfill per child contribution or funding other core programme areas, apart from subsidizing our teachers and nurses’ salaries.

**Overview**

The below graph accounts for the amount of AOA 170,437,813 ($1,331,545) of the entire years’ worth of revenue which is broken down by the type of contribution. This represents 29% of our total 2016 running costs. The gap between what we need to fulfill our mission and our funding base has not improved much. Our needs and expectations for fundraising in the future continue to exceed the organization’s ability to raise money today. However we remain positive about our target to reach 50% self-sufficiency by 2020.
Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:

- **Government grant funding:** In spite of the inexistence of a clear and formal grant application process within governmental units to non-profit organizations, we were once again very successful in getting the ministries of education and health to pay for the teachers’ and nurses’ salaries in our facilities. This generated substantial savings from our personnel cost to staff in these categories.
- **Special campaigns:** Two committed corporate became so associated with our brand that started exposing our brand to others and engaged in unilateral fundraising activities to top up their contribution.
- **Donation boxes:** This was one of the simplest and cheapest ways we found to raise money from businesses, hotels and airports. Many friends dropped cash into our donation boxes strategically placed and implemented in all programme locations.

### Major Challenges
- No dedicated staff to coordinate Fund Development and Communication activities.
- Awareness: the community needs to know that we exist and what we do. The extremely low investment does not enable aggressive cultivation campaigns before asking.
- Expand and grow relationships with current and prospective corporate donors through effective and informative solicitation.

### Major Plans for 2017
- Establish a national Fund Development and Communication unit in Benguela location.
- Develop a 3-year fundraising strategy

There is still some way to go until appraisal is made part of a process (culmination of a series of meetings) and not necessarily an annual stand-alone event, as it is the case now in the Association. However, the fact that more that 95% of staff have effectively been appraised this year can be considered as an achievement. As reported, individual employee’s job performance and productivity in relation to agreed upon objectives were assessed and documented. In addition, a part from constructive dialogue between staff members and their supervisors, performance talks also helped both sides to agree on learning and development activities to meet needs of the current post and future positions.

Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:

- Performance management training implemented for the first and second leadership levels.
- 282 co-workers (95.9%) have individual learning and development plan.

### Major Challenges
- Almost no monitoring and evaluation of IDPs implementation.
- Not all employees take ownership of the process.

### Major Plans for 2017
- Conduct performance management orientation for all co-workers.
- Develop an annual training and development plan.
- Introduce a basic HR software for performance management
The target above sends a clear message that we view core care co-worker’s retention as a priority. This group includes mothers and aunts as well as youth care staff and all those working directly with children. They represent a significate number of 73 co-workers in our Association. As widely realized, constant fluctuation of staff in this category leads to instability and quality issues. When children start to have many different SOS mothers this does not provide the stable and loving relationship needed for the development of a child.

In 2016 we saw 2 job terminations (2.7%) among core care co-workers for reasons related to death and dismissal. The figure is still below the 4% target worldwide. Underlying the low turnover could be a number of factors related to recruitment and staff orientation practices, workload alleviation and individual development opportunities. For years the SOS Children’s Villages in Angola continued to follow recruitment criteria which did not allow for mothers and aunts with small biological children to be engaged. In addition, preference was always given to single, widows or divorced women seeking personal/emotional gratification in raising a child in need and not necessarily monetary benefits. It is also believed that talent competitors find little value in the people that comprise this category in the organization (a not very good reason, we should mention). In any case, our very structured and effective staff orientation process together with existing training and development opportunities are cited as key reasons for staff to stay. It should also be noted that with the introduction of flexi working hours and the reduction of the number of children in a family house from 11 to 7 nationally the working environment improved significantly which was very conducive to staff retention.

Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:
- Only 2 job terminations in the core care co-workers category.
- Mothers and aunts attending the regionally recognised certification programme are now completing module 5.

**Major Challenges**
- Staff training opportunities for field officers are not easily available.
- We need to decide on a more competitive remuneration package to keep staff motivated.
For almost a decade SOS Angola struggled to establish a committee of individuals with supervisory powers. A preliminary Advisory Committee with eight members was set up and was helpful in facilitating access to services and opportunities but unfortunately never evolved into a formal governing Board, becoming eventually inactive few years after its inauguration. In 2016 we widened our conventional Board recruitments methods which were mainly about the standard request for referrals and track of individuals who offered outstanding volunteer work for SOS, to include an external promotion of the Board opening. The later was done by putting an advert in our local public and commercial radios. The process resulted in the receipt of two relevant applications that together with the referrals were screened and engaged. The process was supported by our CVI-Rep and culminated with series of Board orientation events and the formal election of the Board structure. The table below illustrates the current Board composition and structure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of expertise</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Candidate’s Name</th>
<th>Gndr</th>
<th>Background</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social development / welfare</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nazareth Zangui (Chairman)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Worked for UNICEF, was the National Director of Christian Children Fund, has a degree on education, is an independent consultant and teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alípio Jorge de Oliveira</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Worked for Social Development NGOs in Community Development. Is an independent consultant. Bachelor degree in agronomy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paula Jacob</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Provincial Inspector for Education. Master degree on education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dra. Mariana Miguel</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Paediatrician, works in a government public hospital, has been supporting health services in the SOS Clinic over the past 19 years. Served in the previous Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dra. Telma Diogo</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Tertiary education on reproductive health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Nascimento Tête</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Degree and Master Degree on Law and Political Science. University teacher and Lawyer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business / Public Administration</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Helder Corte Real</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Bank Manager, university degree in marketing. Part-time lecturer at university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Development</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Faustino Sikila (Treasurer)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Former Family Based Care Coordinator in CV Lubango. Degree in Theology.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mandela Joaquim (Secretary)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Degree on education, leader of youth movements, works for the provincial government in social department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Facts, figures and achievements within the programme:
- 9 individuals with relevant expertise engaged as Board members.
- 3 Board orientation sessions implemented in the areas of governance, Board roles and responsibilities and on the organisation vision and mission in the general and on the Angolan National Association activities in particular.
- Board structure elected and Board action plan approved.

**Major Challenges**
- Gender unbalance and no geographical representation.
- Board continue development to get them move away from micromanagement to be engaged in more strategic pursuits.

**Major Plans for 2017**
- Board representation in the regional management forum.
- Conduct a workshop on Board self-evaluation tool.
TIME SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR 2017

JANUARY  New year programme celebrations

FEBRUARY  National Coordinators’ meeting
          Beginning of new school year

MARCH  Performance appraisal of National Coordinators and Village Directors
        National Director’s self-appraisal and draft work plan to the RD
        1st capacity Board meeting

APRIL  Submission of N C’s and VD’s quarterly reports to the National Director
        1st Strategic Planning Review
        Family Development Planning training
        Rapid Assessment of Programme and Midterm planning
        Huambo location development workshop

MAY  Quarterly Board meeting
      External Audit package to Regional Office
      National Fundraising Workshop

JUNE  National Association Planning Process
       2nd Quarterly Report deadline

JULY  National management team meeting
       National Director visit to programme locations

AUGUST  Quarterly Board meeting
         National Coordinators and Programme Directors’ meeting

SEPTEMBER  3rd Quarterly Report deadline
           Submission of N C’s and VD’s quarterly reports to the National Director
           Trade Union Norway visit to CV Huambo programme
           NA Plans and Budgets to Regional Office

OCTOBER  National Director Visit to Benguela and Huambo
          Child &Youth Development Team workshop

NOVEMBER  National Director visit to programme locations
          Performance review sessions with the national leadership staff
          National Coordinators’ meeting

DECEMBER  Regional Management and Board meeting
          Submission of N C’s and VD’s quarterly reports to the National Director
          Sponsorship Facility Reports and Child Christmas Cards deadline
1.1.3 FACILITY REPORTS

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY BASED CARE & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, BENGAULA

102 children were assisted in our SOS Family Based Care intervention, including 2 new children admitted on a temporary arrangement. The village continues to provide a loving home for the resident children. Children on the temporary care were found in a life threatening situation after a crisis in their biological family. The SOS family will be of support until a permanent caregiver among relatives is identified and engaged. Apart from the SOS residential and the temporary care no other alternative care forms are being explored. Lack of specific legislation and capacity on the side of the government is cited as the chief impediment. As we prepare to diversify our responses to the children in need the SOS village compound started a process to reduce institutional perceptions. Under this initiative all family houses were painted in different colours chosen by individual mothers and children.

Friends and supporters continue to bring relied and joy to our children and families. As part of support we receive from friends, Subsea7, our corporate partner based in Benguela fulfilled its commitment to help reducing malaria prevalence in the village by completing the work to place mosquito mesh doors and windows in all family houses. Despite the significant increase in the cost of living in the country SOS families in Benguela did not register any case of child malnutrition or a decrease in the quality of care. The Association mobilized support for additional finance intervention and in-kind donation of consumable items needed in our SOS families. None of the children in school age are outside the education system and 72 percent was the passing rate among children and young people. Perhaps one of the greatest moments of joy was witnessed on June 1st, the international children’s day. The SOS Village in Benguela was chosen to host the main provincial event and many province VIPs and children from other schools and institutions came to attend. The village held huge children competitions and music shows to let the community know about the importance of Child Rights. As part of the ceremony many gifts and snacks were offered to children.

In what youth development is concerned, the programme still follows the traditional practice of moving children from family houses into the youth facility when they are above 14 or when their maturity encourages the transition to a semi-independent living inside the Village. This initiative allowed 19 youths to be supported in separated accommodation arrangement, as preparation to a fully independent living in the community when they reach the age of 23 or before. Adequate academic and vocational support coupled with the acquisition of relevant life skills and achieving a permanent connection to a stable adult outside the programme are part of the interventions along the year to ensure the youths‘ smooth transition into society. Youth aspirations in life are very high. This was particularly expressed during a lively discussion they had with the national director when he visited the programme in September. The youth requested more financial support to enable them explore development and integration possibilities. They also questioned the efficiency of our individual youth development plans as they see no materialization of their aspirations stated in the plans. Their particular concern rest in the fact that many of them were forced to pursue academic courses that do not appeal to them due to some apparent unavailability of options in the academic market. Despite that, 78% of youths succeeded in completing their academic grades with 4 students entering university and one becoming finalist of the economic course. Six youths successfully completed a vocational training programme with a prestigious institution in the areas of agriculture and carpentry. Our internal youth development programme gained the sympathy of community supporters who did not hesitate to grant 6 scholarships for youth to pursue their studies in private high schools. In addition, a very well-known football coach joined our cause by supporting a sports programme in the village which includes judo and karate for both boys and girls. One sad event refer to 4 teenagers who became involved in unintentional pregnancies. As realized, there was no apparent violence to have sex. In all case teenagers reported pregnancy being mainly a result of individual curiosity for sexual activity derived from viewing graphic internet material and pressure from boyfriends.
SOS KINDERGARTEN, BENGUELA

During the year the Kindergarten rendered services to 1 child from an SOS family and 7 children from the Family Strengthening Programme out of a total population of 120. The number of SOS programme beneficiaries is particularly a concern due to the limited number of children in the village on pre-school education age and since the location of the Kindergarten is also not allowing many other target group children from families of origin to benefit from the quality of education provided. The Programme management will therefore conduct an assessment to explore the possibility of increasing the target group population or determine if there is any stakeholder best placed to run the facility. In the meantime critical interventions on construction, maintenance and equipment were made to continue improving quality. A new shaded playground area was built which allows children to enjoy important activities and events outside the playrooms. Given the weather conditions in Benguela characterised by high temperatures in the summer investment in ceiling fans was necessary to keep all playrooms cool.

The highlight of the KG year continues to be the traditional “graduation day”. The ceremony took place on 12th December. In a coloured and joyful moment, forty three formally dressed children, in the company of their parents and teachers, were awarded a certificate for successful completion of the KG programme. Filled with the Christmas atmosphere, many other children and participant adults were involved in singing and playing activities.

SOS HERMAN GMENINER SCHOOL, BENGUELA

It has now been 10 years since operations started in the HG School in Benguela. In September 2006 we did not anticipate that today this would be the facility that mostly interacts and integrates the SOS Village within the wider community through a variety of academic and vocational services rendered and for the level of interaction with relevant government departments with particular interest in providing education of good quality for the children in need. This also particularly explains the government’s continued support in subsidizing teachers’ salaries as well as the high enrolment levels and excellent academic performance. Under the current occupancy factor, the Hermann Gmeiner SOS in Benguela rendered its academic services to 847 students from which 89 were programme children and 15 registered as secondary programme beneficiaries and consequently registered in our scholarship programme as they live in vulnerable households that also place them at risk of losing parental care. In 2016 the school celebrated another exceptional passing rate of 90,4 percent. Underlying this achievement is the extra support in form of small group tutorials and remedial classes that students receive to overcome their academic difficulties. The 10 years of existence registers more than 120 student’s graduates, many of whom continued to do exceptionally well right from high school to university. The school always received very touching thank you letters from parents and former students recognizing the impact of the elementary education received.

This year the school generated great excitement by including a job orientated ICT and baking course to the extracurricular programme. This has been done on the belief that the aim of school education is not only to impart theoretical knowledge to students but also to teach them the basic skills to better adapt to life and society. The baking course covered breads and cakes and the 15 student participants considered it to be a remarkable journey that begun with this basic exploration and critical tasting of ingredients to learn how flavors and textures combine. The ICT course on the other hand involved both internal students and fee paying youth from the surrounding community. The course focussed exclusively on developing basic computer literacy, productive use of common office applications, presentation and multimedia tools, databases, information systems and web search. In the new digital era and to make tomorrow’s work force competitive in an increasingly high-tech world, learning computer skills was found to be a priority.
SOS MEDICAL CENTRE, BENGUELA

Health consultations and treatment services were provided for 5,839 beneficiaries during the year from which 165 patients were direct programme beneficiaries. The most common diseases and treatments were around cases of malaria, acute respiratory and diarrheal diseases, injuries, conjunctivitis, high blood pressure and urinary infections. These services are provided by five nurses, one lab technician and supported by a government physician who occasionally support with particular diagnosis and treatment. On the prevention side, active surveillance of Hepatitis B was conducted after number of cases reported in the community. This was particularly important for prevention and control measures given that no apparent cure exists for the disease. Among 92 children and young people residents in the village 20 tested positive. This sparked immediate education campaign among residents and the identifcation of children who require vaccination. Contacts were also made with the public health department for symptomatic treatment to start for the infected patients. Actually, the Medical Centre is frequently used by the department of public health to reach the children’s village and its surroundings with preventive health programmes. This year our facility and personnel was once again used to vaccinate the population after the Angola’s worst yellow fever outbreak in decades. From 5 December 2015 – when the first cases appeared – until 13 October 2016, at least 376 people died as a result of suspected cases of yellow fever.

Unfortunately, our low capacity to run such specialised kind of service together with our inability to reach at least 30% of our target group (we are currently only reaching 3%) and the huge dependence on international funding which stands at 72%) makes running the centre to be neither cost effective nor sustainable. Handover options are therefore open for analysis and discussion.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING, BENGUELA

163 children living in 37 vulnerable families were assisted through various family capacity services aiming to prevent children from losing the care of their natural family. As key achievements, the programme saw a drastic reduction on the number of families on welfare support with only 16 families still receiving food parcels. In fact, more than 90% of families are engaged in some kind of self-development activities where selling of consumable items in the informal market is predominant. In this particular intervention, the programme reports the successful exit of only one family for achieving significant levels of self-reliance. Achievements around child development account for 38 children enrolling formal education after lobbies with relevant stakeholders. Lobbies with the registry office also helped securing birth registration for 15 programme children and 3 caregivers.

A close look at vulnerability in communities where the programme is established show a great potential for beneficiary growth. However, capacity problems at both coordination and community level is jeopardising programme development and living critical issues unattended. In 2016 the programme went through turbulent times which resulted in one job shifting and one job termination at programme coordination level. This together with instability within the Benguela top leadership position had an immediate negative effect on the following: (i) termination with the community based organisation allegedly for the organisation’s failure to fulfil some unrealistic expectations it had promised, (ii) the collapse of the fishing cooperative due to financial issues, (iii) undocumented and outdated family development plans (iv) the excessive number of 64 children without birth certificates and only 50% passing rate reached among school enrolled children.

Programme management changes at programme level together with extensive capacity building we implemented at the end of the year are most likely to produce significant and positive changes in our Family Strengthening intervention in Benguela in 2017.
ALTERNATIVE FAMILY BASED CARE, HUAMBO

Since 2010 the SOS Children’s Village in Huambo has been consolidating its presence as a well-established and key childcare programme in the province which has conquered the sympathy of the local community and attained good level of cooperation with local government authorities. In 2016 a number of 120 children (62 boys and 58 girls) were provided with a loving home in our SOS resident families. Over the years, challenges, frustrations, fun and triumphs created a strong village spirit and made it what it is today: a loving home for children in need. After ten years of existence it is gratifying to see the children reaching adolescence and become more responsible to their own development. All school going children are enrolled in formal education with the first 4 children starting to enrol high schools in the community. This year, passing rate stood at 64 percent. In addition, 7 teenagers completed relevant vocational training on electricity, car mechanics and culinary as part of strategies to contribute to adolescents’ economic empowerment. Adolescence also comes with a challenge to the family. Teenagers experience bad moods and exhibit challenging behaviour. Mothers’ and co-worker’s duties in the Village have become stressful during these days. In most of the behavioural problems faced during the year, the SOS family was able to resolve the conflicts and get on with their normal family routine. In two cases however, interventions from our specialist supporting staff was the necessary to exercise counselling and protection. This was particularly necessary to support our teenage girl involvement in early pregnancy from a sort of consented sex with another adolescent from outside the village and in another case involving a girl’s religious fanaticism at the expense of her own education. In the former case there is a commitment for the girl to continue living in the village and develop until such a time she can start an adult independent living.

Another important aspect of children’s development is their normal involvement in activities around the farming programme in the village. In the context of family farming, children’s participation in non-hazardous activities was considered as being positive as it contributes to the transfer of skills and children’s food security. Light duties children are involved relate to sowing seeds, removing weeds that harm crops and harvesting. In all circumstances it is ensured age-appropriate tasks that cause no harm to children and that the work does not interfere with compulsory schooling and leisure time. The general impression among co-workers from other programme locations who visited the Huambo farming programme for best practice sharing is that children in Huambo have improved self-confidence, self-esteem and work skills that are not often easily detected in young people from other SOS programmes.

CAMBIOTE SCHOOL, HUAMBO

Over the past 6 years the school population grew from 515 in 2010 to 1300 in 2016. The 278 target group children (103 from the village residential care, 54 from family strengthening and 121 as secondary beneficiaries with children at risk from vulnerable households) serviced IN 2016 sends a clear message about the mandate of the school to make remarkable difference in our primary and secondary target group beneficiaries with a quality of education. Considering the potential for growth in beneficiary numbers and the inexistence of government plans to build new schools within the catchment area, it’s not unrealistic to predict significant increase in students’ target group within the next 2 years and exceed on the 30% benchmark as indicated in the SOS education policy.

Despite the big number of children coming from rural community, the 73% passing rate achieved this year can be considered as a great success. In a context where many children often have less support at home, teachers played a critical role in supporting children that needed extra academic support. In addition, the well maintained school facilities and the educational resources which include access to technology and good quality reading materials for children is also believed to have influenced student’s motivation and performance. It should be noted that in order to give children an incentive for reading, the School mobilised 28 other schools from Calima district for a reading competition. The experience has proven to have a positive impact on children’s attainment in reading as well as: an increased knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and better acquisition of general knowledge. As expected, the winner was from the Cambiote School.
106 children were serviced during the year. An assessment of the SOS Kindergarten was conducted, as part of the process to decide the way forward with the running of SOS education facilities, to determine if the target group was being adequately reached and if SOS was better placed to continue running the facility. The 58 direct programme beneficiaries (10 FBC residents, 31 from FSP and 17 secondary beneficiaries from very deprived households) place the Kindergarten as the only educational facility in the national programme servicing more than 50% of target group children. In addition, a close look within the proximity reveals the inexistence of any early education facility and the few existing in the city centre only cater for those that can afford the appalling fees. The SOS Programme was therefore found to be best placed to continue running the facility. In fact, despite being a Kindergarten that mainly caters for the rural children, the facility continues to adopt an approach that uses play that stimulates children’s physical, socio-emotional and cognitive development. Teachers make sure that learning process for children aged 0 to six is fun, and both the full time teachers and the volunteer educators acquire skills to guide the process. Being part of the rural community, teachers also blend local knowledge such as popular folklore into student activities and teachers are well-equipped to create a welcoming environment that stimulates creativity. Teachers also have the skills to establish good communication with the students’ parents. In what parents’ responsibility with transportation is concerned, parents understand their duty to ensure their children attendance and to make any necessary transport arrangements, including accompanying their children when necessary on their journeys to and from school. However, transportation became a significant barrier as some rural families were finding it difficult to walk their children every day to attend the SOS pre-kindergarten programme. As a solution, parents entered into a collective arrangement in which a 16-seater bus was independently hired to transport some of the affected children to school.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING, HUAMBO

Various Family Strengthening activities were implemented for 132 families, reaching 575 children (with 73 new admissions during the year). Families are scattered around the community zones of Cambiote, Correia, São Tarcisio, Tchicassa, Tchitutula, Cambalonga, Nanguenha and Satchipanguele all located within some 15 km range from where the SOS Children’s Village compound is established. The growing number of families and its geographical dispersion implies strong programme coordination and reliable partnership with community-based organisations (CBO). To achieve this, staff change was necessary at the programme coordination position and the engagement of a new CBO had to be initiated. With regard to the later, in the absence of a like-minded and well-established community institution, the local programme successfully managed to mobilize more than 100 community members in an Association named Ovaka Kupange (meaning “hands to work”). The Association is mainly formed with agriculture families coming from the different zones where the programme is established and has therefore also been structured in a sort of farming cooperative. An awareness workshop about child protection needs within the community was conducted, as part of the support to help them develop the abilities to solve vulnerable children and families’ problems. Other key achievements with the Association relate to the (i) establishment of a management structure (ii) formal legalization of the Association with the registry office (iii) 60 members engaged as volunteers for family development monitoring and (iv) engagement of agriculture beneficiary families in a 3-hectare food production programme (land donated by the local administration). It should be noted that other family beneficiaries are also engaged with the farming project implemented in the agriculture land inside the SOS Children’s Village compound where massive food production helped families cope easily with the general country economic difficulties. As reported, the predominant income activity during the second half of the year was the selling of produced eggs. In terms of child protection, while rejoicing about achievements around food provision and for the 69% passing rate among children, concerns persist over more than 30% of children without birth certificate and therefore out of the formal education system. In addition, it has also been noticed that families have very limited access to drinking water and despite the SOS mothers involvement in workshops to share care knowledge, caregivers’ ability to provide adequate child care is still a questionable.
FAMILY BASED CARE AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, LUBANGO

In 2016 the programme consolidated its success in supporting survival and developmental needs of our children. It managed to get all family houses locally sponsored thus allowing some extra financial support for supplementary nutrition when the cost of living became tough in the country. In addition, it continued to have all school going children enrolled in formal education, including 3 severe cases of mentally challenged children that are involved in some kind of assistance to their particular needs. The 80% school passing rate this year and the growing number of students enrolling tertiary education, including 12 FBC beneficiaries accessing quality universities outside the country are evidences of the developmental support programme children receive. In 2016 the programme celebrated the graduation of Angelina Jepele (21) in finance and accounts from University of Namibia and João Graciano (23) in International relation from Methodist University in USA.

Unfortunately much has to done in diversifying family based care responses for children that lost parental care and more exercise of advocacy is needed on behalf of our target group children. In this context, the SOS Children’s Village Programme in Lubango pioneered important strategic initiatives within the childcare area such as keeping adolescents and young adults within their SOS families (no transition into youth facilities), temporary child admission as well as early reunifications and youth integration. Having young people remaining in their SOS families was part of a strategy to let the youth people develop bonds further with their SOS mother and siblings. Strange it may seem, interactions with the youths show that most of them (especially those that have reached some maturity) would rather move to the youth facility to “experience more independence and transition challenges to an adulthood”, as claimed. This input will be taken into consideration as exceptional cases for transition to youth houses and for mother empowerment to effectively conduct youth development programmes within family houses. On the other hand, the programme introduced a temporary care arrangement for 4 children whom family removal was necessary to ensure children’s safety while family reunification was being considered. This approach has proven to be critical to save children’s lives but lack of internal capacity and strong partnerships to immediately action further tracing and reintegration plans is compromising child’s discharge into a more permanent placement within the predetermined 6 months upon admission. In what early reunifications and youth integration is concerned, 3 youths returned to their biological families as part of the resettlement strategies of children with known parents/families and relatives. The process involved youth consent, family assessment, family visits and family meetings before resettlement. The youths involved had acquired relevant academic and vocational experience while in the SOS family care that will enable them start exploring employment possibilities in the community. Similarly, 2 youths (Márcio and Vieira) successfully completed a vocational training programme with a qualified corporate partner and were immediately absorbed into one of their branch companies because of their outstanding performance during the training. In addition, 4 youths that benefitted from training with the same company are back in the province and have started a collective business on civil construction.

One important venue to provide the youth with an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their lives and enhance their sense of civic responsibility and personal development has been created in the SOS Children’s Village (conversion of aunt’s facility into youth club). Through this initiative resident youths and those from families of origin come together and get involved in arts & craft, multi-sport activities, educational workshops, music and more. The gatherings also forge positive relationships/friendships with peers and the leaders in the Village.
FAMILY STRENGTHENING, LUBANGO

Preventing parental care loss through family and community capacity building continues to be a great challenge for the program in Lubango. Two audit exercises (internal and regional) conducted during the year revealed programme difficulties in effectively monitor family development plans (FDP) and getting its community partner fully capacitated, after almost 10 years of cooperation. It was also noted that FDP monitoring for 109 families (460 beneficiaries) was mainly carried out by two SOS field officers with very limited involvement of community volunteers. Lack of volunteerism culture and social challenges among community members are cited as key barriers for more community involvement. In addition, it has also been recognized that staff who are mobilising communities around child protection need to be themselves well trained on how to promote community empowerment.

Despite the challenges, 10 families were successfully exited from the programme for attaining satisfactory self-sufficiency levels. It should be noted however that the national programme had to come up with its own self-sufficiency criteria which considers the local context. The widespread extreme poverty coupled with illiteracy challenges among families makes us to decide family exiting when they achieve (i) a regular and stable source of income that enables them to provide 3 nutritional hot meals a day for their children, (ii) when children are enrolled in formal free education and developing well (iii) when the caregiver has the ability to adequately care for the child (with evidences showing that the child is not being neglected).

In spite of not being part of the exit criteria, some social challenges families face related to poor housing and sanitation also affect child care quality and therefore need to be attended to. The process of building latrines for families defecating on open air was once again reactivated with 6 families already completing the intended construction. As reported, some households failed to build their latrines after receiving the necessary building material and technical support when as they saw on this an opportunity to build extra rooms for the family.

In order to enable smooth service delivery to children beneficiaries and a rapid family development, the Lubango programme started building key networks and strong partnerships in the community. AJOC, a recently established community association, which pursues similar community development objectives, has been identified, approached and engaged to start supporting families living in community zones where the association is based. In addition, the programme entered into partnership with a Brazilian faith based NGO that provides free quality preschool education for underprivileged children. Under this partnership 36 programme children were enrolled and continue to benefit from privileged early child development programmes in their community Kindergartens. Actually, lobbies with key education stakeholders in the community such as the Lassalete Catholic primary school allowed for 50 programme children who were previously outside the formal school system to be enrolled. Other advocacy activities for service delivery revolved around getting local authorities fulfil the right to a nationality for some 120 identified children. Lobbies resulted in 80 programme children being granted birth certificates after getting a mobile registry office team to work in the community for massive child registration. Unfortunately, some 40 children could not be registered due to some apparent lack of substantive parenthood evidences. Lobbies for caregivers registration is now being pursued for children not to be caught in this lack of nationality trap.

Knowing that youths are potential future breadwinners for their families, the programme sought to respond to their desires to build technical skills integrally linked to schooling and that would be critical as they move into the job market. In this concern, the programme helped equipping a computer centre in the community with adequate number of computers, furniture and books that play an important role in the dissemination of knowledge. Apart from allowing youth to carry out their normal academic work, the club also offers courses range from introductory for those who have never turned a computer on, through Email, Internet and introduction to word processing documents and spreadsheets.
The Hermann Gmeniner Primary School is a school located on the outskirts of Lubango town. In 2016 it catered for 759 students from Foundation to Year 9. Established in 1997, the School has been preparing our children for the future for almost two decades, focusing on supporting all students to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. The school is classified as “government supported” School. In fact, most of the teachers are directly paid by the government but there is, however, 10 part-time teaching staff, that impact slightly on personnel budget, due to their involvement in teaching subjects which the government could not supply staff for.

In 2016 our students were once again provided with the resources and equipment necessary for the development of skills and learnings necessary to succeed academically. As a result, students’ achievement outcomes at school continue to be very pleasing. When compared to similar schools, the students’ passing rate of 84% in 2016 is definitely an outstanding achievement. Apart from the academic achievements students also performed very well in sports activities and music. Students’ understanding of health and physical activity was embedded throughout the year through various sporting events including athletics, football, volleyball and basketball. Interschool sport completions include the first place in girls’ volleyball, second in girls’ basketball and fourth in boy’s athletics. The school also continued to offer opportunities for students to develop their musical abilities. Guitar and singing lessons are provided by a specialist teacher hired by ‘Agua Preciosa’, a corporate school partner. School participation in the annual children singing festival was very positive with the school choir wining the second position prize.

Under the same partnership with ‘Agua Preciosa’ chess classes were introduced as part of the extracurricular programme. Chess lessons were delivered by an experienced tutor hired by the corporate partner. Pupils liked playing games of chess with colleagues and staff perceived that the chess lessons had a positive impact on math’s ability, as well as on a range of important skills for learning such as concentration. On the other hand, the parents’ committee was very supportive of school initiatives. This year it did not hesitate to once again mobilize its associates for finance contributions to improve the 4 km difficult road that leads to school.

This is a 3-room modest clinic with primary responsibility of ensuring quality health care services easily accessible and available to all target group beneficiaries and their families. Secondly, it strives to service members from the vulnerable surrounding community in which priority is given to low-income populations who have limited access to care. The clinic is restricted to the provision of Basic Health Care benefits covering the services of: (i) medical office visits with our two SOS nurses (supported by an outsourced Physician), (ii) Prescription and supply of Drugs and (iii) Emergency Care for minor health issues. The absence of a Lab Tests and other Specialty services make the nurses to resort to professional referral when necessary. Many referrals are received from doctors (specialists and GPs) from the main public hospital or from specialized private clinics with which the Village has established contacts for particular attention to be given to our target group.

In what preventive measures are concerned, regular visits were conducted in the family houses and in all other SOS facilities to inspect on aspects related to hygiene and particularly in offering personalized support to the SOS mothers in attending to health issues affecting their children and themselves as individuals. It should be noted that the intervention of our health care professionals with sexual education workshops for adolescents and young adults helped reducing the worrying teenage pregnancies to zero cases in 2016.

The 2016 figures show 3974 beneficiaries serviced in many different ways. This represents a significant increase over the previous year mainly due to the appalling sanitation almost in every surrounding community which become worse during the heavy rain seasons. The fact that less than 15% target group is serviced coupled with the heavy dependence on international funding (78%) is encouraging discussions to explore facility realignment or handover possibly.
SOS KINDERGARTEN, LUBANGO

The kindergarten continues to follow a normal preschool education programme. It opens each weekday with sessions from 08:30 until 16:00. In 2016 there were 134 children aged from three to five years on roll. Of these, 10 are direct programme beneficiaries and 17 are scholarship children from deprived households. Learning is through play. Children from different background benefit from teacher’s wealth of experience and childcare training. Teachers plan a diverse range of inspirational activities linked to themes, which children can relate to. Children learn about differing roles of people who help us, such as paramedics, fire fighters and police officers when and physically visit workplaces and are given a practical talk and tour of their vehicles. This also helps children develop a positive attitude to others. In addition, children have access to a range of outdoor and indoor activities which contribute to their good health. The large fully enclosed front garden has an area for children to play safely, where they have access to outdoor jungle gym which helps to promote their gross motor skills.

One of the greatest excitement for the children in 2016 was definitely the Kindergarten’s Father’s Day. In a well prepared ceremony children had the opportunity to honour all father figures in their lives. They were taught to tell their dads how much they meant to them with handmade gifts like Father’s Day kids crafts and rhymes living their loved ones visibly emotional.

As realised, the kindergarten vast majority of children continue to be fee paying students from wider geographical areas outside of the main catchments which sparks reflections over its impact to the organisations’ mission. In addition, recent developments in the preschool education market show many emerging service providers delivering education of good quality which makes them better placed to run our facility. In the light of this, a well-established and resourceful faith-based organisation, engaged in delivering free early education programmes for the underprivileged was identified and approached with the intention to get them manage the facility on our behalf. Actually, the organisation is already working with our Family Strengthening Programme and in collaboration with other agencies to provide services in neighbourhoods for the specific target group of young children in vulnerable households, resulting in many of our programme children benefiting from early education services in their community facilities.