




Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund

Project Overview
November 2024



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
CANADA



Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund

For the past forty years, SOS Children's Villages Namibia has provided safe, nurturing, and caring family environments for children in need. As the needs of children and families evolve, we must continue to adapt our SOS programs to meet these changing needs. This evolution reflects our commitment to providing tailored support that helps vulnerable families and enables children to grow up in a stable, loving environment.

As the leading child protection organization in Namibia, we have been working closely with the Namibia Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to strengthen the country's child welfare system. These reforms are designed to ensure that vulnerable children and families have the support they need to stay together – protecting a child's right to grow up within their families of origin. The reforms will also ensure that children without their parents' care have access to quality alternative care services that meet their individual needs and circumstances.

To support these national reform efforts, SOS Children's Villages is focusing on the following services and investments ...

Renovation, retrofitting and furnishing of family homes

To provide children without parental care with the right type of family care – whether it's short-term, emergency, or long-term placements – we will invest in essential repairs and upgrades to existing family homes. As part of this effort, we are transitioning our family-care homes in Windhoek from traditional SOS Village settings to safe, well-connected neighbourhoods with access to essential amenities and services. This will offer children the experience of growing, learning, and belonging in their community.

Direct family empowerment and child reintegration support

We will directly support to families in the community to ensure that children can remain with their families of origin. This includes facilitating, whenever possible, the reintegration of children in care back into their biological families. Through direct support, including economic empowerment, we are strengthening the ability of families to meet their children's needs, helping to keep families together and supporting long-term stability for children.

Building skills for better care and support for children

We will provide comprehensive training to SOS mothers, parents and social workers, strengthening their ability to offer children the individualized care and support they need to thrive. This training will cover key areas such as trauma-informed care, child health and development, and child and adolescent mental health. By equipping these caregivers with the knowledge and skills needed, we ensure that children receive the highest quality of care and protection.

Provision of care, education, and mental health support

For the most vulnerable children in society – those without parental care – we provide family-based care that offers the love, support, and stability essential for their safety and wellbeing. Our comprehensive approach includes ensuring access to quality education, mental health and psychosocial support, and primary health services. Additionally, we focus on preparing these children for a successful transition to independence. By addressing their holistic needs, we aim to empower these children to overcome challenges and build brighter futures.

We need your help

The Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund project was designed to ensure successful implementation and effective resilience building for stability and growth into the future. Without you, this project to transform and create brighter futures for Namibia's most vulnerable children would not be possible.

Your support of SOS Children's Villages Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund will be responsibly allocated in the following areas:

Focus area	Costs
Renovation, retrofitting, and furnishing of family homes	\$405,000
Direct family empowerment, child reintegration support, and specialized training	\$150,000
Provision of care, education, and mental health support	\$200,000
Project total	\$755,000



The impacts of your support

The Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund will support:



Up to **20 family homes** in the community and the SOS Village with essential renovations, furnishings and digital needs, directly supporting up to **100 children** annually.

The reintegration of **96 children and youth** with their biological or extended families with direct support throughout the process; creating space for more children in urgent need.



196 children and youth

with access to preschool, secondary and post-secondary education, tutoring and skills training, and the materials they need to be successful.



55 SOS mothers, social workers, and child protection officers

with specialized training to support quality of care and protection for children.

63 families with enhanced economic opportunities and growth through skills and financial literacy training.



SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa project activities

As SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa is already integrated with the community, the Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund will focus on supporting renovating and enhancing up to 10 family homes, digitally enhancing the SOS Village, office and family homes, reintegrating children with their biological or extended families, and providing specialized training for staff, SOS mothers and families in the community.

Following the reintegration and renovation activities, SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa will have space and infrastructure to care for additional vulnerable children in need, including short-term and emergency placements to help address this critical need in Namibia.

SOS Children's Villages in Windhoek project activities

In Windhoek, the Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund will initially support the transition of 7 family-care homes from the traditional village setting to safe, well-connected neighbourhoods with essential amenities and services, giving the children a greater opportunity to grow and connect with their community. This includes providing any essential repairs, furnishings and digital enhancements as needed. Additional community housing is sought in conjunction with local authorities.

After the successful reintegration of children with their biological or extended families, additional space to support more children in need will be created. SOS mothers, staff, and families in the community will be provided with specialized training.



Family homes at SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa that need essential repairs for the wellbeing of children in our care.

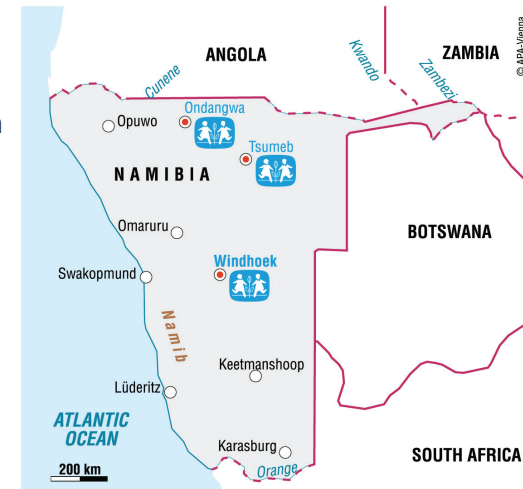
Community-based homes in Windhoek that need essential updates and furnishings for the wellbeing of children in our care.





Why children in Namibia need your support

Located in southwest Africa, Namibia is a sparsely populated nation of just over 3 million people. While Namibia is rich in natural resources, which makes it ineligible for most development assistance or humanitarian aid, it is a country with persistently high levels of inequality, with **43% of its population living below the poverty line.**



Currently, **Namibia is experiencing the worst drought in 100 years**, exhausting almost 85% of the food reserves and leaving nearly 50% of the population facing food insecurity. This has forced the government to resort to hunting game meat such as elephants and zebras to provide food for its citizens.

Poverty, crisis and loss of parental care – any one of these challenges is devastating to a vulnerable child. **250,000 children in Namibia, over 20% of all Namibian children, are without parental care or at risk of losing it** across the country. **19% of children in Namibia never complete primary education and 52% never graduate from secondary school**, creating an ongoing cycle of hardships. SOS Children's Villages is on a mission to break that cycle and help ensure every child has the love of a family and everything they need to thrive.

Operating in Namibia since 1984, SOS Children's Villages has been protecting and caring for vulnerable children, providing safe and loving homes for children who have lost parental care, and offering support to families at risk of having to abandon their children.

Canada's legacy with SOS Children's Villages Namibia

For the children in SOS Children's Villages Namibia's care today and in the past, Canada's impact on their lives and the ripple effects on future generations are immeasurable.

In 2009, thanks in large part to funding from The Green Family Foundation, SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa was completed and opened its doors in 2010. It was the first SOS Children's Villages overseas program funded entirely by Canadians, solidifying a long-term and impactful partnership.

Since opening, SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa has supported thousands of vulnerable children and families by providing children without parental care with loving, family-based homes and offering families in need access to SOS Kindergarten and Family Strengthening Programs.

The transformational and lasting impacts of SOS Children's Villages Namibia's programs in Ondangwa inspired SOS Children's Villages Canada to expand our support in 2022 – helping to provide vital care in Windhoek, where many families live in informal settlements in extreme poverty.

Each year, SOS Children's Villages in Windhoek provides hundreds of children with support to address their most critical needs. This includes family-based homes for children without parental care, school feeding and nutrition programs, and many other health, education and critical skills development programs.



Alfred Wirth, former member of SOS Children's Villages Canada Board of Directors, with children at the village opening in Ondangwa, Namibia, in 2010.



Funded by Canadians

Both SOS Children's Villages in Ondangwa and Windhoek continue to depend primarily on funding from the generosity of Canadians like you, thank you!

The Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund project is 100% funded through Canadian donations.



Thank you for supporting the SOS Children's Villages Namibia Children's Hope and Resilience Fund. Without you, our work to help transform and create brighter futures for the most vulnerable children in Namibia would not be possible.

Should you have any questions or want further information on the impacts of your support, please contact me, Thomas Bauer, President and CEO of SOS Children's Villages Canada, at t.bauer@soschildrensvillages.ca.

Best regards,



Thomas Bauer
President and CEO
SOS Children's Villages Canada



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
CANADA

soschildrensvillages.ca