

## SOS Children's Villages A loving home for every child

SOS Children's Villages is an international non-governmental social development organisation that has been active in the field of children's rights and committed to children's needs and concerns since 1949. In 133 countries and territories our activities focus on children without parental care and children of families in difficult circumstances.

## SOS Children's Villages in Belgium

Een actie voor

In January 1963, the Belgian SOS Children's Villages association "SOS Villages d'Enfants Belgique" was established. Our organisation started working in Bande, a small town in the south of Belgium.

Due to the rapid rate of economic growth in the 1960s and 1970s Belgium recruited workers from other countries. Many of these people stayed in Belgium and their children have been born and educated there. These groups suffer higher unemployment rates and are more likely to suffer from poor health. Violence against women and minorities has been recognised as a problem in Belgium.

At present "SOS Villages d'Enfants Belgique", works with children and their families in Belgium, and runs a variety of programmes in two locations. In addition to the SOS Children's Village, there is a youth programme and two social centres. The young people living in the SOS flats can learn to live independently while they complete their schooling or vocational training. The activities of the social centres vary according to the local needs. The social centre in Liedekerke provides short-term care while a more permanent solution is found for children who are at risk.

The second association "SOS Villages d'Enfants Belgique pour le monde" supports projects outside Belgium. For example, it has supported the creation of a training centre in Kigali, Rwanda, and the SOS Children's Village in Hyderabad in India.

## Facts & figures

At present there is one SOS Children's Village in Belgium, one SOS Youth Facility and two SOS Social Centres.

## More information

Much more information about SOS Children's Villages can be found on the website <u>www.sos-childrensvillages.org</u>.





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SOS Kinderdorpen zorgt ervoor dat kinderen die er helemaal alleen voor staan kunnen opgroeien in een liefdevol gezin.