

SOS Children's Villages Switzerland
(SOS-Kinderdorf Schweiz / SOS Villages d'Enfants Suisse)

In collaboration with SOS Children's Villages South Africa, SOS Children's Villages Lesotho and supported by Swiss International Airlines and help alliance

- Social & Political Situation: 2
- Challenging Physical Environment: 3
- Complexity: including cultural complexity, level of project structure, and untested, breakthrough initiatives: 2
- Level of individual initiative: 3
- Group or individual based: G

Project: Making Impact Visible

At SOS Children's Villages we believe that no child should grow up alone. We strengthen families to ensure that children grow up safe, healthy and loved. Where necessary, we give children a new home in an SOS Children's Village.

To promote our work, we rely on up-to-date material that showcases what we do on-site. Testimonials from coworkers and beneficiaries, reports, and images are vital to inform current and potential donors about how their contributions are used, and to ensure their future support. "Making Impact Visible" is a rare opportunity for students to make a hands-on contribution to the work of an international non-governmental organization – and the lives of vulnerable children. By creating photos and videos to share with our supporters, you will experience up-close how we implement programs for children, youth and families, ranging from alternative care to education, medical, and income-strengthening measures.

At least three Laidlaw scholars will work closely with our program teams in South Africa and Lesotho to produce a wide array of photos, videos and short reports to promote their work. You will spend four to five weeks in southern Africa and up to another two weeks editing and finalizing your work after your return. During the project you will be accompanied, supported and counselled both by the program teams in South Africa and Lesotho and SOS Children's Villages Switzerland. Collaborating on this project with our staff will help you enhance the leadership skills you need for your professional development.

Our work in South Africa

With the support of Swiss International Airlines and the Help Alliance foundation, we are launching a new, three-year project in South Africa to give vulnerable children and youths better opportunities for an independent life. The project includes three initiatives:

1. Children who have lost parental care, as well as children living in their families of origin will receive school materials, uniforms and the cost of their transportation to school. Without this support, children cannot attend and progress at school and are at risk of being left behind – with serious consequences. Without an education, children have no chance of finding employment. School dropouts are made even more vulnerable, often live in extreme poverty, become substance-addicted or join criminal gangs.

2. Young people supported by the SOS Children's Villages receive support for their professional futures, with vocational training, counseling, workshops and mentoring. In a country with high youth unemployment, this support strongly increases their chances of finding a first job.
3. Two SOS Children's Villages will receive support with renovations, access to solar power and clean drinking water. This provides safe, healthy living conditions for children and young people, and gives them access to reliable basic services like drinking water and electricity.

Impressions of our work in South Africa



Our work in Lesotho

SOS Children's Villages Switzerland has been active in Lesotho for many years. Our vocational training program in Leribe supports youths and young adults who have not finished a secondary school education and struggle to find work. We give them a practical apprenticeship, teach them IT and business-management skills, as well as developing the social competences they will need to find work. Most of the participants succeed in finding work or setting up their own businesses.

The vocational training courses include:

- Construction work: Electricity and Solar Energy Installations, as well as Aluminium working, Carpentry, and Joinery
- Fashion and Design: Sewing, Tailoring, and Knitting; Cosmetology; Hair Dressing, Nail Technology, Make-Up Artistry
- Food Art and Catering: Culinary Arts; Baking and Pastry

In Quthing, 220 children go to the SOS kindergarten and school, while 60 are growing up in the safe environment of our SOS Children's Village.

Impressions of our work in Lesotho



SDG focus of this project:

1 – no poverty, 3 – good health, 4 – quality education, 8 – decent work, 10 – reduced inequalities

Project locations:

South Africa, mainly in Ennerdale in the Johannesburg region.

<https://www.sossouthafrica.org.za/>

<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/africa/south-africa>

Lesotho, in Leribe and Quthing.

<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/africa/lesotho>

<https://www.sos-kinderdorf.ch/projekte/laender/lesotho>

Living conditions, Transportation and Project dates: You will be staying in the vicinity of the SOS Children's Villages infrastructure in South Africa and Lesotho. Conditions are simple but clean and comfortable. SOS Children's Villages has its own fleet of vehicles and trained drivers. For shorter trips, you will be on foot or have the use of a bicycle. The project will take place in July-to-August 2025 (exact dates to follow)

Requirements for application:

- Proven experience in either photography or video production and editing (ideally both)
- Experience in VR-compatible video production may be an advantage
- Police certificate of good conduct
- Fluency in English
- Interest in children's rights

Applications should be sent to marc.kempe@sos-kinderdorf.ch by 14th November 2024, and should include:

A letter of motivation:

- Why are you interested in this project?
- What do you expect from your participation?
- From your perspective, what is important in the work of a children's aid organization; particularly regarding photographing/filming children and young people in the context of humanitarian aid

Work samples:

- Required:
 - o Photography (maximum 10 photos depicting people in a manner that triggers empathy or conveys a story)
 - o Videos (max. 2 videos, each of max. 2 minutes in length)
- Optional:
 - o Writing (a report, max. 1 page, that demonstrates your ability to capture a situation)

For information on what the three students experienced on the 2024 LiA project in Nepal, please feel free to contact:

- Sadbh McCannon, Trinity College Dublin: mccannos@tcd.ie
- Catherine Martins, University College London: catherine.paula.22@ucl.ac.uk
- Luke Pätzold, Trinity College Dublin: lukepaetzold@web.de

and take a look at this post and the embedded video: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/catherine-martins-305b96209_four-weeks-in-nepal-with-sos-childrens-villages-activity-7234939657820524544-OKqE?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop