

Our work in Los Mina, Dominican Republic

2025 Impact Report



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
CANADA

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A community of resilience and potential

The neighbourhood of Los Mina, in Santo Domingo Este, is home to families raising children amid economic and social challenges, while demonstrating remarkable strength, determination, and hope for the future.

In 2025, this was felt most acutely in the Barrio Puerto Rico and Cerros del Ozama communities, part of the wider Los Tres Brazos area where SOS Children's Villages works. Families faced rising food and medicine costs, frequent power outages, and mounting insecurity. An underperforming wastewater treatment plant nearby contaminated local waterways, contributing to outbreaks of illnesses like malaria and dengue that affected children disproportionately. Furthermore, many secondary students in these communities study in cramped, under-resourced classrooms, and long-standing gaps in formal land titling leave families without the stability that comes with secure housing.

Yet 2025 also showed the strength of the Los Mina community. Residents across Los Tres Brazos came together in peaceful, organized advocacy for better health services, schools, electricity, safer streets, and housing security. This wave of local organizing is creating opportunities for lasting change and stronger partnerships with the child protection system.

Alongside this resilient community, donors like you make it possible for SOS Children's Villages to help keep families together, protect children, and equip young people with the skills and confidence they need to shape their futures. In 2025, the program reached 2,655 children, young people, caregivers, and community members across Los Mina through a wide range of care, protection, education, and community-based services.

SOS Children's Villages' work in 2025

Thanks to support from donors, SOS Children's Villages delivered a coordinated set of services that prevented children from losing parental care, protected children's rights, strengthened communities, and prepared young people for independent living.

Helping families stay together and thrive

The program is alongside families at every stage, helping steady progress in one area build momentum in another. For many families, that meant securing lasting financial stability and access to essential services so parents could meet their children's needs more reliably and keep their families together.

Families strengthened their wellbeing through a combination of health, nutrition, and parenting support. A medical outreach day connected children and caregivers with pediatric, gynecological, psychological, cardiology, and nutrition services, complemented by workshops on health promotion and emotional wellbeing. Families experiencing food insecurity also received regular nutritional support in coordination with government partners, while parenting guidance helped caregivers build safer, healthier, and more connected relationships with their children.

As families became more stable and resilient, many were able to strengthen or restore family relationships. This year, 57 children and adolescents who had lost parental care were reunited with their biological families, each supported through a tailored development plan, parenting guidance, and assistance with school enrolment and access to medical care, with continued follow-up as families rebuilt their lives.

The program also helped families overcome barriers that threatened their long-term stability. One single mother of a child with a disability, for example, was guided through the process of obtaining a monthly pension and permanent medical insurance, ensuring her child could access essential care while easing the family's financial burden. For others, greater stability created opportunities to build sustainable livelihoods. Two mothers, for example, achieved stable sources of income: one by launching a clothing business and the other by turning newly acquired vocational training into a home-based baking business.



Children, youth and caregivers access free healthcare services, including medical consultations and medication distribution.

Building a community that protects its children

Community leaders were the heartbeat of this work in 2025, convening families, encouraging participation, and working alongside SOS Children's Villages staff at community roundtables to address shared problems.

Through *the I respect you; I care for you* campaign, a community campaign advocating for child rights, positive parenting messages reached more than 150 caregivers across the wider community. New community leaders were also trained to champion children's rights and protection, while local businesses proudly displayed campaign posters, helping spread these messages throughout the neighbourhood.

The impact is already visible. Families and caregivers report a noticeable shift toward gentler, more positive discipline, a change which SOS Children's Villages attributes to the positive parenting and safeguarding messages reaching households across the community.

This dedication and commitment were recognized beyond Los Mina when one of the community's leaders was honoured with the Julia Awards, which celebrate older adults who give back to their community.



Caregivers participate in a workshop to strengthen their positive parenting skills and emotional awareness.

Helping children and young people build their futures

In 2025, 109 children and adolescents received care through SOS Children's Villages' family-like alternative care model, where each child was provided with a stable, nurturing home environment. This stability created room for growth: they received academic support to strengthen reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills, helping them catch up and thrive in school, alongside safeguarding education and confidence-building activities that combined learning with recreation and self-care. For older adolescents, that growth pointed toward independence, with hands-on training in employability and entrepreneurship helping them prepare for life beyond care. In 2025, 75% of young people who left alternative care reported being self-reliant and ready for the next chapter.



Meeting new challenges with care

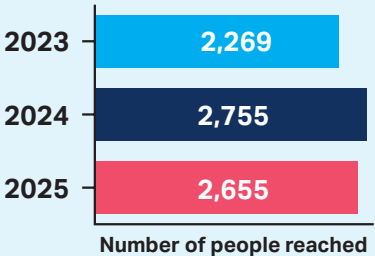
This year also brought challenges that required the program to grow and adapt. As the humanitarian crisis in neighbouring Haiti continued to drive displacement into the Dominican Republic, SOS Children’s Villages welcomed more Haitian adolescent girls into its care, many of whom faced language barriers and fear related to immigration enforcement. Staff responded by strengthening partnerships with documentation services, adapting training sessions to be more accessible across languages, and pairing new arrivals with bilingual peers for support.

At the same time, a rise in the number of children arriving with complex mental health needs prompted an expansion of psychosocial support, increased home visits, and the involvement of outside specialists for wellbeing workshops. Building on these efforts, 2026 will bring a dedicated psychologist to the team, focused on early evaluations and referrals, ensuring children and families receive the right support sooner while strengthening the team’s capacity to provide thoughtful, individualized care.

Impact

Your support in numbers and lives changed

Thousands of lives have been reached over the last three years with your support, demonstrating the program’s continued impact for children, young people, caregivers and community members each year.



Each number below represents a child, a caregiver, or a family whose life is more stable today because of donors like you. The following results are organized by our core areas of work: care and protection, family and community strengthening, education and livelihoods, and health.



Care and protection

109 children and adolescents in family-like alternative care, growing up in a safe, stable home with consistent care and support.

12 young people supported through semi-independent living arrangements, helping them build the practical skills and confidence needed for a successful transition to independent adulthood.

49 children received short-term emergency care while their parents or caregivers received support to create a safer, more stable home environment and, whenever possible, to prepare for family reunification.

57 children reunited with their biological families after their parents or caregivers received the support needed to provide a safe and stable home.

17 SOS Children’s Villages care staff completed training to strengthen the quality of care, child protection, and emotional support provided to children and young people.

75% of young people who left alternative care reported being self-reliant and ready for the next chapter.



Family and Community Strengthening

108 children received support, helping them remain safely in their families' care while accessing education, healthcare, and social services.

68 caregivers received individualized support, including positive parenting guidance and access to healthcare, nutrition, mental health, and livelihoods support, to strengthen parenting, improve household stability, and better meet their children's needs.

105 children participated in community programs that promoted learning, wellbeing, child protection, and positive development in a safe environment.

162 adults participated in community programs that strengthened child protection, encouraged community participation, and connected families with local support networks.

150 caregivers completed positive parenting training, helping build safer, more supportive relationships with their children and strengthen family wellbeing.

95% of households completed the Family Strengthening Program with the skills, income, and support needed to meet their families' needs independently.



Education and Livelihoods

103 children and young people enrolled in school, ensuring continued access to education and opportunities to reach their potential.

95 children attended primary or secondary school, 6 participated in early childhood development programs, and 2 pursued university or technical education.

20 children and youth received tutoring support to strengthen academic performance and help them stay on track in school.

41 young people received job-readiness training, developing the practical skills and confidence needed to enter the workforce.

12 young people received career guidance to explore their interests, set goals, and make informed decisions about their education and future careers.

21 young people strengthened financial skills, learning how to budget, save, and make informed financial decisions.



Health

375 children, young people and adults received medical care, helping them access essential health services and stay healthy.

57 children, young people, and parents received mental health support to strengthen their emotional wellbeing and resilience.

54 people participated in health education sessions, building knowledge about healthy habits to support long-term wellbeing.

Siblings raised together, building their own futures

Miguel Ángel and Liliana came into the care of SOS Children's Villages in Los Mina as young children. They grew up together in a family-like care home with their SOS caregivers, Andrea, and later, Andreina. Together, they found a safe, loving home where they were encouraged to dream, develop their talents, and believe in themselves.

Although they followed different paths, both siblings benefited from SOS Children's Villages' holistic approach to education, life skills, and employability.

From an early age, Miguel Ángel discovered a passion for sports, and later explored hairdressing. At 16, he saved enough to buy his first computer and taught himself graphic design, a turning point that inspired him to pursue higher education. With continued scholarship support, he will soon complete his studies in multimedia. The SOS Global Scholarship Program helps young people from SOS Children's Villages access higher education by covering tuition and other academic expenses. Today, he runs his own digital creative business, serving a range of clients. When asked to describe his experience growing up at SOS Children's Villages, he chose four words: **security, family, education, and direction.**



Liliana pursued her own interests from an early age. Throughout her childhood, she explored embroidery, typing, jewelry-making, painting, and computer skills, developing both technical abilities and confidence. Liliana gained her first professional experience through the YouthCan! program, a global partnership between SOS Children's Villages and corporate partners that connects young people with career mentoring, workplace learning, and employment opportunities. Today, she runs her own creative business, Ly' Creations, providing services to government institutions and private companies. She is also completing a degree in Business Administration and continues to strengthen her skills through additional training in design and marketing.

Today, Miguel Ángel and Liliana are each pursuing their own path, building on the stability, care and opportunities they had growing up. Their stories show the lasting impact of a safe, supportive home, caring adults who believed in them, and opportunities made possible by donors like you.



Thank you, from all of us at SOS Children's Villages Canada. Your generosity helps families stay together and provides children and young people the support and opportunities they need to build brighter futures.



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