Case study

Partnering with SOS Children’s Villages
Helping children realise their true potential

“By connecting our global resources, our experience and energy, we will transform the lives of vulnerable children and help them grow into healthy and able adults.”

26,586
Total number of beneficiaries reached

£662,284
donated to date

24 projects supported

£49,063
raised by employees from as part of emergency relief efforts in Nepal, providing support to children and families affected by the devastating earthquake

18 million
steps walked during the 2015 Steptember challenge as employees were encouraged to improve their fitness while raising money for SOS Children’s Villages

£143,919
raised in 2015 from employee fundraising and corporate matched funding

9
children’s villages directly supported in 2015

SOS Children is the world’s largest orphan and abandoned children’s charity providing new family and homes for more than 70,000 children in 475 unique children’s villages in 123 countries. We have supported them as our global partner since 2007 and have pledged to continue that support until at least 2017, marking 10 years, by developing a formal partnership with three overarching aims:

• Creating the right environment and opportunity for children
• Collaborating effectively
• Inspiring and motivating employees

Since 2007, we have supported SOS Children on a number of educational projects within their villages, helping with running costs of the villages which provide a safe environment for children; provided funding and support for two infrastructure projects (water and solar); and provided support in their emergency relief efforts.
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Below outlines some of our involvement to date:

2007/08
We began our support in the wake of a devastating earthquake which hit the regions of Tarapaca and Antofagasta in Chile. Our employees got involved by raising funds for the emergency relief efforts in the region. As a Children’s Village, home to over 121 orphaned and abandoned children, and a Family Strengthening Programme had been already established in Antofagasta, we decided to support these facilities in coping with the earthquake’s aftermath. Many of our employees were involved in raising funds for the emergency relief efforts in the region.

2009
We expanded our level of involvement focusing on providing school fees for vulnerable children. Four countries were selected for support: Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, the Philippines and Peru, to help children attend school, lead a normal life and gain an education. Our donation provided school fees and equipment for over 480 children in towns local to many of our offices including Baku and Ganja in Azerbaijan, Astana in Kazakhstan, Manila in Philippines and Chiclayo in Peru.

2010
We continued to raise funds for children in Pakistan, Chile, Nigeria, and Tanzania, for SOS Children’s emergency relief efforts in Haiti following the devastating earthquake in the country.

2011
A devastating drought and famine in East Africa, the worst in 60 years, focused the world’s attention in 2011 as 12.4 million people were displaced or without food and water. Our employees raised monies to aid SOS Children, one of just a few charities with an existing presence in the region. In addition to supporting the emergency relief efforts in East Africa, the money we raised in 2011 funded the purchase of 24 solar panels, a photovoltaic solar generator and a groundwater tank to collect rain water with solar pumps and overhead tank for the Gwagwalada SOS Village in Nigeria.

2012
Marking our fifth year supporting SOS Children, 2012 focused on raising funds for their village in Baku, Azerbaijan to deliver ground-breaking solar heating and hot water systems. Using the five-year anniversary as a theme, activities relating to the number five were undertaken, for example our Baku office set a goal to clear five tonnes of rubbish from one of Baku’s beaches to raise funds.

2013
We supported SOS Children through local events as well as through a global emergency relief campaign to help people impacted by the natural disaster in the Philippines and the state of affairs in Syria. Our employees raised over £25,000 which was matched by the company.

2014
In 2014, we supported a very valuable water project, voted for by our employees, in the SOS Village in Callao, Peru, where children and families needed a new water pipe installed. The completion of this project will improve their quality of life and save money in fetching water or paying for its transportation.
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In 2015 we chose to raise funds to support three education focused projects, children’s education supplies in Baku, Azerbaijan; fostering the future of children and youth through education in Surrey (Vancouver), Canada; and mothers’ training in Beijing, China. A number of activities took place over the year, however in September we launched the Steptember Challenge. The challenge lasted throughout the month of September and asked employees to commit to tracking their daily steps, with the aim of virtually walking between each of the SOS villages that we were supporting, stopping along the way to learn more about the projects, while getting fit at the same time.

Employees who wanted to take part in the challenge were asked to log their workouts and steps and donate an entrance fee to their chosen SOS Children’s Village to help support vulnerable children and families in nine locations; Baku, Azerbaijan; Beijing, China; Chennai and Kolkata, India; Plaisir, France; San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain; Ennerdale, South Africa; Surrey (Vancouver), BC, Canada; and Morosolo, Italy. In total the employees that registered to take part walked over 18 million steps.

Water project update - SOS Children’s Village, Callao, Peru

In 2014, Amec Foster Wheeler raised funds to support a very valuable water project, voted for by our employees, for a new drainage system in the SOS Children’s Village in Callao, Peru. The last of these funds of £20,435 were transferred at the start of 2015.

SOS Children’s Village has been working in Callao since 2004 and the village supports, 57 children in 12 SOS family homes that make the SOS Village. In addition, a further 315 families from the Callao region benefit from the SOS Family Strengthening Program.

When the Village was first built there were no municipal sewage services available for use and hence a septic tank was installed. When evidence of corrosion and salt was found in the well water used by the village, family houses and staff homes, it was deemed unsafe and drinking water was currently only available by delivery. A solution was put forward by our employees involving a topographic study to determine the feasibility of installing a drain line to the existing exterior. The recommendations based from the study included:

- One new tank to provide drinking water to all families through pumping water to their houses.
- A second well to use water currently connected to the houses for the purposes of garden irrigation and exterior cleaning.
- A drain to serve the village’s sewage needs by channelling the sewage their into public utility systems.

Work began to implement the project in the autumn of 2015 and is due to complete mid-2016.
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Looking forward
We will continue to work with SOS Children throughout 2016 on the three projects chosen for 2015. Specific activities include the celebration of motherhood in May to focus on the work that the SOS mothers undertake in the villages, we will also repeat the Steptember Challenge. By the end of 2017 we aim to have:

- Engaged 25% of Amec Foster Wheeler offices in SOS Children’s activities.
- Helped children in 25 countries where we operate.

Please view our video to see how we have supported SOS to date.