



SOS Children's Villages

The world's largest orphan charity

The benefits of education for children and society

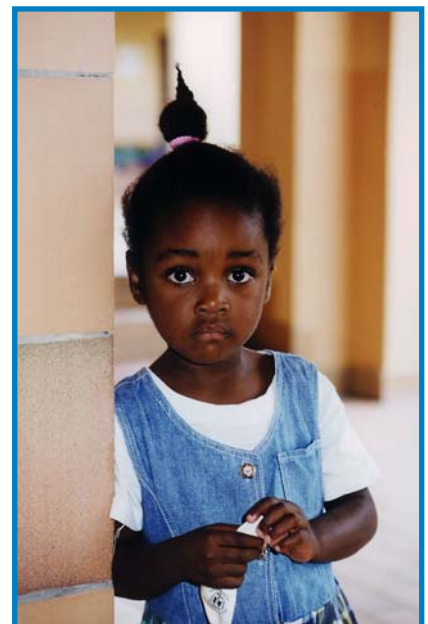
Education breaks the vicious **poverty cycle**. If a parent is uneducated, for example, they are more likely to be unemployed or have a very low-paid job. In many parts of Africa, parents must pay school fees, and buy uniforms and stationery. As a result, parents cannot afford to send their children to school, and the cycle continues. The children, like their parents, will be confined to a difficult life: they will have little money and food, no voice in society, and are likely to be unhealthy as they are unaware of hygiene issues and cannot afford medicines. For women, the lack of an education and job prospects may mean they are forced to marry just to stay alive.



Educating a child means that a child is more likely to:

- Have a better job, and a better **standard of living**
- Be **empowered** and be able to **demand their rights**
- Be healthier, as they will have been educated about how to stay healthy and buy medicine
- Be independent and **self-sufficient**: they will not have to ask others for money or food. This improves a person's confidence and self-esteem
- Improve the **health** of their own families when the children become parents themselves
- Help towards the **economic growth** of the country.

Education is the best way a poor country can help all the people living there to have enough food to eat, to stop people from getting ill, and to buy medicine when they do get ill.



SOS Children is known not only for its Children's Villages, but also for its commitment to education.

SOS Children does not want children to be dependent on hand-outs when they are older: we want our children to be able to look after themselves and decide what they want to do when they grow up.

SOS Children's schools offer scholarships to the poorest students, and we provide all uniforms and stationery. We believe all children should have the same chance to go to school, just like in the UK. Our schools have given poorer communities, such as the communities in Angola that will receive the footballs, a lifeline.



SOS Primary and Secondary Schools, Angola



Children at the SOS Children's Village in Lubango, Angola

Children from Benguela and Lubango, Angola have really benefited from the SOS primary and secondary schools in their towns. The schools have really increased the education levels of the local people.

SOS Children's Village Lubango has 12 family houses, which are home to 120 children. The village also has a nursery, a primary school, a clinic and a small farm. Like all SOS Children's

Villages, the nursery, school and clinic are open to local people. With many state-run schools and hospitals closed because of the political situation, these projects provide care for the wider community that is otherwise not available.

SOS Children's Village Benguela, has a nursery, primary school and medical centre. There are 12 family homes for 120 orphaned and abandoned children, many of them war orphans. The primary school has nearly 500 children in 12 classes.

Students at the SOS secondary schools have lessons in [Science](#), [Maths](#), [Social Science](#), [Business Studies](#) and [Language](#). Technical courses on offer include [Food and Nutrition](#), [Arts and Crafts](#), [Woodwork](#), [Metalwork](#) and [Mechanics](#). SOS Children takes care to select courses at its technical and vocational training centres that provide young people with the skills needed by the local market. This means students are more likely to secure employment when they graduate as their skills will be in demand. Having more skills workers and jobs means the local economy will grow, benefiting the entire community.