

UPR Pre-session of Germany

31 August 2023

Delivered by SOS Children's Villages Germany

- SOS Children's Villages Germany is a non-governmental organisation, which has been active since 1956.
- At present, SOS Children's Villages Germany is a non-profit, independent, non-partisan service provider and advocacy organization that support children, young people and their families in need in all 16 federal states of Germany.
- Unaccompanied children live in various programs of SOS Children's Villages Germany and get the support they need. Specific programs target this group on their way to get jobs they can build a life on.

## Situation:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Asylum applications of unaccompanied children	22255	35939	9084	4087	2689	2232	3249	7277

- After 2015/16 arrival numbers have gone down until 2020, programs have been shut down -> difficulties with rising numbers from 2021 on
- -> lowering standards for unaccompanied children in 2023: e.g.
  - longer stay in first reception (6-8 months until age determination),
  - smaller rooms than for nationals in alternative care,
  - security guards as only contact person through the night,
  - no child friendly explanation of the procedures,
  - bad legal protection during the stay in first reception

### Recommendations:

- No discrimination between unaccompanied children and German children of the same age who need to be placed in alternative care.
- Child-friendly explanation of the procedures,
- Provide resources for more trained staff,
- Better housing conditions, especially for the first reception

### Situation: Mental Health

- Long duration of proceedings,
- Unsecure status,
- High pressure to succeed in education,
- Being separated from their families, sometimes worrying,
- Less capacity for psychological help, especially in mother language

### Recommendations:

- Provide more psychosocial support regardless of residence status
- Adjust proceedings to children's wellbeing and provide information
- Increase capacities for the proceedings to have faster decisions, that are still of high quality
- Acknowledge stress due to unsecure status as mental health issue
- Make it easier to get siblings and parents to Germany

### Situation: Transitioning to adulthood

- Youth care support often not even granted until 21
- Falling in unsecure residence status when moving out and not having training finished
- Less capacities to support during this phase
- No affordable, accessible flats

### Recommendations:

- Grant youth care support as foreseen by the law up to 27
- Do not end youth care support without having a secure flat
- Provide affordable, accessible flats
- Do not make waiting for deportation a condition for residence permit for well-integrated youth

**Thank You!**