

To Ms. Anjali Rangaswami
Major groups Programme
Communications and Outreach
UN DESA\DSD

New York, 6 February 2014

Statement delivered by SOS Children's Villages during the morning briefing on Conflict Prevention, Post-conflict, Peacebuilding and the Promotion of Durable Peace, the Rule of Law and Governance

Today SOS Children's Villages is here to bring the voices of children and young people to this conversation.

With thousands of them, we have run consultations on their priorities for post-2015. One of their main wishes for the future is to live in a world free from all forms of violence. Children and young people ask governments to ensure that they can live in a safe and supportive environment, where they can thrive and achieve better educational and health outcomes.

Currently, about 1 billion children live in territories affected by armed conflict.

Every year, thousands of them are unnecessarily separated from their families – figures say that the 80 percent of children who live in care institutions have parents alive.

Children without parental care and children at risk of losing parental care are the most vulnerable, as they lack the usual protection of their families or communities. When they end up in poor quality alternative care or in the street, they are highly exposed to exploitation, abuse and neglect.

To contribute to the search for solutions, SOS Children's Villages would like to refer you to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (par. 153-167), which can offer guidance for the development of targets to (1) prevent family separation, (2) facilitate family tracing and reintegration, and (3) ensure appropriate care arrangements – in the best interest of the child.

Thank you