



Business Report 2024

SOS Humanity



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Dear supporters,

2024 was a year of growth for SOS Humanity: in the Central Mediterranean, we were able to be even more active than in the previous year, with seven rescue missions and 1,822 people rescued from distress at sea. We expanded our press work in Italy, published the report 'Humanity Overboard', released the position paper 'End the EU's Externalisation Policy!' and handed over more than 137,000 signatures collected on a petition against the planned criminalisation of search and rescue in Germany to a representative of the German Parliament's Committee on Internal Affairs. These are just a few examples of our work on land.

At the same time, we experienced an increase in the obstruction of our work at sea: rescue ships, including Humanity 1, were unlawfully detained 13 times for a total of 323 days in Italy. Due to the assignment of distant ports for the disembarkation of survivors, non-governmental rescue ships travelled 117,000 additional kilometres and lost 293 days of operational time. In response to our lawsuit against a detention in March 2024, an Italian court ruled it unlawful and declared the so-called Libyan Coast Guard an illegitimate search and rescue actor – an important victory. Read more in our annual review at: sos-humanity.org/publications-reports/annual-review-2024

In 2025, the year this annual report is published, we will celebrate our tenth anniversary. You will therefore find plenty of information about our work over the last few years on our website: sos-humanity.org/en/press/10-years-search-and-rescue/

And that's not all. In July 2025, we strengthened our management team with Nina Geisler, thus establishing a dual leadership. Furthermore, an additional rescue and observation ship is becoming a reality: from mid-2026, the sailing ship Humanity 2 is scheduled to begin operations in the maritime area off Tunisia.

Both maritime search and rescue and human rights are coming under increasing pressure. Your support is more important than ever. Please continue to stand with us – thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Laura Gorriahn,
Chair of the Board,

Nina Geisler,
Managing Director,

Till Rummenhohl,
Managing Director



Photo: Alessio Cassaro



Photo: Wanda Proft

What did we achieve?

Looking back at 2024

On board:

**27 rescues
in 7 mission**



**13 pregnant
women**

received medical car
from a midwife



On board during every mission:

18 employed crew members

10 volunteer crew members

1 independent media representative

Gender equity

- male (125)
- female (93)
- non-binary (7)



**1,822
people
rescued**



517 minors

199 women

33 nationalities

17 interviews

conducted with survivors on board, published as
'Testimonies'

Our crews consisted of

25 nationalities



January:

Petition 'Search and rescue
should not be punished'
submitted with 137,000
signatures

January:

190 people rescued
in 10th mission

February:

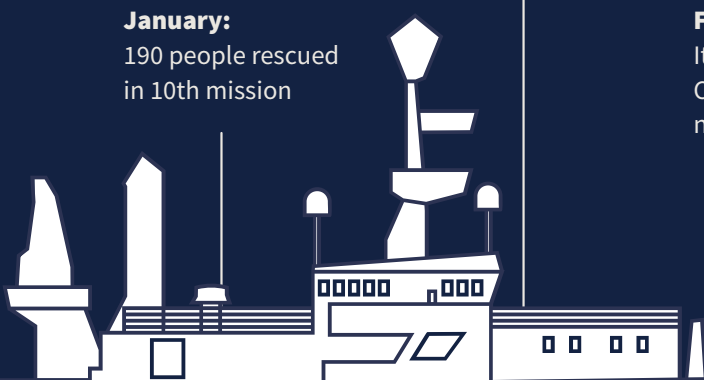
Italian Supreme
Court rules Libya
not a safe place

March:

Humanity 1 detained for
20 days after 11th mission –
early 'release' thanks to
urgent legal action

May:

SOS Humanity publishes
position paper 'For a more
humane Europe' ahead
of the 2024 European
elections



HUMANITY 1

On land:

137,000 signatures

were collected for our petition,
together with four other NGOs

Our **partner organisations**

increased their financial support by

112 per cent

compared to the previous year

SOS Humanity was one of
**four search and rescue
organisations** that received funding
from the German Federal Government.

In Germany, we have



8 volunteer groups

They participated in 65 events

25 concerts, **13** festivals,
5 demonstrations or political events,
22 others such as information stands

2 major events:

SOS Sessions

Charity concert with 5 musicians/bands
which raised €46,059.20 in donations

Crime Scene: Mediterranean

Theatre performance: 7 TV detectives read
eyewitness accounts from aboard the Humanity 1

Our **Social Media Channels** had:

137,890 Follower

326,979 Likes



June:

Successful legal action
against the detention
of Humanity 1

July:

583 people rescued in
13th mission, one dead
body recovered

September:

'Open ship' in
Syracuse, Italy, with
over 500 visitors

June:

SOS Humanity
publishes report
'Humanity Overboard'

August:

333 people rescued
in 14th mission

November/ December:

347 people
rescued in
16th mission

About us

What drives us

How we act

Our vision is a world in which the human rights of all are respected. No one has to drown while fleeing and everyone is treated with dignity.

WE SAVE LIVES
Humanitarian rescue of people in distress at sea in the Mediterranean by search and rescue professionals.

WE PROTECT AND ASSIST
Medical and psychological care as well as humanitarian protection for survivors on board.

WE TESTIFY
Documentation of the stories of survivors as well as human rights violations and abuses at Europe's external borders.

WE CREATE CHANGE
We inform the public about the inhumane consequences of European migration policies. On a political level we advocate for the rights of people fleeing across the sea.

The non-governmental search and rescue organisation SOS Humanity was founded in 2015 by captain and historian Klaus Vogel, originally under the name SOS Mediteranee. In 2022, the German association separated from the European network and has existed as SOS Humanity ever since, operating in the Central Mediterranean with the rescue ship Humanity 1.

Rescuing, protecting, testifying, and changing: for nine years, our goals have been to rescue people in distress in the Mediterranean, to provide care for survivors on board, and to document their experiences and our observations at sea. Since 2022, we have also been stepping up our efforts

to inform the public and influence politicians through targeted lobbying. In doing so, we are calling for a more humane migration policy at both German and EU level.

Our work expanded in 2024, both at sea and on land. It is supported by committed civil society engagement, increasingly also in Italy. SOS Humanity is financed primarily by private donations and the support of other organisations, as well as, in 2024, by a grant from the German Federal Foreign Office, approved by the German Parliament. All of these helped us to operate Humanity 1 in 2024, rescue of a total of 1,822 children, women and men from distress at sea, and bring them to a place of safety.

What motivates us

Solidarity
We educate, inform and mobilise people across Europe to take a stand for those in distress at sea.
By joining forces, we want to create Europe-wide solidarity.

Appreciation
We treat everyone with respect and firmly believe that we can achieve more through diversity.

Humanity
We rescue people in distress at sea because we promote the human rights and dignity of each and every individual.



Transparency
We bear witness to the humanitarian catastrophe in the Mediterranean and communicate transparently and responsibly about this work to the public.

Independence
We ensure our independence in order to pursue our mission.

Professionalism
We are experts in what we do to carry out our work effectively in an ever-changing environment.

The association



The association SOS Humanity e.V. works on land and at sea to stop the deaths of people fleeing across the Mediterranean.

The **ordinary members** determine the principles of the association's work and elect the board. A general meeting took place on 12 December, 2024. At the end of the reporting period, the association had 65 full members.

The voluntary **board** must consist of at least four ordinary members who manage the association in accordance with the statutes and the resolutions of the general meeting. The term of office of the board is usually three years. The board appoints the management.

The **head office** is divided into six areas of work. The Fundraising department is responsible for attracting and supporting donors and partner organisations. The Administration department takes care of the running of the association, including personnel and finances. The

Advocacy and Mobilisation department is responsible for political work and volunteer engagement. The Communications department covers all media and public relations work as well as ship-to-land communications. SOS Humanity gGmbH (non-profit limited liability company), which was founded to operate our rescue ship, organises the Crewing and Ship Operations teams, who are responsible for the rotating, international ship crews and the operations of Humanity 1.

During the reporting period, the office employed 31 part-time and full-time staff. In addition, interns and federal volunteers regularly supported the various teams. The annual average total number of equivalent full-time positions for the year was 19.2 (14.0 for the association (e.V.), 5.2 for the work of the gGmbH on land), which represents a slight increase over the previous year.

Income and Expenses

Income 2024, SOS Humanity e. V.

The total income of SOS Humanity e. V. amounted to **€ 5,673,200** in the reporting year. Compared to the previous year (€3,805,270), this represented an increase of 49 %.

€1,723,783 came from private donors who supported us through one-off or regular donations and supporting memberships.

Membership fees from ordinary members of SOS Humanity e. V. accounted for an additional €9,850.

57 % of the total income, or €3,217,850, came from foundations and partner organisations, an increase of 112 % over the previous year. A partnership with SOS Children’s Villages International accounted for €1,407,598, or around 44 % of the total income from foundations and partners.

Around 3 % of our funds, €170,563, were donated by companies.

Public funding totalled €510,550, accounting for 9 % of total income in 2024. We received the majority, €500,000, from the German Federal Foreign Office from budget funds in the months from June to December 2024. In 2022, the German Parliament decided to support non-governmental search and rescue in the Mediterranean with €2 million annually. A further €10,000 in public funds came from a town twinning partnership with Braunschweig, among other sources.

Revenue	5,673,200 Euro	(100 %)
Grants / Donations from foundations	3,217,850 Euro	(56,7 %)
Private donations	1,723.,83 Euro	(30,4 %)
Public funds (including city partnerships)	510,550 Euro	(9,0 %)
Donations from companies	170,563 Euro	(3,0 %)
Other income	40,605 Euro	(0,7 %)
Membership fees	9,850 Euro	(0,2 %)

Expenditure 2024, SOS Humanity e.V.

The total expenditure of SOS Humanity e.V. amounted to **€ 5,455,375** in the reporting period. Of this, a total of €3,991,411 was passed on to SOS Humanity gGmbH for ship operations. This procedure is regulated in a service contract.

€ 659,694, or around 12 % of total expenditure, was spent on educational and public relations work in accordance with the association's statutes, as well as on political work.

A total of € 429,232 was spent on fundraising, to give donors the best possible support and information and secure new donations.

A further € 375,038 was required during the reporting period to cover the association's administrative costs.

Overall, the costs of fundraising and administration amounted to 14.7 %. At 85.3 %, the largest share went directly to rescue work and communications, thus contributing to the respective statutory objectives.

Our association's accounting complies with the guidelines of the German Donations Council and has been audited by an auditing company (see p. 14). This guarantees that donations and funding are used for the intended purpose in an economical and transparent manner.

Expenditure	5,455,375 Euro	(100 %)
Project costs for rescue work	3,991,411 Euro	(73,2 %)
Statutory educational and public relations work	659,694 Euro	(12,1 %)
Fundraising	429,232 Euro	(7,9 %)
Administrative expenses	375,038 Euro	(6,9 %)

SOS Humanity gGmbH:

In 2024, Humanity 1 was operational throughout the year. The funds that the non-profit limited liability company (gGmbH) received from the association in 2024 were used for ongoing ship operations.

Among other things, these funds were used to pay for ship management, personnel costs on board and ashore, rescue equipment, food for the crew and survivors, refuelling the ship, port fees and medication.

Note:

Note: As the annual financial statements of SOS Humanity gGmbH for the 2024 financial year were not yet available at the time of going to press, no specific figures for the gGmbH are published here in the association's report. These annual financial statements will be available for viewing in the electronic Federal Gazette as soon as they have been received.

Annual financial statements 2024

Balance sheet as of 31 December of the 2024 financial year,
SOS Humanity e. V.

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Assets		
A. Fixed assets		
I. Property, plant and equipment		
other equipment, business and office equipment	1.00	1.00
II. Financial assets		
Investments	25,000.0	25,000.00
B. Current assets		
I. Receivables and other assets		
1. Trade receivables	145.24	0.00
2. Receivables from companies in which participations are held	0.00	112.30
3. Other assets	41,951.80	26,668.20
gesamt (1. bis 3.)	42,097.04	26,780.50
II. Cash balances, Bundesbank balances, other bank balances and cheques	765,413.09	686,488.60
C. Deferred income	6,204.03	5,550.00
total	838,715.16	743,820.10
Liabilities		
A. Equity capital		
retained earnings		
other retained earnings	717.295,82	499.471,50
B. Accrued liabilities		
other provisions	63.870,00	50.300,00
C. Liabilities		
I. Liabilities towards credit institutions	11,60	1.276,45
– of which with a remaining term of up to one year EUR 11.60 (EUR 1,276.45)		
II. Liabilities from deliveries and services	33.376,01	61.399,54
– of which with a remaining term of up to one year EUR 33,376.01 (EUR 61,399.54)		
III. Other liabilities	24.161,73	131.372,61
– of which taxes EUR 23.701,73 (EUR20.973,06)		
– thereof within the scope of social security EUR 460.00 (EUR 1,413.56)		
– of which with a remaining term of up to one year EUR 24,161.73 (EUR 131,372.61)		
total (I. bis III.)	57.549,34	194.048,60
total	838.715,16	743.820,10

Data in Euro

Profit and loss account for the financial year 2024, SOS Humanity e. V.

	fiscal year 2024	previous year 2023
1. Contributions	5,632,954.92	3,748,286.56
2. Other operating income	40,604.67	56,983.03
3. Use of funds Funds transferred	- 3,990,197.70	- 2,591,830.50
4. Personnel expenses		
a) Wages and salaries	- 679,904.65	- 632,602.60
b) Social security contributions and expenses for pensions and other employee benefits – of which for pensions EUR -120,00 (€ -725,50)	- 159,127.05	- 145,845.37
total	- 839,031.70	- 778,447.97
5. Depreciations on intangible fixed assets and property, plant and equipment	- 4,071.35	- 1,132.00
6. Other operating expenses	- 622,074.52	- 465,516.08
7. Interest and similar expenses	0.00	- 30.50
8. Result after taxes	217,824.32	- 31,687.46
9. Annual surplus / deficit	217,824.32	- 31,687.46
10. Withdrawals from revenue reserves from statutory reserves	0.00	- 31,687.46
11. Allocations to revenue reserves to statutory reserves	-217,824.32	0.00
12. Net profit	0.00	0.00

Data in Euro

Financial year 2024

Allocation of income and expenses for the 2023 financial year by division and function/area

© Deutscher Spendenrat e. V. (German Donation Council)

(Multi-division calculation in the total cost method. Annex 2a GKV)

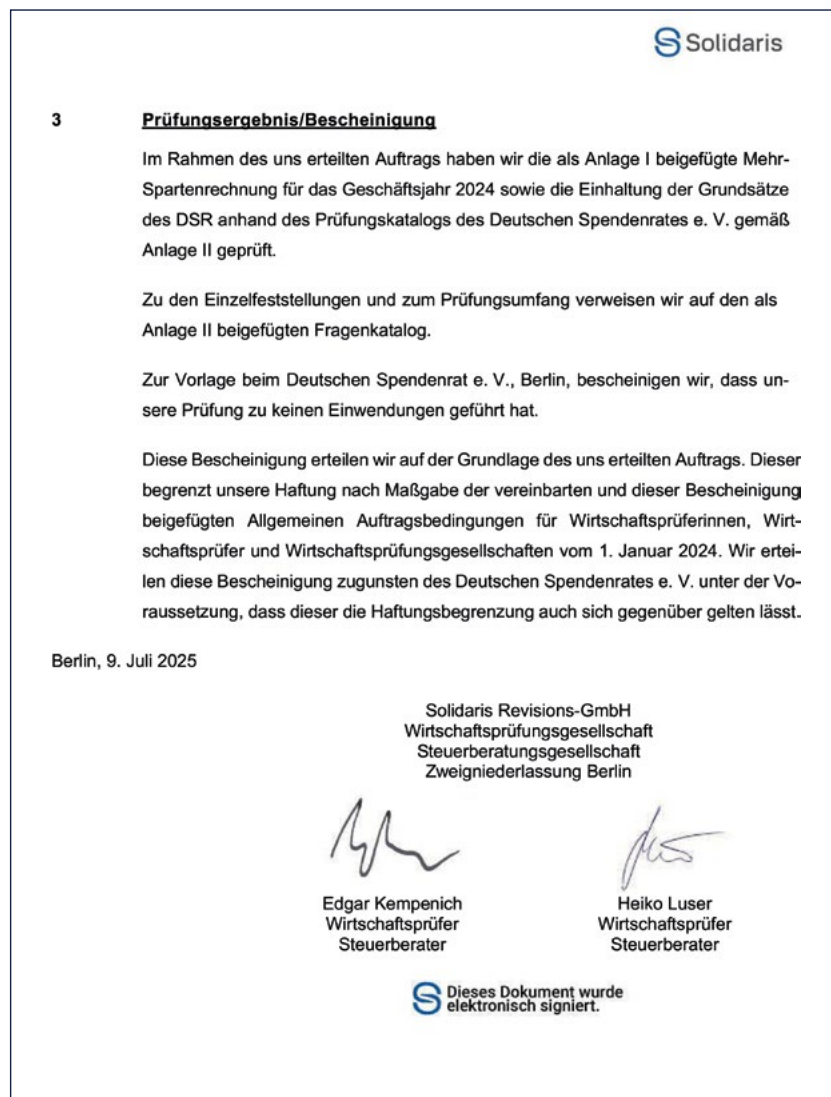
Activities Item designation	Total income statement	Direct activities	
		Direct idealistic activities / projects	Statutory educational and public relations work
	EUR	EUR	EUR
Donations and similar revenues	5,632,594.92	5,632,594.92	
of which membership fees / sponsorship contributions	9,850.00	9,850.00	
Other operating income	40,604.67		8,428.93
Subtotal of income	5,673,199.59	5,632,594.92	8,428.93
Direct expenses for statutory purposes / project expenses	3,990,197.70	3,990,097.70	100.00
Personnel expenses	839,031.70		447,208.33
Subtotal of expenses	4,829,229.40	3,990,097.70	447,308.33
Preliminary result 1	+ 843,970.19	+ 1,642,497.22	- 438,879.40
Depreciation and amortisation of intangible assets and property. plant and equipment	4,071.35		
Other operating expenses	6,22,074.52	1,313.44	212,385.39
Preliminary result 2	+ 217,074.32	+ 1,641,183.78	- 651,264.79
Interest and similar expenses	0.00		0.00
Result after taxes	+ 217,824.32	+ 1,641,183.78	- 651,264.79
Net profit / loss for the year	+ 217,824.32	+ 1,641,183.78	- 651,264.79

Total income (EUR)	5,673,199.59	5,632,594.92	8,428.93
Total income (%)	100.00	99.28	0.15

Total expenses (EUR)	5,455,375.27	3,991,411.14	659,693.72
Total expenses (%)	100.00	73.16	12.09

Fulfilment of statutory purposes / idealistic area				
	Indirect activities			
Subatotal direct activities	Management / Administration	Fundraising	Subtotal indirect activities	Total of statutory activities
EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
5,632,594.92			0.00	5,632,594.92
9,850.00			0.00	9,850.00
8,428.93	20,200.04	11,975.70	32,175.74	40,604.67
5,641,023.85	20,200.04	11,975.70	32,175.74	5,673,199.59
3,990,197.70			0.00	3,990,197.70
447,208.33	184,353.60	207,469.77	391,823.37	839,031.70
4,437,406.03	184,353.60	207,469.77	391,823.37	4,829,229.40
+ 1,203,617.82	- 164,153.56	- 195,494.07	- 359,647.63	+ 843,970.19
0.00	4,071.35		4,071.35	4,071.35
213,698.83	186,613.22	221,762.47	408,375.69	622,074.52
+ 989,918.99	- 354,838.13	- 417,256.54	- 772,094.67	+ 217,824.32
0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
+ 989,918.99	- 354,838.13	- 417,256.54	- 772,094.67	+ 217,824.32
+ 989,918.99	- 354,838.13	- 417,256.54	- 772,094.67	+ 217,824.32
5,641,023.85	20,200.04	11,975.70	32,175.74	5,673,199.59
99.43	0.36	0.21	0.57	100.00
4,651,104.86	375,038.17	429,232.24	804,270.41	5,455,375.27
85.26	6.87	7.87	14.74	100.00

Audit certificate



The 2024 annual financial statements were audited by the auditing company Solidaris Revisions-GmbH.

You can find the complete audit report in German on our homepage at sos-humanity.org/transparenz

Impressum

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Your donation saves lives!

With your donation of 72 euros, we can provide a child and an adult with a life jacket.
With 125 euros, you can enable us to provide medical treatment to the survivors on board for one day. Help us to care for the people rescued from distress at sea.

Donate now – your help is urgently needed!

Account details:

SOS Humanity e.V.

IBAN: DE 04 1005 0000 0190 4184 51

BIC: BELADEBEXXX

Or online at:

sos-humanity.org/en/donate-now



SOS Humanity are supported by:





Donation account:

SOS Humanity e. V.

IBAN: DE 04 1005 0000 0190 4184 51



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