



Transparency Report 2025

SOS Humanity



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Dear friends of SOS Humanity,

We are currently facing challenges more complex than ever before. With nearly 1,000 people missing in the Central Mediterranean during the first quarter of 2026, more people have drowned than in any other year since 2014. With a looming naval blockade by the Italian government, the systematic prevention of humanitarian rescues could soon become a reality. And yet, or perhaps precisely because of this, we look back with you on the year 2025. A year that shows: perseverance and courage do pay off!

In seven missions, we rescued 1,156 people in distress at sea. Each and every one has their own story of fleeing, violence, and hope. We brought many of these stories to life in our report 'Borders of (In)humanity'. To mark the tenth anniversary of SOS Humanity, we presented new facts and figures on one decade of search and rescue at a press conference in early May. At the anniversary edition of the reading 'Tatort Mittelmeer' at the sold-out Deutsches Theater Berlin, our founder Klaus Vogel's speech received a standing ovation – a moving moment. With the purchase and conversion of another ship, we are moving forward. In August 2026, our sailing ship Humanity 2 starts operating in the Central Mediterranean. We also secured a clear legal win: the Italian government's appeal against our 2024 challenge to the detention of the Humanity 1 failed – an important signal! In autumn of 2025, we co-founded the Justice Fleet alliance, cooperating with 12 other search and rescue organisations to act in unison, both legally and politically.

Our achievements in 2025 would not have been possible without you. Your donations, your commitment, and your tireless support empower us and enable our work at sea and on land. For this support, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The current year 2026 poses a major challenge for us. A funding shortage is putting our rescue missions at risk, while people crossing the Mediterranean urgently need help. But we will continue, because every life counts and humanity is non-negotiable. Please keep supporting us!

Warm regards,

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 2025

An board:

21 rescues
in 7 missions

217 unaccompanied
minors

were rescued



On board during every mission:

18 employed crew members

10 volunteer crew members

1 independent media representative

Gender equity

- male (71)
- female (56)
- non-binary (8)



1,156 people
rescued



252 Minors

46 women

32 nationalities

11 Interviews

conducted with survivors on board,
published as **'testimonies'**.

Our crew consisted of

25 nationalities



March:

148 people rescued
in 18th mission

February:

114 people rescued
in 17th mission

April:

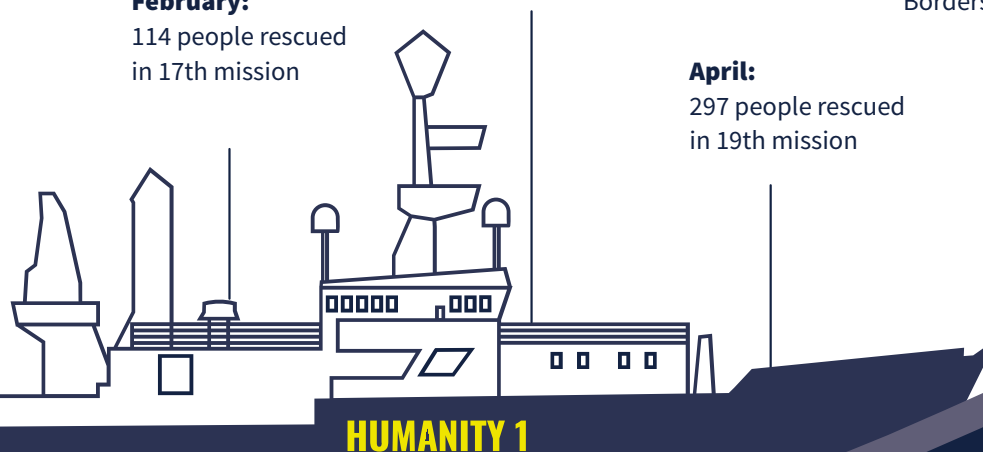
297 people rescued
in 19th mission

May:

Press conference
10 Years of SOS Humanity
& publication of the report
'Borders of (In)humanity'

June:

Court confirms:
Detention of Humanity 1
was unlawful



On land:

103 mentions of SOS Humanity

in the national and international press regarding

10 years of search and rescue

in the Mediterranean.

22 supporting celebrities

have called for donations as part of the

‘Donate Humanity’ campaign.

Co-founding of the alliance Justice Fleet

consisting of 13 search and rescue organisations –
ceasing communication with Libyan authorities.

In Germany, we have



11 volunteer groups

They participated in 95 events

38 concerts, **11** festivals,

11 demonstrations or political events, and

35 others such as information stands.

2 major events:

10 years of SOS Humanity

Anniversary celebration with supporters:

over 39,000 people rescued

thanks to the commitment of civil society.

Crime Scene Mediterranean

Theater performance:

9 TV detectives read eyewitness accounts
from aboard Humanity 1.

Our **social media channels** had:

162,282 followers

528,195 likes



July:

138 people rescued
in 20th mission

Oktober:

Purchase of
Humanity 2

August:

185 people rescued
in 21st mission

October:

114 people rescued
in 22nd mission

November:

Founding
alliance
Justice Fleet

November:

160 people rescued
in 23rd mission

One commitment, many faces

Strong partner organisations by our side

Donation-funded search and rescue depends on solidarity and reliable support. The partners of SOS Humanity play a key role in enabling our life-saving missions in the

Mediterranean as well as our political and educational work on land. Thanks to their commitment, we can support people in distress and advocate for their rights.



Photo: Bednar Brandt

Partner organisations visiting Humanity 1.



Photo: SOS Humanity

The logos of partner organisations with us at sea.



Photo: SOS Humanity

Gaby and Roy (center) in Syracuse.

Ship guardians

Since 2025, we have been offering the opportunity to become a guardian of one of our ships. Guardians play a key role in ensuring our operational readiness for our work at sea. Their commitment strengthens our independence and gives us the backing to help people in distress – reliably even amid changing political and financial conditions.

Roy and Gaby on becoming guardians of Humanity 1:

You can't change everything, but you can take responsibility – that was our motivation. And when we see how many people are saved from drowning, we know: our help is making a difference.'

More information
on becoming
a ship's guardian:





Volunteer activities: rallies and protests, concerts, panel discussions, events such as poetry readings, craft and flea markets, exhibitions, film screenings, support for political events, bingo nights, pub quizzes, and countless information booths.

The volunteers' tireless commitment to search and rescue

With a lot of creativity, endurance and dedication, our volunteers in eleven German cities are supporting civil search and rescue. In addition to their awareness-building work, they were able to raise a total of 30,000 euros in donations for SOS Humanity in 2025.

More information
on how to get involved:



‘Donate Humanity’ – because every life counts

By the end of 2025, numerous celebrities from the worlds of culture, media, and sports had publicly stood by our side and called for support for our new sailing ship Humanity 2. In doing so, they took a stance against

deaths in the Mediterranean, a policy of turning a blind eye, and the obstruction of search and rescue. Together, they sent a strong message in support of humanity and rescuing lives at sea.



Jogi Löw:

“To me, it’s clear: people should not die in the Mediterranean because they are searching for safety from war, violence, or poverty. You don’t let people drown.”



Heike Makatsch:

“I support SOS Humanity because I think the policy of sealing off Europe is inhumane and I want to help save lives.”

Legacy giving

My inheritance for a good cause – Interview with Sigrid

You have named SOS Humanity as a beneficiary in your will. Why is the issue of search and rescue so close to your heart?

Sigrid: I was deeply shaken by the reports of the shipwrecks and the large numbers of people on the move – by the fact that, since 2015, so many people seeking protection have had to cross the Mediterranean, and still have to do so, and that, in the process, thousands drown every year. Seeing how civil search and rescue organisations have taken on state responsibilities through their rescue missions has impressed me deeply. The perseverance and courage of the crew on board are remarkable – not least in view of the risk associated with conflicts with the Libyan Coast Guard, as well as the increasing criminalisation and obstruction of search and rescue missions. Rescuing people despite the many obstacles and growing threats is admirable.

So when and how did the idea first occur to you to help beyond your own lifetime and to name a humanitarian organisation as your beneficiary?

Sigrid: I've been donating for a long time to smaller NGOs that rely on resources, such as SOS Humanity. So the idea of a legacy donation to you came quite naturally. But there were also administrative reasons. In my own circle of friends and family, I've seen time and again just how nerve-wracking and exhausting the process of settling a will can be. If this is handled outside the personal circle, stress or even disputes can be avoided for everyone involved. This creates certainty and clarity.

What advice would you give to people who are still struggling with the topic of the last will?

Sigrid: I can only share my own experience. I asked myself what is important to me. Then I left what I'd written down for a while, looked at it again and thought about whether I wanted to change anything. I can only recommend this approach – after all, the result has to feel right.



Photo: Privat

Sigrid has included SOS Humanity in her will.

It's also possible to change the will at any time.

Sigrid: Exactly. Nevertheless, the process of writing your own will can make you feel uncomfortable. Particularly because you know that the wishes you've put into writing will only come into effect once you're no longer here. And yet I felt very relieved once I'd done it. I thought: 'Whatever happens, everything's sorted now.' That's very liberating.

It's also very important to me that your work is financially secure even after I'm gone, so that you can continue to save people from drowning. That's why I hope that SOS Humanity can continue to exist in the future – because search and rescue is, and always will be, essential.

More information (in German only):
or contact us at
testament@sos-humanity.org.



Ten years of search and rescue



Photo: Wanda Proft

Press conference to mark 10 years of SOS Humanity on 5 May 2025.

In 2025, SOS Humanity marked the organisation's tenth anniversary. At a press conference, founder Klaus Vogel took stock and we presented new facts and figures on a decade of search and rescue to the press, as well as the report 'Borders of (In)humanity', which contains numerous testimonies from survivors. With our anniversary campaign 'On Course for Solidarity', we raised awareness for search and rescue and were countering misinformation with education.



Photo: Mandolo Ty

10-year anniversary celebration with partners on 25 September 2025.

Together with our long-standing supporters, we raised a toast at our 10-year anniversary celebration to the strong civil society that has been supporting our life-saving work for a full decade.



Photo: Kevin McElvaney

Performance 'Crime Scene Mediterranean' with actors and Klaus Vogel.

At our anniversary performance of the staged reading 'Crime Scene Mediterranean' at the sold-out Deutsches Theater in Berlin on 23 November 2025, our founder Klaus Vogel received a standing ovation for his call to humanity.

A second ship



Photo: Paula Gaess

Humanity 2, the new sailing ship, in June 2026.

A 24-metre-long sailing vessel, perfectly suited to the task, was acquired in autumn 2025 to rescue more people. Following the completion of the refit work and the ship's naming ceremony, the Humanity 2 will set sail on its first mission in the Central Mediterranean in August 2026.

For more information:



About us

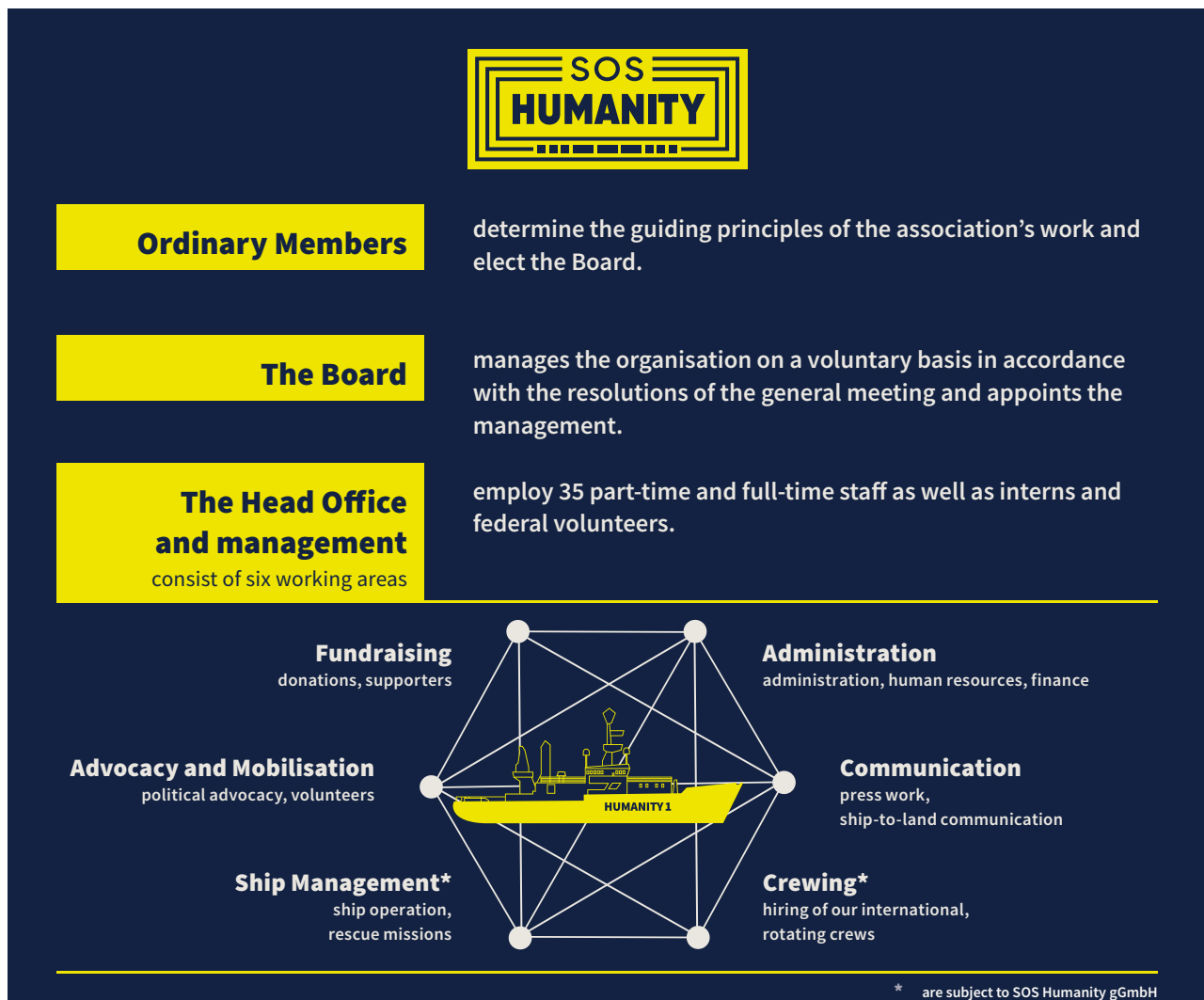
What drives us	Our vision is a world in which the human rights of all are respected. No one has to drown while fleeing and everyone is treated with dignity.		
How we act	WE SAVE LIVES Humanitarian rescue of people in distress at sea in the Mediterranean by search and rescue professionals.	WE PROTECT 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 Mediterranee. 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 ten 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. In 2025, by purchasing a second ship, the sailing vessel Humanity 2, we have expanded our rescue capacity in the Central Mediterranean. Our work is supported by a committed civil society, increasingly also in Italy. SOS Humanity is funded almost exclusively through private donations and the support of other organisations. This wide-ranging support has enabled us to operate the Humanity 1 in 2025 and to rescue of a total of 1,156 children, women and men in distress at sea and bring them to a place of safety.

What motivates us	Humanity We rescue people in distress at sea because we promote the human rights and dignity of each and every individual.		
	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.		Transparency We bear witness to the humanitarian catastrophe in the Mediterranean and communicate transparently and responsibly about this work to the public.
Appreciation We treat everyone with respect and firmly believe that we can achieve more through diversity.	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.	

What moves us



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 2 December, 2025. At the end of the reporting period, the association had 66 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 and, in the future, also with the Humanity 2

During the reporting period, the office employed 35 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 23.8 (17.2 for the association (e.V.), 6.6 for the work of the gGmbH on land), which represents a slight increase of around four positions.

Income and expenses

Income 2025, SOS Humanity e. V.

The total income of SOS Humanity e. V. amounted to **€ 5,249,151** in the reporting year. Compared to the previous year (€ 5,673,200), this represented a decrease of 7.5 %.

€ 1,519,354 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 € 12,250.

66 % of the total income, or € 3,450,837, was grant funding received from partner organisations, an increase of 7.2 % over the previous year. A partnership with SOS Children’s Villages International accounted for € 1,500,000, or around 43.5 % of the total income from grants and donations from partner organisations.

Around 0.4 % of our funds, € 20,277, were donated by companies.

Public funding totalled € 215,103, accounting for 4.1 % of total income in 2025. We received the majority, € 215,000, from the German Federal Foreign Office from budget funds in February and March 2025. In 2022, the German Parliament decided to support non-governmental search and rescue in the Mediterranean with € 2 million per year over four years. However, under the new conservative Christian Democrats (CDU)-led federal government, further payments were halted and all support was cancelled.

Revenue	5,249,151 Euro	(100 %)
Grants/ Donations from partner organisations	3,450,837 Euro	(65.7 %)
Private donations	1,519,354 Euro	(28.9 %)
Public funds (including city partnerships)	215,103 Euro	(4.1 %)
Other income	31,330 Euro	(0.6 %)
Donations from companies	20,277 Euro	(0.4 %)
Membership fees	12,250 Euro	(0.2 %)

Expenditure 2025, SOS Humanity e.V.

The total expenditure of SOS Humanity e.V. amounted to **€6,497,081** in the reporting period. Of this, a total of €4,634,499 was passed on to SOS Humanity gGmbH for ship operations. This procedure is regulated in a service contract.

€867,147, or around 13 % 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 €500,579 was spent on fundraising. Supporters were given the best possible care and were informed, and new donations were secured.

A further €494,856 was required during the reporting period to cover the association's administrative costs.

Overall, the costs of fundraising and administration amounted to 15.3 %. At 84.7 %, 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. 18). This guarantees that donations and funding are used for the intended purpose in an economical and transparent manner.

Expenditure	6,497,081 Euro	(100 %)
Project costs for rescue work	4,627,234 Euro	(71.2 %)
Statutory educational and public relations work	867,147 Euro	(13.4 %)
Administrative expenses	502,120 Euro	(7.7 %)
Fundraising	500,579 Euro	(7.7 %)

SOS Humanity gGmbH:

In 2025, Humanity 1 was operational throughout the year. The funds that the non-profit ship operating company (gGmbH) received from the association in 2025 were used for ongoing ship operations and for the acquisition of Humanity 2 and the associated conversion work.

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, refueling the ship, port fees and medication.

Note:

Note: As the annual financial statements of SOS Humanity gGmbH for the 2025 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 2025

Balance sheet as of 31 December of the 2025 financial year,
SOS Humanity e. V.

	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
Assets		
A. Fixed assets		
I. Intangible assets		
Acquired concessions, industrial property rights and similar rights and assets, including licences thereto	714.00	0.00
II. Property, plant and equipment		
other equipment, business and office equipment	1.00	1.00
III. Financial assets		
1. Investments	25,000.00	25,000.00
2. Loans to companies in which participations are held	6,000.00	
B. Current assets		
I. Receivables and other assets	652,972.17	42,097.04
II. Cash balances, Bundesbank balances, other bank balances and cheques	484,801.22	765,413.09
C. Deferred income	8,024.58	6,204.03
D. Deficit not covered by equity capital	530,644.27	0.00
total	1,708,157.24	838,715.16
Liabilities		
A. Equity capital		
I. Reserves	717,295.82	717,295.82
II. Net profit/loss for the year	- 1,247,940.09	217,824.32
III. Allocations to revenue reserves	0.00	- 217,824.32
IV. Deficit not covered by equity capital	530,644.27	0.00
B. Accrued liabilities		
other provisions	51,043.00	63,870.00
C. Liabilities		
I. Liabilities towards credit institutions	600,020.25	11.60
– of which with a remaining term of up to one year € 600,020.25 (€ 11.60)		
II. Liabilities from deliveries and services	39,460.50	33,376.01
– of which with a remaining term of up to one year € 39,460.50 (€ 33,376.01)		
III. Other liabilities	1,017,633.49	24,161.73
– of which with a remaining term of up to one year € 573,070.99 (€ 24,161.73)		
– of which with a remaining term of more than one year € 444,562.50 (€ 0.00)		
– of which taxes € 7,680.27 (€ 5,882.13)		
total	1,708,157.24	838,715.16

Data in Euro

Profit and loss account for the financial year 2025, SOS Humanity e. V.

	fiscal year 2025	previous year 2024
1. Membership fees	12,250.00	9,850.00
2. Contributions	5,205,570.55	5,622,744.92
3. Other operating income	31,329.97	40,604.67
4. Use of funds Funds transferred	- 4,627,029.00	- 3,990,197.70
5. Personnel expenses		
a) Wages and salaries	- 829,326.14	- 679,904.65
b) Social security contributions and expenses for pensions and other employee benefits – of which for pensions € - 1.980,00 (€ - 120,50)	- 205,199.88	- 159,127.05
total	- 1,034,526.02	- 839,031.70
6. Depreciations	- 19,713.37	- 4,071.35
7. Other operating expenses	- 808,557.56	- 622,074.52
8. Interest and similar expenses	- 7,264.66	0.00
9. Result after taxes and annual surplus/ deficit	- 1,247,940.09	217,824.32
10. Allocations to revenue reserves	0.00	- 217,824.32
11. Net profit	0.00	0.00

Data in Euro

Finacial year 2025

Allocation of income and expenses for the 2025 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	5,217,820.55	5,217,820.55	
of which membership fees / sponsorship contributions	12,250.00	12,250.00	
Other operating income	31,329.97	1,680.01	10,026.77
Subtotal of income	5,249,150.52	5,219,500.56	10,026.77
Direct expenses for statutory purposes / project expenses	4,627,029.00	4,627,029.00	
Personnel expenses	1,034,526.02		439,145.16
Subtotal of expenses	5,661,555.02	4,627,029.00	493,145.16
Preliminary result 1	- 412,404.50	+ 592,471.56	- 483,118.39
Depreciation and amortisation of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	19,713.37		
Other operating expenses	808,557.56	205.42	374,001.37
Preliminary result 2	- 1,240,675.43	+ 592,266.14	- 857,119.76
Interest and similar expenses	7,264.66	7,264.66	0.00
Result after taxes	- 1,247,940.09	+ 592,266.14	- 857,119.76
Net profit / loss for the year	- 1,247,940.09	+ 592,266.14	- 857,119.76

Total income (EUR)	5,249,150.52	5,219,500.56	10,026.77
Total income (%)	100.00	99.44	0.19

Total expenses (EUR)	6,497,080.61	4,627,234.42	867,146.53
Total expenses (%)	100.00	71.22	13.35

Fulfilment of statutory purposes / idealistic area				
	Indirect activities			Total of statutory activities
Subatotal direct activities	Management / Administration	Fundraising	Subtotal indirect activities	
EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
5,217,820.55			0.00	5,217,820.22
12,250.00			0.00	12,250.00
11,706.78	12,576.83	7,046.36	19,623.19	31,329.97
5,229,527.33	12,576.83	7,046.36	19,623.19	5,249,150.52
4,627,029.00			0.00	4,627,029.00
493,145.16	216,929.93	324,450.93	541,380.86	1,034,526.02
5,120,174.16	216,929.93	324,450.93	541,380.86	5,661,555.02
+ 109,353.17	- 204,353.10	- 317,404.57	- 521,757.67	- 412,404.50
0.00	17,571.37	2,142.00	19,713.37	19,713.37
374,206.79	260,354.35	173,986.42	434,340.77	808,547.56
- 264,853.62	- 482,278.82	- 493,532.99	- 975,811.81	- 1,240,665.43
0,00	7,264.66		7,264.66	7,264.66
- 262,853.62	- 498,543.48	- 493,532.99	- 983,076.47	- 1,247,930.09
- 262,853.62	- 498,543.48	- 493,532.99	- 983,076.47	- 1,247,930.09
5,229,527.33	12,576.83	7,046.36	19,623.19	5,249,150.52
99.63	0.24	0.13	0.37	100.00
5,494,380.95	494,855.65	500,579.35	1,002,699.66	6,497,080.61
84.57	7.62	7.70	15.43	100.00

Audit certificate



The 2025 annual financial statements of SOS Humanity e. V. 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/en/transparency

Imprint

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Your donation saves lives!

€ 72 is enough to equip a child and an adult with life jackets.

€ 250 funds medical care for all people rescued for two days.

€ 900 covers drinking water and two meals a day for 200 survivors.

€ 5.000 pays for the fuel our speedboats need for five rescues.

€ 12.000 enables one day of rescue operations with Humanity 1.

Donate now – your help is urgently needed!

Account details:

SOS Humanity e.V.

IBAN: DE 04 1005 0000 0190 4184 51

BIC: BELADEBEXX

Or online at:

sos-humanity.org/en/donate-now



SOS Humanity is supported by:





Donation account:

SOS Humanity e. V.

IBAN: DE 04 1005 0000 0190 4184 51



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