

Re-integration of children in their family of origin

A guide for program managers and SOS mothers

This session is for program managers, responsible for the re-integration and family reunion of SOS Village children. As program managers, you can plan a series of meetings for re-integrating Village children and youth in their community and families. Participants can be SOS Mothers in first meetings, and along the way also government and community staff and leaders, parents, relatives, and children or youth selected for re-integration.

The re-integration of a child requires many dialogues and planning over time. The session helps you schedule and conduct a number of group meetings to prepare the transition in four steps: introduction to the topic, and discussions and planning before, during, and after re-integration.

In particular, the emotional bonds and attachments between SOS Mothers and children are deeply affected by the shift from the secure attachment to their SOS Mother, to form new bonds with relatives and the wider community. During your work to help SOS Mothers come to terms with handing over a child to relatives, some may experience traumatic reactions and separation anxiety. You may consider including a psychologist as your co-trainer while working with Topic B.

Both mothers and their children must be heard in all phases of the process, and experience a genuine influence. All stakeholders must practice child participation, and the child's opinions and feedback must be acted upon. Please see [Lundy on child participation](#).

Please observe: Village children have experienced difficult separations before entering their Village, and their SOS Mothers may have challenges in coming to terms with handing over a child to its relatives. To prevent re-traumatization during re-integration, special attention is paid to analyse the child's attachment and social network, and remedy unresolved emotional problems. and create emotional and psychological safety among all involved parties.

For all other formal and practical procedures, please read and refer to the [SOSCV Gatekeeping User Manual](#).