

SOS MEDITERRANEE IS A CIVIL EUROPEAN RESCUE ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 2015 BY CITIZENS DETERMINED TO ACT IN RESPONSE TO THE HUMAN TRAGEDY UNFOLDING REPEATEDLY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE ASSOCIATION IS A NETWORK OF SISTER ORGANIZATIONS BASED IN FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND.

This document synthesizes the **SOS MEDITERRANEE France** Annual Report, the full version of which is available online: [www.sosmediterranee.fr/medias/rapport-activite-2020.pdf](http://www.sosmediterranee.fr/medias/rapport-activite-2020.pdf) (in French only).

## FIVE YEARS: KEEPING THE COURSE IN SPITE OF PITFALLS

Once again the year 2020 has witnessed many upheavals: the Covid-19 pandemic that compelled the interruption of rescue operations for three months and the implementation of strict health protocols, the end of the partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders, the internalization of the medical team as well as the blocking of the *Ocean Viking* for five months by the Italian authorities...

Yet thanks to the great solidarity chain of our supporters, which far from breaking in the face of these major difficulties, has grown stronger, we were able to rescue 903 people in distress during 13 rescue missions with our ship *Ocean Viking*.

Furthermore, in 2020 the association celebrated the fifth anniversary of its creation. Five years of citizen's struggle, five years of solidarity, five years of mobilization to save lives at sea.

The silence of the European states has become increasingly violent, violence of the indifference, violence of the

look that conveniently turns away. With the testimonials of people who fled from Libya and were rescued by our teams, we are faced with the terrible inhumanity that prevails there. European States act as if all possible obstacles were implemented to prevent NGOs from responding to distress calls and from testifying loud and clear of the situation.

Throughout the year 2020, 1,417 people, women, children and men, lost their lives in the Mediterranean, not to mention unseen shipwrecks. Every year, this macabre countdown is added to that of the previous years, thousands of missing faces on our doorstep.

Facing this situation and in spite of everything, the *Ocean Viking*, our ambulance vessel, is an arch of humanity. Thank you to all teams on land and at sea and to all people who support us. We will always be mobilized for a mission that unites us: save and protect lives and bear witness to this drama.

**François Thomas**  
President of **SOS MEDITERRANEE France**



Flavio Gasperini/  
SOS MEDITERRANEE





# OUR SOCIAL MISSIONS: SAVE, PROTECT, TESTIFY



Flavio Gasperini / SOS MEDITERRANEE

## THE CONTEXT AT SEA IN 2020

- > **March 2020:** The Covid-19 pandemic shakes up the maritime world.
- > **New "closure" of ports** and shutdown of rescue operations.
- > **Detention of NGOs rescue ships** multiply.
- > **Lack of rescue coordination** and pushbacks to Libya supported by the European Union.

## RESCUE OPERATIONS IN 2020

- > **Covid-19 causes the shutdown** of rescue operations for three months.
- > **Five months of administrative detention:** the *Ocean Viking* is stranded in a Sicilian port.
- > **End of the partnership** between Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and SOS MEDITERRANEE, which now has its own medical team.
- > **The *Ocean Viking* rescued 903 people** in 13 operations.

## 2020 IN FIGURES

- 903** people of **28 different nationalities** rescued by the *Ocean Viking*
- DURING 13** Rescue operations
- 261** minors (**29 %** of survivors), **85 %** of which are unaccompanied
- 85** women (**9 %** of survivors)

Between February 26, 2016 (beginning of operations) and December 31, 2020,

# 31,799

people were rescued by the *Aquarius* then by the *Ocean Viking*.

### TOTAL OF TEAMS ABOARD THE OCEAN VIKING IN 2020

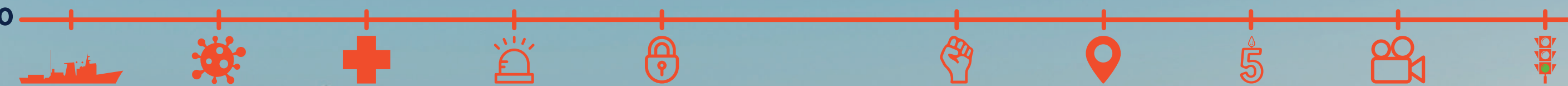
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|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>27</b> rescuers                | <b>3</b> photographers                         |
| <b>1</b> medical doctor           | <b>2</b> communication officers                |
| <b>2</b> nurses                   | <b>5</b> independent journalists               |
| <b>1</b> midwife                  | <b>9</b> crew members - Høyland                |
| <b>1</b> medical team coordinator | Offshore A/S, owner of the <i>Ocean Viking</i> |
| <b>1</b> logistician              |  |

## TESTIMONIAL AND MOBILIZATION

- > The **European citizen mobilization campaign "All Rescuers"** on the occasion of SOS MEDITERRANEE fifth anniversary, is adjusted due to the Covid-19 epidemic.
- > **147 events** were maintained or rescheduled in France.
- > **School awareness** continues in face-to-face and distance learning.
- > **A new volunteer branch** is opened in Saint-Nazaire.
- > **Plural mobilization** for the liberation of the *Ocean Viking*: symbolic actions, petition, tribune...
- > **Two awareness-raising publications** are published: "*Citizen Mobilization*" and "*Shipwrecked Youth*".
- > **7,789 press coverage** (television, radio, print and online) are recorded, for a cumulative audience of 307.6 million people.

2020

2021



- > **ON JANUARY 11,** the *Ocean Viking* goes at sea to save lives.
- > **ON APRIL 17,** Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders decides to end the partnership with SOS MEDITERRANEE. Previously, the Covid 19 pandemic had led to the closure of European ports.
- > **ON JUNE 22,** SOS MEDITERRANEE goes back at sea with an internalized medical team.
- > **ON JULY 3,** the state of emergency is declared aboard the *Ocean Viking* after eight days of endless waiting to disembark 180 survivors, including several in psychological distress.
- > **ON JULY 22,** the Italian authorities detain the *Ocean Viking* under the pretext of technical and operational irregularities.
- > **FROM THE END OF JULY TO SEPTEMBER,** civil society mobilized to liberate the *Ocean Viking*: petition, tribunes and symbolic actions were organized throughout Europe.
- > **ON AUGUST 21,** 2020, the 18<sup>th</sup> volunteer branch of SOS MEDITERRANEE in France is created in Saint-Nazaire.
- > **ON SEPTEMBER 26,** the culminating point of the citizen mobilization campaign "All Rescuers" highlighting the five years of the association takes the form of a major event in Marseille.
- > **ON OCTOBER 3,** throughout Europe, volunteers organize the screening of the film "Number 387-Disappeared in the Mediterranean".
- > **ON DECEMBER 21,** following a new inspection by the Italian Coast Guard, the *Ocean Viking* is released. The resumption of operations will take place in January 2021.

Flavio Gasperini / SOS MEDITERRANEE



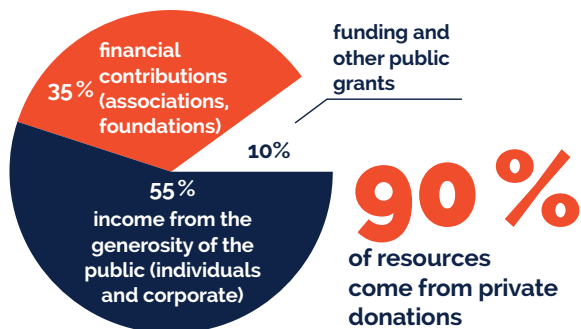


# A SUPPORT THAT MEETS OUR FINANCIAL NEEDS

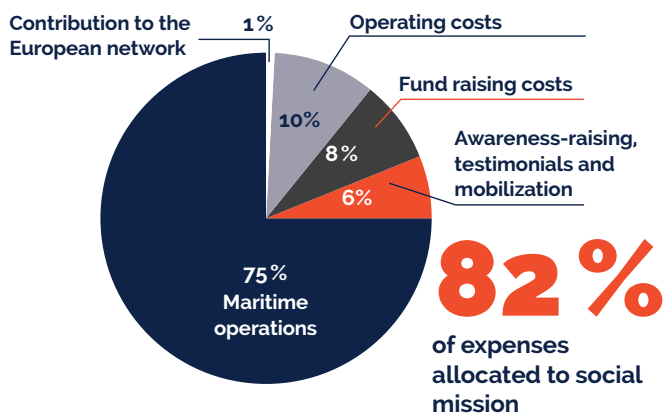
## FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

- > **Total resources** 7.8 millions euros
- > **90 % private funds** and 10 % subsidies and other public grants
- > **28,000** donors
- > **8,700** regular donors
- > **82 % of expenses** allocated to social missions

### FUNDING SOURCES



### BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES



## ON LAND MOBILIZATION

- 650** Volunteers in **18 branches** in France
- 5,497** Students sensitized (elementary, secondary and higher education)
- 147** Events **maintained**, **125 cancelled** or postponed because of health constraints
- 7,789** Media coverage (**307,6 million** reached in cumulative audience)

## ON LAND TEAM (31/12/2020)

- 21** in Marseilles (of which 1 trainee and 1 civic service volunteer)
- 8** in Paris (of which 1 civic service volunteer)
- 1** in French Brittany



“Thank you to the thousands of people who support us and bring to life our rescue mission at sea. Citizen mobilization is the fuel of the Ocean Viking and the honor of Europe.”



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