

SOS MEDITERRANEE IS A EUROPEAN MARITIME AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION FOR THE RESCUE OF LIFE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. IT WAS FOUNDED BY CITIZENS IN MAY 2015 IN RESPONSE TO THE DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE FAILURE OF EUROPEAN STATES TO PREVENT THESE DEATHS.

SOS MEDITERRANEE WORKS AS A EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION WITH TEAMS IN GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, AND SWITZERLAND IN A EUROPEAN NETWORK. TOGETHER THEY FINANCED AND OPERATED THE RESCUE SHIP AQUARIUS FROM FEBRUARY 2016 UNTIL OCTOBER 2018 AND ARE NOW FINANCING AND OPERATING THE *OCEAN VIKING*. SINCE LAUNCHING OUR OPERATION WE HAVE ASSISTED OVER 35,000 SURVIVORS ABOARD OUR RESCUE SHIPS.

*This document summarizes the activity report of SOS MEDITERRANEE France, which full version is available online (in French): <https://sosmediterranee.fr/publication/rapport-dactivite-2021>*

## AN UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT TO SAVE LIVES

In 2021, the *Ocean Viking* patrolled in the Central Mediterranean to save lives most of the year.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, **SOS MEDITERRANEE** witnessed a tragedy. The *Ocean Viking* received a distress alert and headed towards it during the entire night, through waves up to 5 meters. Without effective coordination from the relevant authorities to support the search and the rescue of the boat in distress, our crew only found a wreck in the morning, and floating bodies around it. About 130 people lost their lives. These women, men, and children may have been rescued with European-led search and rescue capacities and with effective and transparent coordination from the European States. Since then, the frightening number of deaths kept rising in 2021: 1,553 people are known to have lost their lives in the Central Mediterranean, the highest figure since 2017. How much longer will it take for European member and associated States

to act and take responsibilities to show solidarity towards those in distress at sea?

Onshore, the launch of the Local Governments' Platform Supporting **SOS MEDITERRANEE** has also shown a concrete support from its 76 members. They have raised awareness and supported many events organised by our volunteers all around France.

Rescue at sea is unconditional, it is an absolute moral and legal duty. All the teams of **SOS MEDITERRANEE** onboard and onshore remain mobilised and can count on massive support from European citizens. Thanks to this great solidarity chain, together, we rescued 2,832 people with the *Ocean Viking* in 2021. **SOS MEDITERRANEE** continues its operations and will do so as long as necessary.

François Thomas  
President of SOS MEDITERRANEE France



Fabian Mondl  
SOS MEDITERRANEE





# OUR MISSION:



## Life and death in the Med

LUISA ALBERA, SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATOR, April 2021

*I really hope that this shipwreck will change something.*



Watch the France 24 report "Life and death in the Mediterranean", immersed onboard the *Ocean Viking*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD4KyHrZgnYcette>



Flavio Gasperini/  
SOS MEDITERRANEE

## RESCUE OPERATIONS

- > **2,832 people rescued**
- > **35% of survivors under-18** significantly more than in 2021
- > **Long standoff before being able to disembark survivors in a Place of Safety** (six days in average)
- > **New partnership** with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- > **SOS MEDITERRANEE witnesses** a tragic shipwreck on April 22

## IN FIGURES



**9 missions** at sea

**31 SAR** (search and rescue) operations\*



**33 boats rescued**  
(15 rubber boats, 14 small or medium wooden boats, 2 large wooden boats, and 2 small fiberglass boats)

## 2,832 HUMANS BEHIND FIGURES

**2,832 people** rescued by the *Ocean Viking*



**34 different nationalities**

**984 under-18** (35%)  
Including 778 (79%) travelling alone  
Including 58 children under 5 year-old.



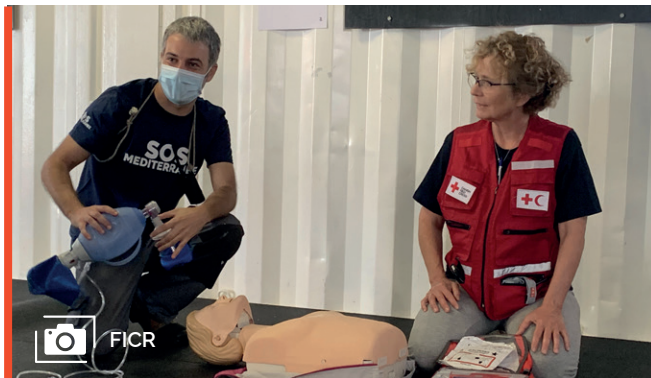
**302 women** (11%)

\*The *Ocean Viking* rescued two boats simultaneously on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, then on April 27<sup>th</sup>, which explains a total of 31 SAR operations and 33 boats rescued.

# SAVE, PROTECT, TESTIFY

## CONTEXT AT SEA

- > **50 % more deaths** in Central Mediterranean compared to 2020
- > **Increase of interceptions** by Libyan coastguards, supported by the E.U.
- > **Continuous lack of Search and Rescue (SAR)** coordination by maritime authorities
- > **Gradual return of humanitarian** rescue ships



Since September 2021, the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** joined **SOS MEDITERRANEE** onboard the *Ocean Viking* in order to help provide post-rescue support, including first aid, medical care, psychological support, food, dry clothes, blankets, toiletries and information to the people who have been safely brought on board the *Ocean Viking*. From January to December, **3,524 medical consultations took place on the deck and in the medical clinic**. Each mission includes at least a midwife, a nurse, and a doctor from either **SOS MEDITERRANEE**, or IFRC. (Picture: Filippo from **SOS MEDITERRANEE** and Katrin from IFRC in the middle of a training).

130 flowers for 130 lives. 22 April shipwreck commemoration by **SOS MEDITERRANEE** volunteers.



## TESTIMONY AND MOBILIZATION

- > Lille, North of France: **launching of the 19th volunteer branch**
- > **Hundreds of events and school awareness sessions** organized by volunteers
- > **Two new mobile photo exhibitions** to testify despite the pandemic
- > **Commemoration "130 flowers for 130 lives"** in about **10 cities** in France
- > **Sponsors personalities in 2021:** François Gabart and Charline Vanhoenacker
- > **Op-ed:** Seafarers call for unconditional sea rescue
- > **Campaign to stop "Fake news"** on sea rescue



At least **2,047 dead or reported missing people** in the Mediterranean, amongst whom **1,553 people** in **Central Mediterranean**

**32,425 interceptions** made by the Libyan maritime authorities in this sea area



**19 branches** mobilising several hundred volunteers in France

**308 events** organised by volunteers



**11,656 students** sensitized, from primary school to university

**76 members from The Local Governments' Platform** Supporting SOS MEDITERRANEE



**6 529 media mentions** in France



# TOGETHER FOR RESCUE

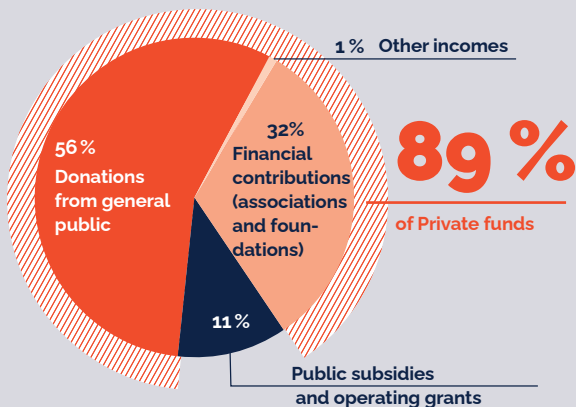
## 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

- >10 M €\* of incomes
- >89 % private funds and 11 % from local governments-based and 11% Public subsidies and operating grants
- >34,000 donors, including 10 000 monthly donations
- >83 % of expenses dedicated to social missions

\* M € =millions of euros

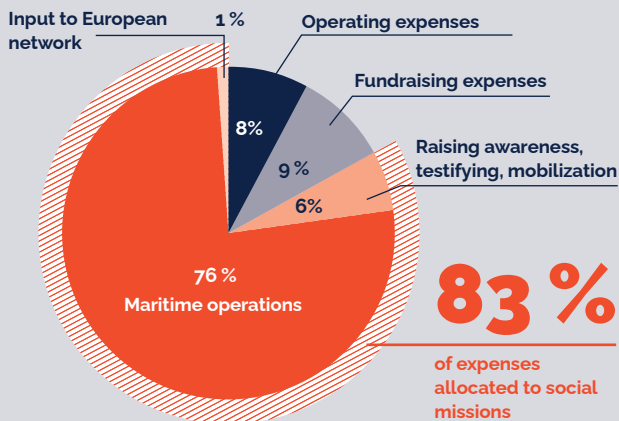
### INCOMES BY ORIGIN (9,993,697 €)

Except Reversals of amortisation, depreciation and provisions



### EXPENSES BY DESTINATION

Except Depreciation and amortisation provisions, designated funds and other purchases and expenses (9,133,720 euros)



## HUMAN RESOURCES



### ON LAND

- 25 people based in Marseille (including 2 interns and 1 civic service volunteer)
- 10 in Paris (including 2 civic service volunteers)
- 2 in Brittany (France)
- 1 in Bordeaux

### AT SEA (for each mission)\*

- 1 SARCo (Search and Rescue coordinator)
- 1 deputy SARCo (Search and Rescue coordinator)
- 11 rescuers – SAR team member
- 1 medical team leader
- 1 medical doctor
- 1 nurse
- 1 midwife
- 1 care team leader
- 1 logistics coordinator
- 1 cultural mediator
- 1 communication officer
- 1 photographer (from time to time)



\* From September 2021, some medical and care teams members were recruited by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

### OCEAN VIKING CREW

9 marine crew from Hoyland Offshore A/S ensure the navigation.

“ Thanks to the thousands of people who support us and make our sea rescue mission possible.



Isabelle Serro / SOS MEDITERRANEE



[www.sosmediterranee.fr](http://www.sosmediterranee.fr)

[contact@sosmediterranee.org](mailto:contact@sosmediterranee.org)

CS 20585 - 13294 Cedex Marseille 06, France