

SOS MEDITERRANEE IS A EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA, CREATED IN 2015 BY CITIZENS DETERMINED TO ADDRESS THE TRAGEDY OF SHIPWRECKS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. FIRST WITH THE *AQUARIUS*, THEN WITH THE *OCEAN VIKING*, IT RESCUED 37,136 PEOPLE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2016 AND DECEMBER 2022.

This document summarizes the 2022 activity report of **SOS MEDITERRANEE France 2022**, available in its full version online (in french): <https://sosmediterranee.fr/publications/#rapportsannuels>

## EDITORIAL

**2,406**<sup>1</sup> is the number of women, men and children reported missing at sea in the Mediterranean in 2022. Each of them had a story, and a family still awaiting news, for the most part, not knowing whether to keep hope, and unable to grieve.

**2,505** is the number of people rescued in 2022 by our ambulance ship, the Ocean Viking. 2,505 survivors who, in some cases, have seen their loved ones die before their eyes, and have often suffered serious human rights abuses.

**234** is the number of survivors stuck on board the Ocean Viking in November 2022. These 234 people were forced to wait for three weeks, facing uncertainty, during cold and inclement weather. Before they were rescued, some had spent several days at sea without food. Neither the Italian nor the Maltese authorities

answered the ship's 46 requests to be attributed a safe place to disembark, despite the requirements set forth by maritime law. **This was the longest stand-off at sea in the history of SOS MEDITERRANEE.**

Our mission to bear witness is essential to convey the reality of this tragedy and the extent of suffering. Look at those faces, tears, and smiles, and listen to those stories describing the unspeakable. Year after year, we continuously raise the alarm and reiterate that the only solution is European solidarity – in vain. We are not forgetting all of the people who support us in this fight for life and human dignity. **Thanks to this powerful collective effort, hope remains.**

François Thomas  
SOS MEDITERRANEE France

1. Victims confirmed and registered by the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## “EU countries have violated maritime law in an unprecedented way!

*Disembarking nearly three weeks after rescue operations, such a long way from the zone of operation in the Central Mediterranean Sea, is the result of dramatic failure on the part of all EU countries.”*

**SOPHIE BEAU**, general director,  
SOS MEDITERRANEE France

 Camille Martin Juan /  
SOS MEDITERRANEE

*Before disembarking in Toulon on November 11, 2022, the Ocean Viking experienced a three-week-long stand-off at sea with 234 survivors on board.*



# OUR MISSION:

## OUR RESCUE OPERATIONS

- > **20% of NGO rescue operations** in the Mediterranean Sea **are carried out by the *Ocean Viking***.
- > **10 makeshift boats rescued in 60 hours at the end of August:** a record-breaking number for the *Ocean Viking*.
- > **Severe crisis situation in November:** after rescuing 234 people, the *Ocean Viking* is forced to disembark the survivors in Toulon, following 46 requests for a safe port and a 3-week wait at sea.
- > **Change of course in December:** Italian authorities attribute a very distant safe port.
- > **SOS MEDITERRANEE receives the 2022 IMRF** (International Maritime Rescue Federation) award.



Jérémie Lusseau /  
SOS MEDITERRANEE

## KEY FIGURES



**9 missions** at sea



**45 rescue operations** in international waters



**18 rubber boats**  
**11 fiberglass boats**  
**9 smaller wooden boats** (about 30 people)  
**7 medium-size wooden boats** (about 75 to 150 people)



**2,505 people** rescued by the *Ocean Viking*



representing **31 different nationalities**

**272 women** (11 %)



**751 minors** (30 %), 79% of whom were unaccompanied, and **43** of whom were **children under 5** (2%).



**10 people** with disabilities



**2,627 medical consultations** on board



**18 people** requiring emergency medical evacuation



**46,000 meals** distributed to survivors



**2,505 survival kits** distributed, and just as many blankets



# SAVE, PROTECT, BEAR WITNESS

## CONTEXT IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN SEA

- > **At least 1,400 people died** in the Central Mediterranean Sea, not including the “invisible shipwrecks”.
- > **Chaos, violence, and human trafficking in Libya** are driving thousands of people to flee by sea on overcrowded, unseaworthy boats.
- > **Absence of rescue coordination:** the “competent” authorities (Libya, Malta) give no instructions and do not share information.
- > **Boats keep on being intercepted by Libyan coast guards** and forced to return to Libya.
- > **The Italian authorities hinder the operations of rescue NGOs** through several cases of humanitarian ship detention.



 Anthony Jean / SOS MEDITERRANEE



At least **2,406** people have died or been reported missing in the Mediterranean Sea. Among them, **1,417** were in the Central Mediterranean Sea.

**24,488** people were intercepted and forcibly sent back to Libya.



## MOBILIZING AND BEARING WITNESS

- > **Volunteer branches** were highly active and growing.
- > **Over 200 events** organized around photo exhibits for student groups.
- > **Three volunteer branches united their efforts** during the *Route du Rhum* transatlantic race, with support from renown skippers.
- > **Publisher Folio released** a collection of texts entitled *SOS MEDITERRANEE, les écrivains s'engagent*. (lit. “writers get involved”).
- > **Jeunesse naufragée, jeunesse engagée:** (shipwrecked youth, committed youth): an event in Bordeaux on the occasion of World Children's Day.
- > **Strong visibility in the media** following the *Ocean Viking's* disembarkation in Toulon.



 Guillaume Madec / SOS MEDITERRANEE



**650** volunteers mobilized in **19** branches in France



**464** events



**21,462** students informed, from primary schools to universities



**75** local and regional governments supporting SOS MEDITERRANEE



**26,813** mentions in French media outlets



**34,500** new followers



# TOGETHER FOR RESCUE

## 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT\*

- > €11.4 M\*\* in resources and €11,8 M spent.
- > 36,000 donors, including 11,000 regular monthly donors.
- > 91% private funds and 9% public funds, including grants.
- > 83% of expenses dedicated to the social mission
- > A deficit of -€442 K\*\*\* resulting from the war in Ukraine (increase in operational costs, impact on fundraising)

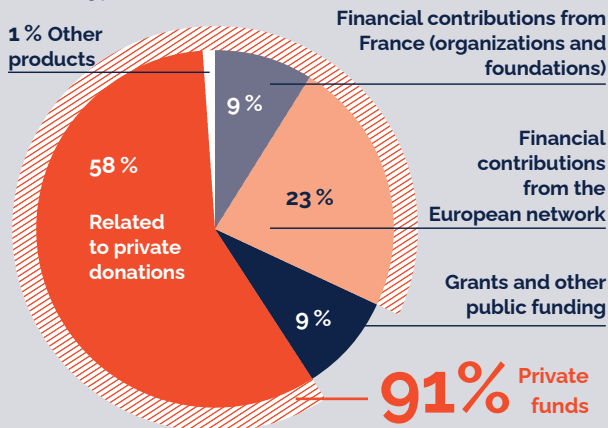
\* France only figures

\*\* € M = millions of euros/€ K = thousands of euros

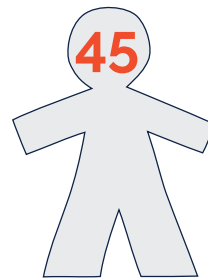
\*\*\* Activities stemming from the generosity of the public incur a deficit of -€562 K, reduced by resources carried over from 2021. When adjusted for provision reversals, the balance shows a smaller deficit of -€442 K for the organization.

### BREAKDOWN OF RESOURCES BASED ON PROVENANCE (€11,069,972\*)

\* Excluding provision reversals



## HUMAN RESOURCES



### ON LAND

- 30 staff members in Marseille (including one intern and one civic service volunteer)
- 12 in Paris (including 2 civic service volunteers)
- 1 in Brittany
- 2 in Bordeaux (including one civic service volunteer)

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

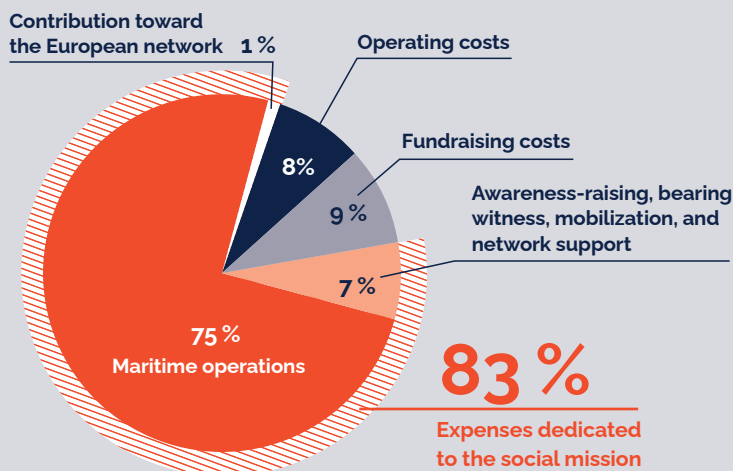
- 1 search and rescue coordinator
- 1 deputy search and rescue coordinator
- 1 search and rescue team leader
- 10 rescuers
- 1 medical team leader
- 1 medical doctor
- 1 nurse
- 1 midwife
- 1 post-rescue team leader
- 1 cultural mediator
- 1 relief and protection delegate
- 1 logistics coordinator
- 1 communication officer
- 1 photographer (on occasion)



\* Since September 2021, some medical and care team members have been recruited by our partner on board, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

### BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES BY USE (€11,573,350)\*

\* Excluding provisions, taxes, and dedicated carryforward funds (€278,254)



Camille Martin Juan / SOS MEDITERRANEE

“ Thanks to the thousands of civil society members who make SOS MEDITERRANEE's action possible! ”



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