SOS MEDITERRANEE

Executive Summary
2025 Annual Report
SOS MEDITERRANEE FRANCE

SOS MEDITERRANEE is a European civil-society organisation for search and rescue at sea, founded in 2015 by citizens determined to act in the face of the tragedy of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean. With our rescue ships – first the *Aquarius*, then the *Ocean Viking* – we rescued 42,741 people in distress between February 2016 and December 2025, in international waters of the central Mediterranean.

Foreword

2025 marked ten years of SOS MEDITERRANEE: ten years of citizen engagement to save lives at sea, ten years of solidarity in the Mediterranean, where European states continue to shirk their responsibilities.

We were glad to celebrate this anniversary with our teams and volunteers, while restating an obvious point: Our organisation was never meant to become a long-term substitute for state institutions. But ten years after our creation, the continued absence of a systemic, state-led search and rescue mechanism remains deeply concerning.

The year began on a painful note, with the death of Rahaf, a young Syrian girl our teams were unable to save. Like all victims of these crossings, she reminds us that behind the numbers are faces, families, and destinies. In 2025, at least 1,876 people lost their lives in the Mediterranean.

In a global context marked by humanitarian crises, attacks on humanitarian actors, and the erosion of international law, the central Mediterranean was not spared. Administrative obstacles, vessel detentions, and the consistent assignment of distant disembarkation ports continued to reduce humanitarian rescue capacity at sea. Despite these obstacles, the *Ocean Viking's* crew assisted 1,358 people.

The 24th of August 2025 also stands out as a turning point for SOS MEDITERRANEE. Our medical rescue ship came under live fire from a Libyan coastguard patrol boat while sailing in international waters. This unprecedented attack on our crew – sailors and humanitarian workers – sparked a wave of support that helps us hold on to hope in humanity.

As I prepare to pass the helm of my presidency, what stays with me most is the remarkable commitment of our volunteers, paid staff, and all our supporters. Despite the obstacles, we will continue to defend the right to life, fraternity, and solidarity. More than ever, our three missions – rescue, protect, and bear witness – remain fundamental, to fight indifference and reweave bonds of solidarity.

François Thomas
President of SOS MEDITERRANEE France



Ville Maali / SOS MEDITERRANEE

ABOUT SOS MEDITERRANEE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The International Development Department of SOS MEDITERRANEE France currently leads the development of SOS MEDITERRANEE's fundraising, communications and public engagement activities in the United Kingdom, working in partnership with a UK fiscal host. The organisation's 2025 Annual Report therefore also includes the work undertaken to develop SOS MEDITERRANEE's presence in the United Kingdom.

Our missions: **Rescue, Protect, E**

Context in the Mediterranean

At least
1,876*
people dead or considered missing in the Mediterranean

Of these,
1,314*
in the central Mediterranean, where the *Ocean Viking* operates

* Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

27,116*
people intercepted by the Libyan coastguard and forcibly returned to Libya – an increase of **25%** compared to 2024

11,996
people intercepted by the Tunisian coastguard and forcibly returned to Tunisia





Max Cavallari / SOS MEDITERRANEE

At sea
Our rescue operations

18
patrols
24 rescue operations,
and **1** ship-to-ship transfer

1,358
people rescued, of which:
91% of men and boys
9 % of women and girls, including
8 pregnant women
327 minors
(**24%**, of which **87%** unaccompanied)

111
days of interruption of operations following the armed attack on the *Ocean Viking*

29
countries of origin, of which **26%** were from Bangladesh

87
additional days spent sailing to distant ports, away from the operational zone of rescue

., Bear witness

Tess Barthes / SOS MEDITERRANEE

On land
Testimony and mobilisation

1,000 +
volunteers across 23 branches in France and Belgium

655
public events held

25,051
students reached through awareness building sessions

136
local authorities showing solidarity

Protection
and care on board

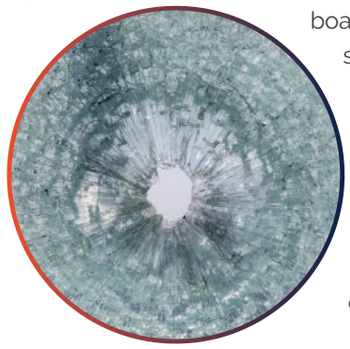
2,004
medical consultations

6
medical evacuations

9,972
meals distributed

Spotlight
The armed attack against the *Ocean Viking*

On 24 August, *the Ocean Viking* was targeted and fired upon by a Libyan coastguard patrol boat while sailing in international waters with 87 rescued survivors on board.
The attack caused significant damage to the ship, including the bridge, communication and navigation systems, and the lifeboats. More than 100 rounds struck the ship, some penetrating the bridge at head level. Given the severity of the situation, the maximum-security alert level was triggered for the first time in SOS MEDITERRANEE's operational history.
This attack targeted not only the survivors and humanitarian crew on board, but also the ship's rescue capability. It illustrates the escalating violence at sea by the Libyan coastguard.



Together **for rescue**

In the skies

The *Albatross Uno*

Through a partnership with the *Humanitarian Pilots Initiative,* a Swiss NGO, a plane was chartered and began flying over the central Mediterranean in November. From the air, the crew complements the *Ocean Viking's* work by monitoring the sea and relaying alerts, enabling more precise detection of human rights violations and earlier detection of emergencies



Flavio Gasperini / **SOS MEDITERRANEE**

7 Albatross mission flights, totalling **13 hours 46 minutes** in the air

12 distress cases observed

2 alerts relayed

Financial report

€14.3 Million
in funds raised
and **€14.6 Million**
in expenditure

93%
from private sources,
7 % from public funding

35,500
donors, of whom
14,000 give monthly

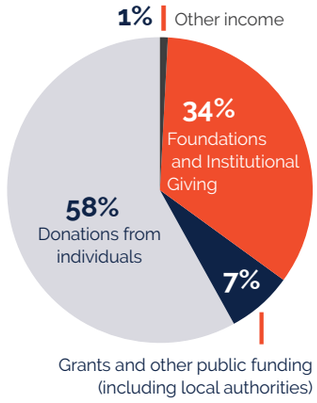
78%
of expenditure went directly to our mission
Lower than previous years, reflecting 111 days of suspended operations following the August 2025 attack on the Ocean Viking.

Resources

WHERE OUR FUNDS CAME FROM (€14,081,821)

93% from private sources*

(*Excludes provisions – from the CROD** financial statement)
**Compte de Résultats par Origine et Destination — Income Statement by Origin and Destination

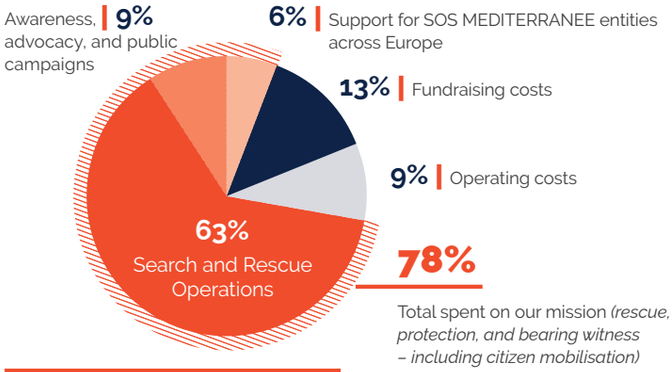


Expenditure

HOW OUR FUNDS WERE SPENT (€14,241,999)

(*Excludes provisions, tax and carry-forwards to dedicated funds – from the Income Statement by Origin and Destination (CROD))

SOS MEDITERRANEE France spent €11.1M on its mission in 2025 — **78%** of total expenditure



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