

SOS MEDITERRANEE

SUMMARY OF 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

SOS MEDITERRANEE IS A HUMANITARIAN AND MARITIME RESCUE NGO FOUNDED IN 2015 IN RESPONSE TO THE ESCALATING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN AND AUTHORITIES' FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT MORE DEATHS—32,345 SINCE 2014*. BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2016 AND JULY 2025, WE HAVE SAVED 42,577 PEOPLE IN DISTRESS IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN, FIRST WITH OUR SHIP THE AQUARIUS AND NOW WITH THE OCEAN VIKING. SOS MEDITERRANEE HAS BEEN AWARDED SEVERAL PRIZES, AMONG THEM SPECIAL MENTION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE 2024, THE RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD 2023, THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME RESCUE FEDERATION AWARD 2022, AND THE UNESCO FÉLIX HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY PEACE PRIZE 2017. *FIGURE AS OF 15 JULY 2025, ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In 2024, by turning their backs on international maritime law and renewing financial support to North African states that trample on the fundamental human rights of migrants, European states have once again disregarded their obligations. The geopolitical context further deteriorated, contributing to the dehumanization of these individuals and the erasure of each of their life stories. In Italy, the systematic assignment of disembarkation ports far from the operational zones, targeting exclusively humanitarian vessels, cost the Ocean Viking 80 days of rescue operations, while at least 2,573 men, women, and children lost their lives attempting the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean.

In this tragic context, 1,948 lives were nevertheless saved by SOS MEDITERRANEE teams in 2024, thanks to the support of tens of thousands of people who empower our rescue crews to keep reaching out. On board—with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies—they were cared for by our medical and protection teams, and then disembarked in safe places where their lives are no longer at risk, their vital needs are met, and their rights are respected.



Max Cavallari /
SOS MEDITERRANEE

Despite the tense international situation, we nevertheless remain hopeful, because citizen mobilization is stronger than ever. New local authorities, new donors, new supporters, and new volunteer recruits have joined us, strengthening this chain of solidarity and promoting the moral and legal principle of unconditional assistance to people in danger. The resilience of the survivors and the commitment of all our teams inspire us.

François Thomas
President of SOS MEDITERRANEE

“ We had to activate the mass medical emergency plan.

The 25 rescued people were at the very limits of their physical endurance. Two men were unconscious, many others were suffering from hypothermia, and almost all were extremely dehydrated, having drunk only small amounts of seawater to survive for a week. All were in a state of severe psychological distress after witnessing the deaths of dozens of people, including family members, on their makeshift boat. ”

ANNE, a doctor on board, speaks about the emergency care provided to 25 people rescued on 13 March, 2024

OUR GUIDING PILLARS:



Tess Barthes /
SOS MEDITERRANEE

THE 2024 CONTEXT IN THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

- > **Xenophobic acts, violence, and human trafficking** in Libya and Tunisia, prompting thousands to flee in unseaworthy boats
- > **A decrease in the number of departures**, but the **mortality rate** has risen sharply
- > **Official creation** of a Tunisian Search and Rescue Region
- > **Intensification of interceptions** by the Libyan and Tunisian coastguards, financed by Europe, and a corresponding decrease in arrivals in Italy
- > **Ongoing obstruction of search and rescue NGOs** by the Italian authorities

2024 IN FIGURES

At least **2,573 people died or disappeared** in the Mediterranean (compared to 3,155 in 2023¹), among them were **1,810 people in the Central Mediterranean** (compared to 2,526 in 2023)¹

55,205 people forcibly intercepted by the Libyan and Tunisian coastguards in 2024 (compared to 65,766 in 2023)
21,762 in Libya
33,443 in Tunisia²

66,855 people arrived in Italy and Malta (compared to 158,032 in 2023)

¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s *Missing Migrants Project*, from 1 January to 31 December 2024. Figures as of 5 May 2025.

² IOM office in Libya

OUR RESCUE OPERATIONS

- > **27 days of detention** for the *Ocean Viking* under Italy's Piantadosi Decree.
- > **80 days of operations lost** due to additional navigation by the *Ocean Viking* to reach distant ports
- > **A proliferation of armed instigators** at sea
- > **Mass emergency medical plan** launched in March: we were able to rescue 25 drowning people, but 60 others perished at sea.

SOS MEDITERRANEE

36 rescue operations in international waters (of which three were stabilizations)

1,948 people saved by the *Ocean Viking*

27 days of detention in Italy for the *Ocean Viking*

At least **80 extra days of navigation** (round-trip) from the rescue zone to distant ports (approximately **€615,000 in additional fuel costs**)

80% cases of distress identified by NGOs (lookouts on humanitarian ships or aircrafts and civilian initiatives such as Alarm Phone.)

SAVE, PROTECT, BEAR WITNESS



Johanna de Tessières /
SOS MEDITERRANÉE

CARING FOR AND PROTECTING RESCUED PEOPLE

- **Migratory journeys:** having fled war, violence, and extreme poverty, survivors need diverse types of medical care
- **Out of 31 countries,** one third of survivors are from Syria
- **Medical care on board** to treat the consequences of the journey and the violence suffered throughout
- **Special care** for women and children
- **More than 90% of women** crossing the Mediterranean are victims of sexual violence

31 nationalities represented among the people saved by the *Ocean Viking*

152 women (8% of all survivors)

389 children (20%), of whom 72 % are traveling alone

21 children < age 5 (6 % of all children)

385 people traveling with family

7 people with handicaps

1,357 medical consultations on board

14,754 meals prepared for rescued people

BEARING WITNESS AND MOBILIZING

- **A strong increase in the number of volunteers,** creation of a collectivity in Corsica, and of a volunteer group in Belgium
- **18 public events,** including two musical performances and a school project around a graphic novel based on the author's experience on board the Ocean Viking.
- **Second edition of a** large-scale concert in Marseille
- **First conference on the law of the sea** and maritime solidarity in Montpellier
- **Festival** in Paris with 11 events
- **Lectures at six universities** across the U.S., U.K., and Qatar



Bubuphotographe /
SOS MEDITERRANÉE

More than **900 volunteers** in France alone, mobilized across 22 volunteer groups

511 events, from concerts to film screenings

26,380 students, from primary through secondary school, attended educational events

122 local and regional governments supporting SOS MEDITERRANÉE

5,997 media mentions in France and

50 interviews by our spokespeople

21,010 new followers on our social media channels

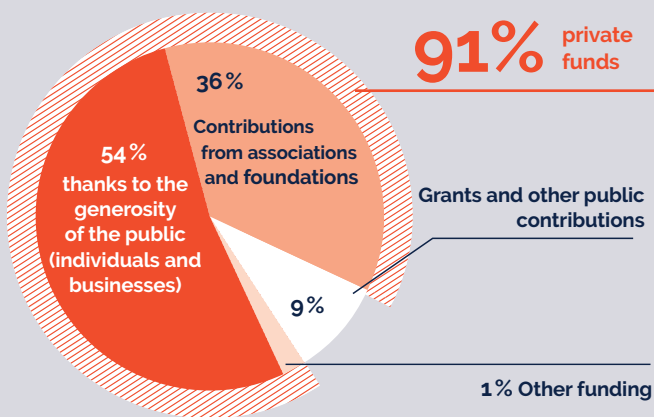
TOGETHER, WE SAVE LIVES

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

- > **€14.5m** of resources and **€12.8m** in expenditures
- > **34,000 donors**, of whom more than 13,000 make a monthly donation
- > **91% private funds** and 9% public grants and other public contributions
- > **80% of spending** goes directly to our mission

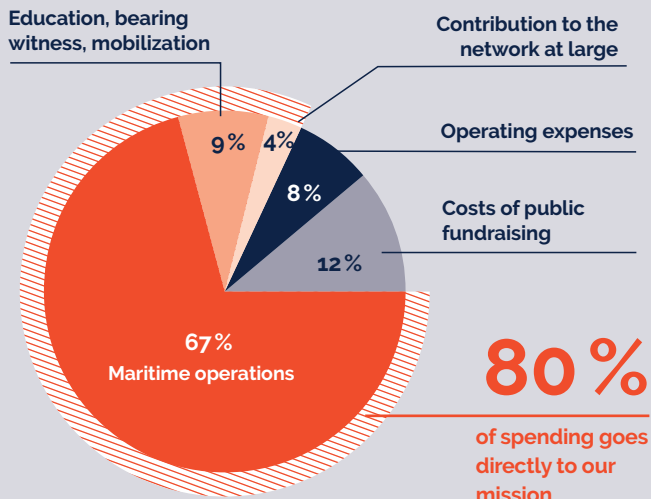
DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY ORIGIN (€14,222,232*)

* Excluding provision reversals

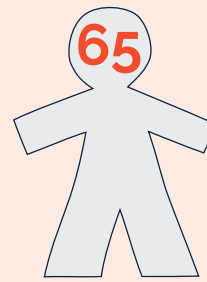


DISTRIBUTION OF SPENDING BY CATEGORY (€12,807,694)

* Excluding provisions, taxes, and transfers to dedicated funds)



HUMAN RESOURCES



ON LAND

42 people in Marseille

(including 4 interns and 1 civil service volunteer)

18 people in Paris (including 1 intern and 1 civil service volunteer)

3 in Rennes (including 1 civil service volunteer)

2 in Bordeaux (including 1 civil

service volunteer)

AT SEA (for each patrol)*

- 1 Rescue coordinator
- 1 Assistant rescue coordinator
- 1 Marine rescuers crew leader
- 10 Marine rescues
- 1 Medical team lead
- 1 Doctor
- 1 Nurse
- 1 Midwife
- 1 Head of post-rescue
- 1 Cultural mediator (IFRC)
- 1 Protection delegate (IFRC)
- 1 Logistician
- 1 Communications coordinator
- 1 Photographer and/or media



* Since September 2023, certain members of the medical and protection teams are recruited by our partner on board, the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**.



Muriel Cravatte /
SOS MEDITERRANEE

Thank you to the thousands of individuals who make SOS MEDITERRANEE'S life-saving actions possible!



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