



BIL's Chief Executive Officer Hugues Delcourt presents a cheque to Sophie Glesener, Director of SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde.

Press Release

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Involving parents in their children's education BIL renews its support for SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde

BIL's Chief Executive Officer Hugues Delcourt presented a cheque for €30,000 to Sophie Glesener, Director of SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde, to help fund the SOS Kindergarten of Dosso, Niger. Committed to promote education, one of the pillars of its corporate social responsibility policy, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg has been a strong supporter of SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde since 2016.

Quality education is essential during early childhood. Children's ability to learn is active right from their first years of life, and is inextricably tied to the quality of care they receive and their home environment. Parents have a duty to protect their children, take good care of them, and bring them up in a healthy and stimulating environment that will allow them to develop and grow, without failing to guide them in their schooling. **The Global Day of Parents**, instituted in 2012 by the United Nations and celebrated each 1 June, reminds us of the importance of this role.

A kindergarten in Dosso that is open to all

Early childhood education remains a huge challenge in Niger, which is among the world's least developed countries, where over 40% of children under five are seriously delayed in their growth due to malnutrition. This is the challenge faced by the SOS Kindergarten in Dosso, a city in the southern part of the country where **children under five make up 49.5% of the population**. The SOS Kindergarten mainly serves children in the local community, more than half of whom live in a condition of extreme vulnerability.

Since 2016, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg has supported SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde and its work to educate young children in Dosso. From 2010 to 2017, the kindergarten had 509 new registrations, and hundreds of these children have since moved on to primary school. Guided by

teachers who receive continuing education in fields like child protection and child psychology, the children benefit from programmes designed to foster their learning and development, with citizenship education, training of fine motor skills and an introduction to language and music. The kindergarten also prepares them for primary school and helps meet their other basic needs, guaranteeing them balanced meals and medical check-ups, and encouraging parents to play an active role in their learning.

Amadou, a child full of life!

Last year, Amadou, an incredibly high-spirited kid despite his tough living conditions, started his final year of kindergarten. Hear his story and read **the latest news from the SOS Kindergarten in Dosso** on the Facebook pages of SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde and BIL.

About Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (BIL):

Founded in 1856, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (BIL) is the oldest multi-business bank in the Grand Duchy. It has always played an active role in the main stages of the development of the Luxembourg economy. It currently operates in retail, private and corporate banking, as well as on capital markets. Employing more than 2,000 people, BIL is present in the financial centres of Luxembourg, Switzerland (since 1984), Denmark (since 2000) and the Middle East (since 2005). www.bil.com

About SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde:

The Luxembourg association SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde, founded in 1974, under the High Patronage of Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess, and supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, is a member of the worldwide organisation SOS Children's Villages, active in the area of child protection and providing support for children without parental care or at the risk of losing it. In Luxembourg, the mission of SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde is to raise awareness and funds for the projects in which it is involved. In 2017, it supported 24 projects for more than 20,000 beneficiaries in 13 countries. www.sosve.lu

For more information, please contact:

Vincent Pelletier
Banque Internationale à Luxembourg SA
69, route d'Esch • L-2953 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 4590 5046 - Email: vincent.pelletier@bil.com

Karine Sitarz
SOS Villages d'Enfants Monde
3, rue du Fort Bourbon • L-1249 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 490 430-31 - E-mail: karine.sitarz@sosve.lu