

2023



Our Open Community



It is with immense pride that I share with you our 2023 Open Community brochure which showcases some of the extraordinary projects our Smurfit Kappa colleagues have undertaken to support the communities in which we work and live.

I am truly inspired by the dedication of our colleagues who have generously given their time, energy, and expertise, to empower communities by tackling inequalities, and by encouraging wellbeing through exercise and play. They have also inspired future generations via education and opportunity, and led by example in protecting our planet for a more sustainable future. Our Purpose is to Create, Protect and Care, and nowhere is this more evident than in the following pages.

As in previous years, our actions have been led by our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and I am also pleased that the Smurfit Kappa Foundation has collaborated with colleagues to help fund several initiatives.

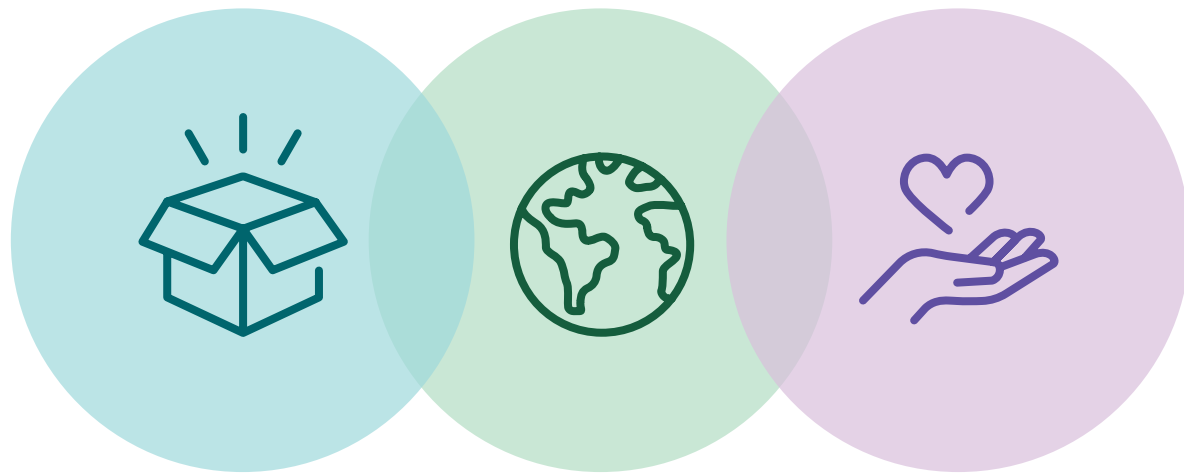
Together, we continue to strive for a positive, lasting impact and to create a better future for all.

I hope you enjoy reading this brochure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Smurfit', positioned above the printed name and title.

Tony Smurfit
Group Chief Executive Officer

We are proud to be a company with an essential and enduring purpose.



We create, protect & care.

Smurfit Kappa supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our Open Community initiatives cover all aspects of our involvement with our communities around the world. We are proud that many of our ongoing community efforts support key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We have captured our community initiatives under four pillars.

INITIATIVE PILLARS	UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
<p>Empowering communities Pages: 4-17</p>	
<p>Encouraging wellbeing Pages: 18-31</p>	
<p>Inspiring our future Pages: 32-43</p>	
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Empowering communities

Investing in our communities through volunteering our time, energy and resources.

At Smurfit Kappa, we are deeply committed to supporting the local communities across the 36 countries in which we operate. Internally and externally, we make the wellbeing of people a priority throughout our organisation. We are proud to invest in our communities and to give back through volunteering our time, effort and expertise, as well as through financial and other donations.



MEXICO

Building bridges between children

2023 has been another year in which people around the world have been forced to abandon their lives and take dangerous journeys to find a new home. For many, this process requires stops in shelters along the way. Near the Smurfit Kappa Ciudad Juárez plant is 'Casa del Migrante', one such shelter where families can rest during their journey. Children from the Smurfit Kappa Community Centre (CCSK) in Mexico City, over 1,500 kilometres away, learned about Casa del Migrante and began to exchange correspondence with the children there. Aware that their new friends had so little, the CCSK children organised collections and donations on their behalf. Thanks to the generosity of Smurfit Kappa employees and the children's commitment, 70 kilogrammes of toys, clothes and food were collected, which they gave along with handmade friendship bracelets. The kindness displayed by these young people is an inspiration to all of us and offers hope for a brighter future.



Children at Smurfit Kappa Community Centre collect donations and create friendship bracelets for friends in Casa del Migrante. Volunteers donate gifts from the children and their own teams from Smurfit Kappa Ciudad Juárez.



IRELAND

Gardens for serenity at Novas Abigail Women's Centre

The Novas Abigail Women's Centre in Dublin offers important support and security to disadvantaged women and their families, especially those who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. Many of the women they help have experienced trauma and severe social exclusion, and require ongoing support and rehabilitation. This year, the Smurfit Kappa Foundation donated €15,000 to fund a therapeutic outdoor space at the Women's Centre, and nine employees from Smurfit Kappa Group HQ in Dublin were proud to volunteer their time to help transform the space. Now the centre's residents have a calm outdoor area to relax and recuperate which will enhance their experience of the service and their engagement with staff.



Volunteers repair the Educational Institution of El Recuerdo.

COLOMBIA

Breathing new life into the Educational Institution of El Recuerdo

Near the Smurfit Kappa forestry plantations in El Tambo, Cauca, you can find the Educational Institution of El Recuerdo. This institution plays a vital role of education and development in the community, but in recent years it had become run down, and was no longer an inspiring environment for students to learn. Employees at Smurfit Kappa saw this deterioration and took action to help. They gathered the necessary resources and enthusiastically teamed up with teachers, parents and members of the community to repair the building and outdoor area, and brought a renewed sense of value and purpose to the institution. Once the work was complete, a well-deserved lunch was shared among the 57 volunteers to celebrate their achievement.



Smurfit Kappa employees participating in the Milan Marathon Charity Programme.

ITALY

Running against cancer in the Milan Marathon Charity Programme

Smurfit Kappa teams in Italy wanted to carry out ambitious fundraising for 'LILT' – the Italian league for the fight against cancer – while also having fun, keeping fit and creating a positive team spirit among colleagues. They decided there was no better way to achieve this than to participate in the Milan Marathon Charity Programme – the biggest running-related fundraising event in Italy! 48 Smurfit Kappa employees from different plants ran a total of 504 kilometres and an excellent €6,000 was raised. Bravi!

COLOMBIA

Enriching the lives of others in Barbosa

For employees at the plant in Barbosa, there was a strong wish to give back to the community and to enhance the quality of life for themselves and other members of society, including children and the elderly. 26 employees teamed up to form a volunteer group, and together they carried out a wide range of engaging activities throughout the year to spread joy and laughter. Activities included spending time with residents of low-income nursing homes and donating gifts and educational materials to children. Through their efforts, the volunteers ensured that more people felt valued and created joyful, meaningful memories that year.



Volunteers renovate local amenities and support the community.



IRELAND

In My Shoes

When Irishman Ciaran McHugh visited Cape Town in South Africa, he noticed many children playing sports in bare feet and thought about all the shoes in his own home that were never worn.

Ciaran approached Smurfit Kappa in Dublin looking for support to donate and design boxes in collaboration with UPS, so that shoes could be delivered safely from Ireland to the children in Cape Town. The Smurfit Kappa team readily agreed and supplied secure and durable boxes.

Shoes were donated from all over Ireland and packed into the boxes with the help of volunteers including a Smurfit Kappa employee. More than 25,000 pairs of shoes have been saved from landfill and delivered to South Africa to be worn by children there.



Above: Children in Cape Town enjoy wearing their newly gifted shoes.

Left: In My Shoes box with trainers alongside, ready to be donated.

UNITED STATES

Protecting the most vulnerable in San Antonio

The Smurfit Kappa San Antonio team played an important role in helping to protect and care for some of the most vulnerable people in their society this year. By coordinating donations and volunteering their time, they helped many people feel more valued and respected in their community, including homeless people, vulnerable children, veterans and more.

The Smurfit Kappa Foundation also championed the cause to protect highly vulnerable children in the area, including those who are at risk of becoming homeless, by partnering with the San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry Inc. (SAMMinistries) to support the expansion of their Children's Enrichment Centre (CEC). The CEC strives to transform these children's lives by providing a safe and nurturing environment where they can develop confidence and self-belief for a positive future.



Smurfit Kappa and San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry Inc. teams celebrate the Children's Enrichment Centre expansion.



Donation is presented to Forney Area United Way.

UNITED STATES

Making a difference with Forney Area United Way

The Forney Area United Way is an organisation that provides care for some of the most vulnerable people in their community by providing essential funding to support a range of initiatives. Some initiatives include: the Forney Food Pantry, the Senior Activity Centre where elderly people can enjoy nutritional meals and socialise with friends, the Norville Children's Shelter that provides shelter for abused children, and the Forney Relief Fund for unexpected emergency situations. The organisation relies on donations, and in recent years Smurfit Kappa has come to play an important role, providing 60% of its total income. This year, Smurfit Kappa employees at Forney Mill did not disappoint, and managed to raise a staggering US\$36,806, which will go a very long way to help those who need it most.

UNITED STATES

Creating a space to play at Mary Lou's Place

Mary Lou's Place is a Foundation in Fort Worth, Texas, that provides life-changing support for women who are the victims of domestic abuse, so that they can escape their situation and create a new life for themselves and their children. Both the Smurfit Kappa Foundation and employees at Fort Worth wanted to support Mary Lou's and the work they do. The playground offered an opportunity to do so. It is a vital space for the children of the abused women, as it provides them with a safe environment to be active and free while they and their mothers go through a challenging healing process. However it was in desperate need of repair. The Smurfit Kappa Foundation gladly stepped in with a generous donation, and the playground is now a welcoming and inviting place for the children to play. Employees also contributed by collecting toiletries and sanitary items for the women at Mary Lou's to show their care and support.



Presentation of donation to Mary Lou's Place.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Mobile hospice care providing dignity in the community

The Mobile Hospice in Olomouc provides care for patients who are in the final phase of their life that enables them to live their last days with dignity, in the comfort of their home, surrounded by loved ones. They also provide kindness and support to families who are dealing with grief and loss. The hospice currently supports 15 adult and eight child patients, plus their families, but they would like to help everyone who calls upon their service. To help them achieve this, Smurfit Kappa Olomouc has gladly provided a donation for a new car to expand their existing fleet, and enable them to offer care to more people in need.



Above: A patient of The Mobile Hospice and his loved one.



Left: Donation is presented to The Mobile Hospice.

AUSTRIA

Family festival fundraising brings joy to children's hospital ward



Gifts donated to the children's ward and presented by volunteers in fun costumes.



The Nettingsdorf Family Festival Day took place in May this year. To help spread the joy of the occasion, a charity run took place to raise money for the children's ward at the University Hospital in Linz. One euro was donated for every lap run and every kilometre cycled, and along with a generous donation from the fire department and from Smurfit Kappa, an excellent total of €6,800 was raised. The funds were used to buy a wide selection of toys and creative materials for the young people in the children's ward. The gifts were delivered with great enthusiasm by Smurfit Kappa employees dressed as popular characters to add an extra helping of fun and delight for the children.

SLOVAKIA

Celebrating 50 years with the community

The team at Smurfit Kappa Obaly Štúrovo were determined to share their 50th anniversary celebrations with the community in an inclusive and memorable way, by bringing joy and colour to their streets. Children and families were overjoyed at the wonderful activities presented to them, from painting cardboard houses and cars, to creating beautiful natural montages, to building whatever they could imagine using boxes. Adults and children alike were invited to test the strength of a cardboard bridge by crossing it together, and given the pleasure of watching their cardboard boats sail peacefully down the river. Creativity flowed freely and fun was had by all, and important lessons were learned about sustainability, ecology and the environment.

The evening was also packed with celebrations including live music and films sharing the history of the plant.



50th anniversary celebrations with Smurfit Kappa Obaly Štúrovo.

UNITED KINGDOM

Marching with Pride



Above: Employees join the Pride march.

The team at Display UK in Corby wanted to share their passion and commitment to Inclusion, Diversity and Equality with their local community. Inspired by the 'Free to be me' campaign in Smurfit Kappa, five determined employees reached out to a local LGBTQ+ charity called Youth Works to partner with them for Pride. The team made a fantastic contribution by providing t-shirts, a rainbow archway, photo frames and beautifully crafted signs, as well as an impressive £636 donation to the charity. A meaningful connection was made and the team took great pleasure in marching with the charity for Pride!



Left: Items created and donated to celebrate Pride.



DENMARK

Supporting vulnerable women on International Women's Day

International Women's Day is an important day in the calendar for us to take a moment to acknowledge women in our work lives and personal lives. This year, Smurfit Kappa employees in Denmark marked the day collectively, by recognising the vulnerable women in their community and taking steps to show support and solidarity with them. To do this, the teams made donations to multiple women's crisis centres around the country. These centres rely on donations to carry out their vital work of providing a secure place for women and their children to live and thrive. With that in mind, the Smurfit Kappa employees were proud to present donations of DKK 5,000 to centres in Kolding, Varde, Glamsbjerg, Vejle and Vejle Ådal and the Ubbely Crisis Centre.



Donations are presented to women's shelters in Denmark.

ITALY

A new home for young people with disabilities in Mantua

It is with great pride that the Smurfit Kappa team in Mantua were able to support the important work of Fior di Loto – a local non-profit organisation committed to inclusion across all spectrums of the community. The organisation had great ambitions to create a brand new community and educational space for people with disabilities, as a safe place for them to thrive and grow. The ambition became a reality thanks, in part, to a generous donation by the Smurfit Kappa Foundation, and also thanks to the team in Mantua who created and supplied ingenious corrugated cardboard furniture including tables, shelves and chairs.

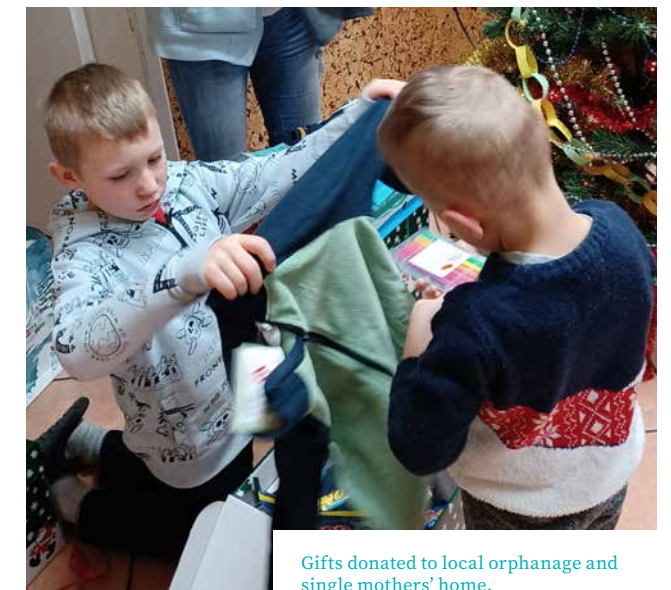


Cardboard furniture from Smurfit Kappa in Mantua.

POLAND

Making Christmas memorable at the local orphanage

Christmas is a special time of year for many, and should be filled with excitement and delight. To help make sure of this, the Smurfit Kappa teams in Konin and Drezdenko took it upon themselves to play the part of Santa Claus for children from their local orphanage and single mothers' home. They invited children to write their wishes to Santa, then distributed the letters among the employees. The team did their best to fulfil the wishes with kindness and generosity, providing gifts and surprises to make the children's Christmas dreams come true.



Gifts donated to local orphanage and single mothers' home.

FRANCE

Racing against time at La Course du Petit Prince charity fundraiser

The Bergonié Institute in southwest France specialises in research of sarcomas – rare forms of cancer that mainly affect children and young adults. To help raise much-needed funds for this research, Smurfit Kappa employees participated in 'La Course du Petit Prince' event. Employee Philippe Lafosse ran in the 15km race while his colleagues supported him and made donations. Smurfit Kappa was very proud to contribute €1,500 to the total amount raised for this vital research, and Philippe ran a fantastic race!



Runners prepare at the start of La Course du Petit Prince race.

POLAND

Encouraging creativity in the youngest members of our community

Smurfit Kappa employees in Pruszkow and Warsaw are always looking for fun ways to create special moments for their communities. This year, they had the novel idea of celebrating Teddy Bear Day, by creating multiple cardboard teddy bears for children in a nearby kindergarten. The children were invited to decorate their teddy bears in any way they wished, while spending quality time with their parents. The children were delighted with the project and dove straight in with great excitement, getting extremely creative in the process!



Cardboard teddy bears creatively decorated.



SPAIN

Supporting young people with disabilities to gain employment

The Smurfit Kappa team in Nervión strongly believe that everyone in the community should have the opportunity to work, including people with disabilities. In order to support this belief, they have partnered with Foundation Adecco, which runs several programmes that help young people with additional needs and/or autism gain employment. This year, as part of their partnership, the Nervión team has been delighted to mentor a graduate in Biomedicine in 'Project United', and to host a workshop for 'AVIFES' mental health project. They have also provided financial support for Foundation Adecco's 'Talent School' and 'APNABI Teatreves' projects for young people to become better prepared to enter the labour force. The Nervión team look forward to expanding their activities within the partnership to help make a more equal and fair society for all.

Young people who benefitted from the Smurfit Kappa Nervión initiatives.

Encouraging wellbeing

Taking an active part to support our local communities.

We are proud of the efforts and contributions of our teams across our operations to support the many wonderful initiatives that take place. We have shown ourselves to be an energetic, committed and sporting organisation through the many activities we participated in over the last year.



ECUADOR

Supporting a better life with cardboard

Prótesis Imbabura is an organisation that operates in Ecuador with a noble mission. It helps children with physical disabilities from low-income families by providing them with high quality prosthetic limbs or braces to help them lead a more comfortable and independent life, and to help in their rehabilitation. To achieve this, the organisation creates equipment from cardboard which offers a fast, affordable and agile way to provide support to as many children as possible. Smurfit Kappa Ecuador has been privileged to be involved in this invaluable work by donating sheets of cardboard. As a result of this collaboration that has successfully run for several years, a total of 180 children and their families have enjoyed a better quality of life through the use of their customised equipment.



Children benefit from personalised cardboard equipment.



SWEDEN

Providing young people with places to meet in Piteå

A community problem was developing in Piteå in northern Sweden, as young people were struggling to find suitable places to meet up, especially in the winter when it is cold and snowy. With no indoor locations available, young people were coming together in unsuitable places such as fast food restaurants, and occasionally fights and other anti-social behaviour were erupting. The police also noticed an increase in the use of alcohol and drugs among the youth in the town.

The Smurfit Kappa team took action. They partnered with a local soccer club and arranged for regular activities to take place in the evenings and during school holidays, giving the young people somewhere to meet and providing well organised activities for them to enjoy. Since January 2023, over 2,000 young people have taken part in the activities, and more are planned for the months ahead. The initiative has also reached out to refugees in the area, and strengthened inclusiveness in the community. As it gathered momentum, other businesses got involved in the initiative and it continues to make a lasting, positive impact in the community.



Young people gather for fun activities in Piteå.



BRAZIL

Showing kindness and generosity to those who need it most

Smurfit Kappa employees in Pirapetinga are passionate about supporting some of the most vulnerable people in their community by showing them kindness and generosity throughout the year. This year, volunteers donated almost 500 packages including education kits and food boxes to those who need them most, while deepening relationships with several institutions in their area. The highlight for many volunteers were the social events they organised with children, elderly people and those with disabilities where they had the opportunity to play games, share food and enjoy conversation.



The Smurfit Kappa Pirapetinga teams making donations throughout the year.

PERU

Fulfilling Christmas wishes and opening the door to inclusion

The San Martin de Porras Special Education Centre in the city of Paramonga is an educational setting for 62 children who come from low-income families and who have additional educational needs, often due to one or more disability. However, the centre was facing a problem – due to issues such as work, money or shame, many children had stopped attending classes. Working with the director of the institution, Smurfit Kappa employees created an initiative to show the children and their parents that they are valued and appreciated. The initiative aimed to fulfil the Christmas wishes of the children and involved several stages. Firstly, they were invited to attend a workshop to create their Christmas wish letter, often using images and montages to express their wish. These were then distributed among Smurfit Kappa volunteers who each took responsibility for fulfilling one wish. On the day the gifts were presented, the children and families held a performance to express their thanks, and, most importantly, the volunteers had the opportunity to get to know the families and to demonstrate that they too have a valued place in the community.



A young girl receives her Christmas gift from a volunteer.

GERMANY

Providing a new home for children

For some children, their family home can be an unsafe and threatening environment. In such instances, it's essential that they are given a secure alternative where they can grow and develop with a sense of dignity and respect. 'Familiengemeinschaften Waldecker Land e.V.' is a non-profit organisation that provides such a place. Thanks to a generous donation from the Smurfit Kappa Foundation, the organisation purchased a new building where two groups of young people can live. In a wonderful show of support, employees from Smurfit Kappa Wrexen got involved directly with the development, volunteering for two days to renovate and clean up the buildings in preparation for the new residents. All are looking forward to more joint activities in future.



Volunteers renovate a new home for children.

UNITED KINGDOM

Blood Bikes saving lives in Greater Manchester

For a second year in a row, Smurfit Kappa employees have shown immense support for the incredible work done by the volunteer Blood Bikes in Greater Manchester. These everyday heroes volunteer their time to bring life-saving blood donations and breastmilk donations for premature babies to those who need it. The Smurfit Kappa employees have worked throughout the year to raise money to sponsor a motorbike by selling neck snoods, hosting baking competitions and more.

The Smurfit Kappa teams went even further this year and secured funding from the Smurfit Kappa Foundation to provide a new hybrid car for the Blood Bikes team, which will be used in dangerous weather conditions or for multi-box deliveries.



Smurfit Kappa volunteer enjoys trying out the new Blood Bikes motorbike.

COLOMBIA

Let's pack joy this Christmas



Children receive and enjoy Christmas gifts in Yumbo.

For some of the more vulnerable children in the municipality of Yumbo in Valle del Cauca, Christmas is not always an enjoyable time of year. Smurfit Kappa employees in the area felt strongly that these children should be given the chance to enjoy the celebration and feel valued and special. 170 employees generously gave gifts which were collected, sorted and distributed by a team of volunteers with the support of the Smurfit Kappa Colombia Foundation. More than 250 gifts were given to a group of delighted children at a special event on December 22, just in time for Christmas!

CZECH REPUBLIC

Support for intensive hippotherapy for children



Hippotherapy is a natural form of therapy that uses the healing quality of horses and horse riding to help patients. The act of horse riding and experiencing the horse's movements can positively affect the rider's posture, flexibility, balance and movement and can even support speech and language rehabilitation. At an animal shelter in the Czech Republic, close to the Žebrák plant, intensive hippotherapy sessions are carried out for children with disabilities, for their benefit and enjoyment. Smurfit Kappa Žebrák was proud to support the shelter with a donation to continue these wonderful therapy sessions for local families.

Young girl benefitting from hippotherapy.

SPAIN

Donating the gift of blood

The giving of a blood donation is a gift that can save a life. However, it's not always possible to find time to donate blood in our busy lives. Since 2017, the Smurfit Kappa Bag-in-Box team in Ibi have taken steps to overcome this barrier, by hosting blood donations on site in coordination with the provincial blood transfusion centre. This year, 35 generous donors gave 17.5 litres of their blood to help in medical procedures and to provide life-saving treatment. Although it may cost nothing, this gift is truly precious.



Volunteers donate blood on site.

UNITED STATES

Taking steps to make a difference in North Texas

Smurfit Kappa employees in Fort Worth, Forney Mill and the Experience Centre have a proud history of coming together and getting active to support the good work of charities. This year was no different as 124 participants laced up their trainers and took to the streets to join in 5km walks on behalf of the American Heart Walk, the PurpleStride Walk for research into pancreatic cancer, the Crohn and Colitis Foundation's 'Take The Steps' walk, and the 'Great Strides' walk to support the fight against Cystic Fibrosis.

Employees covered a fantastic 620km in total, and raised over US\$42,000 in donations for the charities. The walkers enjoyed their time together outdoors and were also privileged to hear powerful stories from those receiving treatment as a result of the charities' support.



Volunteers walk to raise money for worthy causes.



UNITED KINGDOM

Supporting Claire House Children's Hospice

Claire House Children's Hospice in Liverpool helps seriously and terminally ill children make the most of the time they have by providing specialist nursing and end of life care, as well as emotional support for their families. This year, the Smurfit Kappa team in Liverpool continued their support for the hospice by volunteering at the 'Mowgli Dog Show' event, with their families joining in the fun too. The team sold raffle tickets, welcomed visitors, collected litter, and helped the hospice to raise over £90,000 for their inspiring work.

Right: A volunteer and young girl support the Claire House Hospice event by collecting money and litter picking.



ARGENTINA

Atomic Ambassadors delivering prostheses to children

Thousands of children around the world are in great need as they manage without the use of one or both of their hands. Atomic Lab is a non-governmental organisation that enables companies to create prosthetic hands by providing them with 3D printer training and patterns for children's prostheses. Inspired by the ground-breaking work of Atomic Lab, the 'Soy Parte' employee volunteers at Smurfit Kappa in Bernal, with support from the Smurfit Kappa Foundation, proudly became 'Atomic Ambassadors' several years ago. They support the global mission by creating prostheses using the innovative technology available, working closely as a team for the best possible results. Since 2021, the team have already donated seven prostheses to delighted children, and are currently working on two new cases.



Above: A young girl receives her prosthetic hand from the Smurfit Kappa team.



Right: A volunteer examines a prosthetic pattern.

COLOMBIA

A glass of clean water is not denied to anyone

In May 2023, intense rains and strong winds led to an emergency in the rural area of Girardota, Antioquia, where mudslides blocked roads and cut off services. Part of the aqueduct in the village of San Esteban, where one of our sacks plants is located, was destroyed. In order to ensure the local community had access to clean water, the plant quickly made a tap available at their gate so that everyone could have access whenever they needed it. News of the tap spread and hundreds took advantage of the resource. This small act had a significant impact on the people in the community who were so grateful to have clean water made available in a time of need. Nelson Fabian Cordoba, General Secretary of the San Esteban Community Action Board, said, "We want to express our greatest gratitude for the solidarity gesture you have made in supporting our community by allowing families to supply themselves with the vital liquid that is drinking water."



A man and young boy collect clean drinking water from the tap in San Esteban.



Above: Smurfit Kappa volunteers in Saquarema donate packages to local community.

BRAZIL

Creating memorable moments in the community

Smurfit Kappa employees throughout Brazil have been looking after vulnerable members of their society throughout the year by donating food and hygiene kits, and spending quality time in their company. In Fortaleza, the team supported the Criança Maranhata Institution for vulnerable families by donating 200 cold meat parcels at Christmas so that families could enjoy a hearty meal with loved ones. In Saquarema, Bento Gonçalves and São Paulo, volunteers coordinated multiple donations to the elderly and vulnerable families, to help them enjoy festive occasions and feel valued and appreciated as part of their wider community.

Below: An employee offers a snack while volunteering in São Paulo.



GERMANY

Sailing across Lake Kulkwitz in cardboard boats

The Smurfit Kappa teams at Herzberg, Delitzsch and Waren wanted to find an exciting and adventurous way to raise money for worthy causes while also having fun and being active. They decided to courageously face the cold waters of Lake Kulkwitz in a boat race – with boats they built themselves out of cardboard! A wonderful time was had by the participants who really showed their creative talents, and three local charities were grateful to receive donations including the children’s home in Biesen, whose residents enjoyed their own paddling adventure as a result of the donation.



A competitor prepares to sail across Lake Kulkwitz in handmade cardboard boat.

FRANCE

Action against hunger



Above: Volunteers cheer at the Action Contre La Faim event.



Right: A crowd enjoys the day at the Action Contre La Faim event.

‘Action Contre La Faim’, or ‘Race Against Hunger’ is a sporting event in which thousands of people across France show solidarity and raise money to fight against global hunger. This year, employees from Smurfit Kappa Siemco came together with great enthusiasm to run the race and make their contribution to the cause. The race generated a total of €146,000 including a very generous €18,000 from the Siemco team. Extra activities were also organised to enhance the occasion including walks, yoga classes and a 5-team football tournament. This was a wonderful example of embracing challenges, promoting physical wellbeing and having great fun all at once!



THE NETHERLANDS

The Half Marathon of Ermelo

The Half Marathon of Ermelo takes place in the village where the Smurfit Kappa Hexacomb plant is based and is a great example of inclusion, wellbeing and community spirit in practice. It is an annual event that brings people together to celebrate their village by taking part in a run, and everyone is very welcome to join in. This year, the ambitious Hexacomb team decided to jump in feet-first by sponsoring the event and also entering 17 employees to take part! They were all thrilled to complete the run and to be joined by 215 children and 55 people with disabilities in addition to the other participants.

Volunteers in Ermelo cheer after participating in the run.

POLAND

Singing for health and wellbeing

It’s important that children understand the importance of health and wellbeing from an early age, so that they can live their lives to the fullest and fulfil their potential. To help convey this message to the children in Pruszkow and Warsaw, a song contest was created in which each child had to write and then perform a song about health. Smurfit Kappa employees were delighted to be involved and to encourage such a positive message among their community. They happily designed and produced the stage backdrops and provided prizes for the winners!



A girl performs her song in the event to promote health and wellbeing.

Inspiring our future

Creating opportunities for all through education.

As part of our dedication to sustainability, we're committed to supporting our future generations through education, play and inspiration. This year, our employees championed a number of activities to teach, inspire and bring awareness to all of our younger generations.



COLOMBIA

Creating opportunity through mechanical training in Yumbo

The last few years have been especially challenging for young people in Cali, Colombia, where social unrest and the pandemic have led to very limited employment or training opportunities. It's understandable that young people can lose hope and motivation in such circumstances. To help combat the situation and create opportunities, 'Dreams on Wheels' was set up in Yumbo, in the metropolitan area of Cali.

'Dreams on Wheels' is a programme that offers people aged 18 to 28 training in mechanics, with a particular focus on motorbikes. It is carried out by the Smurfit Kappa Colombia Foundation in partnership with The Fanalca Foundation, Cedecur and Crear Futuro. The topic was chosen as it combines the interests of the learners with the demands of the labour market, so job prospects after the training are good.

In the first year, 31 people became certified as technicians, and 33 people have signed up for the second year. Due to the importance and success of the programme, the Smurfit Kappa Foundation is supporting further with investments to improve the classroom infrastructure and increase the variety of modules available to learners, increasing their opportunities even more.



Participants work together on the mechanical training course in Yumbo.

MEXICO

Graduation day at the Smurfit Kappa Community Centre

The Smurfit Kappa Community Centre (CCSK) in Ecatepec de Morelos in the State of Mexico, is an inspiring place that offers educational programmes to the local communities to support development from early childhood to university.

In July, students, teachers and families gathered with joy and pride to celebrate the students' graduation. This year's graduation saw 12 early childhood graduates, 29 primary graduates, nine secondary school graduates and two high school graduates who all look forward to embarking on the next stage of their educational journey. Huge congratulations are due to each graduate, as they reflect on their achievements and offer inspiration for those coming behind them!



Graduates present their work to visitors at the Smurfit Kappa Community Centre.

COLOMBIA

Adriana Achinte from ITAF Colombia advocates for girls in United Nations forum

It is hard to find anyone more inspiring for the future than 16 year old Adriana Achinte from Chisquio village in southwest Colombia. Adriana is a student in Smurfit Kappa's Technical and Agricultural Forestry Institute (ITAF). To achieve her ambition of becoming a lawyer, Adriana is already working hard taking part in debates, in research projects, in the 'Girls Leading Our World' initiative, and on the girls' football team. This March, on International Women's Day, Adriana represented Colombia on the 'Advocating for Girls Committee' which met virtually for discussions with United Nations representatives. Adriana was one of just ten girls or women selected worldwide to participate in the committee. Adriana prepared for months in advance and afterwards felt even more motivated to fulfil her goals. Adriana commented: "Participating in this committee has made me think about my future and has given me the passion and strength to fulfil it. I want to help improve the situation of women who live in vulnerable conditions, so I will become a lawyer and advocate for feminist causes".



Adriana Achinte, ITAF student and country representative for 'Advocating for Girls' committee.

POLAND

Inspiring young children through creativity and play

Since 2021, the team in Gdansk have been raising awareness of the environment and sustainability among young children by running a highly creative and interactive campaign in schools and kindergartens. For the campaign, the team's ambition was to eliminate plastic packaging and replace it with cardboard solutions. In previous years, they have produced eye-catching, tree-shaped bookshelves and impressive cardboard theatres for the children to enjoy. This year, employees have created a colourful map of Europe to inspire the children to learn more about the world around them, using imaginative eco-friendly props.



Creative map for children to learn more about Europe.

MEXICO

Children's Knowledge Olympics

The 'Children's Knowledge Olympics' is an annual event held in Mexico in which 6th grade students demonstrate their skills in various subjects such as maths, science, literature, history and more. The event is a wonderful celebration of young people's commitment to their education and offers a great opportunity for them to face the challenges of a competitive environment and inspire other young people also.



Eight members of the Smurfit Kappa Community Centre (CCSK) were selected to participate in this year's event, which is a great honour and fantastic achievement for which they should all be very proud. Roberto Cedeño, who has been a beneficiary at CCSK for more than 4 years, showed great talent and resilience by managing to reach the final and was crowned as a State Level Winner out of more than 500 students!

Children from the Smurfit Kappa Community Centre participating in the Children's Knowledge Olympics.



COLOMBIA

Making big improvements in rural schools

In August, 30 Smurfit Kappa volunteers from the Barranquilla Corrugated Plant and Paper Mill 5 took part in the Rural Schools programme. This is led by Tierra Grata, a social organisation that strives to provide equal learning opportunities to all children in Colombia by improving the quality of school buildings and education resources. The volunteers made a huge impact on a local school, completing a wide range of tasks such as installing a solar panel, delivering clean drinking water, adapting the school library, improving the appearance of the building throughout, and even hosting a workshop for the children and local community.

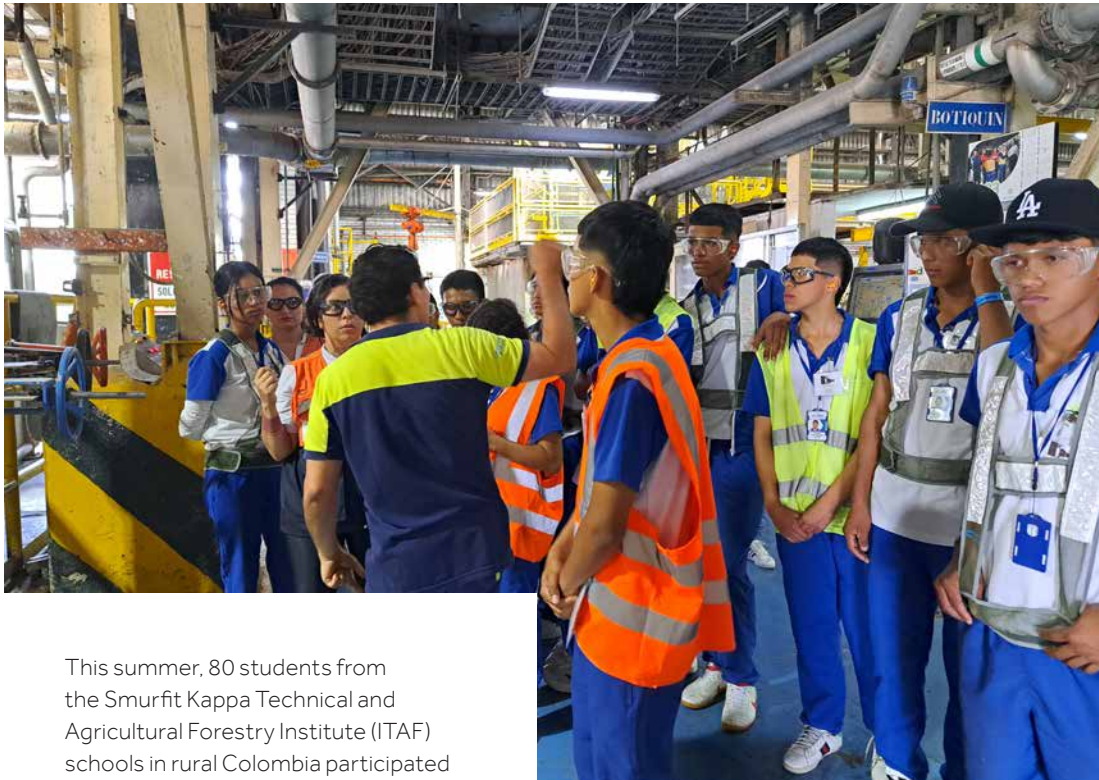


Pupils and staff enjoy the benefits of improvements to their school.

This school is just one of five such schools in rural Colombia where a big effort is being made through the help of the Smurfit Kappa Foundation to improve facilities and opportunities for all children to thrive in a safe, clean and inspiring environment.

COLOMBIA

Deepening relationships with students from ITAF Colombia



This summer, 80 students from the Smurfit Kappa Technical and Agricultural Forestry Institute (ITAF) schools in rural Colombia participated in the annual 'Forestry and Business' experience. Students from the three different ITAF sites came together to visit the main mill in Yumbo and the forestry nursery, in order to learn more about the company's work. They also had the opportunity to enjoy conversations with directors and employees of Smurfit Kappa Colombia. The event gave the students a chance to understand the company more deeply, to ask questions directly, and to consider their own future goals and ambitions. It was also a great opportunity for the students to meet one another and inspire each other by sharing their stories and experiences.



Students from ITAF learn more about the company while visiting the main mill in Yumbo.



Smurfit Kappa employees gain certificates on the 'Back to School' programme.

MEXICO

Back to school with strength and determination

In Mexico, the average education is nine years and many people do not complete high school. At Smurfit Kappa and their local Foundation in Mexico, education is highly valued as a tool for self-improvement and development. With that in mind, they created the 'Back to School' programme, a scheme that allows people to earn their secondary and high school certificates at any age after completing a preparation course. As of September 2023, more than 383 students have completed the programme and obtained their certificate, and this year more than 90 students hope to earn their diploma. These students are an inspiration as they return to education and commit to achieving their goals, even in their busy day to day lives.

COSTA RICA

Supporting children at the Nuevo Horizonte School in La Milpa

Throughout 2023, employees in Smurfit Kappa Costa Rica have continued to support the Nuevo Horizonte School in La Milpa in Guarari, located three kilometres from the plant. The school is attended by 1,200 students and plays a crucial role in the community. This year, employees participated as judges and prize-givers in the annual science fair where students show a project for assessment. It's an important opportunity for the children to practise their presentation skills, and the winners progress to the regional competition. The Smurfit Kappa team have also continued to support children at the school by providing them with reading glasses, so that they can thrive and learn more freely.



Students present work to a Smurfit Kappa volunteer judge.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

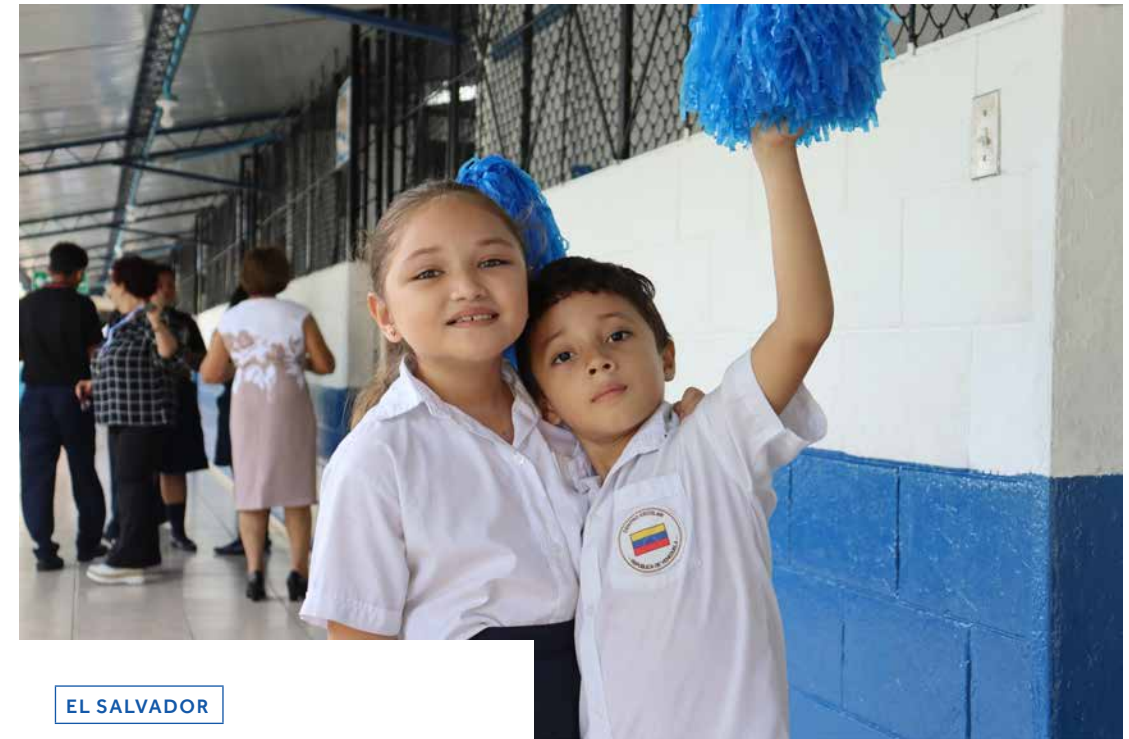
The robotics lab is open



Giving children the chance to explore technology in a fun and educational way can offer a huge range of benefits, including the stimulation of creativity, logical thinking, problem-solving skills, maths and even reading comprehension. Most importantly, it can also help to bridge the digital gap between countries. In recognition of this, Smurfit Kappa Dominican Republic supported a brand new education programme on the topic of robotics and programming for all children in the community of Villas Agrícolas. Participants enjoyed the course enormously and even reached the semi-final of the national 'Robot Sumo Match' competition where robots compete in a ring of battle! This year alone, the programme gave 204 children a chance to gain experience in this forward-looking field of learning in a fun and inspiring way.



Children learning about robotics thanks to the new initiative.



EL SALVADOR

Making improvements at El Colegio Venezuela

El Colegio Venezuela is an educational institution of vital importance for the communities surrounding Smurfit Kappa El Salvador. Since 2020, the Smurfit Kappa Foundation has partnered with USAID and FEPADE to improve the infrastructure of the institution and make it an enjoyable and inspiring place to learn. The work has included roof repairs, bathroom remodelling, improvement of the drinking water tank, floor replacements and more. Education programmes that involve students, teachers and parents have also been developed to ensure the impact on the learners is as positive and productive as possible. All of this effort makes a significant difference to the students and teachers, and plays a role in celebrating their value as members of the community.

Above: Pupils at El Colegio Venezuela.

Below: Volunteers, staff and students celebrate improvements to their school.



GERMANY

Introducing young children to the world of electronics

Having a good understanding of technology from an early age can be an extremely useful tool. In partnership with a local school, two Smurfit Kappa employees in Wellpappe Zwiesel took responsibility to mentor a group of young children in this field to teach them about simple circuits and electrics, and potentially inspire them to learn more about this exciting and useful field. Toolboxes were sponsored and provided by Smurfit Kappa and the mentors were pleased to see great enthusiasm and interest from the children, while also developing stronger connections to the local school.



A volunteer mentor works with children from local school.

POLAND

Empowering the youth to have a voice

The Smurfit Kappa employees in Konin and Drezdenko believe wholeheartedly in the importance of empowering young people to make a positive difference.

This year, they showed support in several ways. They enabled them to march with confidence for children's rights by providing cardboard for high quality banners; they also designed and produced imaginative stands for an interactive exhibition called 'You can do it differently'. Each stand focused on an element of the school experience such as self-esteem, courage and respect. The stands added a creative flair to the exhibition and encouraged the visitors to reconsider their position on the topics.



Donations included banners for marches and exhibition stands.

SPAIN

Vocational training for high school students

Vocational studies can be an important part of young people's development as they teach technical skills in practice. Smurfit Kappa Mengibar is well placed to offer such training – it has a passionate employee base to support a programme, it has a site where young people can learn new skills in a workplace and it enjoys close proximity to a high school that shares its belief in vocational training. Since developing this programme, six students have benefited from the specialised training and enhanced their knowledge and experience. Another 100 students were also inspired to think more deeply about paper manufacturing and recycling by the Smurfit Kappa Mengibar mill manager, who was happy to take the time to present a talk and hear their thoughts.



Students in local high school learn about the paper making process.

POLAND

Musical Tides

When the local community centre reached out for support for their musical, the team at Smurfit Kappa Konin and Drezdenko did not hesitate to help. The musical raised important issues such as dealing with hate, lack of acceptance and rejection by peers and was performed by young people. The Smurfit Kappa teams happily donated the cardboard walls for the backdrops which helped to bring the story to life and make the experience more enjoyable and beneficial for the performers and the audience alike.



Children perform in musical 'Tides'.

Protecting our planet

Protecting what matters most, our environment and planet.

At Smurfit Kappa, sustainability is in our every fibre. We have a deep commitment to the planet and we believe that we must always do our best to help protect it. Not only do we strive for this through our products and operations, but also through our actions in the community. The positive steps we take are wide and varied, from tackling litter, to recycling, to promoting and protecting our local ecosystems.





MEXICO

Recycling Workshops: The Magic of Paper

It's never too early to learn about the power of recycling and caring for the environment. Through imaginative recreational workshops, volunteers in Mexico taught boys and girls from kindergarten up to secondary level about the paper recycling process. The goal was to promote awareness of the environment, recycling and the reuse of materials. The workshops were designed to be a fun and creative way of inspiring participants to be responsible consumers and role models for the protection of the planet.

Volunteers run creative workshop for children.



UNITED STATES

Earth Day in Texas

This Earth Day, Smurfit Kappa employees in the Dallas Experience Centre and at Forney Mill took responsibility to make a difference and consider how we can all treat our planet better. A team of 16 volunteers from the Experience Centre spent the morning together collecting rubbish from a local nature trail, removing invasive plant species and installing a new bench. In Forney Mill, the team gave 300 saplings to their colleagues and asked everyone to take one home and plant it wherever they wished. Any remaining saplings were planted around the facility grounds as a beautiful and constant reminder that we should all take steps every day to look after our precious planet.



Volunteers lead by example on Earth Day.

FRANCE

Getting busy installing beehives

This year, the Smurfit Kappa Siemco plant joined several other sites around the world by welcoming hundreds of busy bees to their site in newly installed hives! Such initiatives play an important role in maintaining local bee populations, which are crucial to balance the ecosystem and ensure the successful pollination of plants. Without the work of bees, our world would face a serious shortfall of fruits and crops which could have devastating effects on flora and fauna alike. Installing hives is a great way to help protect our planet and make a positive contribution to our environment.



Bees thrive in newly installed beehive.



Young people planting seedlings to improve their environment.

POLAND

Let's plant together

Encouraging young people to protect and care for the natural world is a gift with countless benefits for future generations and the planet. In May and June, students of Konin schools took part in the '#KonińskaRevolutionKlimatycznaMłodych2023', in which they improved their surroundings by planting plants, collecting water, and collecting waste. To show support and appreciation to the young people involved, Smurfit Kappa employees donated almost 130 seedlings of daylilies, 'daredevil' hydrangeas and various flowering bushes to three schools. These plants support biodiversity and help with water retention and soil erosion. They will also add beauty and colour to the schools as a 'thank you' to the young people who took the time to plant them and to care.



NORWAY

Hold Norge Rent rubbish collection

'Hold Norge Rent' is a nationwide campaign that encourages people to take responsibility and clean up litter in their local areas. 15 people from the Smurfit Kappa team at the Hønefoss site in Norway joined the campaign this year to help make their environment a cleaner place and to act as role models for others to do the same.

Volunteers collect rubbish to support the Hold Norge Rent campaign.

MEXICO

Cleaning day at Atlatomulco

Thirteen industrious Smurfit Kappa employees at Atlatomulco joined other companies in the district to organise a cleaning day for their area. The enthusiastic volunteers pulled up their sleeves and got busy outdoors, collecting rubbish and improving the local environment. The team's effort is a great demonstration of their commitment to the environment and a reminder that we can all make a difference. Together with the other volunteers, a total of 140 kilogrammes of rubbish was collected.



Employees and their families volunteer to collect rubbish to improve their environment.





POLAND

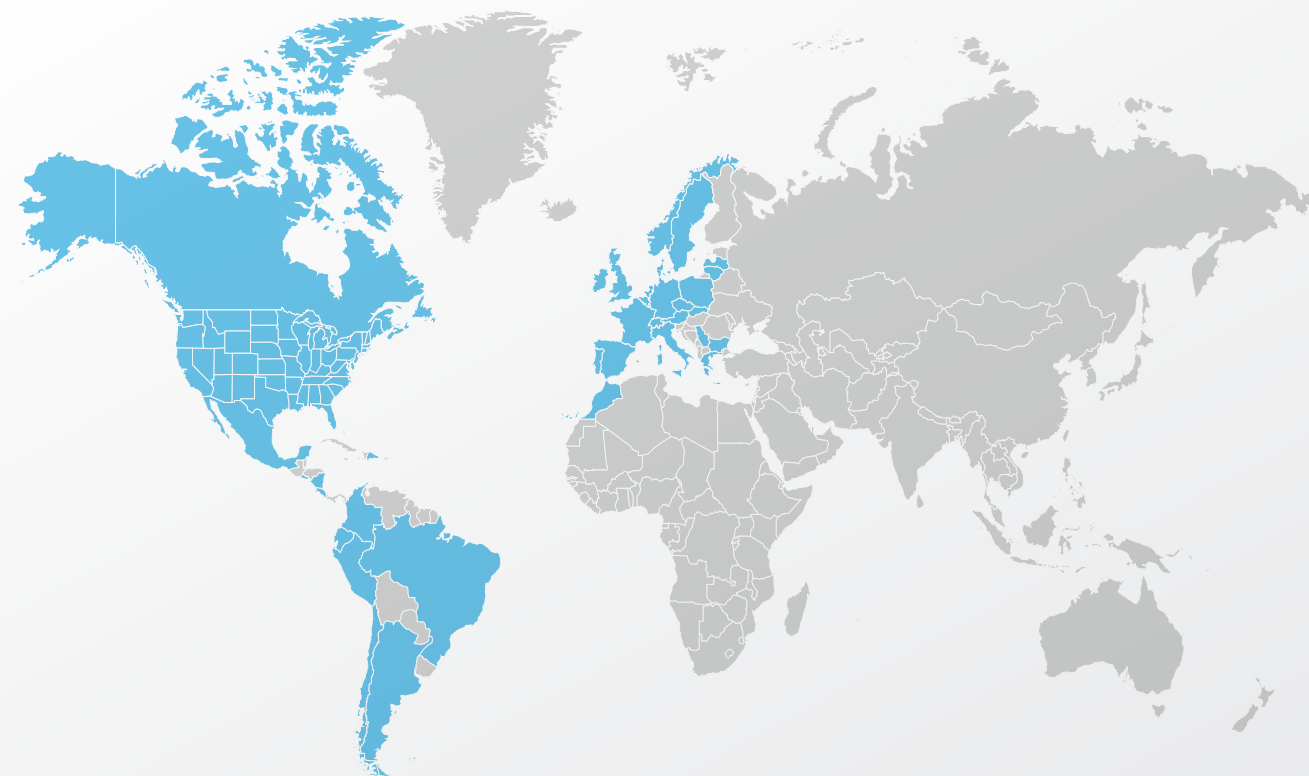
Earth Day and World CleanUp Day initiatives

More than 300 dedicated volunteers took time this Earth Day and World CleanUp Day to show their commitment to protecting the environment. The volunteers happily gave their time to clean surrounding green areas, forests, parks and rivers in support of these global initiatives. It's essential for individuals to take accountability for the environment and to protect it for future generations. Joining in on important annual initiatives such as these helps to create a meaningful impact and raise awareness of this global responsibility.



Employees and their families come together to make a difference on Earth Day and World CleanUp Day.

Our Open Community around the world



Once again, a remarkable number of stories were submitted to appear in this booklet. This is just a snapshot of the many initiatives that are taking place across all the countries in which we operate.

You can see a full list of all the initiatives that took place during the year here.




Thanks so much to everyone involved.

See more stories online at:


www.smurfitkappa.com/sustainability/people/communities



Empowering communities

COUNTRY	INITIATIVE	UN SDG	
Spain	Rare Diseases Investigation Support		
Spain	New 9-Seater Van For Cruz Roja Ibi		
United Kingdom	Northampton Charity of the Year 2023		
United Kingdom	Abseiling for Charity		
United Kingdom	Charity Days at Phyllis Tuckwell		
Italy	Comitato Maria Letizia Verga, Monza North Italy		
Poland	Home Hospice Foundation Needs Medical Equipment		
Poland	Be a Santa Claus Konin		
Poland	Be a Santa Claus Drezdenko		
Poland	Let's Help		
Poland	Local Christmas Actions		
Poland	Dance Contest for Disabled		
Poland	My Dream House- Celebrating Children's Day in Poland		
Spain	Introduction Book for Our Community Local Summer Celebration in July		
Italy	Festivaletteratura in Mantua, North Italy		
Mexico	Donation of Cleaning Materials Walter C. Buchanan Multiple Care Center		
Spain	Women's Week		
Italy	24 Hours Volley, Alessandria North Italy		
United States	Toy Drive & Volunteer		
United States	Back to School Drive Volunteer		
Brazil	Donation of a Christmas Kit.		
Brazil	"Charity Day Action"		
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Pirapetinga Community		
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Cristiano Varella Foundation		
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Pirapetinga Municipal Hospital		
			





COUNTRY	INITIATIVE	UN SDG
Germany	Support for Children and Youth Work Sarstedt	
United States	Forney Fire Department – Toy Drive	
Mexico	Children's Day in Elementary Schools in Guanajuato	
Poland	Osadajanaszkowo – Family Picnic	
Poland	Charity Collection for Dogs Shelter	
Poland	Christmas in Mazovian Cluster	
Poland	Local Charity Picnics	
Poland	Effetha - Family Picnic	
Poland	The Revalidation and Educational Center "Żułowski Stonecznik" in Gielmice	
Poland	Autism Association - Apartment to Train Independent Living	
France	Atelier "Coup De Pouce"	
France	Les Restos Du Cœur	
Spain	Donation Boxes for Healthcare Association Sos Tomiño-Baixo Miño	
Spain	Donation of Computer Equipment	
Spain	Activate Sports	
Spain	Support for The Report "Disability and Expectations of the New Year"	
Ireland	Make a Wish Cake Sale	
Spain	Donation of Boxes to "Burgos Acoge"	
United Kingdom	Cardboard Supplied to St Michael's Church	
Poland	Back to School September Campaign	
Colombia	Opening Paths for Our Community	
Colombia	Safe Routes for Our Community	
Mexico	Gift Of Lockers to Miguel Hidalgo and Jaime Bodet Kindergarten	
Spain	Donation Lumiere Foundation - Oil of Life Solidarity Programme	
Ireland	Sponsorship for Green Schools Initiative	
Austria	Turkey Syria Earthquake Support February 2023	
Mexico	Runners SK Cgua Runs for Bread Donations	
Poland	Ukraine "Is a Woman" - International Woman Day	
Poland	School Starter Pack for Children from Ukraine	

Encouraging wellbeing



COUNTRY	INITIATIVE	UN SDG
United Kingdom	Shoe Box Appeal	
Spain	Tuesday Fruit Day	
Spain	Social Sponsorship Ikastola Maiztegi	
Spain	Eitb Maratoia	
Mexico	Selling Items to Fighting Childhood Cancer	
Mexico	Donation of Furniture for the National Emergency Commission	
Mexico	Donation of Piñatas, Sweets, Tapas and Blankets to the Ileva Foundation	
Poland	Family Bike Rally	
Poland	Szklarska Poręba Tour'23	
Poland	Safety Promotion	
Poland	Wellbeing for Workers	
Spain	Solidary Hike to Benefit Childhood Cancer Research	
Mexico	Visit to the Football Museum In Pachuca	
Dominican Republic	Smiles Summer Camp 2023	
France	Sport Dans La Ville	
United States	Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day	
Spain	Avifes-Mental Health Project	
Spain	Awareness Days with María Petit	
Argentina	Donations	
Brazil	We Held a Popcorn Session to Celebrate The National Day of Persons with Disabilities	
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Apae - Children's Day	
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Apae	
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Nossa Senhora Do Carmo Nursing Home	
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Casa Lar	
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Elderly Home	

COUNTRY	INITIATIVE	UN SDG
Brazil	Social Responsibility Action - Lean	
Brazil	Easter Apae	
Brazil	Social Action "Casa Lar	
Colombia	Donate a Smile	
Colombia	Renewing Spaces For Learning	
Czech Republic	The Children's Day	
Netherlands, The	Support 300 Children on a YMCA Day with White Cardboard Plates	
Netherlands, The	Leven Met Een Beperking	
Poland	Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity	
Spain	Memorial Zambrana Race	
United Kingdom	Site Easter Bake Off - Funds to Step by Step	
United Kingdom	Football Club Sponsorship	
United Kingdom	Badshot Lea U13 Football Club Sponsorship	
United Kingdom	Football Club Sponsorship	
United Kingdom	One Year Funding for a Self Contained Flat for a Homeless Teenager	
United States	Holiday Heights Elementary Back to School School Supply Drive	
Spain	Family Plan	
Brazil	June Festival Kit Donation	
Brazil	Christmas Basket Donations	
Brazil	Baking Activity in a Guest House	
Brazil	Easter Donations	
Ecuador	South America Growth Project Foundation (Dos Corrientes)	
Germany	Supporting the Special Needs School in Landau	
Germany	Lauenburg Plant Partners with Ortsjugendring Lauenburg to Support Children	
United Kingdom	Earthquake Container Appeal	
Colombia	Connectivity and Road Development	

Inspiring our future

COUNTRY	INITIATIVE	UN SDG
Spain	Cycling Equipment Financing	
Italy	Theatre Performance Dedicated to Safety in Workplace	
Italy	Recycled Wooden Pallets, San Felice Sul Panaro North Italy	
Poland	Paper's Magic in Kindergarten in Białoleka	
Colombia	Delivery of the Playground and Elementary School Kits to the Educational Institution El Berracal	
France	"Ça Cartonne" Event	
Mexico	Design Contest in Collaboration with State University	
Mexico	International Education Day	
Spain	Apnabi - Teatreves	
Spain	Project United	
Brazil	"School Kit - Apae Pirapetinga"	
Germany	Shelter for Underprivileged Children	
Spain	Support for the Campaign "Disability Week and International Day of Persons with Disabilities"	
Spain	World Down Syndrome Day	
Spain	On-Line Training Disability	
Spain	Blind Eating: "The Essential Is Invisible to the Eye"	
Poland	Improvement of Energy Efficiency in the School and Kindergarten	

Protecting our planet

COUNTRY	INITIATIVE	UN SDG
Spain	Summer School "Burgos Acoge"	
Spain	Sponsorship at the University of Cordoba	

 SmurfitKappa

Foundation



We create, protect and care

Discover more about what motivates us all to create solutions that protect what we all care about.

www.smurfitkappa.com/purpose