



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME VIETNAM

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME MONGOLIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



“

It isn't just about mending bodies. It's about restoring people's independence, giving them a life, not just an existence. It's about respect and love and dignity. Those are the things we owe our children. Children are the ones who need them most of all.

- Christina Noble OBE -



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ABBREVIATIONS

CCH	City Children's Hospital
CH2	Children's Hospital Number 2
CSP	Child Sponsorship Programme
CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
MAP	Medical Assistance Programme
MEP	Medical Exchange Programme
USD	US Dollar
WHO	World Health Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund



OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

Mission: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect, and freedom from all forms of exploitation. We establish long-term relationships with the children we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich, and independent lives.

Values: Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are love, compassion, respect, honesty, and integrity.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME VIETNAM

ESTABLISHED	1999
LOCATION	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
OBJECTIVES	To provide children with complimentary and emergency medical care and make observations and recommendations based on medical examinations
BENEFICIARIES	Children from poverty-stricken backgrounds living in different provinces in the South East, Mekong River Delta, Central Highlands, Central Coast of Vietnam but travel to Ho Chi Minh City for medical treatments; Vietnamese paediatric doctors (mainly doctors at CH2)
LOCAL PARTNERS	Children's Hospital No. 2, Eye Hospital

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is responsible for the funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation of this programme

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Frequent monitoring and evaluation processes are conducted by the MAP team. Regular meetings with the families and the children are organised to follow up on the child's health and to offer additional support. Monthly meetings are held with local partners. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent to the Board of Management and an Annual Review of the programme is made available to all stakeholders. An annual evaluation is conducted at the end of the year that covers all areas of the programme implementation including human resources, finance, management, activities, database and future planning

2019 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$18,007

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2019

2020 OBJECTIVES

- To continue providing medical critical assistance and support to 60 children in need of financial assistance for medical treatment

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME MONGOLIA

ESTABLISHED	1997
LOCATION	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
OBJECTIVES	To provide children with complimentary and emergency medical care and to make observations and recommendations based on medical examinations
BENEFICIARIES	Children of CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village, Blue Skies Kindergarten, Child Sponsorship Programme and their relatives; CNCF staff and their families; and other children in need in the community
LOCAL PARTNERS	Songino Khairkhan District Medical Centre, Family Clinic of the Songino Khairkhan District, National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Central Laboratory for Tuberculosis, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is responsible for the funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation of this programme

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CNCF's Healthcare team closely monitors the health progress of each child and provides timely support when needed. Frequent internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme related issues and updates. Monthly reports are sent to the Director of Operations and an annual report is made available to all stakeholders

2019 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$32,195

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2019

2020 OBJECTIVES

- To continue providing children in need with quality healthcare and additional support for medical treatment

REPORT 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VIETNAM

In 2019, CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) continued to provide life-saving financial support to children living in poverty, in need of urgent medical care and treatments at our partner hospitals.

Since inception

 **2,325**
CHILDREN

have been supported by CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme

41 CHILDREN
received financial support for emergency surgeries and medical treatments



Throughout the year, CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme (MEP), a sub-project of the MAP continued to provide children with medical consultations and complex life-saving pediatric surgeries ordinarily unavailable in Vietnam.

Since inception

 **1,028**
CHILDREN

have been supported by CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme

In 2019

38 CHILDREN
received medical consultations. Among them, **26 CHILDREN** underwent surgical procedures conducted by international expert pediatric surgical teams



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MONGOLIA

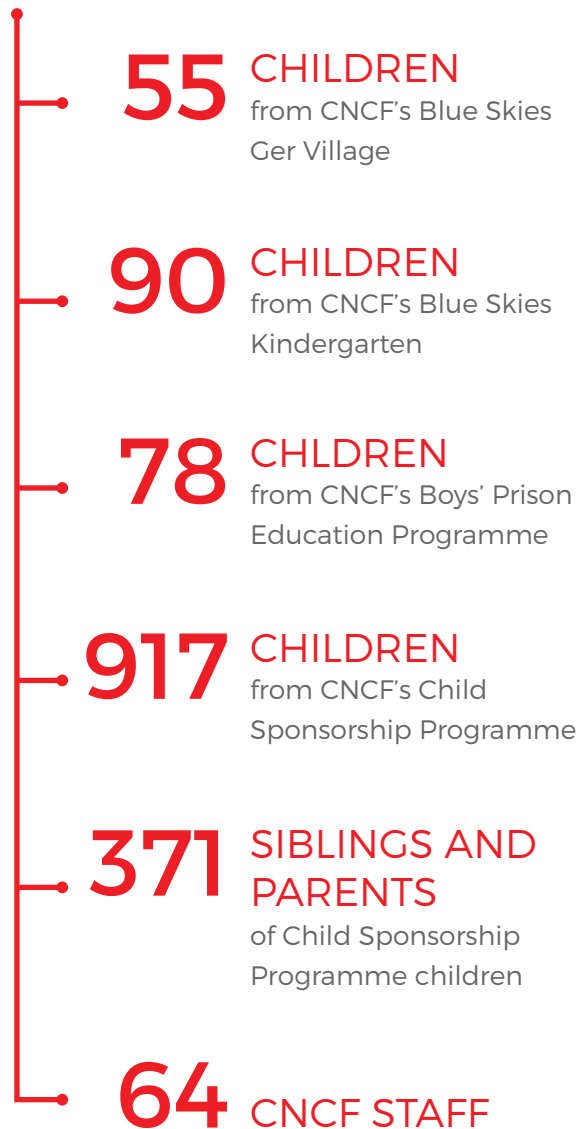
In 2019, CNCF's Healthcare Programme in Mongolia continued to provide medical care to children living at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village, children in CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme and their families, children attending CNCF's Blue Skies Day Care and CNCF staff.



Since inception
**OVER
8,600
PEOPLE**

have been assisted by CNCF's Healthcare Programme

1,575 CHILDREN AND ADULTS
benefitted from the Healthcare Programme





REPORT 2019

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Despite the steady progress in the improvement of public health in Vietnam and Mongolia, inadequate access to quality healthcare and medications remain a concern of many poverty-stricken children and families.

For low-income families, the high cost of health insurance and quality medical care often forces them to make difficult choices between their health and the financial wellbeing of their family. As a result, many children and families living in poverty would have no other option but to access unreliable low-standard healthcare services or even worse, to forgo medical treatments and endure significant and sometimes critical health issues due to the prohibitive cost of healthcare.

Many of the most impoverished families who lack official documents or paperwork, are also unable to obtain Social and Health Insurance thereby, leaving them with limited access to the state healthcare system benefits.

Fundamental to our philosophy is the belief that all children should have access to quality and timely healthcare. By ensuring that disadvantaged children regardless of their circumstances can obtain quality medical services when and where they need. CNCF's Healthcare Programmes enable the young people to continue their education and develop into healthy and happy individuals.



REPORT 2019

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

VIETNAM

In 1999, CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) grew out of necessity as a response to an urgent need for immediate financial assistance, enabling children from impoverished backgrounds to access medical care.

With the generous support of our donors and sponsors, the Medical Assistance Programme aims to provide financial support to children (up to age 16) whose families are unable to afford urgent medical care, empowering the young people to overcome challenges and develop into healthy adults.

The financial assistance is used to cover the costs of life-saving surgical procedures, post-operative care, basic medical treatment, social support and health insurance. Since its inception, CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme has supported 2,325 children with financial assistance to receive the medical attention and care they need.

In 2004, CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme (MEP) was established as a sub-project of the MAP, in partnership with Professor Martin Corbally, Operation ChildLife and the Royal College of

Surgeons in Ireland, with an aim to bring world-class medical expertise to Vietnam in the form of medical delegations that assess difficult medical cases, and perform surgeries that are otherwise unavailable in Vietnam. The programme also brings key local Vietnamese medical staff to Ireland for intensive surgical training that they can apply in their home hospitals. This programme encourages sustainable development and higher learning capabilities in the medical field in Vietnam in turn providing greater medical support to the local community.

The investment that CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme has made to bring highly acclaimed international surgical teams to Vietnam and build the capacity of dedicated Vietnamese surgeons and medical teams, has led to an enormous improvement in the quality healthcare services available and accessible to all Vietnamese children. Since inception, more than 1,028 children's cases have been consulted and of which, **535 children** received life-saving surgeries giving them another chance at life.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

VIETNAM

Referral & Selection

Children in need of financial support for life-saving medical treatments can be referred to CNCF through our partner hospitals, other CNCF's projects or charity clinics. An assessment is then conducted by our team to identify the eligibility of the children's families based on criteria such as the child's health conditions, the family's home circumstances and financial capacity. If the child's hospital costs are subsequently covered by donations made directly to the hospital or our assessment of the child's family's home circumstances does not match the eligibility criteria, the children are not eligible to enroll in the programme.

In 2019, **40 cases (98%)** supported by CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme were referred to us by Children's Hospital No. 2 (CH2) and **1 case (2%)** was referred through CNCF's Sunshine School.

Follow-up Visits

In-hospital visits are conducted by MAP staff to ensure that the children feel supported during their treatment and to monitor the children's health conditions. We also keep in close contact with the children's families via phone calls to provide timely support. If the child is required for regular checkups to ensure post-treatment remission, and for updates on recovery, our staff hold monthly follow-up appointments with the child and their family.

Home visits to a child's family are also organised by our staff after the child returns home. The visits are to verify the child's home circumstances provided in the initial stage of admission if needed and to identify further needs of the child to ensure their full recovery as well as to support the child's engagement in education.

Additional Support

In addition to the financial assistance, we provide the children and their families with essential donated items such as clothes, stationery, and other items essential to their education to facilitate the children's varied needs and support the development and pathways to education.

We aim to establish long-term relationships with the children and families we support and empower them to live happy, emotionally rich and independent lives. Counselling and advice on nutrition and healthcare are provided to children and their families to ensure good health and overall wellbeing.

The interaction with children and their families also enables us to have a better understanding of their daily lives as well as their concerns and challenges in order to provide timely support. The assistance includes referring the children to other CNCF projects such as the Education Scholarship Programme or Child Sponsorship Programme, enabling the children to continue their schooling.



Prof. Martin Corbally and M.D. Truc Thanh Nguyen and the team performing a complex surgery at Children's Hospital No.2

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Inadequate access to food, water, sanitation services, medication and quality healthcare remains the main concern in Mongolia's rural areas. In the cities, particularly the capital Ulaanbaatar and the surrounding ger districts, poor air quality is the most significant health risk factor. Immigration from the countryside to Ulaanbaatar also places tremendous stress on the capital's healthcare system as state hospitals are oversubscribed with waiting lists stretching months for many basic procedures.

CNCF's Healthcare Programme was established in 1997 with an aim to provide the children in our care and disadvantaged and at-risk children of Mongolia with complimentary and professional medical check-ups, treatments and emergency care.

Our children are treated on-site by CNCF paediatricians for all mild to moderate health conditions and are referred to a secondary or tertiary level hospital for diagnosis and treatment in cases of complex conditions. If a child requires emergency treatment, CNCF provides financial assistance that enables the child to receive treatment at a private clinic, not having to wait weeks or months to be seen at a state hospital. Thanks to our partnerships with local organisations, our children are often able to receive private check-ups and treatments at no cost or at a significantly reduced cost.

Since the programme's inception, CNCF's Healthcare Programme has supported over 8,600 children and their family members. We believe that enabling our children to build strong, healthy bodies is essential to giving them the best possible start to life.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Blue Skies Ger Village

CNCF believes that every child regardless of their circumstances can thrive if given the support and care they deserve. We work to provide children in need who come from marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds with nutritional support, supplements as well as health check-ups and specialised screenings, enabling them to reach their learning potential.

Upon receiving a child's information from the district social workers, our Ger Village Healthcare team organises an initial general health check-up for the child. As most children who come into our care at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village have grown up in unsanitary and squalid conditions, it is important that they all receive a full health check upon arrival so any existing health conditions can be addressed.

Our medical team conducts general health checkups and provides treatments for malnutrition, rickets, physical development challenges and severe dental issues, ensuring that the children always feel safe and comfortable.

In cases of complex health conditions, a child is referred to a paediatric specialist for specialised diagnosis and treatment. All children receive age-appropriate vaccinations and their health progress is closely monitored with regular check-ups.

Throughout the year, with the support of local hospitals, partners and volunteers, we organise regular specialist screenings and examinations. This year these check-ups included two ear, nose and throat screenings; an eye examination; a dermatology assessment; a dental examination; an internal organ examination and a kidney test.

Blue Skies Kindergarten

Children of CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten are enrolled in a healthcare scheme including regular health check-ups, screenings, nutritional support and supplements for healthy early childhood development.

Each child receives an initial examination conducted by our doctors upon their enrolment in the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Medical details are recorded for monitoring and treatments are provided for any existing conditions. A child is referred to a specialist hospital or clinic for further support if a health issue cannot be resolved on site.

All children from the kindergarten also receive check-ups from doctors who visit our village regularly throughout the year. In 2019, this included a full physical preventive care examination; ear, nose and throat (ENT) screenings; an eye examination; a ringworm test; a calcium level test; a bile pigment test and a dental assessment.

Child Sponsorship Programme

Most children in CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme (CSP) grow up in poverty and suffer from poor living standards with lack of necessities as basic as nutrition, safe and clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and healthcare. These deprivations, combined with the harsh winter climate and poor air quality, often put the impoverished children at high risks of vulnerability, poor health and life-threatening conditions.

During sponsorship distribution days, our Healthcare Programme Manager Dr. Bayaraa and Dr. Dashbal provide full health check-ups and consultations to the CSP children and their families at their request. Medicines to treat minor conditions and high-quality dietary supplements are also provided.

If our doctors are unable to provide the necessary support, we refer the child to one of the city's hospitals for specialised diagnosis and treatment. If the family incurs any additional costs, we offer financial support through our Special Assistance Fund or by contacting the child's sponsor.



CNCF's Nurse Dagva conducting a health check-up in the Blue Skies Ger Village Infirmary

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Boys' Prison Education Programme

CNCF doctors conducted two full health check-ups at the Boys' Prison this year. The first check-up covered general, ears, nose and throat, dental, eye and urology examinations, along with healthcare advice.

In partnership with the Bayanzurkh District's hospital and local hospital of Khonkhor, CNCF organised the second screening and health check-up which covered hepatitis B and C virus tests. The check-ups showed there were no major health concerns. However, the doctors recommended some of the boys take Vitamin D supplements to help improve their immune systems and support their cardiovascular and bone health.

Dental and hygiene awareness sessions were conducted by our doctors and teachers to provide the boys with necessary health knowledge.





REPORT 2019

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Health Training & Awareness Workshops

CNCF ensures our children receive necessary healthcare knowledge that facilitates a healthy development, improves their quality of life and overall wellbeing. In addition to providing medical assessments, diagnoses and treatments, our medical team facilitate regular workshops and health talks to provide our children with skills and knowledge on the importance of maintaining good health and healthy lifestyle, the benefits of regular exercise, a balanced and nutritious diet, reproductive health, physical development and first aid.

Our children are also empowered to form healthy habits such as regular morning exercise and good personal hygiene. Through learning these practices our young students are enabled to develop self-awareness and self-discipline, preparing them for further education.

During sponsorships distribution weekends, CNCF doctors also facilitate individual and group sharing sessions to CSP children, showing hygiene practices, raising awareness on prevention of infectious respiratory conditions and providing knowledge on the available complimentary healthcare services of the state hospitals.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Additional Support

As most of our children come from backgrounds of extreme adversity and often live in dilapidated gers, they are immensely vulnerable to poverty-related health conditions such as malnutrition, vitamin deficiency and respiratory conditions. It is important that CNCF provides wholesome and nutritious meals and essential health treatments. Children and their relatives who are deficient in vitamins are also provided with supplements to strengthen their immune system through prescription by our doctors.

Children who require emergency assistance for medical treatment or to undergo surgeries are supported by CNCF's Healthcare Programme. This year, 3 of our children underwent successful endoscopic, congenital ptosis, tympanoplasty and tonsillitis removal surgeries; 2 children received rehabilitation therapy and physiotherapy for social and physical development. Throughout the year, we also provided children in

need with nutrition support and medical supplies such as hearing aids and moisturising ointment and closely monitored each child's health progress in order to provide timely assistance.

Staff Healthcare

Ensuring a high quality of service is crucial to CNCF's programme delivery. As our staff look after the general wellbeing, safety and comfort of our children, it is important that CNCF staff members are provided with quality healthcare to ensure high quality care for the children. Each year, CNCF staff who work directly with children receive an annual general health check-up and take part in regular health trainings and seminars on a variety of topics including health evaluation and monitoring, child injury prevention, emotion management and sleep management.





REPORT 2019

GLOBAL STATISTICS

Quality healthcare is a human rights, and is crucial to the development and overall well-being of each individual. Despite the progress in achieving universal health coverage, access to essential health services remains a challenge to people living in poverty. Many poor families often face barriers to accessing crucial healthcare, which often burdens them with high medical costs they are unable to afford. The statistics below indicates an urgent need to improve health outcomes and to provide children and families who lack access to basic healthcare with timely services, enabling them to realise their potential as productive members of society.



At least **half the world's population** still lack access to essential health services ^[1]

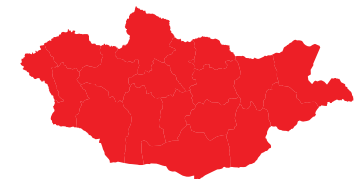
[1] WHO 2017
[2] [3] [4] & [5] UNICEF 2018

VIETNAM



- Under-five mortality rate is **21 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[2]
- Infant mortality rate is **16 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[3]

MONGOLIA



- Under-five mortality rate is **16 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[4]
- Infant mortality rate is **14 deaths per 1,000 live births** ^[5]

OUR YEAR

VIETNAM

Fundamental to our philosophy is the belief that all children regardless of backgrounds and circumstances should have adequate access to healthcare. CNCF's Medical Programmes aim to provide children in need of medical care with financial assistance, consultations and surgical treatments as well as additional support, enabling them to access timely and quality health services that were otherwise unavailable due to their families' financial hardship.

Medical Assistance Programme



90%

of referred cases were admitted to the programme



12 CHILDREN

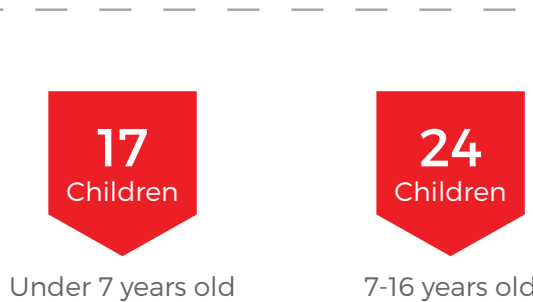
received further donations to aid their recovery



18 FAMILIES

received health guidance and counselling

41 CHILDREN received funding support for surgeries and treatments through CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme



40 CASES were referred by Children's Hospital No.2

01 CASE was referred by CNCF's Sunshine School

Medical Assistance Programme



03

DELEGATIONS OF PAEDIATRIC SURGEONS

from Ireland and Bahrain travelled to Vietnam and performed complex life-saving paediatric surgeries

38 CHILDREN received medical consultations

30 CHILDREN were treated for oncological conditions

08 CHILDREN were treated for cardiac conditions

26 CHILDREN underwent surgical procedures by overseas paediatric surgical teams

19 CHILDREN were treated for tumours and cancers

07 CHILDREN were treated for heart diseases



CNCF's Doctor Truc Thanh Nguyen conducting a health check-up in CNCF's Sunshine Social and Medical Centre



REPORT 2019

OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

We believe that quality healthcare inspires the well-rounded development of a child, empowering them to flourish into a healthy, educated and resilient member of their community. CNCF's Healthcare Programme ensures that our children receive the medical attention and support that enable our young people to focus on their education and embark on a fulfilling life ahead and eventually, break their cycle of poverty.

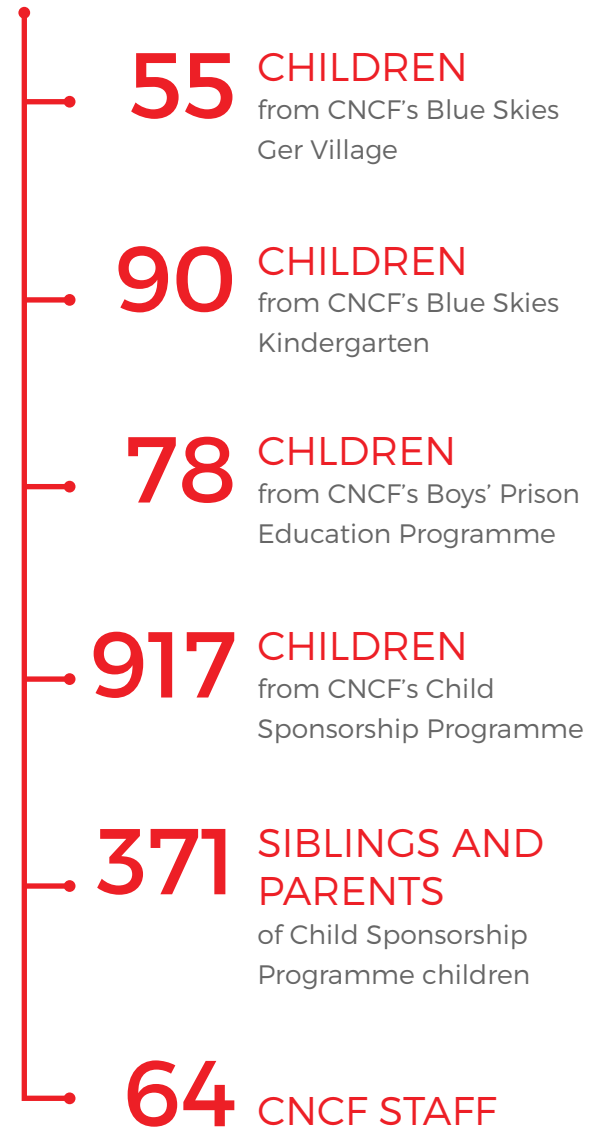


35,563
MEDICATIONS
were distributed



10
HEALTH TRAININGS
AND WORKSHOPS
were organised
for children

1,575 CHILDREN
AND ADULTS
benefitted from the Healthcare Programme



OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Blue Skies Ger Village



814 DROP-INS at the Ger Village infirmary from CNCF's Ger Village children, kindergarten children, their relatives and CNCF staff

 **51** CHILDREN received a 7-month supply of vitamin D

 **51** CHILDREN received a 6-month supply of multivitamins

	Tested/Examined	Required further treatment
Ringworm test	34 Children	01 Child
Urine calcium test	34 Children	10 Children
Bile pigment in urine test	34 Children	0
Ear, nose and throat examination	51 Children	10 Children
2nd Ear, nose and throat examination	10 Children under 7 years	02 Children
Eye examination	51 Children	0
Dental assessment	51 Children	30 Children
Blood test	45 Children	13 Children
Kidney test	49 Children	13 Children
Infectious disease (Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, syphilis and human immunodeficiency viruses) test	10 Children above 15 years	0
Body measurement	52 Children	0
2nd Body measurement	49 Children	0
Tuberculosis test	44 Children	0


OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Blue Skies Kindergarten

 **90** CHILDREN received a 3-month supply of vitamin D

 **67** CHILDREN received a 3-month supply of multivitamins

 **59** CHILDREN received full physical preventative care examination

 **21** CHILDREN were diagnosed with respiratory conditions and treated accordingly

	Tested/Examined	Required further treatment
Ringworm test	38 Children	01 Child
Urine calcium test	38 Children	0
Bile pigment in urine test	38 Children	0
Ear, nose and throat examination	56 Children	0
Dental assessment	39 Children	08 Children



OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Child Sponsorship Programme

CSP Children

31

Children

Under 6 years old

228

Children

6-10 years old

183

Children

16-18 years old

314

Children

11-15 years old

159

Children

19-24 years old

02

Children

Above 25 years old



1,484 HEALTH CHECK-UPS were conducted for CSP children



37 CHILDREN received a 3-month supply of multivitamins



746 CHILDREN required further check-up, treatment or close monitoring



213 CHILDREN were diagnosed with cold and flu



564 CHILDREN received a 3-month supply of vitamin D



52 CHILDREN were diagnosed with malnutrition



183 CHILDREN were diagnosed with dental conditions



21 CHILDREN were diagnosed with rickets



162 CHILDREN were diagnosed with ears, nose and throat conditions



15 CHILDREN were diagnosed with anaemia



77 HOME VISITS were made by CNCF doctors to children who are physically impaired or sick children and unable to attend in house appointments

OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Child Sponsorship Programme

CSP Children's Relatives

Age	Number of Relatives
Under 6 years old	92 relatives
6-10 years old	52 relatives
11-15 years old	39 relatives
16-18 years old	05 relatives
19-24 years old	07 relatives
Above 25 years old	176 relatives



749 HEALTH CHECK-UPS

were conducted for CSP children's relatives



480 FURTHER TREATMENTS

were required for relatives of CSP children



137 RELATIVES OF CSP CHILDREN

received a 3-month supply of vitamin D



298 RELATIVES OF CSP CHILDREN

received a 3-month supply of multivitamins



35 HOME VISITS

were made by CNCF doctor to children's relatives who are physically impaired or sick and unable to attend in house appointments

Boys' Prison Education Programme



59 CHILDREN

from the Boys' Prison received a 3-month supply of vitamin D



REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

A Life Transformed

Thanh* is a 3-year-old boy from a vulnerable family living in poverty in Hau Giang Province. Thanh's father is the sole breadwinner with his limited wages from washing motorcycles while his mother stays at home to look after Thanh and his ill elderly grandparents. The family's meager income is so unstable that Thanh's older brother had to drop out of school at the age of 12 years to work to support his family.

Thanh spent much of his early childhood in and out of the hospital. When Thanh was just 9 days old, he was diagnosed with Craniosynostosis and had to attend a follow-up appointment once every one to two months. The little boy's health steadily worsened that he was hospitalised twice at the age of 5 months and 17 months, but the doctors could not make any intervention as Thanh was too small to undergo an operation. Only when he was 21 months old did Thanh have his first operation, followed with a second surgery in March 2019.

Although some of Thanh's medical care was covered by national insurance, the family was still struggling to keep their heads above water. To cover the treatment costs for Thanh, his parents had to borrow money from their relatives, but it was merely not enough. The financial assistance provided by CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme (thanks to the support of BBGV) lessened the family's financial burden and enabled the family to cover the hospital costs while Thanh received the life-saving care he needed.

After 2 months of Thanh's recovery, his mother happily informed us that the little boy has fully recovered and attends monthly follow-up appointments. Thanh's mother expressed her sincere gratitude to CNCF and the donors for supporting Thanh's treatment and is extremely grateful for Thanh's quick recovery.

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

Igniting A Family's Hope

Since the age of 3, Ngoc* completely lost the ability to taste due to a horrifying accident of drinking lye water leaving Ngoc's oesophagus burnt and unable to function normally. From then on, Ngoc could not eat nor drink, whenever she ate, she would be sick immediately. Ngoc quickly started to suffer from malnourishment as a result. An operation was then carried out to insert a feeding tube through Ngoc's abdomen, ensuring the little girl could receive the nutrition needed for her growth. Throughout the years, Ngoc's parents would borrow money from relatives to take Ngoc to many hospitals with a hope that their daughter could get the treatment she needed. For 10 years, no doctor was able to perform the complex surgery Ngoc desperately needed. The family's hope was fading.

Seeing her peers in school would often leave Ngoc hopeless about her future. Tears would come streaming down her face every time she was injected with food. Little Ngoc's dream was to have a happy future, in which she was able to have a normal life, to be able to taste food again. For years, that dream never came true.

In 2004, the establishment of CNCF's Medical Exchange Partnership Programme led by Professor Martin Corbally and Surgical teams from the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, marked a turning point in Ngoc's life. Ngoc underwent a life-saving operation and after a decade of eating through a tube, Ngoc could finally chew and eat normally.

Understanding her family's difficult financial situation, CNCF also enrolled Ngoc in our Child Sponsorship Programme so she was able to go to school and receive an education she deserved. Now having a happy family of her own, Ngoc remains a member of CNCF family and often shares with us her achievements in life. "Without CNCF and the kind doctors, I cannot imagine how my life would be today, I am forever in debt to what they have done for me. Thank you very much."

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

Testimonial from Professor Martin Corbally

“Operation ChildLife (OCL) is most grateful for the continued partnership of the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation. This partnership has existed since 2004 and is part of a long-term commitment to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice at Children’s Hospital #2, HCMC.

All team members extended the level of complexity of surgery in both cardiac and cancer patients in Hospital #2. Through this engagement over 1,200 open heart procedures have been performed by the local surgical teams and more than 2,000 non-invasive cardiological procedures safely carried out. In addition, the local surgical teams have gained significant skill in the management of children with cancer and are skilled in the performance of complex liver, kidney and abdominal surgery.

Operation ChildLife, as a registered Irish Charity, works to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice. All members give their time and expertise freely and are committed to the delivery of safe and expert care. OCL is pleased to report sustained success in its engagement with Children’s Hospital #2 in both the medical and surgical treatment of children with congenital cardiac disease and cancer. It is our continued privilege to be in partnership with the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation.”

- Professor Martin Corbally -

Chairman and Head, Medical University of Bahrain-Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and Chief of Staff, King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain

REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

Testimonial from Dr. Truc Thanh Nguyen

"I greatly appreciate CNCF for the implementation of the Medical Exchange Programme and bringing overseas paediatric surgeons to perform complex surgeries which are unavailable in Vietnam. Many patients were suffering from severe and chronic conditions but thanks to this programme, they could recover fully. The Programme also provides doctors at the Children's Hospital No. 2 with opportunities to undertake practical training courses in Ireland which provide us with much valuable knowledge on treatment, care for patients and work ethics.

I hope that the Children's Hospital No. 2 will continue receiving professional support through CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme and that the doctors can have opportunities to be trained overseas and broaden knowledge, allowing us to provide our patients with the best quality of care. Thank you."

- Truc Thanh Nguyen, MD -

Paediatric Surgery Consultant, Paediatric Surgical Oncologist, and Vice Head of Day Surgery Department, Children's Hospital No. 2, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam





REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

A Child Thriving

*Melmii lived with his mother and her partner in extremely poor conditions who were highly dependent upon alcohol and would often neglect Melmii. Due to the family's financial difficulty, Melmii had no choice but to drop out of school and eventually run away from his abusive caregivers. Melmii then found shelter on the streets, until he came into our care at CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village, traumatised and scared.

The assessment conducted by CNCF doctors showed that Melmii was underdeveloped for a child his age with chronic knee pain and dental conditions. He could not walk nor run and rarely express himself. As a result of his harsh living conditions, Melmii was extremely vulnerable and suffered from severe childhood trauma which had negative impacts on his self-esteem and confidence. The little boy struggled to communicate and lost faith in the love and care of people around him.

With the constant psychological support from our psychologist, Melmii began to heal and adapt to the new life at the Village, but his knee joint condition continued to affect his quality of life. CNCF's Healthcare team then referred Melmii to the National Centre for Maternal and Child Health for specialised examinations and provided him with the needed support.

We could not be prouder to see Melmii has fully recovered from an intensive 6-week treatment of chronic tonsillitis and rheumatic fever. He can now walk, run and join other children at the Ger Village playing basketball and take part in a variety of sports activities. With the love and care from the teachers and his friends at the Ger Village, Melmii has flourished into a happy and healthy young boy full of hope and dreams. He loves to smile and bring joy to people around him. We believe that Melmii, with his determination, is well on his way of achieving further academic and professional achievements and becoming a productive member of his community.

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

Testimonial from a Parent

"My name is Suren* and I live with my daughter Chimeg* and my younger siblings who are unable to work. As my mother left me and my siblings when we were young and my father passed away, I become the primary caregiver of five of my siblings. I also single-handedly raise my children. I work hard every day, at every time I could, to provide my family with comfort and safety, but my meagre income is just not enough to put food on the table. The harsh reality sadly led to the lost of Chimeg's brother due to severe malnourishment a few years ago. The sorrow is still with me, even until today.

I promised myself that I would never let my family go hungry or be sick again, but life was immensely hard for us. My daughter's health was worsening and I was devastated to know I could not help her get better. Treatment for Chimeg was merely beyond my reach. Fortunately, I was informed about CNCF in 2019 and immediately reached out for medical support. The day my daughter was accepted into CNCF's Healthcare Programme was life-changing, not only for Chimeg but for my entire family.

My daughter was diagnosed with rickets, malnutrition and premature lungs by the Foundation's doctors. She suffered negative health impacts from the extremely poor living conditions, resulting in a reduced growth rate in her development. The Healthcare team then monitored my child closely and provided treatments for her conditions as well as supplements for her recovery. In addition to providing healthcare, CNCF has also been incredibly helpful to us through their social support.

It was pure happiness to see my daughter completely recover and walking towards me saying 'Mama'. We are very grateful for the quality care and treatment that CNCF provided to our family. I would like to send my sincere appreciation for everything that CNCF is doing for people like us. Thank you for being our lifeline."

- Mother of a Healthcare Programme Child -

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2019

OUR STORIES

Testimonial from a Child

"My name is Yargui* and I am 16 years old. I've been enrolled in CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme since 2004. Both of my parents abandoned me when I was young, so I had to live on the streets until a kind woman found and took care of me. I later was reunited with my aunt and have been living with her family since then.

My health was not always great. I would often have sore throat that made it very painful for me to eat. My hearing was also affected. I could not hear clearly and therefore, I could not communicate with my friends and teachers at school. I could not express myself. I kept it inside and did not tell my aunt about my worsened health. Even if I had told my family, I could not have received the treatment needed due to our financial difficulties. I was hopeless of a happy and healthy future.

It was the CNCF social workers and doctor that encouraged and gave me hope of a treatment. With the support of CNCF's Healthcare Programme, I was referred to the state hospital for diagnosis and treatment. Then, I was diagnosed with chronic tonsillitis and a ruptured eardrum in both ears. In order to undergo the surgeries, I was prescribed with anti-inflammation and anti-bacterial therapy for almost a year. During the time, I received constant encouragement from CNCF doctor Bayaraa and my social workers. I never felt alone.

Now, I am very delighted that the surgeries went successfully and I have fully recovered. I can hear well and develop social skills every day and have become much more confident. If it was not for the support from CNCF, I could not have grown into who I am today. CNCF provided me with all the necessary treatment before and after the surgery. Seeing CNCF's doctor visit me in the hospital was a source of encouragement for my recovery, knowing that the Foundation is always there for me.

Doctor Bayaraa always motivates me in my studies and give me extremely helpful health advice. I feel very comfortable sharing with the CNCF staff. They truly understand and care for me as their own daughter. I believe that this is a new chapter of my life, a much happier chapter. I appreciate CNCF's support from the bottom of my heart. Thank you very much, Christina Noble Children's Foundation."

- A Healthcare Programme Child -

*Names and identities changed to protect privacy

REPORT 2019

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The operational cost of the Medical Assistance Programme Vietnam was:

USD \$18,007

The operational cost of the Healthcare Programme Mongolia was:

USD \$32,195

Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

Audit in progress at time of reporting.
Our audits can be found at:
www.cncf.org/finance-policies/



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME VIETNAM EXPENDITURES IN 2019

Description	Expenditure 2019
Children treatment cost	9,798
Postage expenses	11
Travel costs	56
Staff salaries	8,018
Others	124
TOTAL COST	18,007

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME MONGOLIA EXPENDITURES IN 2019

Description	Expenditure 2019
Medicine & vitamins	2,132
Emergency healthcare	375
Staff salaries (6 staff)	23,940
Social insurance	2,533
Staff health check	152
Seminars and staff related expenses	259
Firewood & coal	657
Electricity	618
Equipment & supplies	140
Repair & maintenance	700
Others	689
TOTAL COST	32,195



REPORT 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following for their generosity and support of CNCF's Medical Assistance & Medical Exchange Programme in Vietnam and Healthcare Programme in Mongolia in 2019.

Thank you to our long-term supporter and donor the **British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV)** who have so very generously supported CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme since 2001. We remain deeply grateful to the BBGV and we are proud to partner with them over the years on this life-saving programme.

CNCF are proud of our partnerships and remain indebted to medical team leader **Professor Martin Corbally** who we have partnered with since 2004 and medical teams from **Operation Childlife, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI)** and **RCSI Bahrain**. We are also very grateful to the following medical personnel who accompanied Prof Corbally and supported the programme in bringing complex paediatric surgeries to Vietnam in 2019: **Professor Martin Thomas Corbally, Professor John Mark Ryan, Professor John Mark Redmond, Dr. Paul Oslizlok, Dr. Brendan O'Hare, Dr. Patricia Anne Eadie, Dr. Ramesh Sandeep Kutty, Dr. Khadija Adel Mohamed Abuhassan, Dr. Hind Mustafa Bastawi Zaidan, Dr. Abeer Malalla Ismaeel Farhan and Ms. Marie Kathleen Moyles (Nurse)**.

Thank you also our local partners in Vietnam, **Children's Hospital No.2 and HCM City Eye Hospital, Hospital of Tropical Diseases, and City Children's Hospital** all located in HCM City, and in Mongolia, **Songino Khairkhan District Medical Centre, Family Clinic of the Songino Khairkhan District, National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Central Laboratory for Tuberculosis and Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences**, who make it possible for CNCF to implement the programme successfully.



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