



BOYS' PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAMME MONGOLIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



66

When I saw the amount of young men who were homeless and living in poverty, entering the prison system for petty crimes, I knew immediately how they felt. Living on the streets myself as a child I understood their pain and need for survival. I wanted to give them access to education and training while in prison so they could use their time there to heal and grow through the support of CNCF. I am so proud of all the young men that exit the prison system with qualifications and filled with hope for their future.

- Christina Noble OBE -



2

APPENDIX

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES	
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION	
GLOBAL STATISTICS	
OUR YEAR	
OUR STORIES	
Realising A Passion For The Arts	
Thank You For Believing In Us	
Parent Testimonial	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	

ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF Christina Noble Children's Foundation





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.

REPORT 2019

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

ESTABLISHED	1997
LOCATION	Public school number 110, Bayanzurkh District, Khonkhor Urtuu
OBJECTIVES	To provide the facilities, services, guidance and care that support edu- cational and emotional development of children and young adults while in prison, enabling them to achieve the necessary qualifications and skills to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty once they are released
BENEFICIARIES	Children and young adult serving a prison sentence at the Ulaanbaatar Brigade 411 boys' prison
LOCAL PARTNERS	General Court of Mongolia, Asral NGO Centre – ON the felt crafts, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Sports

CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is fully responsible for funding, implementation and management of the education programme including vocational and life skills training

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regular meetings with the Director of Operations are held for project discussion. Government inspections are conducted by the National Authority for Children and the National Inspection Agency. Monthly reports are provided and an annual report is sent to all stakeholders

ACTUAL COST 2019

USD \$23,487

REPORTING PERIOD

2020 OBJECTIVES

January - December 2019

To double the amount of students that attend the vocational training sessions

To support the integration of young boys into society after their release from prison, through providing community support and education

REPORT 2019 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Boys' Prison Education Programme continued to provide facilities, services, guidance and care to support the educational and emotional development of students in prison, enabling them to achieve the necessary qualifications and skills to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty once they are released.

This year, we successfully secured funding from the Australian Embassy in Mongolia expand our bakery vocational training space.

In 2020, we plan to increase the number of attendees in the vocational training programme by double. We endeavor to support positive community integration after the students are released through providing adequate support and education.

In 2019 78 YOUNG PEOPLE entered the prison

63 STUDENTS attended curriculum-based schooling

48 STUDENTS left the prison

30 STUDENTS remained in prison at the end of 2019

15 STUDENTS

took the National Education Exam in June 2019 and successfully passed

02 STUDENTS graduated from Middle School

02 STUDENTS graduated from High School

2 STUDENTS

took the university entrance exams whilst in prison and passed



The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) has played a central role in pioneering reform in Mongolia's juvenile detention system, leading to a fundamental change in the way the nation's young offenders are perceived.

Soon after arriving in Mongolia for the first time in 1997, Christina Noble worked relentlessly and tirelessly alongside key forward-thinking members of the government and spearheaded the creation of Official School 110 within the walls of Ulaanbaatar's Boys' Prison, which changed its name to the Rehabilitation Centre for Youth in 2017. Since the name change, young girls have been referred to the Rehabilitation Centre for Youth starting from 2018. In 2019, CNCF supported two girls through our Prison Education Programme. This was a monumental achievement that marked the fundamental shift of a penal system that had previously existed to punish and condemn to a more empowering and progressive system of education and rehabilitation.

The Boys' Prison Education Programme provides the students in prison, whose majority have committed poverty-related petty theft crimes with quality education and qualifications. For many of these children, it is often the only time in their lives that they have received consistent schooling and been supported, believed in and guided by kind and positive adults.



National Curriculum Education

Many of the boys arriving at the prison have either had no prior schooling, attended infrequently, or dropped out of school due to disadvantaged life circumstances, resulting in a lack of basic academic comprehension and communication skills. It is essential to provide these children with access to life-changing education and the opportunities that they deserve for a sustainable future.

The 110th public school follows the Ministry of Education's curriculum covering English, Mongolian, Mongolian Literature, traditional Mongolian writing, Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Sociology and Russian.

Each student is assigned to a national grade level, allowing them to begin or resume their education. Grade levels are grouped into three stages of education: elementary/primary school, middle school and high school. All students receive acknowledgement of completion at each grade level and are awarded a Certificate of Graduation when they complete 5th, 9th, and 12th grades, marking the accomplishment of elementary, middle and high school education. Grade level is determined based on several criteria:

- Grade level at the time of dropping out
- Number of years without consistent education
- Proficiency tests designed to establish knowledge, skills, ability and interest level

The boys take monthly tests to support their studies, allowing them to get accustomed to the examination process. Quarterly assessments are also conducted to determine students' learning progress and challenges. At the end of the academic year, the students take General Education Exams set by the Ministry of Education and Science for eligibility to move up to the next grade.



"I am honoured to be part of changing the lives of many young people in the Prison. My job enables me to see the world through the eyes of the children and have a better understanding of their experiences, which inspires me everyday. It is always a rewarding journey for me to see how the boys have grown into such independent, confident and determined individuals who are full of hope for the future."

- Teacher of the Boys' Prison

CNCF's teacher and students during a Sociology class



Bakery Vocational Training

Delivered by our Foundation's baker, Delgermaa Enebish, the bakery training equips students with baking skills and essential life skills such as concentration, patience, planning and problem-solving. After completing 60 hours of practical training and 20 hours of theoretical training, each student is awarded with a vocational certificate. The boys are often surprised by how much they enjoy the sessions and are always happy to share what they make with the prison staff, their family members and visitors.

Since its establishment, 366 boys have graduated from the bakery training. Many students who develop a particular passion for the subject use their knowledge and skills assisting in the prison kitchen and pursue a professional baking career after leaving the prison.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

English Class

CNCF believes in the transformative and universal power of language in communication, life quality and education in today's society and our children's future. English lessons are mandatory for every child starting in sixth grade. The students are divided into four groups based on their grade level and participate in up to five 45-minute classes a week. The boys enjoy learning English and quickly develop their language skills with consistent practice. This class plays a significant role in broadening the future employment opportunities for our young people.



Art Class

Each week, two 3-hour art lessons are facilitated at the Boys' Prison by professional artist Altansukh Purevdorj. Besides strengthening painting and drawing techniques, the art lessons support the boys in building confidence, improving interpersonal skills as well as fostering the ability of self-expression.

For many of the boys, art is an entirely new experience, and it is important to start with simple techniques and concepts. Once the boys gain a basic understanding, coloured pencils and paints are introduced. As they open up creatively and learn to express their thoughts and feelings through art, the boys develop a greater sense of self-belief and pride, contributing to significant improvements in their attitudes and social interactions.

Music Class

One of CNCF's core beliefs is music has the unique ability to heal the soul and inspire positive emotions. To our Founder Christina Noble, the magical and reviving capabilities of music were her only forms of escape and connection to a world beyond her horrific daily reality.

In March 2018, we extended our musical activities to the boys' prison where the boys can now attend ukulele, guitar, and singing lessons two afternoons a week. The music lessons support the boys in social development, foster greater trust and cooperation and enable the students to cultivate self-confidence, patience and discipline through commitment and consistent practice.





Healthcare

As part of our Healthcare Programme, our 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, we organised the second main 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 and staff members at the prison with necessary health knowledge.

Education Scholarship Programme for Former Boys' Prison Students

Recognising the importance of education in a child's future career prospects, CNCF's Education Scholarship Fund was provided to the young people at the Boys' Prison to give children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are incarcerated the opportunity to pursue higher education. Many ambitious, talented, and motivated young people who would have otherwise been partially or completely disengaged from the education system, have been able to develop their skills and interests to become qualified, educated, and leading members of Mongolian society.

This year, 2 of the students in the Boys' Prison successfully passed their university entrance exams. One of the boys is studying at the University of Science and Technology majoring in Civil Construction and has been receiving support from the Education Scholarship Programme to help cover tuition fees and remain in the education system. With support from our teachers, the other student applied for a government scholarship and was successful in his application.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Noble Club

The Noble Club is a community service group made up of young people ages 16 and above who are currently or formerly enrolled in CNCF's programmes. Established in May 2018, the club presently has 244 members. Of these, 4 current members are former Boys' Prison students. The club has played a particularly important role in their successful integration into society where they make new friends who inspire and uplift them, enabling the development of their confidence and sense of self-worth.

The purpose of the club is to give back to the community and contribute to the development of Mongolia. Club members are able to develop essential life skills such as leadership, problem solving, creative thinking, communication and empathy. The Noble club focuses on three areas: personal development, public health and education and organising activities to support CNCF, club members and the community.

Personal Development Training

CNCF ensures that every child is given the tools and platforms to nurture character and social and interpersonal skills. Many of the boys who arrive at the boys' prison come from impoverished backgrounds backgrounds and have not been provided with the adequate support and opportunities for growth personally, academically or professionally. It is therefore important that we seek to accomplish our goals of laying a strong foundation for the boys to develop in prison and thrive upon their release.

Personal development courses play an essential role in this process, complimenting their academic schooling with activities and seminars to further improve their employability and enrich their lives. Through training sessions, the students form positive habits and gain self-belief, strength of character and practical skills, allowing them to reintegrate successfully.

This year, the boys participated in varied training sessions on psychological development, positive character, physical development, personal hygiene and resume enhancement. A two-day workshop was also organised in collaboration with the Policy Research Centre. The topics included Vision and Mission in Life, Goal Setting and Achieving, Integrity and Emotional Intelligence and Essential Skill Set.



Events & Activities

A vast majority of the students at the boys' prison had been denied the rights to engage in social activities and learning opportunities. One of CNCF's philosophies is our belief in the positive power of social activities and interaction towards a child's wellbeing and development. Giving our children opportunities to take part in social activities and practice their skills enables them to grow into curious, creative, healthy, and happy adults.

Children's Day Celebration

To celebrate International Children's Day, a celebration was organised at the prison, which included music, dance, singing and poetry performances by the boys and heart-warming speeches from the prison staff, CNCF Director of Operations and some of the students. The students also baked delicious cakes and proudly showcased their artworks and achievements to visitors.

The event was attended by the boys' families and friends, CNCF staff, the prison staff, and members of our government partners, empowering these young men to become valued and respected members of society and build a strong foundation for their future.



Events & Activities

New Year's Celebration

A New Year's celebration was held for the students, their close relatives, and the prison staff, to come together and reflect on the boys' achievements throughout the year. All of the boys received New Year's presents, certificates and other gifts to congratulate them on their progress. A small concert was hosted by the boys to showcase their talents and a special holiday dinner was served to bring in the New Year with full stomachs, luck and happiness.

Graduation Ceremony

Each year, a graduation ceremony is held to celebrate the achievements of our students at the boys' prison upon completing primary, secondary, or high school education and to present them with their official Certificate of Graduation.

We are all incredibly proud of these young men, who through their hard work and commitment combined with the support of our education teams, have managed to achieve something that many of them would have once thought impossible.





Events & Activities

School Opening Ceremony

In September, at the beginning of the academic year, we organise a school opening ceremony to wish the boys lots of success and happiness for the year ahead with the attendance of their families, friends, the prison employees and CNCF staff. Educational supplies such as bags, pencil cases, and books are given to each student during the event.

The uniqueness of this year's ceremony was Mongolian President Battulga Khaltmaa broadcasted educational videos of the Khalkh Gol War to all the children in Mongolia, celebrating the 80th year anniversary of the victory.

Origami Exhibition

The Origame Bird Exhibition was held at the biggest shopping mall in Mongolia. All the children of Mongolian were encouraged to attend students form the Boys' Prison submitted 10 of their own pieces of artwork to the exhibition and entered into the Origami competition. One of the boys won the competition for Best Artwork. The prize was a piano which he now shares with all the boys' at the prison.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Events & Activities

Writing Competitions

With the support of our education teams, the students at the boys' prison take part in a variety of writing competitions throughout the year. These experiences enable them to push boundaries, discover new capabilities, and develop social and academic skills. It also cultivates excitement for learning and growth.

The competitions included:

Our Heart Companion

Our students took part in the national Our Heart Companion competition where the boys submitted an essay under the title 'I Have Something To Say'. One of the boys won 2nd place and received a certificate of honour, and another one of our students was awarded 4th place.

Hand Writing Competition

The boys' prison education team organised a hand-writing competition to help cultivate the students' writing skills, focus and attention to detail. The students took part in regular practice sessions for four weeks before the event.





Events & Activities

Boys' Prison Art Exhibition

In November, an art exhibition was arranged at the boys' prison to acknowledge the students' achievements. The artworks ranged from black and white pencil drawings to bright abstract paintings. Families, friends, CNCF team members, government officials and local organisations attended the event, which was both a celebration of the boys' artistic accomplishments and a valuable opportunity to promote the excellent service the prison is providing.

Art Auction at CNCF's 30th Anniversary Celebration.

An auction was held at CNCF's 30th Anniversary Celebration that took place in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. 10 special pieces of artwork made by students at the boys' prison were submitted to this auction. All of the paintings quickly impressed the guests who purchased these paintings. Many of these beautiful paintings have travelled all around the world to the home of the guests. It was a proud moment to see and recognise our students' artistic expressions of their inner worlds, many of whom have grown up in extremely disadvantaged backgrounds never having experienced any creative stimulation or exposure to the arts. The boys' were very proud to be a part of the celebration.



Events & Activities

Chinese International School Visit

Students and teachers from the Chinese International School (CIS), Hong Kong, visited the prison to spend an afternoon playing basketball and creating artworks with the boys. The day also involved a special performance by the boys and CIS students. The visit was a learning opportunity for all of the children, who despite coming from diverse backgrounds and speaking different languages, were able to connect through creativity.

Film Screening

We ensure that the boys are provided with a variety of educational and developmental activities and exposed to diverse learning topics. These experiences assist the boys in growing as an individual and expand their knowledge. This year two volunteers organised a film screening at the Boys' Prison where the children watched an inspirational cartoon movie, followed with a discussion session. It was informative for the boys as well as the volunteers to reflect on social change.



GLOBAL STATISTICS

Poverty along with domestic violence, abandonment and financial hardship remain some of the factors forcing children and young adults into homelessness, living on the streets. This often leads to an increase in petty crimes and potentially violence. For first time offences and minor charges, children in Mongolia often face harsh sentences. It is therefore important to provide these young people whom had been deprived of a safe living environment with opportunities for holistic growth and access to an education, life skills and opportunities while they are in prison to equip them with the necessary skills for successful integration into the community.

Mongolia

On July 5, 2018, a change in criminal law in Mongolia resulted in a significant increase in the number of boys sent to prison. The old law excused first-time offenders, but now anyone who commits a crime receives a sentence.



- **28.4%** of the population live in poverty. ⁿ¹
- Crimes involving juveniles have significantly increased from 733 in 1991 to 1,080 in 2008.^[2]
- Children below 18 years old take up
 6.9% of the number of individuals sentenced for crimes from 2007-2015.^[3]

[1] World Bank 2018

[2] United Nations Children's Fund [3] National Statistics Office, 2010, 2013 & 2015

OUR YEAR

CNCF recognises the crucial role of education to a child's development and future career. As many young people enter the juvenile justice system with significant educational deficits, the Boys' Prison Education Programme provides the students access to a quality education and vocational classes. These include life skills-based training, arts and music classes and health services for healthy physical, emotional and psychological development, enabling them to successfully make the transition to become active members of the society.

In 2019 **76** & O2 BOYS CIRLS entered the prison **48** STUDENTS left the prison **11** STUDENTS were transferred to an adult prison **377** STUDENTS completed their sentence and were released





16 Students Middle School (Grades 6-9)

> **15** Students

Didn't attend school while they were in prison as they had either already finished high school/vocational training, or they were only there for a short period. However, these boys took part in our extracurricular activities STUDENTS were in prison by the end of 2019

Ages	Number of Students
14	1
15	7
16	8
17	10
18	2
19	1
20	1

Academic Levels



OUR YEAR

Education

In June there is a National Education Exam which determines whether the student can move up to the next Grade. **15 boys**, who were in prison at the time were able to take the exam. All **15 students** passed the exam and were able to move up to the next grade.



In 2019 **63** STUDENTS attended curriculum-based schooling

Grades	Number of Students
1	4
2	0
3	2
4	0
5	4
6	0
7	4
8	6
9	6
10	18
11	14
12	5



REPORT 2019 OUR YEAR

Education

By the end of 2019 **STUDENTS** attended curriculum-based schooling

Grades	Number of Students
1	1
2	0
3	1
4	0
5	1
6	0
7	2
8	5
9	4
10	10
11	2
12	3



53 STUDENTS attended English classes



6 STUDENTS attended Art classes

	43
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STUDENTS attended Music classes



STUDENTS received bakery vocational training certificates



65 STUDENTS

attended personal development courses organised in collaboration with the Policy Research Centre

Healthcare

27 STUDENTS received health check-ups by doctors from CNCF and Boys' Prison

STUDENTS received a 3-month supply of vitamin D supplements



OUR STORIES

Realising A Passion For The Arts

Bayar^{*} lost both of his parents at a young age and lived with his sister. He grew up on the streets forced to sell gum and cigarettes to provide for him and his sister and rarely went to school. When Bayar first arrived at the prison, he would isolate himself. He didn't believe in education and showed a lot of resistance to learning in the classroom. To build trust with the staff and to support Bayar in his journey through learning, we enrolled Bayar in mandatory classes apart from the extracurricular activities. Our approach was to give him the time and space to get accustomed to the new routines and environment.

Bayar began building friendships with his classmates as they often shared their enjoyment at the after-school programme. A few months later, Bayar began to make great progress, he took part in art activities and attend classes more frequently. As Bayar said "I could talk to my artwork and release my feelings through it", he has made significant progress in art class, painting and conveying his emotions through paintings. He also began to heal from the trauma of his childhood. Bayar is now continuing to develop his art skills and wants to follow his passion of becoming an artist and establish a life that he often draws.

*Names and Identities changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

Thank You For Believing In Us

"I don't recall much of my childhood, but I do remember being in an environment where there was constant crying and fighting between my father and mother. My father eventually left us and my mother remarried to a man who treated us badly. I began to make friends with children who shared the same challenges as me. I ran away from home and been away for two years when I arrived at the prison in May 2019. my thinking is very different now to when I first arrived at the prison. This place has changed me into a new person, one with dedication, passion and dreams for my life. My teachers at the prison make me feel safe and help me realise a lot of important aspects of life that I was missing. Baking is something very special to me. It doesn't only require skills and knowledge to bake, but a heart and concentration to make delicious treats. I learn about discipline and follow instructions carefully to create artistic products with pride. 'You were new to backing when you first arrived, and now you are turning into a professional' – my teacher said.

This year, I had the opportunity to bake for the New Year's celebration. I was proud to contribute my skills and passion for baking. When I get released, I plan to move to the capital city of Mongolia to study and become a pastery chef. With the support from CNCF's Education Scholarship Programme and the Mongolian government to cover my tuition fees, I believe that I will pass the college entrance exam and study with dedication to build a life that my mother will be proud of. I truly want to express my sincere appreciation to CNCF for believing in us, building strength in us, holding us when we fall and changing my life."

*Identities changed to protect privacy





OUR STORIES

Testimonial From A Parent

"My daughter is one of the first girls who has been sent to the Boys' Prison since it's been transformed into Rehabilitation Centre for Youth. My daughter has gone through a lot with me and as a consequence of our life circumstances, she was sent to a prison. I did not know what it was like to be in prison, how they would treat my little girl and what her future would be like after imprisonment. That was my biggest fear. I was aware of the school running in the prison but I did not know that they would offer arts and music activities that help young people to heal and build strength. When I saw my daughter for the first time after two months of her sentence, I was surprised that she was so calm, happy and her behaviours had totally changed. She gave me the most beautiful piece of artwork that she had painted and told me that there would be a beautiful future for us. I have also heard that she has been awarded third place in an art competition in the district and she was doing well academically. I am so glad that such activities are available for young adults to support their psychological stability. Thank you to all of the staff at CNCF and I appreciate the support that you are giving to many young adults and for being there for them at the hardest time of their lives."

*Identities changed to protect privacy



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By donating to our Youth' Prison Education Programme, you are providing the girls, boys and young men access to the quality education and qualifications they need to build a brighter future. The young people also learn essential skills that lay a strong foundation for their lives when they are released and increase the chances of successful reintegration into society.

We take this opportunity to say a special thank you to the Boys' Prison Governor, Tamir Batbileg, for his dedicated service at the prison.

We would also like to express our special gratitude to the Australian Embassy in Mongolia for their support in the funding of the vocational classroom. With your support, we are able to continue providing educational support in a new space with fully functional vocational training equipment.

Heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to our donors **Accor Hotels** and the **Chinese International School** for funding this project and providing a safe and supportive environment for the children in our care.

Thank you to the many kind individuals not mentioned for their additional support in ensuring our children receive the care and support they truly deserve and thus remaining true to our Founder's philosophy.

REPORT 2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Boys' Prison Education Programme in 2019 is

USD \$23,487

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/



BOYS' PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES IN 2019

Description	Expenditure 2019
Clothing for Students	1,457
Stationary and amenities for students	556
Student training expenses	335
Decoration and food item costs for events	662
Transportation costs	150
Staff salaries	17,592
Social Insurance	1,689
Staff training expenses	244
Office supplies	433
School furniture	195 ·
Miscellaneous / Others	175
TOTAL COST	23,487



For more information on this report and our CNCF projects in Mongolia please contact:

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