



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME VIETNAM



“

The most important way to get something done is to make it happen with peace, dignity and unconditional love.”

- Christina Noble OBE -





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## ABBREVIATIONS

BSP	Bicycle Support Programme
CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
ESP	Education Scholarship Programme
CSP	Child Sponsorship Programme
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
USD	US Dollar







# 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 (CNCF) is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child is an individual who deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of abuse and 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

<b>ESTABLISHED</b>	2004
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Ben Tre, Hau Giang and Can Gio provinces
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	To provide disadvantaged children with a bicycle, thereby increasing the child's class attendance and safety during the commute to and from school as well as improving their family's economic outcomes by reducing transportation costs
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	Children from poverty-stricken backgrounds, who live significantly far from their school and are in need of a reliable means of transportation to and from school. Children of other CNCF's Programmes including the Child Sponsorship Programme and Sunshine School are also enrolled in the programme
<b>LOCAL PARTNERS</b>	Provincial local partners including the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA)

## CNCF ACCOUNTABILITY

CNCF is entirely responsible for funding, management, monitoring and evaluation

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Bicycle Support Programme Coordinator works to identify children most in need of bicycles through referrals from our local partners and consultations with children within our programmes. CNCF staff also follow up with all recipients after one year to evaluate the impact on the child and family and review the condition of the bicycle and helmet. Monitoring visits are conducted, and internal staff meetings are held weekly for the Project Management team to discuss programme related issues and updates. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent to CNCF Board of Management, and an Annual Review of the programme is made available to all stakeholders

## 2020 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$8,241

## REPORTING PERIOD

January – December 2020

## 2021 OBJECTIVES

- To increase the number of bicycle kits provided to disadvantaged children
- To expand the programme reach to the remote and rural provinces and hard-to-reach communes



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, CNCF's Bicycle Support Programme continued to provide disadvantaged children from impoverished backgrounds with bicycles and safety equipment that allows them to get to and from school safely. All bicycle distributions were conducted with strict safety measures in place when COVID-19 government movement restrictions were lifted. The provision of the bicycles has enabled many disadvantaged children who were at high risk of educational disengagement to remain in school.

In 2021, CNCF aims to increase the number of bicycles distributed and expand the programme's reach to support the children and young adults living in destitute, rural provinces and hard-to-reach communes.



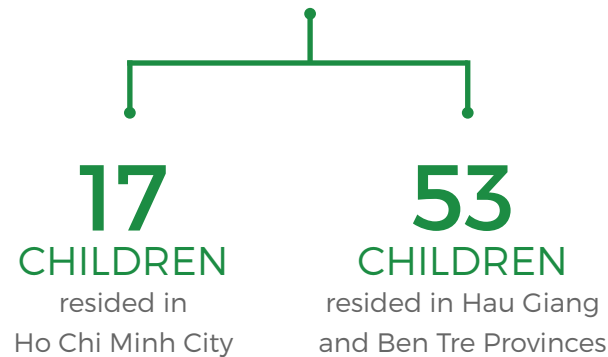
Since inception  
**2,015**  
BICYCLES

have been distributed to children in need, providing the students with safe transportation to and from school and in doing so, furthering their education and alleviating financial burdens of families.



In 2020  
**70**  
BICYCLES

were distributed to children at-risk of dropping out of school due to the lack of reliable transportation



**70** HELMETS  
were also distributed,  
1 to each child

**06** BICYCLE  
DISTRIBUTION DAYS  
were organised

**ALL CHILDREN**  
were provided with road safety knowledge





# OUR YEAR

CNCF's Bicycle Support Programme provides our children and young adults with not only a safe and reliable means of transportation to and from school, but an essential tool that enables the continuation of a child's education. A bicycle also plays an important role in improving a family's economic outcomes by alleviating transportation expenses and empowering the parents and guardians to seek and engage in secure and sustainable employment.



## 70

### BICYCLES KITS

were distributed to children in need. Each child received a kit which included a high-quality bicycle and helmet through the Bicycle Support Programme

## 50

**BICYCLES**  
were provided to  
children in Hau Giang Province

## 17

**BICYCLES**  
were provided to  
children in Ho Chi Minh City

## 03

**BICYCLES**  
were provided to  
children in Ben Tre Province

## Demographic Data

The average commute distance from the children's home to their school is between 3 to 5 kilometres. However, some children live between 8 to 9 km away from their school. Many children had to rely on their parents/guardians for transportation or walk long distances to school. In some locations, children travelled by boat to and from school without necessary safe boating measures.

## 14

**CHILDREN**  
were from CNCF's  
Sunshine School

## 06

**CHILDREN**  
were from CNCF's  
Child Sponsorship  
Programme

## 50

**CHILDREN**  
were from  
the community

## Age Group

## 70%

Children

6 – 11  
years old

## 20%

Children

12 – 15  
years old

## 10%

Children

16 years old  
and above

## Bicycle Distribution Days

## 06

**BICYCLE  
DISTRIBUTION DAYS**  
were organised

## 03

**DISTRIBUTION DAYS**  
were organised in  
Ho Chi Minh City

## 01

**DISTRIBUTION DAYS**  
was organised in  
Hau Giang Province

## 02

**DISTRIBUTION DAYS**  
were organised in  
Ben Tre Province





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# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Having a means of transportation to school is necessary for children to access an education yet school access is still hampered by poor and muddy roads and a lack of travel that is unavailable or unaffordable to families living in poverty. Many schools are located miles away from home leaving children with no other option but to walk on their own for long hours when their families lack the means to afford safe public transportation. Accompanied by extreme weather conditions, children often arrive late for class or attend school irregularly resulting in the lack of ability to focus on their lessons due to the negative impacts on their physical health from a prolonged commute.

CNCF's Bicycle Support Programme (BSP) was established in 2004 to provide a quality bicycle kit to children who are unable to afford safe transportation to school due to financial hardship and thereby at high risk of educational disengagement. Since inception, the Programme has supported 2,015 bicycles to children and young adults in need, allowing the students to obtain an education to support their future, improve the financial situation of their communities and ultimately, support a child to break the cycle of poverty.



# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

## Beneficiaries

Disadvantaged children coming from poverty-stricken backgrounds who are in need of a reliable means of transportation to and from school but lack the means to it, are enrolled onto CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme. The Bicycle Support Programme (BSP) also provides support to children who are currently enrolled in other CNCF programmes, or children in need from the community with referrals from CNCF's local partners. These students are at higher risk of dropping out of school and the detrimental health impacts of a dangerous daily commute.

Many students on the BSP live in remote and hard-to-reach areas where they have to rely on their parents or guardians to get to and from school or walk long distances on their own. In some locations, children travel by boat to school without necessary safe boating measures.

To be eligible for the programme, students must be over the age of eight and live at least 2 kilometres away from school. An assessment on the student's educational disengagement risk due to the lack of transportation and their family's financial pressures, is also conducted prior to enrolment.

## Bicycle Kits

The Bicycle Support Programme provides each student with a bicycle kit including a bicycle, safety helmet and road safety training. We ensure the provision of high-quality and long-lasting bicycles and helmets from trusted, well-respected suppliers to ensure the safety of our children and their families.

The bicycle, with its low-cost to high-benefit ratio, is not only a means of transportation but a lifeline for a whole family. It is a powerful tool that enables each child and their siblings to remain in school and gain the knowledge needed to eventually break their cycle of poverty whilst providing their parents another transport option making day to day tasks less challenging. Having a reliable means of transportation also contributes to alleviating some of the families' financial difficulties by reducing transport expenses such as bus fares and promoting their wellbeing, knowing that the children are safe on their journey to school.

## Road Safety Training

Prior to receiving a bicycle kit, each child and at least one of their parents/guardians are required to attend a Road Safety training which takes place on the bicycle distribution days. Road safety education is essential in developing the knowledge, skills, and shaping the attitudes and behaviours of children and young people that enables them to develop into responsible participants in and around traffic. CNCF's road safety training sessions provide children and their families with information to reinforce road safety messages and skills. All trainings are customised for our children's specific living areas and carefully tailored to their age.



**ĐẢNG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM QUANG VINH MUÔN NĂM!**



UBND HUYỆN LONG MỸ  
PHÒNG GIÁO DỤC - ĐÀO TẠO

## CHRISTINA NOBLE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

### LỄ TRAO TẶNG

50 XE ĐẠP CHO HỌC SINH NGHÈO DO HIỆP HỘI CNCF TÀI TRỢ

### THANK YOU CONSULAR CLUB

SUPPORTERS OF THE BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

LONG MỸ, NGÀY 09 THÁNG 07 NĂM 2020



CNCF CEO Helenita Noble, our Sunshine Children and Mrs. Karen Gibbons of The Consular Club (Ho Chi Minh City) at a bicycle distribution ceremony.





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# VIETNAM STATISTICS

For many children from poverty-stricken families, particularly those living in rural and remote areas, their ability to get to school remains the leading barrier to education. The long commute to and from school is detrimental to the children's physical health and studies, limiting their academic potential whilst leading to their lack of attention in class and engagement in school activities. Alongside the family's financial burdens, disadvantaged children face heightened risks of dropping out of the education system at a very young age. CNCF has and continues to work to ensure that every child is able to access school safely and empowered to break their generational cycle of poverty through the knowledge and skills they gain through education.



- Globally, approximately **70 percent** of the population living in abject poverty aged 15 and over have no schooling or only some basic education. <sup>[1]</sup>



- In Vietnam, the proportion of children out of school in rural areas (9.5%) was nearly **two times** higher than that in urban areas (5.7%). <sup>[2]</sup>

[1] World Bank, 2020

[2] General Statistic Office of Vietnam, 2019





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# OUR STORIES

## Furthering An Education Through The Bicycle Support Programme

Duyen\* and her family found shelter in a dilapidated and deteriorating small, rented room. Duyen's father was the breadwinner of the family until he was diagnosed with liver and kidney cancer 3 years ago, leaving the family to live off Duyen's mother's meagre income of selling lottery tickets on the street. Knowing that education is the primary pathway to a brighter future for her children, Duyen's mother worked tirelessly and did her best to enrol Duyen and her siblings in school who always study hard and keep up their good school performance.

Living far from school meant that 5th grade Duyen had to rely on her father for the daily commute to and from school. When the health of her father drastically declined, Duyen was at risk of dropping out of school. Duyen dreamt of a bicycle for herself so that she could continue her studies in class whilst her father could fully recover at home but it was a dream beyond the reach of the family and their financial hardships. It was then that CNCF's Bicycle Support Programme came to assist Duyen with a reliable bicycle of her very own to go to and from school.

On the day of receiving her first new bicycle, Duyen was filled with joy and expressed her gratitude to CNCF and our Bicycle Support Programme donors. With a safe means of transportation, Duyen can now continue her education, further her studies in a secondary school and work towards a brighter future out of poverty ahead.

\*Name and identity changed for child protection



# OUR STORIES

## A Bicycle Of Inspiration

Residing in a remote and poor area of Ben Tre Province is the home of 10-year-old Thuy\*. A few years ago, Thuy's father passed away and left the family devastated and heart-broken with grief. Thuy's mother worked hard to make ends meet and provide an education for her children, but recently, she was diagnosed with goitre and lumbar spondylosis which has hindered much of her ability to work. The family had to rely on the humble income from a small grocery store and raising poultry in their backyard. Every day Thuy would ride her father's decade-old bicycle to school. The bicycle was in bad condition and often broke down on Thuy's way to school, the young girl had to carry on with the rest of the journey by foot, having to walk the long distance significantly impacted her school attendance and physical health.

The gift of a new bicycle from CNCF's Bicycle Support Programme was a source of motivation enabling Thuy to continue her schooling and provide her mother with the peace of mind knowing that Thuy's daily commute is safe. With her determination and hard work, Thuy has now been proudly awarded with 'Good' academic performance for many consecutive years. CNCF is immensely proud of Thuy's achievements in her studies and remains inspired to continue following Thuy on her educational journey and providing timely support when she needs.

\*Name and identity changed for child protection







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# OUR STORIES

## Not Just A Bicycle...

Thu\* lives with her mother, grandmother and siblings in a small house made of leaves in a remote area of Hau Giang Province. Thu's mother is the sole breadwinner of the family with a meagre income from her hired labour jobs. Thu's grandmother suffers with ill health and her younger sister just turned one years old. The three-generation family's financial situation was so unstable that Thu often had to catch and sell snails with her mother to support their daily expenses. The gift of a bicycle from CNCF was a relief for Thu and her family as their only means of transportation was an old and dangerous rowing boat.

Graduating from primary education this year, Thu is now able to safely commute the long distance to and from her Secondary School and continue her dream of becoming a teacher. The bicycle also remains a lifeline for Thu's family providing them with another transport option making daily work less difficult. Despite her family's hardships, Thu is a vivid student at school with an excellent academic performance. With a safe and reliable means of transportation now, Thu has been empowered to remain in school, further her studies and eventually achieve her dream of breaking the family's generational cycle of poverty.

\*Name and identity changed for child protection





Mrs. Karen Gibbons representing The Consular Club  
at their Bicycle Distribution Day in Hau Giang Province,  
South Vietnam

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## OUR STORIES

### Testimonial from Consular Club Vietnam

"Attending the distribution day and meeting the children who were about to receive their bikes was a day that I'll never forget. It was clear that this was a moment which was about to change these children's lives, as well of that of their families, forever. The parents' faces beamed with quiet pride and gratitude as the ceremony and safety briefing took place. To many people the Bicycle Support Programme may sound like a simple project but I was impressed by the effort put in by CNCF to research hard-to-reach communities easily overlooked by others as too difficult to access to ensure their support achieves the greatest impact. Through their longstanding network of local contacts and deep relationships with the authorities at all levels, CNCF are able to work alongside those closest to the community to identify families who really need the lifeline that a bicycle can provide. Keep up the great work CNCF."

- Mrs. Karen Gibbons, Consular Club Vietnam -



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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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The operational cost of the Bicycle Support Programme in 2020 was:

**USD \$8,241**

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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.

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





## BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Expenditure 2020
Bicycles for children	7,471
Helmets for children	770
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>8,241</b>





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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations and support to CNCF's Bicycle Support Programme not only help to provide destitute children living in remote locations and hard-to-reach areas with a safe mode of transportation that they would otherwise not have. For these children and young adults, a bicycle remains essential to their academic performance and educational attainment, whilst enabling families to improve their economic outcomes and work towards financial stability.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following donors: **Angela O'Connor, Consular Club of Ho Chi Minh City (VN), Mary Daniels, Sarah Mc Loughlin and a former CNCF staff member** for supporting the Bicycle Support Programme in 2020, and in doing so providing our children with the opportunity to continue their schooling and gain necessary knowledge and skills for a sustainable and independent future.





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

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