



ANNUAL REPORT 2020
HEALTHCARE
PROGRAMME MONGOLIA -
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & MEDICAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME VIETNAM

“

I'd say my philosophy 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 -



APPENDIX

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES	04
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	05
Mongolia	05
Vietnam	06
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	07
Mongolia	07
Vietnam	08
OUR YEAR	09
Mongolia	10
Vietnam	16
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION	17
Mongolia	18
Vietnam	24
MONGOLIA & VIETNAM STATISTICS	27
OUR STORIES	28
Providing Holistic Support	28
Confidence Inspired Through Healthcare	29
Thank You From A Parent	30
A Life Changed Through Medical Assistance	31
A Childhood Transformed	32
Testimonial From Our Local Partner	33
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	34
Mongolia	35
Vietnam	36
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	37

ABBREVIATIONS

CNCF	Christina Noble Children’s Foundation
CSP	Child Sponsorship Programme
ESP	Education Scholarship Programme
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
USD	US Dollar
E&Y	Ernst and Young Mongolia LLC



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

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	Songinokhairkhan District Medical Centre, Family Clinic of the Songinokhairkhan District, National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, Onosh Med Laboratory, AMSA Mongolia

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 CNCF's Director of Operations and an annual report is made available to all stakeholders

2020 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$19,739.82

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2020

2021 OBJECTIVES

- To continue providing children in need with quality healthcare and additional support for medical treatment, and promote healthy lifestyle habits

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 Children's Hospital No. 2 - 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 Medical Assistance 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 CNCF 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 management and future planning

2020 ACTUAL COSTS

USD \$13,442.86

REPORTING PERIOD

January - December 2020

2021 OBJECTIVES

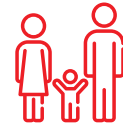
- To continue providing critical medical assistance and support to children in need of financial assistance for medical treatment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MONGOLIA

In 2020, 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 Kindergarten and CNCF staff.

Throughout the year, the health progress of our children continued to be monitored closely at our Blue Skies Ger Village's Infirmary. When restrictions were lifted, sponsorship distribution weekends were organised where our team provided outreach health check-ups and consultations to the children and families of CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme. CNCF also initiated the 'Noble Podcast' to provide healthcare and psychological advice and recommendations. Facilitated by CNCF's Psychosocial Team, the podcast aims to reach our children and the wider community who were unable to join on-site trainings and health talks due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, and provide them with essential knowledge and awareness on a variety of health issues.



In 2020,

916 CHILDREN AND ADULTS were supported by the Healthcare Programme

55 CHILDREN from CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village

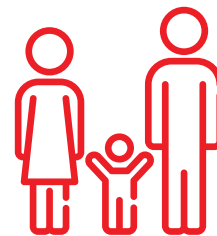
53 CHILDREN from CNCF's Blue Skies Kindergarten

34 CHILDREN from CNCF's Rehabilitation Centre For Youth Education Programme

310 CHILDREN from CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme

408 SIBLINGS AND PARENTS of Child Sponsorship Programme children

56 CNCF STAFF



Since inception,

9,352 CHILDREN AND ADULTS have been provided with quality healthcare and medical support through CNCF's Healthcare Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VIETNAM

In 2020, 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.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety measures, CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme Team was unable to conduct in-person interviews as well as delivering essential gifts in-kind to the children and their families at our partner hospital. Throughout the year, the team remained in close contact via phone calls for enrolment information, case management and follow-ups with the children's health progress. We also provided children and families in urgent need with emergency relief in the form of financial aid to help alleviate some of their financial burdens and overcome challenging times, these families lost what meagre income-generating opportunities they once had due to the economic impacts of the global pandemic.



In 2020,
33 CHILDREN received financial support for emergency surgeries and medical treatments



21
BOYS



12
GIRLS



Since inception,
2,358
CHILDREN have been supported by CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme

This year, CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme (MEP), a sub-project of the Medical Assistance Programme could not take place due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on global movements. Delegations of paediatric surgeons were scheduled but unable to travel to Vietnam to train Vietnamese medical teams, provide children with medical consultations and perform complex life-saving paediatric surgeries ordinarily unavailable in the country.

Since inception,
1,028 CHILDREN have been supported by CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme, of which, **535** CHILDREN have been provided with life-saving surgeries giving them another chance at life. **28** DOCTORS from Children's Hospital No. 2 have also been facilitated to travel to Ireland for intensive surgical training at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin.

REPORT 2020

OUR YEAR

Ensuring all children, regardless of their backgrounds and circumstances, have adequate access to healthcare for healthy lives and positive wellbeing, is essential to CNCF's grassroot approach to poverty and delivering sustainable development within the communities we serve. By providing vulnerable children with quality healthcare, and reducing their families' financial burdens, CNCF's Healthcare Programmes play a significant role in ensuring children are able to focus on their education and embark on a fulfilling life ahead where they are empowered to lift themselves out of poverty.



REPORT 2020

OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA



In 2020,

916 CHILDREN AND ADULTS
were supported by the Healthcare Programme

55 CHILDREN
from CNCF's Blue Skies Ger Village

53 CHILDREN
from CNCF's Blue Skies
Kindergarten

34 CHILDREN
from CNCF's Rehabilitation Centre
For Youth Education Programme

310 CHILDREN
from CNCF's Child
Sponsorship Programme

408 SIBLINGS AND PARENTS
of Child Sponsorship Programme
children

56 CNCF STAFF

932
MEDICATIONS
were distributed

12
CHILDREN
received emergency assistance
for medical treatment

21
HEALTH TRAININGS
AND WORKSHOPS
were organised



OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Blue Skies Ger Village Healthcare



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

Vitamin/ Supplements	Provision duration	
	1 - 3 Months	8 - 12 Months
Vitamin D 2000ED	-	55 Children
Multivitamin	55 Children	-
Zinc supplements	55 Children	-

Examinations	Tested/Examined	Required further treatment
Ear, nose and throat examination	44 Children	11 Children
Dental examination	44 Children	09 Children
Paediatric health check-up	44 Children	03 Children
Dermatology check-up	44 Children	06 Children
Paediatric cardiology diagnostic test	44 Children	-
Paediatric neurology diagnostic test	44 Children	03 Children
Body Mass Index measurement	44 Children	07 Children
Vitamin D test	51 Children	17 Children
Calcium test	51 Children	-
General blood test	51 Children	-

55 CHILDREN attended **07 health trainings and workshops**. Topics included hand and oral hygiene, COVID-19 prevention, mask wearing, sanitiser and disinfectant safety, and immune system boosting

OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Blue Skies Kindergarten Healthcare



51
CHILDREN
received primary health check-ups



29
CHILDREN
received seasonal flu vaccine from the Family Clinic of the Micro-district



65
CHILDREN
attended **04 health trainings and workshops.**
Topics included mask wearing, hand washing and oral hygiene

Child Sponsorship Programme Healthcare

Child Sponsorship Programme Children

25 CHILDREN Under 6 years old
110 CHILDREN 6-10 years old
115 CHILDREN 11-15 years old

32 CHILDREN 16-18 years old
28 CHILDREN 19-24 years old

510 HEALTH CHECK-UPS were conducted for CSP children

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

61 HOME VISITS were made by CNCF Doctors to children who are physically impaired, or sick and unable to attend in-house appointments

04 HEALTH TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS were organised for children, focusing on personal hygiene, hand washing and oral hygiene

Vitamin/Supplements	Provision duration		
	1 - 3 Months	4 - 6 Months	7 - 12 Months
Vitamin D3 2000ED	338 Children	28 Children	23 Children
Vitamin C	50 Children	70 Children	-
Multivitamin	25 Children	18 Children	-
Nutritional supplements	-	05 Children	12 Children

Examinations	Tested/Examined	Required further treatment
Ear, nose and throat examination	114 Children	71 Children
Ophthalmic examination	104 Children	44 Children
Paediatric health check-up	267 Children	170 Children
Respiratory check-up	102 Children	61 Children
Malnutrition	09 Children	09 Children
Health screening check-up	132 Children	-
Neurology diagnostic test	09 Children	04 Children
Dermatology check-up	17 Children	09 Children



OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Child Sponsorship Programme Children's Relatives

45

Relatives

Under 6 years old

98

Relatives

6-10 years old

86

Relatives

11-15 years old

46

Relatives

16-18 years old

24

Relatives

19-24 years old

109

Relatives

Over 24 years old

Vitamin/ Supplements	Provision duration		
	1 - 3 Months	4 - 6 Months	7 - 12 Months
Vitamin D3 2000ED	250 Relatives	31 Relatives	23 Relatives
Vitamin C	70 Relatives	-	-
Multivitamin	17 Relatives	12 Relatives	-
Nutritional supplements	05 Relatives	03 Relatives	-
Prenatal vitamin for CSP children's mothers	180 Relatives	-	-



470
HEALTH
CHECK-UPS

were conducted for
relatives of CSP children



112
RELATIVES

required further
check-up, treatment or
close monitoring



61
HOME VISITS

were conducted by
CNCF Doctors to **262 CSP
children's relatives** who
are physically impaired or
sick and unable to attend
in house appointments



32
RELATIVES

attended **04 health
trainings and workshops.**
Topics included hand
hygiene, maternal care,
and parents' responsibilities

OUR YEAR

MONGOLIA

Rehabilitation Centre For Youth Education Programme Healthcare



02 HEALTH CHECK-UPS were conducted

Vitamin/Supplements	Provision duration	
	1 Month	3 Months
Vitamin D 2000ED	29 Students	34 Students

Examinations	Tested/Examined	Required further treatment
General health check-up	30 Students	-
Tuberculosis test	31 Students	-



04 TRAININGS were organised, focusing on personal development, psychology, behavioural development and art therapy

CNCF Staff Healthcare

04 HEALTH CHECK-UPS were conducted for CNCF staff

06 STAFF required further check-up, treatment or close monitor

Vitamin/Supplements	Provision duration		
	10 - 14 Days	1 - 3 Months	6 - 12 Months
Vitamin D 2000ED	-	68 Staff	30 Staff
Vitamin C	-	54 Staff	-
Multivitamin	-	38 Staff	-
Zinc supplements	47 Staff	-	-

Examinations	Tested/Examined	Required further treatment
Body Mass Index measurement	15 Staff	02 Staff
Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C rapid test	34 Staff	01 Staff
Helicobacter rapid test	34 Staff	01 Staff
Blood glucose test	34 Staff	02 Staff

54 STAFF attended **05 health trainings and workshops**. Topics included COVID-19 awareness, stress management, water intake and healthy lifestyle, obesity and fasting, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) first aid

OUR YEAR

VIETNAM

Medical Assistance Programme



88%
OF REFERRED CASES
were enrolled in the Medical Assistance Programme



33 CHILDREN
(21 Boys & 12 Girls)
received financial support for emergency surgeries and medical treatments



07 CHILDREN
come from ethnic minorities



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

Education Level

05 CHILDREN
were under school enrolment age

01 CHILD
enrolled in Kindergarten

10 CHILDREN
enrolled in Primary School

05 CHILDREN
enrolled in Secondary School

03 CHILDREN
took medical leave absence from School

09 CHILDREN
were unable to enrol in education due to health conditions, academic challenges and family hardships

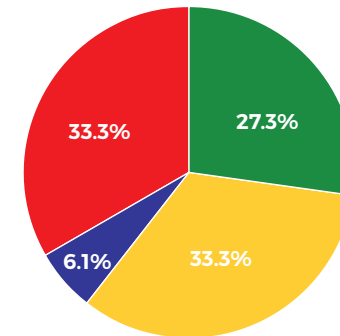
Medical Assistance Cases

16 CHILDREN
received assistance for general disease treatments

05 CHILDREN
received assistance for cardiovascular treatments

12 CHILDREN
received assistance for trauma and injury treatments

Recovery Rate In 2020



- Completely Recovered
- Improved
- Not recovered yet
- Unable To Be Assessed (due to loss of contact from child's parent/guardian changing contact number or families relocating to a new province and not updating CNCF)

Additional Family Support

33 FAMILIES
received health guidance and counselling

02 FAMILIES IN NEED
were supported with urgent financial aid packages through CNCF's COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund



REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Access to adequate healthcare is essential to the long-term and sustainable development of each child. However, the high cost of health insurance and quality medical care remains the leading barrier to healthcare for vulnerable communities. Lacking the necessary financial means, many children and families living in poverty often have no other option but to rely on inadequate, low-standard healthcare services or even worse, to forgo medical treatments and endure significant and sometimes critical health issues. Children from poverty-stricken backgrounds who lack official documents or paperwork, are also unable to obtain Social and Health Insurance, leaving them with limited access to the state's healthcare system benefits.

By ensuring that disadvantaged children regardless of their circumstances can obtain critical medical services, CNCF's Healthcare Programmes enable children to continue their education and develop into healthy and happy individuals.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Most children who grow up in abject poverty, suffer from poor living standards and lack necessities as basic as sufficient nutrition, clean drinking water and sanitation, and adequate access to healthcare facilities. In the cities, particularly the capital city Ulaanbaatar and the surrounding ger districts, poor air quality remains the most significant health risk factor. In January 2018, air pollution in Ulaanbaatar reached a level 133 times the maximum daily average recommended as safe by the World Health Organization. The risks include stillbirth, preterm birth, lower birth weight, pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, and death. These are among the findings in a report written by the health and public financial management consultants from Oxford Policy Management (OPM), commissioned by UNICEF Mongolia and the Mongolian National Centre for Public Health.

Immigration from the countryside to Ulaanbaatar also places tremendous pressure on the capital's healthcare system as state hospitals are often oversubscribed with waiting lists stretching months for many basic procedures.

These deprivations, combined with the harsh winter climate of Mongolia where temperatures reach as low as -40°C, place impoverished vulnerable children at high risk of poor health and life-threatening conditions.

CNCF's Healthcare Programme was established in 1997 with an aim to provide the children in our care and disadvantaged children of Mongolia with complimentary and professional medical check-ups, treatments and emergency care. On-site treatments for mild to moderate health conditions are provided by CNCF's Doctors, whilst children with complex conditions are referred to a secondary or tertiary level hospital for specialised diagnosis and treatment. 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 inception, CNCF's Healthcare Programme has supported **9,352** 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 all children have the right to access healthcare services that enable their fullest educational potential. Almost all of the children who come into our care have grown up in unsanitary and squalid conditions, compounding many other threats to their ongoing health and wellbeing. Upon receiving a child's information from the district's social workers, our Ger Village Healthcare Team conducts a general health check-up for the child. Treatments for conditions such as, malnutrition, rickets, physical development challenges, severe dental issues, are provided onsite. Our medical team ensures that the children always feel safe and comfortable whilst checks are being conducted. In cases of complex health conditions, a child is referred to a paediatric specialist for specialised diagnosis and treatment.

At the Blue Skies Ger Village, we provide children with a wide variety of fresh nutrition, supplements, general and annual health check-ups. With the support of local hospitals, partners and medical volunteer teams, we organise regular specialist screenings and examinations. All children receive age-appropriate vaccinations, and their health progress is closely monitored.

Blue Skies Kindergarten

Many of our children suffer from malnutrition, stunted growth and rickets due to abject poverty. At the Blue Skies Kindergarten, all children are provided with nutritional support, supplements as well as health check-ups and specialised screenings that support healthy childhood development. Each child is examined by CNCF Doctors upon their enrolment to the Blue Skies Kindergarten. Medical details are recorded for future 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 receive check-ups from doctors who visit our Ger Village throughout the year.

Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the Blue Skies Kindergarten's activities were postponed for 7 months of the year. When the kindergarten resumed to operation as restrictions were lifted, all children received health check-ups and daily temperature checks. Seasonal flu vaccines were also provided to our children through the Family Clinic of the micro-district.

Child Sponsorship Programme (CSP)

During sponsorship distribution days, our Healthcare Programme Manager Dr. Bayaraa and Dr. Dashbal delivered full health check-ups and consultations to the CSP children and their families. Medicines to treat minor conditions and high-quality dietary supplements were 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 additional medical cost incurs, we offer financial support through our Special Assistance Fund or by contacting the child's sponsor.

This year, sponsorship distribution days were only organised in January and October due to COVID-19 lockdown and safety measures. Children and their families who joined in the distribution days, received health check-ups conducted by CNCF Doctors. **50** face masks were also provided to sponsorship programme children and their families in need.



PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Rehabilitation Centre For Youth Education Programme

As part of our Healthcare Programme CNCF Doctors conducted two full health check-ups at the Rehabilitation Centre this year. The first check-up covered general screenings, ears, nose and throat, and dental examinations, with healthcare advice given to **30** students. In partnership with the health department of the Centre, we organised the second main screening and health check-up which covered tuberculosis (TB) tests for **31** students.

The check-ups showed there were no major health concerns. All the children who took TB tests had negative results. A majority of the minor health conditions included flu and cold, dental issues, stomach infection and ear and throat viruses. Two children received further treatment at the Rehabilitation Centre hospital. In order to support the immune system and healthy growth of our students, vitamin D supplements were provided to our students. Vitamin D deficiency is a common health challenge in Mongolia and CNCF works to increase intake within the communities we serve to help tackle the preventable repercussions of the shortage across the country which includes a loss of bone density, which can contribute to osteoporosis and fractures and in children, rickets.

CNCF implemented COVID-19 prevention measures to ensure the safety of our children and to help stop the spread of the global virus. Temperature checks were conducted three times a day on our children. Immediate signage on hand washing, safety protocols and child friendly diagrams were distributed and students were provided with mouth wash to ensure oral hygiene. Altogether we provided 642 face masks, 8.5 litres of hand sanitiser, 15 filtered masks, 30 cotton masks, 450 surgical masks, 12 pairs of goggles, 30 disposable hats, 18 hazmat suits and 10 single-use uniforms.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Health Training & Awareness Workshops

CNCF ensures our children receive the 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, CNCF's Healthcare Team organises regular health trainings and workshops for our children across programmes. This year, health talks and trainings focused on COVID-19 awareness and prevention, healthy immune system, hand and oral hygiene, the importance of wearing face masks and personal development. During sponsorship distribution weekends, CNCF Doctors also facilitate individual and group sharing sessions to Child Sponsorship Programme children, teaching hygiene practices, raising awareness on prevention of infectious respiratory conditions and providing knowledge on the available complimentary healthcare services of the state hospitals. Health trainings and workshops were also facilitated for parents and guardians of our children. This year, topics included hand hygiene, maternal care, and parental responsibilities.

All health talks and training sessions are tailored for our children using age-appropriate information and techniques, enabling our young people to form healthy habits and develop necessary knowledge to maintain positive wellbeing and grow into happy and thriving individuals.

This year, CNCF initiated the 'Noble Podcast' to provide healthcare and psychological advice and recommendations. Facilitated by CNCF's Psychosocial Team, the podcast aims to reach our children and the community who were unable to join in on-site trainings and health talks due to COVID-19 restrictions, and provide them with essential knowledge and awareness on a variety of health issues.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

MONGOLIA

Additional Support

Many of our children and their families live in conditions of deprivation lack of access to basic necessities including clean drinking water, adequate ventilation system, warm clothes, firewood and coal for the extreme winter climate of Mongolia, leaving the communities immensely vulnerable to poverty-related health conditions such as malnutrition, vitamin deficiency and respiratory conditions. 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. In 2020, 12 children received emergency assistance for medical treatment.

An additional 1,000 disposable surgical face masks were provided by CNCF to Khan-Uul District Emergency Management Office in April, in support of COVID-19 prevention measures.

Staff Healthcare

CNCF staff who work directly with children receive an annual general health check-up, whilst our Healthcare Team took part in varied trainings and workshops focusing on COVID-19 awareness, stress management, water intake and healthy lifestyle, obesity and fasting, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) first aid. By ensuring our staff are equipped with up-to-date professional knowledge and medical skills, we are able to provide our children with high quality healthcare for their general wellbeing, safety and comfort.





REPORT 2020

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

VIETNAM

CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) was established in 1999, in response to an urgent need of emergency medical assistance for children living in extreme hardship and deprivation. Through the programme, children (up to age 16) in need of urgent medical care but lacking the means to afford, are provided with financial support to help cover the costs of life-saving surgical procedures, post-operative care, basic medical treatments, social support and health insurance. Since its inception, **2,358** children have been supported with financial support to provide the medical attention and care they desperately need to develop into healthy adults.

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.

In 2012 the programme expanded its partnership to include the Royal College of Surgeons Bahrain. 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 access to greater medical support to the Vietnamese people.

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 of healthcare services available and accessible to all Vietnamese children. Since inception, **1,028** children's cases have been consulted and of which, **535** children received life-saving surgeries giving them another chance at life. **28** doctors from Children's Hospital No. 2 have also been facilitated to travel to Ireland for intensive surgical training at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

VIETNAM

Referral & Selection

Children in need of financial support for life-saving medical treatments are referred to CNCF through our partner hospitals, other CNCF's projects or charity clinics. Upon enrolment, our Medical Assistance Programme Team conducts an eligibility assessment based on criteria such as the child's health progress, the family's living circumstances and financial capacity.

If the child's hospital costs are subsequently covered by donations made directly to the hospital or their initial home assessment does not match the eligibility criteria, the children are not eligible to enrol in the programme.

Follow-up Visits

In-hospital visits are conducted by MAP staff to ensure that the children feel supported during their course of treatment and to monitor the children's health conditions. We also remain in close contact with the children's families via phone calls to provide timely support. Monthly follow-up appointments with the children and their families are conducted for post-treatment remission and recovery updates.

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.

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety measures, our team facilitated enrolment interviews for assessment through phone calls as in-hospital visits were unable to be organised.

Additional Support

In addition to the financial assistance, we deliver essential items such as school supplies, clothes, shoes, donated household items to children and families in need, improving their living conditions and taking some pressure off the families. Counselling and advice on nutrition and healthcare are also provided to children and their families to ensure good health and positive wellbeing. As part of CNCF's holistic approach, additional assistance through other CNCF's projects such as the Education Scholarship Programme or Child Sponsorship Programme, is also provided wherever possible to ensure children are able to receive access to an education and continue their schooling.

This year, to support children and their families living in abject poverty, who have been significantly impacted by the consequential impacts of COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness, CNCF delivered emergency relief financial aid packages to the vulnerable, helping to cover their rental costs and reduce their hardships, laying the foundation for the families to rebuild their lives.



MONGOLIA & VIETNAM STATISTICS

Poverty remains a leading barrier for low-income families, or those with special health care needs, to access vital and quality healthcare. Not only is deprivation a contributing factor to poor health outcomes, but families with ill health often face extreme financial burdens as they are unable to engage in employment due to their health conditions. Struggling to put food on the table, vulnerable children and their families are often forced to make difficult choices between their health and financials. It is therefore essential to provide disadvantaged children with access to desperately needed healthcare, enabling them to continue their education, reach their potential and become productive members of society.



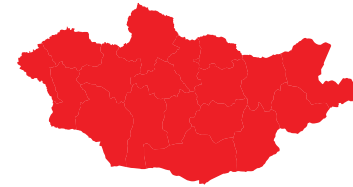
Globally, around

45%

of deaths among children under five are linked to undernutrition. These mostly occur in low and middle-income countries. ^[1]

[1] UNICEF, 2018
[2] World Bank, 2019
[3] UNICEF, 2018
[4] Mongolia Ministry of Health, 2017
[5] World Bank, 2019
[6] WHO, 2016

IN MONGOLIA



- Infant mortality rate is **13 deaths per 1,000 live births**. Under-five mortality rate is **16 deaths per 1,000 live births**. ^[2]
- On 30 January, 2018 at 5am, the monitoring station at Baruun 4 zam, Ulaanbaatar reported levels of PM2.5 pollution at 3,320 micrograms per cubic meter - **133 times** above World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations. ^[3]
- In the National Nutrition Survey, **90 percent** children (ages 6 - 59 months) had inadequate vitamin D levels, among them, **61 percent** were vitamin D deficient and **29 percent** were vitamin D insufficient. ^[4]

IN VIETNAM



- Infant mortality rate is **16 deaths per 1,000 live births**. Under-five mortality rate is **20 deaths per 1,000 live births**. ^[5]
- Around **60,000** deaths in 2016 were air pollution-related. ^[6]

OUR STORIES

Providing Holistic Support

Munkhbat* was enrolled onto CNCF's Child Sponsorship Programme (CSP) when he was 9 years old. Munkhbat lives with his mother in Tuv province, 160 kilometres away from the capital city Ulaanbaatar, where the family struggled to make ends meet each day. The day Munkhbat was able to receive an education thanks to the monthly financial sponsorship of CSP, was the day of great joy and relief for the family. Many years have passed since then, and Munkhbat has developed into an active and happy young man under the care and support of CNCF. This year, 16-year-old Munkhbat broke his arm when accidentally falling off a horse. Munkhbat was then rushed to a local hospital in the countryside, but the doctors were unable to provide him with the appropriate surgery he desperately required. Munkhbat was then referred to a trauma hospital in Ulaanbaatar for professional and specialised treatment; however, he could not make the trip to the city's hospital due to the long travel distance and lack of transportation.

When our CSP Social Worker heard the news, we immediately organised transportation to the city for Munkhbat and made an appointment at the city's trauma hospital on his behalf. Whilst Munkhbat was receiving treatment and recovering in the hospital, CNCF continued to support him by providing necessary medication and food whenever needed. We could not be prouder that Munkhbat has made a full recovery from the surgery and can now continue with his schooling. Thanks to the timely support of CNCF's Healthcare Programme, Munkhbat has flourished into a kind and healthy young man who always expresses his gratitude and appreciation to CNCF for the on-going assistance that not only enables him to receive an education, but also supports his physical health and development.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

Confidence Inspired Through Healthcare

“My name is Zorigt*. I am 8 years old and currently studying in the 1st grade. I live with my grandfather, mother and sister in Mandal soum of Selenge Province, 180 kilometres away from the capital city Ulaanbaatar. My grandfather is retired and my mother works as a cleaner, but currently, she is hospitalised due to tuberculosis. When I was 3 years old, I developed an abnormal gait, I could not walk like other children. I did not have any friends or feel confident enough to go to school so I cried very often. I wished to have normal legs, but my family was unable to afford my medical treatment.

One day, my CNCF Social Worker called and informed that they would take me to Ulaanbaatar to get treatment for my legs. CNCF Doctors diagnosed that my right leg is 2 centimetres shorter than my left one, and carefully explained to my mother and myself about the consequential health effects of this condition and the importance of getting the right treatment. CNCF’s Healthcare Programme then provided me with a pair of orthopaedic shoes to wear daily. I now feel much confident in myself, and I am very happy to be able walk normally and comfortably in my new shoes. Had it not been for the support of CNCF, I would have not been able to go to a hospital for diagnosis, let alone afford long-term treatment. Thank you to CNCF and the very kind staff of the Foundation who have supported me in many ways. I really appreciate the staff of CNCF and sponsors from all around the world and I wish you all the best.”

- A Healthcare Programme Child -

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

Thank You From A Parent

"My son is Davaa* and he is studying 4th grade at a local primary school. Our family of two lives with Davaa's aunt and cousins in Orkhon Province, 400 kilometres away from Ulaanbaatar city. Our living situation was extremely poor as our meagre monthly income only consists of government social welfare allowances. Davaa was born with eyelid paralysis and eyelash defects, but we did not have the means to get professional treatment for him. The health condition left Davaa extremely shy in going to class as he could not see well and struggled to read. His education was severely impacted, and I was very worried for my son. Fortunately, we met CNCF and later were supported by the Foundation's Healthcare Programme.

Thanks to the assistance of CNCF, Davaa were able to receive a medical operation that he desperately needed. He has completely recovered from the surgical procedure and can see clearly now. Davaa's academic performance is also improved significantly. I am immensely proud to see Davaa has developed into a confident, active and amiable young boy in a short period of time. He really enjoys going to school and playing with his friends.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to CNCF for your life-saving help, and to our Child Sponsor who further supported us. All of your support provides a crucial foundation for Davaa to flourish from, and I know that he will develop into a happy and successful individual thanks to you. Thank you very much."

- Mother of a Healthcare Programme Child -

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

A Life Changed Through Medical Assistance

12-year-old Yen* comes from a vulnerable family living in abject poverty in Tra Vinh Province, a coastal province in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam. Yen's father is the sole breadwinner of the family, working as a hired fisherman with unstable income who often spent around 20 days each month at sea, whilst Yen's mother stays at home to look after Yen and her siblings. On top of the monthly house loan payment and living expenses, the family has to afford clean drinking water as the area's water source is contaminated.

At the age of 3, Yen was diagnosed with Paraplegia (lower limb paralysis). Over time without adequate transfers and mobility support, Yen faced the risk of Bedsores (pressure ulcers - lesions of the coccyx) and was taken into the city's Children's Hospital No. 2 for intensive treatment in February. Although some of Yen's medical care was covered by national insurance, the family was still struggling to afford the remaining treatment costs, and had to rely on daily charity meals to get through each day. The financial assistance provided by CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme through the British Chamber of Commerce Vietnam (BritCham) was an immense source of support, helping to alleviate the family's financial burden and enabling Yen to receive the medical treatment she desperately needed.

Upon Yen's follow-up progress appointment with CNCF, understanding the devastating economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on Yen's family, we also provided the family with emergency financial aid to help them overcome the challenging times ahead. After 3 months of recovery, Yen had completely recovered from the surgery and is extremely happy to be able to play with her friends in the neighbourhood and eager to help look after her new-born sibling. The family expressed their gratitude for the life-saving support that nurtured Yen back to life and empowered the young girl to have a happy childhood of her own.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy

OUR STORIES

A Childhood Transformed

Born into an ethnic family in Gia Lai Province, in the central highlands of Vietnam, Lan* is the eldest son studying in grade 5 at a local school. Three generations of Lan's family live in his grandmother's home. The family's meagre income is generated through Lan's parents who work as farmers. In early June, Lan began developing somnolence, dyspnoea and a decreased appetite and was hospitalised for a week before being referred to the Children's Hospital No. 2 in Ho Chi Minh City. With a diagnosis of Pericardial Effusion (commonly known as excess fluid build-up in the pericardial space of the heart), Lan required intensive and emergency treatment, treatment that his family was unable to afford. Lan's parents had to take out a loan from their relatives to help cover the higher daily expenses of having to live in the city whilst taking care of Lan in hospital. It was then that the family was referred to CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme and the financial support provided by BritCham Vietnam.

Thanks to the timely assistance, Lan's family was able to afford vital treatments and healthcare for Lan to overcome the health challenge and recover well. After nearly 2 months of comprehensive medical care, Lan returned home to the delight of his family with significantly improved health. During our follow-up conversations in October, Lan's mother happily informed us that Lan has fully recovered and returned to school to prepare for his new academic year, with deep appreciation to CNCF and BritCham for supporting Lan's treatment.

*Name and identity changed to protect privacy





REPORT 2020

OUR STORIES

Testimonial From Our Local Partner

“During the year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had pushed many families already struggling to make ends meet into a worsened situation, when their children became sick and were in need of urgent treatment. Many of them had to take out loans to afford their children’s treatment costs, which left the families even more desperate and vulnerable in the long run.

Understanding the children and their families’ circumstances, the Department of Disadvantaged Patient Assistance refers the children to CNCF’s Medical Assistance Programme for essential and timely support. Not only does the Foundation provide financial assistance but also remains a source of encouragement to share the hardships and empower families with guidance and consultation. In the future, we hope to continue receiving the steadfast support from the Medical Assistance Programme and we wish the team at CNCF continued success in achieving our shared goal of supporting the lives of children in need.”

- Mrs. Do Phan Cam Tuong, Chief of the Department of Disadvantaged Patient Assistance, Children’s Hospital No. 2’s Community Affairs Department -

REPORT 2020

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of the Healthcare
Programme Mongolia in 2020 was:

USD \$19,739.82

The total cost of the Medical Assistance
Programme Vietnam in 2020 was:

USD \$13,442.86

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/



HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME MONGOLIA EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Expenditure 2020
Firewood & Coal	504.65
Electricity	582.13
Medicine & Vitamins	1,527.71
Vaccination and prevention treatments (Vitamin D blood tests)	715.91
Staff Health Check	14.04
Health Care Treatments	516.45
Equipment & Supplies	132.01
Maintenance & Improvements	196.95
Staff Salaries	14,052.27
Social Insurance	682.61
Staff Training	309.53
Public & Staff Relations	146.69
Miscellaneous / Others	312.33
Depreciation	46.54
TOTAL COST	19,739.82

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME VIETNAM EXPENDITURES IN 2020

Description	Expenditure 2020
Children's Treatment Costs	7,319.51
CNCF Project Management Staff Salary	6,053.43
Others	70.92
TOTAL COST	13,442.86



REPORT 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your donations and support to the Medical Assistance and Medical Exchange Programme in Vietnam and Healthcare Programme in Mongolia enable CNCF to continue providing children in need with quality healthcare for their sustainable physical development and overall wellbeing, whilst helping to alleviate the families' financial burdens.

Heartfelt thanks to our long-term donor the **British Chamber of Commerce Vietnam** (BritCham) who have generously supported CNCF's Medical Assistance Programme since 2001. We remain grateful and incredibly proud to the partnership with BritCham over the years on this life-saving programme alongside our shared values in assisting many of Vietnam's most vulnerable communities. Our special thanks to **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**, for your partnership and support in CNCF's Medical Exchange Programme.

We would also like to extend deep appreciation to our local partners in Vietnam: **Children's Hospital No. 2 and HCM City Eye Hospital**, and in Mongolia: **Songinokhairkhan District Medical Centre, Family Clinic of the Songinokhairkhan District, National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, Onosh Med Laboratory, AMSA Mongolia**, who make it possible for CNCF to implement the programme successfully.



BritCham

VIETNAM



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

 38 Tu Xuong Street, Dist.3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

 +84 283 932 6484

 international@cncf.org

 www.cncf.org

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

 @ChristinaNobleChildrensFoundationInt

 @CNCF_int

 Christina Noble Children's Foundation

CNCF Project Manager/Stats & Data: Amaraa Bor, Anujin Batbold, Huong Bui & Quy Dinh

CNCF Copywriter: Huong Hoang & Thuy Nguyen

CNCF Graphic Design: Chi Nguyen

CNCF Imagery: Piers Birtwistle

Infographics: flaticon.com