



SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME
Annual Report 2014

Programme Description

Established:	1997
Location:	Cities: Ulaanbaatar, Erdenet, Darkhan.
Provinces:	Bulgan Centre, Bayanchandmani, Hutul, Orkhon, Khishigundur, Gurvanbulag, Dashinchilen, Argalant, Erdene
Target Group:	Children from vulnerable families, aged 2-17-years-old and up to 22 for college/ university level, or those who are disabled and staying at home.
Local Partner:	Ministry of Education, Mongolian National Children's Center, Children's centres in Erdenet, Darkhan Cities and Bulgan Centre. Districts and sub-districts governor offices, social welfare centres, secondary schools, Universities and Colleges
CNCF staff:	Badam Sh., Dulguun E, Enkhsaikhan E., Khongorzul T., Baigalmaa B., Delgertsetseg L., Munkhtsetsegchild B.
Budget 2014:	USD 372 per child per year up to a maximum of 1137 children
CNCF Involvement:	Full responsibility for funding, financial administration and implementation
Future plans:	Continue financial support of children who remain in education. Continue cooperation with partners, improve case management, and increase training for children and parents. Continue training for the sponsorship team in counselling skills.
Report compiled by:	Badam Shirnen
Reporting Period:	January- December 2014

On behalf of our Foundation and the children of Mongolia, we thank the sponsors for supporting this programme in 2014.

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Programme Background

“We could start out with some education for the children....that’s always a good way to begin”

- Mama Tina, The Inspiring Sequel to Bridge Across My Sorrows.

Our Founder, Christina Noble, established the Child Sponsorship Programme in 1997 with just 98 children. At the time there was a great deal of economic instability, high unemployment and a vicious cycle of growing poverty resulting in increasing levels of alcoholism, which in turn made the poverty trap even harder to escape. Abandoned, orphaned and abused children numbered in the thousands.

In 2003, Christina travelled to Bulgan Aimag to visit Mongolian herding families who had been devastated by several severe winters in Mongolian, or zuds¹, in which millions of animals had been lost. In 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, Mongolia was hit by three zuds in a row, in which a combined number of 11 million animals starved to death due to lack of food because of the extreme cold.²

She visited herders who had lost everything and provided them with food, warm clothing, money and gers – Mongolian traditional felt tents. The herders’ children were enrolled into the Child Sponsorship Programme and Bulgan aimag³ Centre.

Today most of these children have graduated from school and some from Universities and Colleges and others are working.

1 A zud or dzud (Mongolian: ) is a Mongolian term for a severe winter in which large numbers of livestock die, primarily due to starvation due to being unable to graze, in other cases directly from the cold.

2 Olivier Mahul, Jerry Skees (March 2006). “Piloting index-Based Livestock Insurance in Mongolia” Access FinanceNo.10. The World Bank Group.

3 Aimag originally a Mongolian and Turkic word meaning “tribe”, is an administrative subdivision in Mongolia and in Inner Mongolia (China), or Province. There are 23 Aimags in Mongolia.

Although economic conditions have begun to improve, this has not been the case for many vulnerable children and their families and we work to continue providing support to those most in need.

The goals of the Child Sponsorship Programme are:

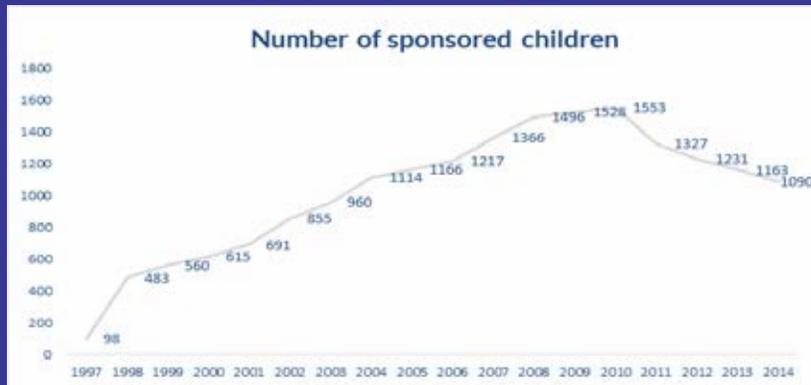
- to provide financial and emotional assistance to children from poor families
- to support their parents in improving their home environment
- to protect children from domestic violence, physical and sexual exploitation and to prevent children from dropping out of school
- to give children a better chance of growing up healthy, well educated and able to contribute positively to society.

Through the very generous support of sponsors, we support children by providing them with: education, healthcare and nutrition. Our team also provide vital emotional support, monitoring progress and professional support from qualified social workers.

In 2007 the sponsorship team expanded their support further when they travelled to Erdenet City, the second largest city in Mongolia. With the support from the National Authority for Children and Children’s Center of Erdenet City, they visited the most vulnerable families who were living in a dilapidated dormitory, which had no heating, electricity or running water. They also visited homeless families living at the city dump where they struggled to make a living recycling waste.

Fortunately the Foundation was able to secure support from the Rotary Club in Hong Kong who sponsored 20 children.





The number of sponsored children increased dramatically between 2007 and 2010. Our global offices assisted in identifying new sponsors to meet the burgeoning need. Today the majority of these children are graduating from secondary school and entering universities and colleges.

We expanded the Programme again in 2012 to include families living in Darkhan City and also in 2013 to encompass several rural provinces on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar City.

Currently the Child Sponsorship Programme supports children in 3 cities: Ulaanbaatar, Erdenet and Darkhan. It is also active in 9 provinces: Bayanchandmani, Argalant, Erdene, Hutul, Bulgan Center, Orkhon, Khishigundur, Gurvanbulag and Dashinchilen sums.⁴

Our sponsorship team consists of five full-time staff including: one programme coordinator, two social workers, a translator and a driver.

It costs just \$31 per month to support one of our children of which \$25 goes directly to the child in the local currency. The rest is used to cover the associated costs of: healthcare, emergency assistance, and for management of the programme through monitoring and implementation.

⁴ A sum (Mongolian: [ᠰᠤᠮᠤ](#)) is the second level administrative subdivision below the Aimags (provinces), roughly comparable to a County in the USA. There are 331 sums in Mongolia. Each sum is again subdivided into bags.

The support the child receives helps the child to remain in school and, most importantly, it provides them an opportunity to receive a proper education.

One person can make a difference, YOU can make a difference.

The majority of our sponsored children live in gers - traditional felt tents or small, poorly insulated huts in the ger districts on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. These areas sprang up as herding families flocked to the city in search of work. With limited education it was difficult to find work and many found temporary jobs washing cars or collecting empty bottles and cans from the city dump to either sell or recycle. Due to the high cost of housing the families were forced to set up homes on the hills outside of the city.

In these areas there are no roads, inadequate sanitation, and many homes lack running water and electricity.

The criteria to be enrolled under the Sponsorship Programme are:

1. Children from single parent households with many siblings
2. Children with disabled parents or a household surviving on disability pension
3. Children who are orphans and living with older siblings, grandparents or other relatives in poverty stricken conditions
4. Children who have migrated from the countryside after their families lost their livestock due to harsh winters.





Programme Overview

The number of the sponsorship children per month per CNCF office:

Global offices/ months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CNCF Ireland	357	356	355	362	359	358	357	357	350	349	345	339
CNCF UK	271	270	269	270	270	270	264	263	262	261	256	258
CNCF Hong-Kong	322	323	323	322	322	323	320	318	318	319	319	320
CNCF Australia	113	111	111	111	112	111	107	107	106	106	106	101
CNCF France	68	68	68	68	68	68	67	67	67	67	67	67
CNCF Mongolia	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Total	1137	1134	1132	1139	1136	1135	1120	1117	1108	1107	1098	1090

Number of Children based on location:

	Location	Distance from UB	Number of the children
1	Bayanchandmani	72km	4
2	Hutul	290km	2
3	Darkhan city	220km	5
4	Erdenet city	380km	33
5	Bulgan center	440km	43
6	Orkhon	460km	3
7	Khishigundur	520km	10
8	Gurvanbulag	610km	7
9	Dashinchilen	650km	4
10	Argalant	80km	1
11	Khentii	320km	1
12	Baganuur	120km	1
13	Erdene	80km	1
	Total		115

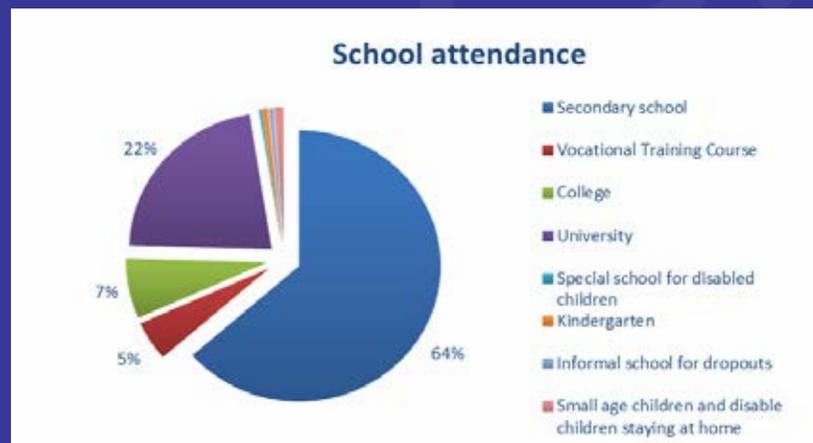


The majority of the sponsorship children, 975, are located in Ulaanbaatar City and the remaining 115 in the countryside.

The number of children by educational level is shown below.

Secondary school	712
Vocational training course	53
College	80
University	247
School for impaired children	4
Kindergarten	7
Informal school for dropouts	6
Infants and impaired children staying at home	11
Total	1090

The majority of children are secondary school students (64%)



Programme Objectives

The objectives for the 2014 were:

- Continue allocating sponsorship funds for new children from disadvantaged families.
- Reallocation of existing sponsorship children for new sponsors if sponsors terminated their support.
- Home visits to monitor living conditions, school attendance, and children's development and assess their needs.
- Translating annual progress reports of children.
- Disbursement of sponsorship funds, extra funds, parcels and gifts from the sponsor to their children.
- Special assistance support
- Activities with the children and their parents.
- Cooperation with government and non-government organizations
- Trips to the rural provinces.

We measured our achievements for 2014 by:

- Total number of sponsored children in the program
- standards of education in our children
- programme events and activities
- children's progress annual reports
- additional support from sponsors
- special assistance support
- home visits
- countryside programme visits
- sponsors visits
- trainings for children and parents
- staff training
- providing homes for homeless families (Give a Ger subproject)
- providing assistance with University and College tuition fee (Education Assistance Subproject)





One of the families we support



One of the families we support



Home visit



Sponsorship Disbursement

Programme Activities

Ninety-four new children were supported by our programme in 2014, 31 of which were sponsored by new sponsors and 63 were sponsored by existing sponsors whose children had graduated. This year 83 children graduated from the programme.

The Foundation hopes to increase the number of children in the programme next year, particularly for the children living in the poorest ger districts of Ulaanbaatar City, as well as provinces in the countryside where economic growth is poor.

	New sponsors	Transferred sponsors	Cancelled cases	Extra funds	Graduated children
CNCF Ireland	7	45	29	43	41
CNCF UK	10	6	10	44	15
CNCF Hong-Kong	6	10	6	23	13
CNCF France	2	-	1	16	1
CNCF Australia	6	2	5	48	13
CNCF Mongolia					
Total	31	63	51	174	83

HOME VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

- Our team visited nine provinces three times each in March, May and October. Each time it involved a five-day, 1000km journey from Ulaanbaatar City. Sponsors who came to see CNCF and the children they support also accompanied the team. These home visits allowed us to assess living conditions, to follow-up on school attendance and to distribute sponsorship funds. Sponsors also brought along additional gifts for their sponsored children.
- We also arranged four events for our primary school level children to historical sites, picnics and festivals and we held a sports day for Foundation children and staff.
- A presentation was organised about Foundation projects in Mongolia.
- Our team conducted parent-training courses on issues around human trafficking. This came about primarily thanks to one of our new team members whose background is in this area.

SPONSORSHIP DISBURSEMENTS

In Ulaanbaatar

Sponsorship disbursements take place at School N47 in Bayangol District in the middle of every month over an entire weekend, Saturday and Sunday. These two days provide the team with the opportunity to meet all the children.

Due to the high volume of children we see over the two-day period we have to bring in eight Foundation staff.

Our two social workers meet the children first, speak with them and make notes on their attendance in their sponsorship book. The next step is receiving their money from the cashier. If the children and their parents have queries or need medical assistance they meet with the Programme Coordinator and doctor. The translator and Foundation



teachers work together to gather the annual reports of the children. If there are extra funds or gifts from sponsors these will be distributed along with the monthly sponsorship funds.

In the countryside

Sponsorship children in the countryside receive sponsorship funds by bank transfer. This year we made visits in March, May and October together with sponsors.

Travelling to some of the sponsorship families requires a great deal of driving, sometimes over very rough terrain. The trips are crucial as in many cases the disbursement may be the family's only income, as in Mongolia there are no unemployment benefits.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CHILDREN

The children write annual reports once a year for their sponsors to talk about any changes in their lives, what has improved and how they have been doing in school. They also write about their interests and achievements at school, and any extra curricular activities like arts and sports and they write about their holidays.

The sponsorship team sends 100-120 annual reports to sponsors every month. The social workers also conduct home visits to the children in line with their annual reports schedule. During the visits they assess the living conditions of the children and take photos.

HOME VISITS

Two social workers make home visits two days each week. Each social worker is in charge of 545 children. We monitor families' living conditions, the child's school attendance and results. Our assessment from each home visit is then filed on the child's personal file. Our visits are also an opportunity to identify new children to enrol in the programme.

Our social workers will also identify problems such as: unemployment, lack of financial resources to provide for basic needs such as food, fuel, electricity and clothing.

From the home visits we are able to assess levels of poverty, possible further support requirements, number of family members and any changes in family's circumstances both positive and negative.

When making home visits we encountered serious problems such as:

- Families where the parents are addicted to alcohol. It is a serious problem in Mongolia with negative influences on children.
- Where single mothers remarry and many problems have arisen between the stepfather and the children. Often children have to leave their homes because of tensions.
- Some parents had divorced and tragically others had died.
- Many of the families we visited had at least one family member with a serious health problem and the sponsorship money had been used for treatment.
- The majority of our sponsor children's parents are unemployed. This creates enormous financial burdens. Some parents are able to find work on a seasonal basis but in winter time the work dries up. This leaves the family without money to buy clothes or food, it can affect the health of the children and in some extreme cases there is no money to buy coal or wood to keep warm. Worse still some parents choose not to work, relying instead of help and support from the government and NGO's.
- Many parents and siblings of sponsored children are uneducated and illiterate. In some cases the sponsored child is the first member in the family to go to school and complete high school or vocational training courses. The other family members struggle to find work. Having children go to school can help to break the cycle of poverty for the next generation.



SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SUPPORT

In 2014 some families in dire need were provided Special Assistance Fund Support. They received food, coal, vitamins, money for healthcare and monetary support to attend courses.

SPONSOR VISITS

Some of our sponsored children are lucky enough to meet their sponsors in person. This provides a wonderful opportunity for both the sponsor and the child to bond and for the sponsor to see how their contribution has benefited both the child and the child's family.

In 2014, 10 sponsors visited the Foundation and their sponsored children.

EXTRA GIFTS

In 2014 the sponsorship team received 101 parcels and 155 letters from sponsors. The letters were translated and then given to their sponsored children. The children were excited to receive parcels and letters from their sponsors. In return, the children sent letters with photos to their sponsors. Some sponsors send extra money to their sponsored child in order to help them buy things like food, coal and clothes.

When a child receives extra funds from his or her sponsor, the team takes the child shopping within one month of the funds being received. We ask the child to make a wish list of items she/he would like to buy.

This year, 174 children received extra money very generously donated by their sponsors. Thank you letters from the children were translated and sent to the global offices to be sent on to sponsors. Some of the children put the extra money in the bank to keep for future use.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Special training sessions were organised for parents and guardians of the children. The parents said that they found them really helpful and it provided a forum where they could ask questions openly.

Over 40 parents attended the training session on human trafficking. Enkhsaikhan, our senior social worker led the discussion, together with a representative from the Mongolian Police Force's Human trafficking department. During the training, participants talked about increasing numbers of people being trafficked, the normal means by which this happens and how to minimise the danger.

Our sponsorship team also held a training session on our sponsorship programme to around 80 caregivers and parents.

EVENTS AND FESTIVITIES

Summer Camping 2014

Since 2006, a very generous sponsor from the UK donates money to send children to summer camp. The children really enjoy the opportunity to spend time at camp in the fresh country air. In July 2014, 16 lucky sponsorship children went to camp. The children also took part in many competitions at camp. The girls won a gold medal in tennis while the boys got a silver medal in football. After camp the children came back looking healthy and refreshed. One of our children won first place in a dance competition and was given a gold medal and free dance classes. Professional dancers came in every day to teach 4 hours of dance every day, which the children really enjoyed.

The children told the team that the summer camp was their favourite event of the year.

Sports Day

In March the sponsorship team organised a sport's day with sponsored students and Foundation staff. They had basketball, volleyball and table tennis competitions. A total of 106 sponsored children from 6 Districts of Ulaanbaatar City took part.

Field Trip

A field trip was organised among 36 primary classes, which included 6 children from the Ger Village. They visited a famous Monastery, Tuvaimag Aildtanbulag soum, located 108 km from Ulaanbaatar.

The children learned about history and the staff took the opportunity to spend time with the children in a more relaxed environment. We also organised wrestling and running competitions for the children and the winners received prizes.

Naadam Festival Festivities

We organised a Naadam¹celebration for 70 of our sponsor children in grades four to six. Caregivers and parents also came along. Our children learned about Naadam and the reason for the traditional horseracing, wrestling and archery celebration.

We wanted our children to have fun, make new friends, learn the value of team work and of course to learn about the meaning of Naadam.

Presentation at the national authority for children

In June our Sponsorship team organised a presentation for staff members of childcare centres, to introduce our programmes and philosophy. We held the event at the National Authority for Children in cooperation with the Department of Child Rights and Child Protection of NAC.

¹ Nadam or "games") is a traditional festival in Mongolia. The festival is also locally termed "eriin gурvan naadam" "the three games of men". The games are Mongolian wrestling, horseracing and archery and are held throughout the country during midsummer.





Special Assistance Fund Support



During a parent information session



Field trip



Sponsor Visit



Graduate Student



Graduate Student



Education Assistance Programme

Subproject

Generally families will use funds from their sponsors to cover expenses such as school stationery, books, clothing and family needs. For children attending college and vocational schools the fees are not high and they find the support adequate.

However University fees in Mongolia are prohibitively expensive. For parents who work they can apply for loans and often University students will work during the summer months to make money for school. Some lucky children's sponsors help by covering the costs of tuition for them.

However there are still a lot of children who simply cannot afford to go to University. The Foundation established the Education Assistance Programme, as a subproject of the Child Sponsorship Programme to help children who needed extra help in order for them to complete their education. This is for children already enrolled in the Child Sponsorship Programme, who have gotten into University and are doing well but struggling to cover tuition.

In 2014, the Foundation provided financial assistance in the form of partial tuition fees for University and College was provided for 31 students [see success stories].

Success Stories

*Names changed for privacy

ANU*

Anu's parents, like thousands of other Mongolian factory workers, suddenly lost their jobs when the manufacturing industry collapsed in 1990. They moved to the countryside, 380km from Ulaanbaatar and to make ends meet, her mother worked with local herders accepting homemade milk and meat in lieu of wages. Life was very difficult.

In 2007, Anu entered the CNCF Sponsorship Programme which she says changed her life.

She is very grateful to the family from Australia who sponsored her and her brother so they could study at secondary school and University. Her brother is currently studying mining engineering at the Science and Technological University of Mongolia. Anu said because her sponsors and CNCF believed in her it inspired to work hard.

Anu graduated from the University in 2014, and although she could not find a job in her field, Japanese language studies, she found a position as a receptionist at Ulaanbaatar Songdo Hospital in Ulaanbaatar, an international standard facility. She loves her job and has learnt so much about communication and people skills, teamwork and juggling a large workload. In the future, she wants to study for a Master's degree in Japan so hopes to land a job in a Japanese invested company or work as a Japanese language teacher.

Anu says: I will never forget CNCF and I will work hard to have a good life.



ALTAN*

Altan* joined the sponsorship programme in April 2011. At the time he was living with his grandfather and uncle in a poor ger district on outskirts of the Ulaanbaatar City. His mother Azzaya had died of sudden heart attack in February 2011. The family struggled to live on the small retirement pension of the grandfather living in very poor conditions.

Altan told the team that he dreamed of being a sports teacher. His favorite subjects in school were art, sport and English. In his free time he attended boxing classes and played basketball.

In 2014 Altan graduated from the University of Defence in 2014 as a military officer for tactical equipment operating and works for the Army. Now he a military officer and his grandfather is very proud of his grandson.

BAATAR*

Baatar* entered the Sponsorship Programme in 2009. His mother had passed away and his father had abandoned him and his siblings. He was living with two of his older brothers with an aunt in very difficult conditions.

Baatar has since gone on to complete Technical and Technological College in cooking and he works as an assistant chef at the Terej Tourist Camp located in 55 km from Ulaanbaatar city. He is very happy to be working in a profession he loves. He is also very grateful to the support from CNCF and his sponsor, which allowed him to escape poverty and lead an independent life.

ALTANTSETSEG*

Altantsetseg* joined the sponsorship programme in October 2002. He was an orphan who was living with his elderly grandmother and living off her very small pension. Their living conditions were very bad until

2005 when CNCF provided them a ger through the CNCF Give-a-Ger project.

Thanks to the support from his sponsor and CNCF Altantsetseg successfully graduated Mongolian National University in 2014 in Mining Exploitation and Engineering. He had an internship at one of the top mining companies in Mongolia - Energy Resources and because of the dedication and hard work he showed he was hired by the company upon graduation. He sent a letter to his sponsor and CNCF to say thank for the 12 years of support he received and that thanks to this support he was able to complete his education and secure a job.

ERDEN*

Erden* joined the sponsorship programme in August 2003. At that time he was living with four siblings in a single room of a run-down dormitory as his parents had died in an accident in 2000. The living conditions of the family were extremely poor.

Thanks to CNCF and a very generous sponsor from France he was able go to school and eventually he went on to study at Seruuleg University where he graduated with a degree in Accounting and Business Management in 2014. He has secured a job as an accountant in his home village.



One of the families we support



**“The future of our world is the future of our children,
our beautiful children.
For many of them, it is a matter of giving them back their future,
giving them a life, giving them hope and giving them
a childhood they deserve.”**

- Christina Noble -



If you or your organisation are interested in supporting this programme in 2015/2016 please contact our Foundation.
It is only through the kind generosity of others that we are able to continue our work with some of the world's most vulnerable children.

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