

Mid-Year Impact Brief June 2020





Unlocking the potential of our world's vulnerable children

# This year got off to a challenging start

Communities around the world have struggled in the midst of the global pandemic – one which has disproportionately impacted children living in adversity. Millions of children have suffered from economic and social impacts that will continue to influence their lives in the months and years to come.

During this crisis, OneSky has been deeply grateful for the incredible outpouring of generosity that helped us to keep all our staff employed and empowered to provide critical support to the local communities in which we work.

Our teams in China and Vietnam have been heroes in the most trying circumstances. In orphanages across China, our staff organized the delivery of 313,500 masks, 35,000 pairs of gloves and 521 barrels of disinfectant. In China's rural villages, a crisis hotline was immediately opened to provide counseling to villagers struggling in isolation. Women working as OneSky Family Mentors served alongside government workers in education and prevention efforts. In Vietnam, teachers communicated with parents weekly, aiding them in creating daily routines and learning activities for the children.

During the time of strict shutdowns, OneSky capitalized on its ability to deliver remote education, information, and support through our online learning platform. In the months to come, we will further expand our capacity to do so while creating contingency plans to keep our staff protected and the children and caregivers engaged and healthy.

As we all face the COVID-19 pandemic together, we thank you for your support of OneSky and the vulnerable communities we serve. Your gifts help save lives.

With gratitude for all your support, The OneSky Team

#### Your Impact To Date

Thank You for ensuring that 210,964 children have received transformative care and love.

**58,776 caregivers** have been reached through our training and direct service programs.

	China	Vietnam	Mongolia	Global Centre, Hong Kong
Programs operating since	2000	2017	2019	2020
Children impacted	196,072	14,556	275	61
Caregivers reached	57,864	790	52	70

# Online Learning Supports Orphanage Care during COVID-19

OneSky has integrated online learning into its training curriculum since 2012. During COVID-19 this has served us extremely well and enabled us to provide seamless education and support to our caregivers during lockdown.



In China, through our online learning platform 1JiaRen, we could communicate clear and actionable virus prevention and control measures with institutions around the clock. Virtual classes were held daily for caregivers and children to participate in together, while our own staff used the lockdown time to further their knowledge of our program and curriculum training.

As the welfare institutions reopened, staff returned to work with increased knowledge of COVID-19 prevention measures and equipped with tools to manage during times of crisis.

We are also pleased to report that, based on the urgent need for special needs interventions in China's orphanages and the success of our inclusive education pilot program in the Nanjing Child Welfare Institution, we will be piloting our intervention for additional age groups and expanding programming to at least 15 provinces over the next three years.

#### Proven Life-Changing Care

Results of the 2019 evaluation of children in OneSky programs in 11 orphanages indicated that 90% of the children made significant improvements in physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional developmental areas.

# Responding to Crisis In Rural Villages

As COVID-19 spread across China, OneSky Family Mentors joined efforts with local government to respond to the crisis in the villages we serve. These women worked tirelessly alongside village leaders on prevention, education, and provision of critical supplies. To help caregivers engage the children, staff provided daily instruction on how to transform household tasks, such as sweeping the floor, or picking vegetables, into fun games. These activities not only promoted children's learning and development but allowed for quality interaction between the child and the caregiver.

The dedication and creativity of our local staff won the government's recognition and solidified our connection, sowing the seeds for their advocacy and future cooperation in support of left-behind children in rural communities.



**Community relief efforts** also included mobilizing a team of counselors and social workers to provide psychological support services to the many villagers experiencing depression and anxiety.

## Back to School In Vietnam

The year started with two important events: a festive graduation of 234 women enrolled in OneSky's Caregiver Training Program in Da Nang, and the expansion of the training program to Quang Nam province.

Expansion to Quang Nam is the very first step towards scaling nationally which will ultimately benefit over 400,000 children living in industrial zones.

#### Early Learning Center Reopens

On May 10, we welcomed children back to our Early Learning Center which was closed for over three months. While masks hid the smiles, there was no doubting the

> excitement and relief of children, parents and teachers.



During the COVID-19 related closures in Vietnam, our teachers and trainers found creative ways to help parents support children and engage trainees.

Trainers maintained an ongoing online chat group for each training cohort providing connection, encouragement, and emotional support to homebased day care providers. And our Early Learning Center staff sent helpful tips to parents looking to continue their child's learning while at home.

Teachers communicated with families weekly using Skype and social media. Numerous short videos were made and shared on how to engage children at home as well as how to stay safe and prevent the spread of the virus. This engagement was particularly essential to low-income and illiterate parents isolated at home and with no access to mainstream information channels.



Above: The trainees were proud to receive their graduation certificates, co-signed by OneSky and Da Nang's Department of Education and Training.

## New Year and New Beginnings

## Mongolia

Thanks to the generosity of Lorinet Foundation and DZ Trading Company, a new project was launched to improve outcomes for young children and families living in impoverished ger communities surrounding the nation's capital, Ulaanbaatar. The program is modeled on our intervention in rural China where parenting education and community engagement efforts brought forth a lasting change in caregiving practices and community well being.





### Hong Kong

#### The P. C. Lee OneSky Global Centre for Early Childhood Development

Our new Centre opened on May 18. The Family Centre provides state-of-the-art play spaces to families and children residing in the Sham Shui Po district, one of the poorest communities in Hong Kong. OneSky Family Mentors will staff the play areas, guiding parents and demonstrating ways they can promote the development of their children.



Find out more about the Centre at www.hkcentre.onesky.org.

#### **Plan Your Giving**

Please consider helping vulnerable children for generations to come. To find out how to include OneSky in your will or as a beneficiary, please reach out to <u>heather@onesky.org</u>

## Thank you for helping build brighter, bolder futures for all children!





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www.onesky.org