

Unlocking the potential of our world's vulnerable children



# Building Better Futures

Mid-Year Impact Brief 2021



As Covid-19 continues to spread across the globe, the vulnerable communities we serve in China, Hong Kong SAR, Mongolia, and Vietnam face ongoing hardship, enduring sustained lockdowns and school closures.

Despite the challenges, we are firmly focused on ensuring the children are as protected as possible from the impact the virus has brought to their communities.

Our child caregivers have been working around the clock to find creative ways to make early learning opportunities possible for children living in adversity and support families from a distance.

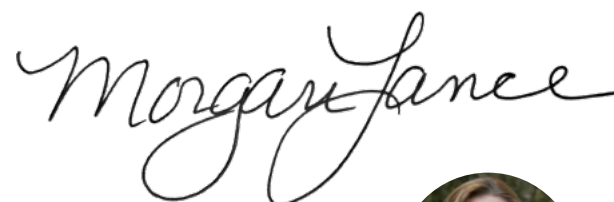
While we have adjusted our programs to ways of life that we could not previously have imagined, there is still much work to be done. Covid-19 has had a tremendous impact on the global progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a particularly devastating effect on access to early childhood education.

With the ongoing support of our global donors and partners, we are confident that together we will come through this crisis stronger and more resilient.

The children are our greatest teachers – inquisitive, innovative, and eager to learn. But they need our support more than ever.

Thank you, on behalf of the vulnerable communities we serve, for your compassion during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



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In the first half of 2021, we have had to **adapt all our programs** due to the ongoing government restrictions imposed on the communities in which we work.

**Despite this, we have continued to reach new caregivers and children.**

To date, our programs have impacted the lives of **227,212 children**, and **64,157 caregivers** have been trained through the OneSky curriculum and direct service programs.



Online learning and mobile engagement of children and parents have increased.

	China	Vietnam	Mongolia	Global Centre, Hong Kong
<i>Programs operating since ...</i>	2000	2017	2019	2020
Children Impacted	205,035	20,795	556	826
Caregivers Reached	62,084	1,112	182	779



OneSky continually monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of its programs. We are pleased to share recent findings from China and Vietnam.

## CHINA

OneSky's work in welfare institutions in China was found to:



Provide quality childcare via responsive, nurturing guidance and individually-tailored support.

- Improve children's physical growth, including height and weight.
- Decrease a child's behavioral challenges.
- Increase accommodating care routines and inclusion of children with disabilities in institutions.

## VIETNAM

OneSky's Home-based Childcare (HBC) Training Program has been found to:

- Improve and sustain home-based childcare quality, via the physical environment, caregiver-child interactions, inclusiveness, and support for early learning and development.



Improve child outcomes including fine motor skills, visual perception, and early learning composite scores.

- Have the potential to improve the knowledge and caregiving interactions of other caregivers and parents.



## ORPHANAGES

### Responding to Shifting Needs in Institutions

Over the past year, our local team in China has been awarded several fee-for-service contracts from the government including one to provide guidance and support to Chaoyang Child Welfare Institution.

We have also continued to be there for the children despite pandemic restrictions, pivoting to digital training of child caregivers and

supporting our Loving Families Program with Covid-prevention materials and education.

Meanwhile, our rich online learning platform enabled caregivers to continue learning and connecting with a community of peers, as well as share fun, educational activities to keep the children engaged during the pandemic.

As many institutions are confronted with the need for ongoing virtual learning, OneSky's growing digital program has taken on increased importance.

## VILLAGES

### Ongoing Restrictions Keep Rural Families Separated

In the villages, spring arrived with hope this year as vaccination programs rolled out. For the children, it meant finally getting outside again to play with friends as our Family Centers reopened with strict disinfection and sterilization protocols to ensure safety.

Sadly, due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, some parents didn't make it home for the Spring Festival this year. A sample survey indicated that only 59% of parents returned, a 34% decrease from 2020. So, our local village staff made a special effort to ensure the Spring Festival was a joyful, interesting, and fun affair this year. Extra home visits were conducted for families and children that needed additional support.

In terms of training, our village staff has been supported remotely through bi-weekly video calls. Trainings have focused on social work topics and counseling to deepen staff expertise in providing psychological support to children and families.



With the measures of pandemic control still active in China, training of the village teams remained online. We continue to invest in the capacity of our training team through ongoing training-of-trainers and blended learning theory and practice.



Our village program was selected as one of the top 10 charity programs among 249 contestants in the Effective Philanthropy Multiplier, an open and collaborative platform, mobilizing financial and non-financial resources from different stakeholders.



## Hong Kong Centre Celebrates Its First Anniversary

In May, the OneSky Global Centre in Hong Kong celebrated its first anniversary.

Despite opening during the Covid-19 pandemic and enduring a year of on-and-off closures, the Centre engaged with more than 50 NGOs, conducted nine community days, launched the first cohort of professional training, and graduated the very first cohorts from the parent training program. More than 400 local families enjoyed the play spaces.

As Hong Kong emerges from the pandemic we are eager to expand our reach and benefit more children and their families via centre activities.

In April, the Centre welcomed a new Executive Director, Susanna Lee, who grew up in Sham Shui Po, where the Centre is located and is familiar with the challenges of the local community.



“I recently asked my mother why I had never attended childcare. It turns out the first obstacle was the waiting list. Then, when a place finally became available, my mother visited and was shocked by what she saw. A dozen babies were watched over by a single caregiver. Sham Shui Po has needed a place like OneSky’s Centre for my whole life.”

*Below: Training for the early childhood education workforce and professionals was launched in June in partnership with Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.*



## OneSky Training Program Reaches the North of Vietnam

OneSky’s program in Vietnam reached two important milestones in the first half of 2021: the completion of an impact evaluation by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and expansion to the first province in the north of the country.

The Harvard study demonstrated that OneSky’s program had a positive and sustained impact on the quality of home-based daycares and uniquely contributed to positive improvements in children’s development. We will release the report findings at a national conference co-hosted with Vietnam’s Ministry of Education and Training later this year.

In December, 80 women attended their first OneSky training session in Hai Duong province in northern Vietnam. Hai Duong’s rapid development of industrial zones has been attracting factory workers, 77% of them women. The demand for childcare outpaces supply and we are enthusiastic about making a positive impact in the area.



*Above: The training program was also expanded in the Cam Le and Hoa Vang districts, two of the poorest areas of Da Nang. Each trainee in these two districts also received a Samsung tablet as a learning tool – thanks to a pilot program sponsored by the Lorinet and Octava Foundations to determine whether access to better tools can improve engagement in online learning.*





## Building Engagement at a Distance in Mongolia

Cold weather and Covid-19 restrictions that lasted through much of this year prompted the OneSky Mongolia team to develop new creative ways to strengthen community relationships, engage local families, and build our network.

This work included engagement through Facebook parent groups, phone calls, and the creation of short instructional videos for

parents on how to interact and support their children in various arts and crafts, games, and other activities that improve children’s fine motor skills, physical, cognitive, and language development.

Over the past few months, the team contacted more than 20 local kindergartens and NGOs to explore the potential for collaboration. They received very positive responses with most organizations expressing interest in the OneSky Family Skills Program. Training through partnerships will launch later in 2021 with four local kindergartens.



### Create Long-Lasting Impact

Help vulnerable children for generations to come. Find out how to leave a legacy gift for the children by emailing [heather@onesky.org](mailto:heather@onesky.org).

OneSky’s work is possible only because you share our vision for a world where all children have a chance to reach their full potential. Thank you for your partnership, and support in building a better future for more children.

SEP 2021

