



# 2023 ANNUAL IMPACT BRIEF

## OUR MISSION

Lorinet Foundation is a family foundation dedicated to enabling positive and sustainable impact on the lives of children, youth, and families living in vulnerable communities in Mongolia.

## OUR IMPACT STATEMENT

We aim to achieve:

**DIRECT IMPACT** by fostering early childhood care and education, as well as youth employment.

**SYSTEMIC IMPACT** by generating awareness, leveraging systems, and promoting good practices that lead to lasting change.

## OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Young children are nurtured and learning at age-appropriate levels.

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Youth have sustainable employment and improved income and quality of life.

## OUR APPROACH

We deliver impact by granting financial and non-financial support to a portfolio of carefully selected organisations and through a number of initiatives that aim at promoting social innovation in Mongolia.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, we developed our **Impact Framework**, bolstering our methodology and tools for assessing and communicating our impact – now measured as DIRECT and SYSTEMIC IMPACT.
- The framework served as a strong foundation for reviewing our work over the past five years (2018-22), culminating in the publication of our inaugural **Impact Report**. [Read more](#)
- Integrating insights gleaned from our on the ground operations, we refined our **Foundation-level Strategy**, titled “Practice to Policy”. [Read more](#)
- Additionally, we completed our **Thematic Strategies**:
  - **Youth Employment**, addressing Skills Development, Education to Employment Transitions, and Enabling the Ecosystem.
  - **Early Childhood Care & Education**, integrating learnings from our existing initiatives.
  - **Integrated theme**, acknowledging the connections between empowering young mothers economically and enabling a nurturing environment for young children.
- Our **Website** underwent refinement this year, ensuring clarity and coherence in communicating our work and priorities to external stakeholders.
- We bolstered our **Ecosystem Engagements** both globally and locally.
  - We leveraged global platforms such as Skoll, Yidan, AVPN, GEFCF, IIEG, ARNEC, ISSA, and several global foundations.
  - In Mongolia, we continue to co-lead the Mongolian ECD Network, along with UNICEF. We also strengthened our ties with the private sector and joined the [AMCHAM](#) membership.
  - We are honoured to receive the AMCHAM CSR Award for Innovation for our Let’s Read programme, proving its relevance in the Mongolian context.
- On **Impact and Knowledge Management**, we disseminated our study on Global ECE programmes at various platforms, which was very well-received by Global EC Funders. [Read the summary here](#)
- Regarding **Our Team**, we dedicated efforts to mentoring and capacity building of each team member. Our thematic advisors Jessica Hjarrand and Zayasaikhan Dugeree continue to contribute invaluable expertise and credibility to our work.
- **In the Future**, as an important strategic decision, we will formally initiate an approach to **mobilise additional capital and resources for Mongolia**.

**2023**  
Grants in  
Mongolia

**5,254**  
children  
benefitted

**605**  
parents and  
caregivers  
benefitted

**385**  
early childhood  
workforce  
trained

### GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

This year, our focus centred on strengthening our strategy and team, which we envision will guide our social investments over the next five years. The first cycle of programmes under Youth Employment concluded this year, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming new partners while bolstering the efforts of existing ones in 2024. Regarding ECCE, the programmes led by our longstanding partners – OneSky and The Asia Foundation have demonstrated highly promising outcomes:

- We are witnessing initial positive developments on children benefitting from these progs
- Targeted trainings are increasing the knowledge and practice of parents and caregivers on responsive caregiving, with ongoing monitoring of knowledge and behavioural changes
- Programme benefits have extended to the early childhood workforce, enhancing the capacity of service providers and workforce, despite not being initially planned
- Our programmes are gaining recognition within the Mongolian ECD sector, resulting in collaborations with key govt. and private sector stakeholders.

While we are still evaluating full-scale impact of these comprehensive programmes, on the ground, they are addressing the critical needs of Mongolian young children and their caregivers. With momentum building in our ECCE initiatives in Mongolia, we are exploring their gradual transition towards scale and sustainability.

# ENHANCING RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING PRACTICES FOR MONGOLIAN PARENTS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:  
ONESKY MONGOLIA



OneSky provides family skills training to vulnerable families living in ger districts of Ulaanbaatar. OneSky Family Centre serves as community engagement and training space for parents and caregivers and provides safe play space for young children.

In 2023, OneSky gained significant visibility within the early childhood ecosystem with some promising collaborations forming such as the National Alliance of Childcare Workers. At present, OneSky is developing their three-year strategy for Mongolia. This year, OneSky

- Trained **386 parents and caregivers** in responsive caregiving and benefitted **3,741 children**.
- Supported professional development of **192 early childhood professionals** including kindergarten teachers, NGO staffs, and childcare workers.
- Enhanced the training by **cooperating with 15 public kindergartens** from ger areas and organising on-site training to parents and caregivers of preschool students.
- Made **significant strides in govt. engagements**, joining the childcare law amendment working group, sharing expertise at the National ECD forum that included over 200 govt. officials, and presenting their work at the ARNEC Learning Forum in Philippines.
- Hosted the first of their **fundraising events** in Mongolia, inviting over 40 prestigious individuals and corporates and raising USD 40,000.

**Highlight:** This year, OneSky strengthened its core training programme and expanded its reach through the family centre as well as partnerships with neighbouring kindergartens. OneSky's proactive engagements with govt. authorities and childcare service providers to develop alternative childcare models and enhance service capacity have been pivotal in its strategic expansion in Mongolia.

# PROMOTING READING AS A CRITICAL TOOL FOR EARLY EDUCATION

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**  
THE ASIA FOUNDATION MONGOLIA (TAF)



**The Asia Foundation**

Let's Read is a holistic programme to promote reading among young children, raise knowledge and awareness among parents and teachers, and increase the availability and accessibility of Mongolian books and reading events.

In 2023, TAF performed wide-ranging activities such as the '15 minute' campaign, storytime events, trainings for corporate employees, volunteer reading clubs, children's book award, etc. This year, TAF

- Organised 177 story-time events at public libraries, community centres, and other public spaces in cooperation with local authorities, companies, and community leaders, reaching **2,377 children** (out of which 0-6 aged were **1,513 children**).
- Trained **219 parents and caregivers and 193 EC professionals** including kindergarten teachers.
- Created 4 original **Mongolian children's books** via Children's Book Creators' Fellowship; translated 66 English books into Mongolian; and printed 5,000 copies of five children's books.
- As part of **public awareness campaign '15 minutes'** generating over 1.5 million views, TAF created 77 illustrative posts, 12 podcast videos, 40 reels, and 40 episodes of TV programme.
- Promoted free **digital book application** (Let's Read) that received 10,899 downloads, with 50% of users making multiple visits to the platform.

**Highlight:** TAF initiated a unique **Children's Book Creation Fellowship** to nurture Mongolian creators in crafting high-quality children's literature and fostering a creative community. Experienced authors and publishers supported the initiative and mentored 16 fellows, resulting in 3 fellows publishing picture books and 4 fellows exploring international recognition under the Mongolian Voices collection.

## SYSTEMIC IMPACT

- **Facilitating knowledge trip of Mongolian government officials to Vietnam**

Leveraging our partnership with OneSky in Mongolia and Vietnam, we supported Mongolian govt. officials' [Learning Trip](#) to Vietnam. The officials from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and the Social Development division of Bayanzurkh district visited the OneSky childcare provider training programme and learnt from their counterparts at the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) about how childcare is regulated, monitored, and supported in Vietnam.

The learning trip provided the officials an understanding of how childcare can successfully be arranged outside of a centre-based model that relies heavily on school buildings – already overcrowded in UB as well as demonstrated a model of cooperation between govt. and NGOs in creating childcare policy.



- **Contributing to global early childhood knowledge base**

In 2023, we disseminated the results of a study we commissioned in 2022, which explored notable global Early Childhood Education (ECE) practices adaptable for implementation in Mongolia. The study was carried out by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), a US-based research and policy organisation.

The study was presented at the Evidence and Implementation Summit (EIS) 2023 in Melbourne and to the member of Global Early Education Funders (GECF). The audience – practitioners of Early Childhood intervention – found the study a good knowledge source for both local and global audiences in the ECE space. The evidence presented in the report proved to be useful in making more evidence-based decisions and maximise the impact of their interventions. [Read the summary here](#)

- **Supporting the ECD ecosystem in Mongolia**

The Mongolian ECD Network continues to grow as a platform, facilitating dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders. Members have witnessed significant reduction in duplication of efforts by utilising field-tested assets and best practices shared through the platform.

In our capacity as MECDN's co-lead, we participated in a capacity building programme organised by the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) and Network Impact. The tools and resources from this programme were pivotal in shaping MECDN's strategy and structure. Additionally, we funded the network's social media campaign aimed at promoting evidence-based responsive childcare practices in Mongolian language among civil society.

Beyond MECDN, we actively engage in advocating for policy deliberations and bringing international best practices. For instance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) recently invited us to participate in discussions on the childcare law amendments. Moreover, we shared Chile's internationally acknowledged ECD policy, 'Chile Crece Contigo' in Mongolian language to support the National ECD Council's efforts in creating a child well-being tracking system.



# SINCE INCEPTION, OUR GRANTS GLOBALLY HAVE SERVED 51,374 PEOPLE\*

## Early Childhood Care and Education

**31,967**

children aged 0-5 years provided with access to quality care and early learning opportunities

**2,209**

parents and caregivers trained on responsive caregiving and early childhood stimulations

**59%**

parents and caregivers reporting improvement in their skills

**1,840**

early childhood workforce trained



*\*In our commitment to transparency, we acknowledge minor data discrepancies in our previous 5-year Impact Report. We have since rectified these issues and aligned reporting periods and standards with our partners for greater accuracy moving forward.*

## Youth Employment

**3,890**

youth trained on employability skills and sustainable livelihoods

**79%**

youth who secured employment

**80%**

youth who reported improvement in income or quality of life

**222**

employers and public officials who participated in workforce development



# LOOKING FORWARD

In 2023, we reflected on the past five years and charted our course for the next five. Going forward, we are committed to implementing all five pillars our **Practice to Policy** strategy.

## Practice to Policy

### Social Investments

With a robust grant management system in place and clear thematic strategies established, we will strengthen our portfolio on **Early Childhood Care and Education, Youth Employment, and the Integrated theme**.

### Advancing Knowledge

We will continue to gather evidence of effective practices on the ground as well as curate and disseminate knowledge, fostering greater awareness among stakeholders and **enabling concerted actions**.

### Strengthening Ecosystem

From this year, we will explore formal mechanisms to **build the capacity of implementation organisations** and ensure their effectiveness.

### Mobilising Capital

With the objective of accelerating and amplifying our impact, we will partner with other major foundations, corporates, and philanthropists to **raise and direct increased philanthropic funding towards Mongolia**.

### Policy Engagement

From this year, we will explore formal mechanisms to engage with government systems, leveraging them to influence policy, drive systemic change, and ensure the **long-term effectiveness and scalability of our programmes**.

# OUR NETWORK

## Ecosystem Partners



## Portfolio Partners



If you would like to get involved in our work or find out more, please get in touch with us at <https://www.lorinetfoundation.org/contact/>.