



# 2024 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 focus areas

- **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.



## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



2024 was a pivotal year as we advanced our ***Practice to Policy*** strategy, bridging grassroots action with systemic change and setting clear priorities for long-term impact.

### Scaling proven solutions and expanding our portfolio

- We strengthened our social investments, scaling impactful initiatives such as **OneSky's Building Better Futures**, **The Asia Foundation's Let's Read**, and **Zorig Foundation's Sustainable Employment for Youth Programme**. Our portfolio expanded with a key partnership: **Christina Noble Children's Foundation's (CNCF) Youth Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme**, which strengthens education and rehabilitation pathways for at-risk youth.
- Recognising climate change as a cross-cutting issue for children and youth, we invested in **The Nature Conservancy's Eternal Mongolia** initiative, fostering sustainable community development and conservation.



## Strengthening the ecosystem

As a co-lead of the **Mongolian Early Childhood Development Network (MECDN)** alongside UNICEF, we contributed to its evolution into a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

In 2024, our thought leadership gained much recognition at national and global levels:

- The **Government of Mongolia** invited us to the **National Youth Conference** and the **Mongolian Economic Forum** to present ‘what works’ in supporting youth.
- The **Sasakawa Peace Foundation’s ‘Triple Ripple’ report** spotlighted our catalytic role in philanthropy, reinforcing our position as a changemaker in Asia.
- We were also invited to the **International Education Funders Group (IEFG)** and the **Wealth Management Institute (WMI)** to share perspectives on effective philanthropy.



## Mobilising capital for greater impact

In order to scale our impact, we developed a **comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy**, strengthening Mongolia’s position in global philanthropy.

Key milestones included:

- **Facilitating cross-border giving** between Singapore and Mongolia through strategic partnerships.
- Showcasing Mongolia’s social impact landscape at **Roadshows in Singapore and Geneva**.
- **Engaging corporates**, including a collaboration with AmCham Mongolia, leading to field visits in Ulaanbaatar’s ‘ger’ areas and raising awareness of community-led solutions.
- Participating in the **Asia Philanthropic Ventures (APV)** field visit, spotlighting Mongolia as an emerging hub for social investments.

## Growing our team and advisory

- We strengthened our leadership by welcoming **Thierry de Panafieu to our Board**, bringing valuable guidance for the foundation’s future.
- Additionally, **Erdenesuvd Batulzii (Suvda)** joined as **Programme Manager**, further enhancing our ability to drive impact on the ground.





In 2024, our grants benefitted:

**2,310** young children

**671** parents & caregiver

**105** youth

**214** early childhood workforce



# OUR GRANTMAKING

## Grant highlights

2024 marks a major milestone for all our grants, as they transitioned from successful pilots to full-scale implementation. Each initiative has validated its concept, demonstrated measurable impact, and built momentum within their ecosystems—attracting increased interest from key stakeholders, including the government.

Every initiative aligns with our core belief in investing in solutions that are impactful, scalable, and sustainable. **We take pride in fostering value-driven, trust-based partnerships** with organisations that share our vision of overcoming barriers and creating lasting change.





**Implementation partner**

OneSky

2020-ongoing

OneSky’s *Building Better Futures* programme strengthens responsive caregiving practices among Mongolian parents and caregivers.

In its pilot phase (2020-23), the programme provided family skills training in Ulaanbaatar’s underserved ger districts, training 1,729 caregivers including workforce and improving the well-being of over 5,700 children. **In 2024, OneSky entered its scaling phase**, expanding into kindergartens, childcare services, and orphanages to ensure quality care and early learning for more children.

**Key milestones:**

In 2024, while continuing its flagship parenting training and reaching **513 caregivers and 1,247 children**, OneSky opened the **Children’s Development Play Centre**—the first year-round indoor play space in the ger areas, addressing the critical need for safe public spaces for children. Additionally, it launched a childcare workforce training to upskill undertrained, low-resourced childcare workers, enhancing both their capacity and the quality of services.

To support policy learning, OneSky facilitated a **government exchange trip** for Mongolian officials to its orphanage and foster care programme in China, exploring adaptations in Mongolia.





# Promoting reading as a critical tool for early education



**Implementation partner**  
The Asia Foundation  
2021-ongoing

The Asia Foundation’s *Let’s Read Mongolia* programme promotes early reading as an effective tool to support learning and development of young children.

During its pilot phase (2021-24), the programme engaged 1,464 parents and caregivers reaching 3,412 children through holistic approach such as awareness campaigns, interactive reading activities for parents and caregivers with young children, and increased access to Mongolian-language children’s books. Building on this foundation, **from 2024, the programme places greater emphasis on influencing government policy and curricula**, while reinforcing proven strategies such as story time events, book fellowships, and community engagement.

### Key milestones:

In 2024, the programme collaborated with the National Institute for Education Research to integrate read-aloud practices into Mongolia’s preschool curriculum. Currently piloted in 18 kindergartens nationwide, this initiative represents a **significant step toward embedding early reading into the country’s education framework**, with plans for nationwide implementation in the upcoming school year.

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION





# IMPACT STORY

## ***Shaping Dagina's Future: How Nurturing Care Helps Children Thrive***

*Three-year-old Dagina\* and her family live in a ger—a traditional yurt—on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar, where limited access to basic services and infrastructure restricts opportunities, especially for young children. Dagina and her baby sister spend most of their time inside the cramped home with their mother, Jagaa, especially during the long winters when temperatures can plummet to -30°C.*

*Dagina's family migrated to Ulaanbaatar, seeking better opportunities but struggling to gain residency. Like 840,000 others labelled “temporary citizens,” they face chronic stress from harsh living conditions and low wages, making it difficult to provide consistent, responsive care for their children.*



*“Before OneSky, I was angry and frustrated with my daughters when they asked questions or wanted to talk and play,” Jagaa says. Through the Family Skills training, which equips parents and caregivers in responsive caregiving skills and practices, Jagaa learnt to engage with her daughters, transforming their home life. “Now, Dagina is more open with me. She isn’t afraid to express her thoughts and feelings. She even shares more with her sisters. What I’ve learnt has helped our whole family.”*

*Even after graduating, Jagaa and her children continue to visit the OneSky Family Centre and the Children’s Play Centre. “The chores never end, but this is our happy break,” she says. “I talk with other mothers from the ger district who share the same struggles I do. Our children play together, and when we go home, we’re full of ideas and laughter. Somehow, our yurt doesn’t seem so small anymore.”*

*\*The name has been changed to protect the individual's privacy*

*Story provided by our partner, OneSky*



# Improving youth's education-to-employment transition

# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



**Implementation partner**  
Zorig Foundation  
2018-ongoing

The *Sustainable Employment for Youth Programme* (SEYP) addresses Mongolia's high youth unemployment by supporting university graduates in their transition to the labour market.

What began as a pilot in 2018 to equip over 100 youth with employability skills and on-the-job experience has now expanded to Mongolia's higher education system. **In 2024, Zorig Foundation scaled up the programme to strengthen university career services**, enhance employer partnerships, and advocate for integrating career services as a standard in higher education. This phase is set to impact at least 10,000 students, with 2,000 receiving direct career support and 8,000 benefiting from targeted awareness efforts.

**Key milestones:**

In 2024, the **Zorig Foundation partnered with the largest state university, the National University of Mongolia (NUM)**, to create a robust career service framework. An action plan for NUM's Career Development Centre was developed and a Career Club was launched to ensure its long-term sustainability—the first step in building a national model for university career services.





# Empowering young offenders for successful rehabilitation and reintegration

# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



**Implementation partner**  
Christina Noble Children's  
Foundation: 2024-ongoing

The *Youth Rehabilitation and Reintegration* (YRR) programme fills a critical gap in Mongolia's juvenile justice system by providing holistic support to juvenile offenders living in the detention centre.

**In 2024, an advanced integration model was launched** to help youth aged 14-19 successfully transition back into society. The programme empowers them with essential skills and education, giving them a renewed sense of hope, ultimately reducing the country's reoffending rates. Furthermore, by engaging families and communities, the programme works to break down stigma and build a strong support network.

### Key milestones:

In 2024, the programme supported 105 young people in the juvenile detention centre with tailored services, including educational and psychosocial assistance. Additionally, a baseline assessment was conducted to guide evidence-based programming, supporting CNCF's goal of shifting Mongolia's penal system towards a more empowering and progressive approach to youth rehabilitation.

A remarkable achievement was **CNCF's first-of-its-kind membership in the Legal Committee on Child Rights**, strengthening collaboration with key authorities and ensuring that youth voices are represented.





# IMPACT STORY

## Saruulkhuu's Journey: Rebuilding a future with education and opportunity

When Saruulkhuu\* arrived at the Rehabilitation Centre for Youth in 2022, he struggled with anger, anti-social behaviour, and academic disengagement. Like many others in the detention centre, his path was hindered by hardships, poverty, and limited opportunities.

The centre, serving as both a detention facility and a secondary school, faces resource limitations and a lack of development opportunities for youth. However, the Christina Noble Children's Foundation (CNCF) bridges this gap by providing vocational training and extracurricular programmes, supporting young people on their path to reintegration.



Having dropped out of school for over a year, Saruulkhuu had fallen behind in his studies. But as he joined the vocational training, English, music, and art classes, he began to rediscover his potential. Over time, he not only caught up academically but also excelled—placing 4th in a nationwide History Olympiad and advancing from a beginner to an intermediate level in English. His achievements have since inspired other youths at the rehabilitation centre.

This year, his dedication paid off. He passed his university entrance exams and was accepted into the National University of Mongolia's School of Social Work. Until his release in 2026, he will continue his education through online university courses. He credits much of his success to the rehabilitation centre and CNCF team for broadening his horizons and showing him new possibilities. Once a struggling adolescent with little hope, Saruulkhuu is now a determined young man shaping a future filled with promise.

*\*The name has been changed to protect the individual's privacy  
Story provided by our partner, CNCF*





Strengthening Mongolia’s Early Childhood Ecosystem

Since co-founding the Mongolian Early Childhood Development Network (MECDN) with UNICEF in 2022, Lorinet Foundation has been instrumental in uniting 34 institutional stakeholders across education, health, and social protection sectors. MECDN fosters collaboration, builds capacity, and drives policy engagements within Mongolia’s fragmented early childhood ecosystem. Members consistently recognise its role in bridging gaps, sharing best practices, and strengthening government engagement to shape key sectoral policies.

In 2024, we continued co-leading the network and focussed on:

- Deepening cross-sector learning and bridging grassroots players with policymakers.
- Expanding membership to include health, private sector, and rural non-profits for broader representation.
- Strengthening governance through assessments, member surveys, and refining MECDN’s functions.

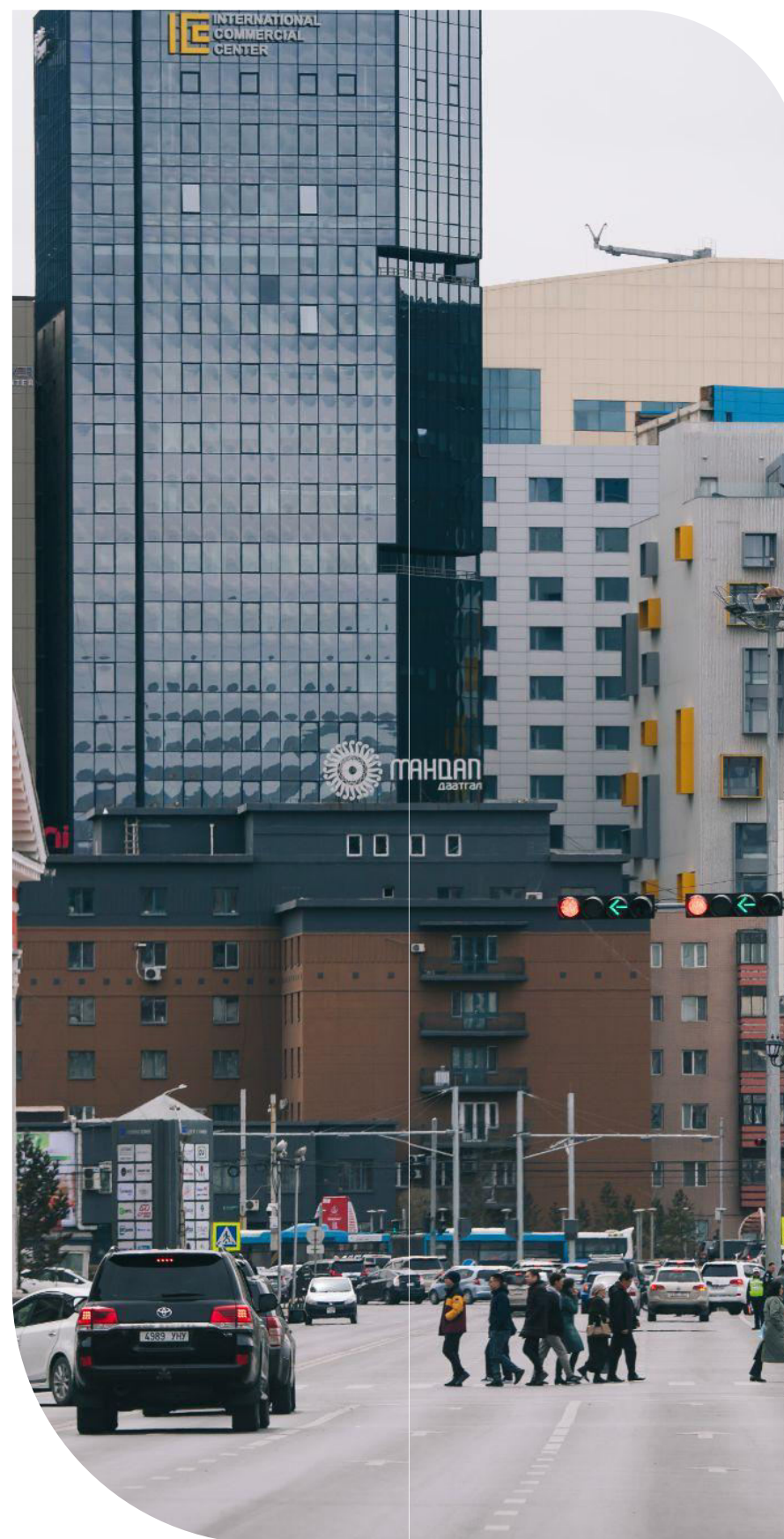
A key milestone in 2024 was the establishment of MECDN’s **Steering Committee and Secretariat**, ensuring long-term sustainability. As MECDN enters its **Stabilising Phase (2025-2026)**, it will transition into a more structured, co-owned model, co-led by Lorinet Foundation, UNICEF, and Steering Committee.



## Scaling effective solutions for systems change

Our long-term programmes now leverage systems, laying the foundation for sustainable and scalable change. By integrating proven models into institutional structures, these programmes not only address immediate needs but also influence practices and policies that can drive lasting impact.

- **Higher Education and Employment:** Zorig Foundation's partnership with the country's leading higher education institution enables effective career services to thousands of students every year. With potential government endorsement, this model could scale to all 62 universities, ensuring seamless education-to-employment transitions for students nationwide.
- **Youth Rehabilitation:** Christina Noble Children's Foundation works directly with youth and key government entities at the juvenile detention centre to identify gaps in the system and advocate for reforms. By uniting multiple sectors and drawing attention to issues in the current penal system, CNCF is driving a shift towards a more empowering model of education and rehabilitation for youth.



## Raising awareness and unlocking support for impactful solutions

In 2024, Lorinet Foundation actively engaged with local corporates, global funders, and networks to raise awareness of Mongolia's pressing social issues and advocate for impactful solutions. Some of these efforts sparked interest, while others led to direct support for key causes and partners.

- A notable success was Barloworld Mongolia LLC, recognised for its strategic corporate social investments. The company appreciated Lorinet Foundation's proactive efforts in advocating for early childhood investments. Through multiple engagements – including site visits to impactful programmes – and inspired by Lorinet Foundation's recognition through the AmCham Mongolia CSR Award for Innovation, **Barloworld Mongolia committed to supporting one of our key programmes – Let's Read Mongolia.**
- This year also marked a milestone in collaborative philanthropy. Recognising climate change as a critical, cross-cutting issue affecting future generations, Lorinet Foundation invested in The Nature Conservancy's Eternal Mongolia initiative. The foundation played a catalytic role in unlocking additional support from an international donor—going beyond merely filling a funding gap to **mobilising further resources for Mongolia's development** and the well-being of its people.



# SINCE INCEPTION

Our grants globally have served 54,674 people

## Early Childhood Care and Education

34,277

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

2,880

parents & caregivers trained on responsive caregiving & early childhood stimulations

61%

parents & caregivers reported improvement in their skills

2,054

early childhood workforce trained



## Youth Employment

3,995

youth trained on employability skills & sustainable livelihoods

79%

youth who secured employment

80%

youth who reported improvement in income or quality of life

222

employers & public officials participated in workforce development





Lorinet Foundation remains committed to deepening our impact, strengthening partnerships, and amplifying Mongolia's presence in global philanthropy.

We will continue to scale successful programmes, generate evidence to enhance effectiveness, and refine strategic engagements for sustainable change.

A key priority is mobilising philanthropic capital for Mongolia—an often-overlooked region in global funding. Raising awareness of Mongolia's development needs and Lorinet Foundation's role will be central to this effort. Through targeted awareness initiatives, strategic corporate engagement, and immersive learning journeys, we aim to engage both international and local funders. Additionally, we will analyse CSR incentives and policy frameworks as well as expand our thought leadership to further strengthen institutional partnerships.

Internally, we will enhance our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) approach and deepen government engagements to bridge gaps between grassroots innovation and national priorities, aiming to integrate effective interventions within public systems.

Through these efforts, we aim to not only sustain our impact but also unlock new opportunities for long-term, systemic change—ensuring that Mongolia's most vulnerable communities are supported by resilient, well-resourced, and future-ready social systems.

*Photo credit: AmCham Mongolia*



# OUR NETWORK



[www.lorinetfoundation.org](http://www.lorinetfoundation.org)

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