The COVID pandemic year of 2020 reminded us all how interconnected our world is, both in terms of our shared risks and protecting each other. Child Foundation is involved in both. We work to reduce risks and strengthen pathways of support to disadvantaged children and their families in need of access and success in education across Asia and the Middle East.

We remain strongly focused on access to education in these young lives as school closures continue well into 2021, affecting children worldwide. The United Nations reports that tens of millions of students are at risk of falling out of school permanently.

Amidst and because of these challenges, the Child Foundation family grew in 2020. We welcomed children from two new country programs in Tajikistan and India. And both the number of sponsorships and children served grew overall as we allocated our financial resources to cover more children worldwide. In 2020, Child Foundation established a Cosponsorship Program for families in Iran. This is a more stable system, providing food and social work support to over 6,400 families in need. It is a great collaboration between our sponsors paying for food sent to students’ families and sponsors in Iran and other countries contributing cash stipends through our Iranian partner, Bon-yad-e Koodak.

I thank the thousands of donors sponsoring children and supporting Child Foundation’s emergency responses in Iran, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and other countries. We are so honored to be associated with these partners in our mission, our committed volunteers, and our global partner agencies and their staff working at the front lines of assisting children in such a challenging year.

Gary N. Gamer
President and CEO
Child Foundation

Milad Goudarzi, from Iran, became a Child Foundation scholarship student in the third grade, after losing his dad at the age of three. He is now an engineering graduate of University of Tehran, where he majored in Petroleum and Mining Engineering. He currently teaches and provides free academic counseling for gifted low-income students. As Milad says, “One of the most effective ways to succeed in life is to study.” His success is our success, and stories like his motivate our work.

Zahra, from Afghanistan, was just a fourth-grade girl when Child Foundation started sponsoring her. She was supported through 12th grade. Zahra recently graduated from university, where she studied economics and management. She currently teaches in a school and is described by her colleagues as being an excellent, passionate, and empathetic teacher. Zahra is incredibly grateful for the support she received from Child Foundation. She wants “to be able to do the same for others, or even at least one person, in the future.”

Pon Phouek, from Cambodia, is 17. Her mother passed away and her father works far from home, so she lives with relatives. Pon is a hardworking girl on her way toward graduating high school in 2023 and then going to university. Pon started studying English at Angkor Kids Center school and she’s worked her way up to the most advanced class. This year, Pon became a volunteer preschool teacher. Other teachers report she’s a great volunteer and her English is getting even better. Thanks to her sponsor, Pon can buy any study materials she needs. And now she wants to give back to the school, to Child Foundation, and to all those who support her financially and mentally. Pon has learned a lot from teaching and looks forward to helping others like herself as a teacher when she grows up.
These families were able to buy badly needed essentials in the face of job loss and one of the world’s worst outbreaks.

In Afghanistan, we worked hard to fight misinformation by delivering COVID pamphlets to hundreds of families, along with cleaning supplies and masks. When school shut down, our students had no means to continue their studies. Child Foundation donors provided 273 USB-equipped televisions, and our students kept up with their teachers’ recorded lessons, distributed on USB flash drives from the safety of their own home.

Together, we rose to the challenge of 2020. COVID persists into 2021, and we will not let up.
Nowruz

Child Foundation initiated a fun Spring for Kindness Nowruz virtual fundraiser, cohosted by the talented actor Tara Grammy and Child Foundation CEO Gary Gamer. Children were sponsored and items were auctioned, including beautiful rugs from Iran.

Tajikistan

Our brand-new program in Tajikistan started up in 2020. Sponsors are providing financial support and school supplies to youth in need, including orphaned children and children from low-income families.

Bikes in Cambodia

Dozens of sponsored children in Cambodia were walking as many as five miles each day to school. Our donors bought bikes for those walking the farthest distances to help them focus their energy and time on their education.

Fuel for Families

Afghanistan had a particularly brutal winter. Donors provided fuel to 324 families in need. This contribution made a tremendous difference in keeping children safe, warm, and focused on their studies.

Life-saving medical treatment

Nearly 200 children benefit from regular blood transfusions at the Child Foundation-funded thalassemia clinic in Afghanistan. We also imported life-saving medication and facilitated life-saving surgeries for children in urgent need.

Sistan and Baluchestan flood

Following a devastating flood in early 2020, Child Foundation donors generously gave to help communities rebuild and get kids back in school. Child Foundation provided tablets to hundreds of children impacted by the flooding and helped fund repairs for damaged homes.

Access to education

Several schools in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, instituted distance learning during the pandemic. With your help, we equipped 273 families with technology for remote learning so students wouldn’t fall behind or drop out.

Weaving a Future

Ten Afghan mothers with extensive experience weaving carpets for negligible wages received weaving tools, quality yarn, and expert guidance to begin weaving. Now, these mothers work for themselves and can claim the full profit from their carpets’ sales.
Who is Child Foundation?

Child Foundation is a 501(c)(3) international charity organization with the mission to support underprivileged children succeed in education and achieve safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives. We serve communities in Iran, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Nepal, and Tajikistan.

What is sponsorship?

Sponsorship is a Child Foundation program that focuses on improving the well-being of vulnerable students who are at risk of falling out of school if basic needs are not met. Sponsors’ contributions make a difference through monthly financial or other support to the child and their family, such as food, tuition, school supplies, and medical assistance. Child Foundation pairs each child with one or more sponsors, depending on the child’s needs. When you sponsor a child, you provide support while building a relationship with them through letters, photos, and six-month reports.

What are our children facing?

Child Foundation sponsored children qualify for scholarships based on their enrollment in school or educational programming and their needs. Thousands of children are in emergency situations based on their poverty, which makes them extremely vulnerable to child labor and child marriage, among other harmful outcomes. What is more, Child Foundation springs into action when our children and their families face disaster, such as earthquakes, floods, and the global pandemic which hit the poorest the hardest in 2020. Disaster relief programs complement the sponsorship programs and prioritize getting kids back in school as soon as possible.

Why invest in education?

Your generosity reduces the financial stress on a family that may push children into the workforce or early marriage, reducing the chances they will attend school. Education empowers and equips students to be problem-solvers who can forge new paths for themselves and their families.