

CHILDREN ACTION

Art 1.
**The first right of any child is
the right to a childhood**



www.childrenaction.org



IDENTITY & GOALS

FONDATION


Established in February 1994, Children Action is a Swiss charity.

CHILDREN IN SWITZERLAND AND ELSEWHERE

Because children are helpless in the face of disease or political and ethnic conflicts, and because the first right of any child is the right to a childhood, Children Action was set up to help children not helped by life, irrespective of their nationality or religion.

REAL CHANGE

A unique goal :



to bring
real change
in children's
lives



STRATEGY & COMMITMENT

100%

Children Action's running costs are covered entirely by its Founder. This ensures that 100% of donations go directly to a project with real impact.

DO LESS AT TIMES, TO DO BETTER

The Foundation's strategy is to focus on a small number of projects carefully selected according to their quality, impact and feasibility.

TOTALE TRANSPARENCY

The accounts, audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA, and a certificate attesting that all running costs are covered by the Founder, are also accessible to all.

SGS (the world's leading testing and verification company) was commissioned twice by Children Action to audit its performance in areas such as strategic framework, ethics, integrity, management, financial transparency, efficiency and the Foundation's competencies. Children Action **obtained a score of 96,4%**, one of SGS' strongest results to date.



**ADD VALUE &
MEASURE IMPACT**

Children Action seeks to add value to each project by leveraging various levels such as funding, human resources, and knowledge.

1 = 3

\$ 1 donation
+
expenses free
The founder covering all administrative costs,
100% of every amount donated goes to programs
+
Joint ventures
+
In-kind donations
+
Pro bono professional services
=
\$ 3 to change children's lives

MULTIPLY HUMAN RESOURCES

Since 1994 the number of doctors, surgeons, psychiatrists and people who offer their time and expertise has increased tenfold.

OPTIMISE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Through training programs taught by recognized experts, Children Action enables the transfer of knowledge.

MEASURE IMPACT

The goal of Children Action is to bring real change in children's lives. To enable a realistic assessment of its outcomes, Children Action has instituted impartial and verifiable indicators to measure the impact of each project.



STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

ACTUAL COMPANY

The Foundation's choices and guidelines are set by the Board of Trustees and submitted to a Ethics Commission. The Board of Trustees and the Ethics Commission are composed of figures from the scientific, legal and business worlds having wide-ranging skills that provide a clear vision and ensure that projects are realistic. The Foundation is managed like an actual company, with a constant watch over quality and cost-effectiveness and full control of the projects that it undertakes.





PROJECTS & SELECTION

MEET REAL NEEDS

Meeting children's actual needs is an essential criteria for Children Action project selection. Feasibility, ethics, efficiency, quality, transparency, follow-up, impact, and the optimization of results are carefully considered before beginning a project.

EXPERTISE

To ensure the quality and efficiency of each project, Children Action is advised and supported by a team of scientists. Made up of renowned health professionals, this team constitutes a valuable pool of expertise. Working on a voluntary basis, respected specialists play a part in every stage of a given project. They not only evaluate and endorse a particular plan of action, but also its smooth running. A team of surgeons, psychiatrists and doctors ensure that the most suitable courses of treatment and patient follow-up are chosen and implemented. Their knowledge and experience are constantly updated and refreshed, enabling them to provide valuable training for local teams in the various countries where Children Action is present.

SURGERY & PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

While remaining open to various causes, Children Action's priority is projects that improve children's' health, especially in medical care/surgery and psychological support.



**FIGHT AGAINST
TEENAGE SUICIDE**

FIRST CAUSE OF MORALITY

In Switzerland suicide is the main cause of death among teenagers. About 4% of girls and 5% of boys aged 15 to 25 years are at risk of a suicidal act. Only 10% of these young people are treated, as most teenagers in psychological distress refuse to contact specialists directly.

GLOBAL COVERAGE CARE

In response to this problem, Children Action, in collaboration with the University Hospitals of Geneva, has set up a special unit in Geneva, made of three: the Hospital Unit «Lits de crise» (UCA), the Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide (CEPS) and the Centre for Ambulatory Intensive Treatment (CTAI).

This combined offering (hospital treatment, prevention, ambulatory care) is emerging as a university centre of excellence and a benchmark in Europe.

RESULTS

Since 1996, UCA has received **1'660 young people** for average stays of at least 17 days. During the same period, the helpline has registered **5'721 calls**. Since April 2008, CTAI has treated **557 teenagers** for an average of 74 days.

Of the young people receiving treatment, about two thirds are girls and one third boys.



SURGICAL OPERATIONS

ACCESS TO CARE

Thousands of children worldwide with physical health problems are unable to receive proper medical attention because of lack of financial resources, necessary skills, or suitable facilities. Without healthcare, these children cannot play a normal role in society or, even worse, are doomed to a very short life.

TREATMENT & TRAINING

Every year, top European surgeons take part in missions in **Vietnam**, organized to enable children to undergo the surgical procedures they require in their homeland. Harelips, orthopaedic malformations, burn injuries and heart diseases as well as other pathologies are treated during these missions. The local medical teams benefit from the expertise of foreign surgeons to perfect their own methods and practice new techniques.

In **Cameroon**, many children suffer from urogenital malformations that are not treated in their country. Without care, these children cannot play a normal role in society and some are in mortal danger of kidney failure. Since 2010, thanks to the support of the Ministry for Health of Yaounde and to the collaboration of the gyneco-obstetric and paediatric Hospital of Yaounde (HGOPY), Children Action is able to help these children and these families in needs.

In **Geneva**, in collaboration with the University Hospitals of Geneva, the Foundation provides surgical and medical treatment for children who do not have access to appropriate medical care in their country of origin.

RESULTS

- **2 855** surgical operations on children with harelips
- **3 787** orthopaedic operations
- **1 814** operations on burn injuries and other reconstructive plastic surgeries
- **299** operations for heart diseases
- **36** operations for urogenital malformations
- **78** operations for diverse pathologies
- **2 872** orthopaedic prostheses and wheelchairs have been supplied.



MOTHERS & BABIES SUPPORT

ALTERNATIVE TO INSTITUTIONALISATION

Early pregnancies, insufficient financial resources and tough living conditions weaken the bonds between mother and child, jeopardise the child's development, and can sometimes lead mothers to abandon their children.

One of the missions of Children Action is to defend children's right not to be separated from their parents against their will, except when such separation is necessary in the best interests of the child, as stipulated in Article 9 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

In **Buenos Aires** and **Lima**, Children Action supports two projects to assist teenage mothers both in their role as mother and in their lives as teenagers, respectively alongside the Kaleidos Foundation in Argentina and the Taller de Los Niños Association in Peru.

In **Bucharest**, Children Action carries out a similar project addressed to mothers facing acute hardship with the purpose of giving them a psychological, medical, legal and social support.

Under these three programmes, on-site teams are making mothers more aware of how to care for their children and to foster a special bond with them, supporting them in going back to school or re-entering the work force, helping them stand up for their rights, and assisting them in re-establishing ties with their families. This enhances relationships, fosters childhood development, mitigates cases of parental depression or future pathological issues, and reduces cases of child abandonment.

RESULTS

Children Action Centers in Buenos Aires and Bucarest have already supported **178 mothers and 204 children**.

They provide the following services:

- psychological support
- legal, social and medical support
- workshop of art therapy
- financial support

In Lima, **1509 mothers and 1292 babies** have been registered and assisted within the project Red Mami.



OTHER PROJECTS

SCHOOLING

In order to give the most destitute children the opportunity to get an education, Children Action finances the construction of schools in the most remote areas of Vietnam. To date, 10 schools have been built enabling about 600 children living in those areas to acquire a basic education. Alongside the construction, Children Action finances daily canteen's meals for nearly 600 children from very underprivileged families.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE AIDS VIRUS

Children Action finances the programs of the French association "Dessine-moi un mouton" and the Swiss "Arc-En Ciel", two organizations supporting children and families affected by HIV / AIDS.

CENTRE FOR THE BLIND

Loss of vision often leads to isolation, especially in developing countries. For this reason Children Action decided to support a group of underprivileged blind children in Vietnam, to follow their development from an early age and to help them prepare for the future. Since 1994, this has been the guiding principle behind the centre for blind children set up near Hồ Chí Minh City. Today, 30 blind children and teenagers live there, learning to read Braille, playing musical instruments and acquiring basic massage and basketmaking skills in preparation for future professional activities.

And more projects on www.childrenaction.org



TO CONTRIBUTE

**No donation is too
large or too small**

DONATIONS

All money raised is used to fund a concrete project in the field. To make a donation to Children Action:

- **By CCP N°:12-4656-8**
(only for Switzerland)
- **By cheque payable to Children Action to be sent to:**
Children Action
14, rue de la Terrassière
1207 Geneva
Switzerland
- **By credit transfer to:**
Children Action, account : 6104322
HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA
Paradeplatz 5, 8027 Zürich
Swift : BLICCHGG
N° IBAN:
CHF: CH9708689050915921170
EUR: CH7108689050915921153
USD: CH9608689050915921188
GBP: CH4908689050915921161

LIFE SAVING GIFT

Teenage suicide

CHF 250.- / to answer an SOS call, its follow-up and potentially save one life

Surgical operations - to treat a child and change his/her life:

CHF 250.- / operation for harelips, orthopaedic malformations and burns injuries

CHF 2'240.- / operation for heart diseases

Support a mother and her child

Between CHF 300.- and CHF 340.- / month

Education

CHF 80.- / month to take care of a blind child

GIFTS TO HELP

You can help by purchasing items on our website online shop www.childrenaction.org.



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