Covid-19 dealt a heavy blow around the globe in 2020 into 2021, affecting everyone but especially the most vulnerable members in society. In Vietnam, those most vulnerable populations are disadvantaged children and HIV-infected children, many of whom live in seven orphanages served by Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam (PSBIV). They are always in need of help, but after the effects of this global pandemic, now more so than ever. Knowing the importance of maintaining the physical well-being of the children, PSBIV provided 2,160 bottles of yogurt and fresh milk for 520 children in the orphanages; this was made possible thanks to the generous support of child sponsors and project donors. The children were all so grateful for the milk, which not only provided nutrition for their daily meals but also strengthened their immune systems.

The support of child sponsors and donors also allowed PSBIV to be able to provide the necessary learning tools to the children in the orphanages to ensure they were prepared with adequate school supplies. These essential school supplies made children excited and motivated, which certainly helped them enhance their academic achievement. In addition, while under long periods of quarantine at home and while schools were closed, children were provided with interesting books to entertain them and broaden their knowledge.

Finally, to ensure the children were living and learning in a safe and clean environment, PSBIV provided the orphanages with mouthwash, hand soap, disinfectant, and home cleaning solutions. The hope is that all these measures, made possible by the generosity of Pearl S. Buck International supporters, have ensured that the children stay healthy, study and play well, and make progress during these tough times of the Covid-19 pandemic.
One way in addition to child sponsorship that Pearl S. Buck International is able to help impoverished and vulnerable children around the world is through projects that benefit multiple children, families, or whole communities in need. Thanks to your generosity, many of the projects that can be found on our website have been fully funded, and we are so grateful—but there's still more work to do and help that is needed!

One new project looking to be funded is providing eye exams and treatment to children in Vietnam. Vision plays an important role in children’s cognitive, social development and physical appearance. If an eye disease is not detected in time and cured properly, children will encounter many more serious problems. The children in the orphanages served by Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam are no exception. With the very limited funding provided by the government to cover 3 meals per day and many other expenses, eye examinations are considered “luxury goods” and therefore, the vast majority of their children have not received any eye exam and treatment.

Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines is hoping to fund a sex education program for the adolescents and young adults they serve in Angeles City, where the sex trade runs rampant and these young people are at risk of being lured by the false promises of money and a better life. In addition, this population is trending in general toward early engagement in physical relationships. The Philippines has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Southeast Asia, and PSBFP hopes this program will help the teens and young adults understand, be aware of, and protect their sexuality and reproductive systems. It will teach them the possible consequences of having sex (health issues, pregnancy, having to drop out of school, etc.) and make good, informed decisions to ensure a better future for themselves.

In Thailand, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand has closely collaborated with the educational sector, health care service center, as well as community leaders to ensure that the most disadvantaged children and families, those with limited access to learning materials and social services, receive the critical supplies and support they need. Prolonged school closure has affected children’s ability to learn and poses long-term consequences for children’s mental well-being, especially for young children from the most excluded and vulnerable groups. Their “magic box project” will distribute “magic boxes” containing books, toys, and learning materials to help keep impoverished young children engaged in learning activities at home.

We invite you to check out these projects and the many others on our Fund a Project page, all of which will have a lasting positive impact on the lives of children, families, and entire communities in need. Every project we are able to fund through your generous support bridges cultures and changes lives. Find out more at https://pearlsbuck.org/fund-a-project.