

CHILDFUND VIETNAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



CHILDFUND IN VIETNAM

ChildFund Vietnam is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent and non-religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in the developing world. ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 12 organisations which assists more than 15 million children and families in 58 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity and is fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

ChildFund began working in Vietnam in 1995 and operates community development programs in the areas of education, water and sanitation, sustainable livelihoods, food security, child rights, child protection and maternal and child health, including HIV prevention.

ChildFund's programs are being implemented across the northern provinces of Bac Kan, Cao Bang and Hoa Binh, where the majority of people are from ethnic minority groups, often the most vulnerable or marginalised sections of the population.

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Front cover: Ly Thi Kieu, 14 from Bac Kan province in front of her house
Back cover: Duong Minh Cong from Bac Kan province enjoying a football game with his classmates

From the country director

ChildFund's work in Vietnam has resulted in significant improvements to the lives of more than 33,700 children and their families over the past year.



Deborah Leaver attending the opening ceremony of Ha Vi preschool

In 2015, ChildFund Vietnam passed an important milestone, marking 20 years of providing for children.

Commencing in small scale with just one project in the centre of Vietnam in 1995, ChildFund Vietnam is now present in eight districts across three provinces in the north of the country, where most families are from ethnic minority groups and among the poorest communities.

Annually, more than 20 projects are implemented, assisting over 33,000 children and their families in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation, and livelihoods. Each project plays a vital role in contributing to an overall improvement in living standards for these rural communities.

Vietnam is often referred to as one of Asia's economic success stories, and the country has certainly made huge economic advances over the past 15 years.

But sustaining growth and ensuring that everyone benefits from this progress continues to be challenging. In communities where ChildFund works,

positives changes in children's lives are being made, but more efforts are required to address new, emerging issues.

In recent years, ChildFund's education activities have evolved from the provision of basic school infrastructure, to partnering with schools, families and children to introduce child-centred teaching methods, strengthening the capacity of children and parents to be meaningfully involved in school governance, and supporting local government education officials and policy makers to implement and sustain rights-based, high quality education.

The Child Rights and Child Protection program is working to develop the capacity of our local partners and increase the voice and agency of children through child club activities, campaigns and a national children's forum.

We work with communities to establish safe playgrounds and encourage behavioural change on child protection and child injury prevention through our Community Fit for Children model.

New initiatives are being introduced to families, especially youth, who will play a key role in shaping their communities' developments in the near future. Farming and husbandry is making the best use of the available local resources. Youth are participating in vocational and life skill training programs, which helps to open new doors for them as they move towards adulthood.

These achievements, and our ongoing and long-term commitment to children, their families and their communities, are only possible because of your support.

On behalf of the children, our partners and everyone at ChildFund Vietnam, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks. We look forward to witnessing more positive change in the lives of children in the coming year.

Deborah Leaver

**Deborah Leaver
Country Director
ChildFund Vietnam**

2014-15 Highlights



Rural families received loans to buy buffaloes, allowing them to improve household incomes

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION



3 PRESCHOOLS with **16 CLASSROOMS**, kitchens, toilet blocks and fenced playgrounds were built, providing safe and stimulating environment for over **550 CHILDREN**.



120 EDUCATION STAFF were trained on child-centred learning environment, language development skills, and child disability and stigma concepts.



6 SCHOOLS were provided with 18 learning equipment sets to create a better learning environment for more than **1,500 STUDENTS**.



372 TEACHERS PARTICIPATED in training on experiential learning cycle.



10,225 SETS of notebooks and reference books, T-shirts and soft hats were given to children as new school year gifts.



20 TRAINING SESSIONS on child centred teaching and learning, language and cognitive development skills and experiential learning were organised.



174 FAMILIES were supported to build a child-friendly learning corner at home.



30 EDUCATION staff were trained on school auditing.



10 CHILD advisory boards were set up with 150 students, helping with school management process.

CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION



29 PLAYGROUNDS were concreted and provided with facilities, enabling children in communities to enjoy sports and entertainment activities.



20,000 PARTICIPANTS including parents, child care givers and primary and secondary students joined communications sessions on child rights, child abuse and child injury prevention.



179 CHILD clubs were provided with sports equipment, books and stationery for communications sessions.



27 LOCAL POLICE and **LEGAL OFFICERS** were trained on child protection codes of conduct.



1,500 MATERIALS were developed and distributed to children during communications events.



Over **4000 CHILDREN** received either fleece hoodies or jackets to keep warm in the winter.



6 VILLAGE CULTURAL HALLS were improved

During the 2014-15 financial year, ChildFund Vietnam implemented programs which are improving the lives of children and their families in Cao Bang, Bac Kan and Hoa Binh provinces.

BUILDING STRONG AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



1,500 MALNOURISHED CHILDREN received mineral and calcium biscuits quarterly, contributing to a fall in the number of malnourished children.



1 COMMUNE HEALTH CENTRE with 8 functional rooms was constructed, providing improved health care services to over 3,000 people including 600 children.



5 CHILD-FRIENDLY ROOMS were set up in **4 HEALTH STATIONS** and **1 DISTRICT HOSPITAL**, creating a comfortable healthcare check-up space for children in project communes and in the district.



49 SESSIONS on adolescent reproductive health and life skill communications were delivered to 1500 students teachers and commune leaders.



870 UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN were examined in health check-ups, and parents providing with guidance on preparing nutritious meals using locally-available food sources.



760 SETS of towel and hand washing soap were provided to preschools to improve hygiene condition.



Children learn and apply sanitation practices at primary schools



100% OF CHILDREN in 13 primary schools participated in hand-washing awareness-raising activities and practical demonstrations.



12 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS and **4 SANITATION FACILITIES** were constructed and upgraded, providing 170 households and 13 schools with clean water and better hygiene.



911 HOUSEHOLD LATRINES were constructed thanks to the application of CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation) approach.



36 TRAINING SESSIONS on integrated pest management for sugarcane crops were conducted for 1,230 households.



126 WATER CONTAINERS were provided to households.



2,115 HOUSEHOLDS received loans from savings and credit funds to expand crops and animal husbandry



495 PARTICIPANTS from local agriculture offices, women's unions, youth unions and households were trained on animal husbandry, book keeping and household economy management.



2,000 LEAFLETS on hygienic latrines and 300 sets of materials promoting good hygiene practices were developed and distributed to communities.

Smart use of local resources for sustainable development



Nguyet making a chicken coop from bamboo in her garden

Nguyet is a member of one of the first families in Cao Bang to take part in ChildFund Vietnam's goat-rearing project, first piloted in July 2014.

Living in a small, remote village, only reachable by foot and two hours away from the commune centre, life has been difficult for Nguyet. She explains: "It's not always easy for us to raise our four children. This is a difficult area to farm. There is not much arable soil and we can hardly make enough for our family of eight, if it wasn't for the husbandry."

Raising goats is a new income generation activity in Cao Bang, and is suited to the local conditions. Goats here forage in the mountains, and families don't need large food supplies to keep them.

A mother of four children, ranging in age from 6 months to 11 years, Nguyet was keen to find new ways to improve the household income.

Borrowing VND10 million (\$US500) from ChildFund's village credit scheme, together with the money earned from selling a cow, her family have now bought 12 goats to raise.

"We have to take good care of them, which means letting them go out eating early in the afternoon as it is often cold in the mountain and goats cannot stand the frost. In the afternoon we walk up to the mountain, about three kilometres away, to fetch them home." Nguyet explained.

ChildFund decided to introduce the goat program after conducting some research in the local area. Nguyen Thi Phuong, ChildFund's livelihood project officer, explains: "There have been two benefits to introducing this new form of agricultural activity. First, we have diversified the income generation activities for the poor households. Second, goat-rearing can minimise the

risks faced by households who raise chickens and pigs - those animals often get ill and die more easily. Goat rearing is proving to be a sustainable activity which guarantees an income for families."

Making use of the local resources and choosing suitable animals for husbandry is the key to initial success. After 6-12 months, goats can either reproduce, or be sold to provide income for the families. Families can then invest in bigger herds, and have income to cover the costs of their children's food, education and healthcare.

"I hope we can make enough so that we can send our children to school; to have a better education than me and their father could. We are working and trying our best to make that happen. With education, they can definitely have a better life. Even if they choose to farm, they would know where and what to do smartly I assume," shared Nguyet.

Collaborate to achieve change

Over 200 households established new agricultural activities



Children shared their views on safety in the annual Small Voices survey



Thank you to our ChildFund Alliance partners who have supported ChildFund Vietnam's child-focused development programs.



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Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Financial Report

Financial Report For Year Ended 30 June 2015

Income Statement	2015 (VND'000)	2014 (VND'000)
Income	102,523,675	104,884,831
Expenditure	86,349,507	100,619,089
Excess of Income over Expenditure	16,174,168	4,265,742

Balance Sheet	2015 (VND'000)	2014 (VND'000)
Total assets	73,830,535	58,310,870
Total liabilities	18,130,855	18,995,591
Net assets	55,699,680	39,315,279

