



ANNUAL REPORT

2016 – 2017

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 developing communities.

ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists more than 9 million children and families in over 50 countries. ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and 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 works in partnership with children, their communities, local organisations and governments to create lasting change, respond to humanitarian emergencies and promote children’s rights. Projects are 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.

With a focus on education, water and sanitation, sustainable livelihoods, child rights and child protection, food security, and maternal and child health, including HIV prevention, ChildFund Vietnam also prioritises building the resilience of young people, by giving children and youth the opportunity to take part in sports, vocational education and life skills training, and supporting their participation in local decision-making processes.

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Front cover: Ngan, age 4, Vietnam

FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



In 2017, we look to a new sustainable development agenda for children and youth, with a focus on improving their ability to exercise and promote healthy communities.

We hope that this report will provide you with examples that demonstrate ChildFund’s impact,

from the national level to the individual level. ChildFund Vietnam is proud to have contributed to increasing access to social registration services, food security and income-generating opportunities.

Importantly, we are focused on improving educational opportunities for children in remote areas. This is through the use of technology, as well as enhancing student and parent participation in school activities.

Civil society, including local non-governmental organisations and groups with common interests, remains a key partner for many of our endeavours, both as the everyday voice of reason and being on the ground.

Prioritised and dedicated resource allocation and investment for child development is urgent. We cannot ignore the situation that

Ngan (pictured on the front cover) and her family are facing. Like many others in rural Vietnam, Ngan’s parents struggle to make ends meet due to limited arable land and adverse weather conditions, which are worsening due to climate change.

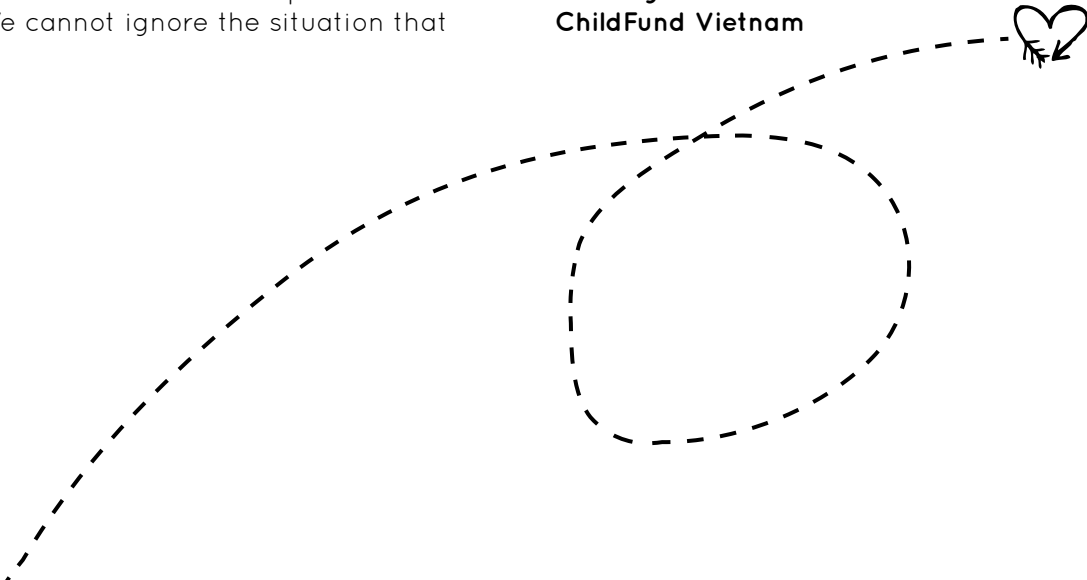
We will continue to work on aligning all sources of development funding and the institutions that manage them, whether public or private, and we will promote multi-stakeholder partnerships as key. This will ensure adequate and robust financing for child development and the empowerment of youth.

Ultimately, all of our work is directed towards changing lives, and helping to build communities where children and youth can participate, express their ideas and act on issues that relate to them. This would not be possible without your support, and on behalf of ChildFund Vietnam I thank you for your continuous dedication over the past year, and in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Leaver

Deborah Leaver
Country Director
ChildFund Vietnam





I AM SAFE



BUILDING SAFE, FUN PLACES FOR CHILDREN

Students in a remote village in Cao Bang have more reason to enjoy going to school thanks to a new, safe playground built by 31 local parents.

"I love going to school because we have so many new toys and equipment to play with," says Nhi, one of the school's many happy students.

ChildFund supported the playground project by giving parents training, tools, and access to engineers from Hanoi Construction University.

The engineers taught parents basic building practices and gave technical advice about using locally available materials and adapting to the area's conditions.

Tu, who worked on the project, says the community is eager to make sure the playground is a

safe place for children for many years to come.

"Now we have been trained we can actively maintain the equipment and keep the playground in good shape so our children can play here for a long time," he says. "We are thankful for the support ChildFund's sponsors have given our children. We parents are assured that our children now have a safe and enjoyable place to come while we are at work."

with the Vietnamese language before starting school. ChildFund's new rapid response testing system helps teachers identify students who are struggling, so they can adapt their lessons to cater to individual students' needs.

"Each student has their own difficulties in reading comprehension, and by looking at each child individually, we can help them tackle their problems," says Nhat, a primary school teacher. This is a major step toward modernising teaching in rural Vietnam, which has relied on outdated practices that do not account for the abilities of individual students.

In the first year of the project, more than 40 per cent of students participating scored good results in their final exams, compared to just 18 per cent at the testing stage.

GETTING ON THE SAME PAGE WITH STUDENTS

Many students in rural villages speak ethnically diverse languages at home and have little experience



I AM EDUCATED



RUGBY GIVES GIRLS A VOICE

Thao joined ChildFund Pass It Back's rugby and life skills coaching course because she wanted to teach young girls about leadership, but the 18-year-old is benefitting as much as any of her players.

"I have become so much more confident thanks to ChildFund Pass It Back," says Thao. "Through the program, we learn values like solidarity and respect, as well as leadership skills. We can then apply these values and skills to our lives."

ChildFund Pass It Back is an innovative sport for development program that delivers an integrated life skills and rugby



I AM HEARD

curriculum for children and young people in disadvantaged communities across Asia.

More than half the program's participants are girls like Thao and her aunt Huyen, who have been impressed by the sport's power to promote equality.

"In our society there aren't many opportunities for young people, especially for females," Huyen says. "However, with ChildFund Pass It Back, young people have lots of opportunities and, importantly, they are available to both males and females."

COW BANK IN CAO BANG

Eight-year-old Dieu from rural Cao Bang is confident that her parents can support her education thanks to ChildFund's Cow Bank investment scheme.

Families in Dieu's village have traditionally depended on small, unreliable farms for income, but the Cow Bank is helping them

diversify for a brighter future. "We got our first cow, which gave birth to this calf, in June 2016," says Dieu. "Since then, we've taken care of the mother and her baby and have recently passed the mother to another family who is also in need. We are happy that we have a very healthy calf who will soon grow up."

Hundreds of families like Dieu's have seized the opportunity

to invest in cows, which make farming more efficient and can also be sold for profit. Liem, a leader in Dieu's village, says the scheme helps many families shape a brighter future for their children.

"We give a hand to people who are the most in need and we are always there to help them so we can make sure the investment can yield good results," Liem says.



I HAVE A FUTURE



I HAVE A FUTURE



IMPROVING HEALTHCARE SERVICES

ChildFund is training a new generation of nurses and healthcare workers to combat high levels of newborn deaths in the Hoa Binh province. Newborn fatalities make up almost half of all child deaths in the province.

Tu, who heads a commune health centre in Hoa Binh, says poor infrastructure and a lack of community awareness resulted in newborns not being treated in time to cure diseases.

"We once met a mother who closed her room windows to prevent the wind from coming in while her newborn daughter was suffering from jaundice," Tu says. "She did not know the proper treatment. When she was sent to the hospital for a check-up, the little girl was diagnosed with an incurable brain condition."

Stories like these are far too common in rural Vietnam, which is why healthcare workers like Tu are eager to improve healthcare facilities and community awareness about child health.

In May 2017, Tu attended ChildFund's workshop for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), which promotes mother and child healthcare practices at home and in the community.

During the workshop, healthcare staff and experts from the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the provincial Department of Mother and Child Health, hospitals and district and commune health centres discussed the implementation of IMCI in Hoa Binh.

After the workshop, Tu and other 11 communal and district health staff learned how to diagnose, treat and categorise illnesses. "I feel more confident that I can recognise symptoms and recommend a treatment regimen," Tu says.

Local health workers like Tu will play a key role in reducing the number of newborn deaths, according to Huyen, who was a trainer at the sessions.

"Learning about IMCI is very important for health staff at the grassroots level to enhance their professional knowledge and skills to help manage child illness," she says. "It can help reduce time and expenses for treatment, especially the negative effects for children due to late delivery or improper treatment."

In December 2016, ChildFund supported Tu's commune health centre by building a new ten-room facility and providing essential medical equipment such as oxygen generators. Tu and her colleagues also organised training sessions about IMCI to spread their knowledge and skills to improve the performance of the health centre.

"By improving the child healthcare services at the centre, I hope that the centre will be a reliable place for parents to take their children to when needed," Tu says. "It can help children develop well in a supportive community with quality healthcare services."

THANK YOU

COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Vietnam:



ACDC • Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade • Family Run Marathon • Hanwha Life Insurance • iSEE • Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Bach Thong and Na Ri District, Bac Kan, Vietnam • Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Quang Uyen and Tra Linh District, Cao Bang, Vietnam • Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Cao Phong, Ky Son, Kim Boi and Tan Lac District, Hoa Binh, Vietnam • Mr. Nguyen Duy Luan, vice chairman of Bach Thong district people's committee • Mr. Dinh Huy Giap - chairman of Quang Uyen district people's committee • Mr. Trinh Truong Huy - chairman of Tra Linh district people's committee • Mr. Vu Khac Quang - secretary of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Cao Bang province • Mr. Ha Minh Trang - Director of Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Cao Bang province • Mr. Pham Viet Cong - Vice Director of Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs • Ms. Nguyen Mai Phuong - Vice Director of Department of Education and Training • Mr. Le Duc Hung, vice chairman of Kim Boi district people's committee • Mr. Nong Quang Ke, chairman of Na Ri District People's committee • Mr. Pham Van Long, chairman of Cao Phong district people's committee • Mr. Nguyen Van Ba, vice chairman of Tra Linh district people's committee • Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hanh, vice chairwoman of Ky Son district people's committee • Mr. Bui Van Tinh, vice chairman of Tan Lac District people committee • Mr. Doanh Thiem Huy, vice chairman of Ngan Son District people committee • New Zealand Government Aid Programme • People's Aid Coordination Committee - PACCOC • Vietnam Government - Ministry of Education and Training • Vietnam Government - Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Vietnam Government - Ministry of Health • Vietnam Government - Ministry of Labour - Invalid and Social Affairs • NGO Resource Centre • Service Department for Diplomatic Corps • Smilegate Foundation • The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations - VUFO

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2017

INCOME	2017 (VND '000)	2016 (VND '000)
Income	106,643,813	92,151,665
Expenditure	97,711,345	96,359,421
Excess of Income over Expenditure	8,932,468	(4,207,756)

BALANCE SHEET	30 JUNE 2017 (VND'000)	30 JUNE 2016(VND'000)
Total Assets	90,888,759	74,504,185
Total Liabilities	17,027,501	18,006,673
Net Assets	73,861,258	56,497,512

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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