



ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021

ChildFund Vietnam is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent 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 12 organisations which assists almost 23 million children and their families in 70 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 to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights.

Projects are implemented in the northern provinces of Bac Kan, Cao Bang and Hoa Binh, where most people are from ethnic minority groups; often the most vulnerable or marginalised sections of the population.

ChildFund Vietnam’s projects focus on child rights and child protection, education, health, and wellbeing for children. ChildFund Vietnam also prioritises building the resilience of young people, by giving them the opportunity to take part in sports, life skills learning, and supporting their participation in local decision-making processes.

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Front cover: Young boy in Vietnam



The year 2020 marked a special year for ChildFund Vietnam as we celebrated our 25th anniversary of working to improve children's lives in the remote and mountainous areas of northern Vietnam.

Our journey began in 1995, when Vietnam started receiving the first wave of Foreign Direct Investment (FDIs), which helped to significantly boost the country's economy. Despite this, families in rural areas still faced tremendous challenges.

ChildFund took a social development approach and began implementing our first child-focused programs in the remote district of Ky Son, located in the country's mountainous northern region, home to just four communes and around 1,200 children and families.

Our focus has always been to improve access to basic needs and reduce widespread child malnutrition; increase access to healthcare, safe water and sanitation; generate new livelihood opportunities for low-income families; and improve the extremely low school attendance rates.

Today, ChildFund Vietnam has expanded its reach to 41 communes in seven districts, serving more than 32,000 households across three rural provinces – Hoa Binh, Cao Bang, and Bac Kan. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in the last fiscal year, we have provided support to nearly 35,000 children through projects in child protection, education, social emotional learning, health, water and sanitation.

ChildFund Vietnam recently obtained approval from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to begin a project that contributes to the improvement of the national child protection system effectiveness in Vietnam.

ChildFund also earned a distinguished recognition for initiatives to improve child safety online, and was invited by the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) to become an official member of the Government of Vietnam's newly established Child Online Protection Network.

While we're excited for the future, we know that COVID-19 continues to present many challenges. However, I believe that with the unwavering

support from our sponsors and donors, and strong collaboration with governments, other child-focused organisations, and civil society – coupled with the tremendous efforts of ChildFund staff and our partners – we will overcome these obstacles.

On behalf of ChildFund Vietnam, I would like to express our deep gratitude for your trust in our work and your support for children and young people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Lien'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath.

Nguyen Thi Bich Lien
Country Director
ChildFund Vietnam

“
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in the last fiscal year, we have provided support to nearly 35,000 children through projects in child protection, education, social emotional learning, health, water and sanitation.
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We want every child with whom we work to be able to say:

I AM SAFE

Digitalisation transforms child protection services

ChildFund Vietnam developed App 111 to ensure that everyone can access vital resources to help keep children around the country safe. Children in marginalised communities are at risk of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. The helpline is an important way for the public to anonymously report any child protection issues and find support services for children.

ChildFund worked with Microsoft Vietnam and the Department of Child Affairs to develop an app called "Tong dai 111". This included building a mobile reporting app that people can access at any time to report child protection concerns, helping to relieve pressure on the helpline.

The aim of the app is to raise awareness of the importance of child protection and to provide a better child protection system service for responding to reports. After a report is filed, the National Child Protection Hotline (NCHL) can safely collect and manage the reports and take appropriate action. The app also hosts an online digital library of resources so people can learn more about child protection and safeguarding in their community.

In April, the App 111 initiative moved into phase two and we are now preparing to undertake a gendered assessment of child safety issues online. Since being launched in December 2019, the app has been downloaded nearly 60,000 times. More than 1300 reports have been filed through the app.



ChildFund Vietnam launching App 111.

I AM EDUCATED

Supporting inclusive learning environments

Through a ChildFund Vietnam program, parents and caregivers in the Bac Kan and Cao Provinces participated in training on supporting children with disability to learn at home and at school.

The program added four supporting classrooms specifically constructed to meet the needs of children living with disability.

At the end of 2020, the same program organised a series of events to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disability.

More than 300 children and adults participated, gathering to share their experiences and recognise individuals within the community who are advocating for disability rights.

In April 2021, ChildFund trained 250 people from two districts to raise awareness on the need for inclusive education, and to reduce discrimination. Parents of children living with disability learned about their role in supporting children to access a quality education.

In partnership with local organisations, ChildFund has made significant progress towards establishing a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) in the Bac Kan Province.

Together, ChildFund and DPO will continue to provide training and learning opportunities for children and the community, to ensure that children living with disability have opportunities to learn and reach their full potential.

Child learning in a special education resource room.



I CONTRIBUTE

Young people raise awareness on issues important to them

Last year ChildFund organised a series of events to give children and young people the opportunity to raise awareness on issues of importance to their lives. The forums were held in Hoa Binh, Bac Kan and Cao Bang Provinces.

At these events, children learned about child safeguarding and were able to talk to their peers from other schools about their personal experiences. Together, they voiced their opinions on child protection activities in schools. The feedback provided by children and young people will be used to inform ChildFund's programs and priorities in the future.

Our local partners in the Tan Lac District also facilitated an event for 120 children, including 60 girls. At the forum, young people participated as reporters and interviewed members of the Commune Child Protection Steering Group (CCSG) about child protection services in their area.

The youth attendees were also able to share their own personal experiences with the CCSG and use their voice to impact the direction of future programs.



I HAVE A FUTURE

Hai has a bright future ahead of him

Fourteen-year-old Hai used to feel embarrassed around his friends and teachers. Hai was born with congenital drooping in one eye.

Through a health project supported by ChildFund Vietnam, Hai was able to get his eyes tested. The doctor said that Hai had myopia, a condition in which he could only see objects close to him, in addition to congenital eyelid drooping.

Both conditions could be treated but Hai would have to go to the capital city, Hanoi, for surgery, which would incur significant costs for his family.

ChildFund Vietnam's health project runs preventative health screenings for children in rural areas to help them access the treatment they need. ChildFund facilitated Hai's medical examination and surgery, along with travel and accommodation expenses for Hai and his parents in Hanoi.

The eye surgery was successful. Hai is one of the 31 children to have received treatment for an eye condition, and is one of the 4,758 students to have had an eye examination since ChildFund's project started in 2020.

ChildFund worked closely with his family to make sure Hai's recovery was supported, with Hai now having regular check-ups to monitor his eyesight.

"I feel more confident when reading in front of the class or making a speech," he says. "Now, I can do whatever I want."





Quynh, age 13, outside her school with her bike.

I HAVE A FUTURE

Quynh rides into her future

Quynh is a 13-year-old girl from the Dao ethnic minority group in Vietnam. With her parents and a younger sister, she lives in Ngan Son, a mountainous district of Bac Kan Province.

Due to the hilly terrain, rice is often planted on terraced paddy fields, and most families here are reliant on agricultural activities to generate household incomes.

Quynh's parents are no exception. With just 700 square metres of land, they plant rice for food, and grow seasonal crops for income. When not working on their own fields, they generate additional earnings by working for their neighbours, or by undertaking construction work.

In a place where hills and mountains are predominant, it is not only difficult to develop sustainable livelihoods, but can be difficult to access education.

Quynh's school is located about 5km from her house, but the steep paths along the hills and through the woods can make her daily journey to school seem much longer.

"I was often late as it took me more than an hour to walk to school. I had to wake up very early to be on time," Quynh explains.

Despite these challenges, Quynh wasn't easily discouraged from attending school. Quynh says being in the classroom means that every day she gains a little bit more knowledge.

And she has another motivation. Quynh is working hard to achieve her ultimate goal – to become a teacher.

With a new bike and some pedalpower, Quynh's daily trek to school has become much more manageable. "I can go to school earlier to finish my class duties

and do exercises. I also have more time to help my parents with house chores and do my homework."

She also has long-term plans for her bike, which means she takes its ongoing maintenance very seriously. "I keep the bike in a good condition so I can keep riding it to class, even when I go to high school in town."

For Quynh, a shorter walk to class means more time to study, to plan her life at secondary school, and dream about her future career. Quynh and her bike are tackling the hills and twists in the road one day at a time, determined to ride into a better future.

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:



Ensemble, construisons leur avenir !

Action for Community Development Institute (ACDC); Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT); Centre for Creative Initiatives for Health and Population (CCIHP); Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA); Internet Watch Foundation; Library for All (LFA); Marie Collins Foundation and INHOPE; ChildFund Korea - Gyeongnam Regional Office Supporter's Group; ChildFund Alliance Members; Hagar International; Hanwha Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Industrial Bank of Korea Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment; Laureus (Sport for Good); Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Na Ri and Ngan Son District and Bac Kan City; Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Quang Uyen, Tra Linh, Thach An District and Cao Bang City; Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Kim Boi and Tan Lac District and Hoa Binh City; Microsoft Vietnam LLC; Mr. Park Jung Yun; New Zealand Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme (MFAT); People's Aid Coordination Committee – PACCOM; Vietnam Government – Ministry of Education and Training (MOET); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Ministry of Health (MOH) – Mother and Child Healthcare Department; Ministry of Labour Invalid and Social Affairs (MOLISA) - Department of Children Affairs (DOCA); Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC); NGO Resource Centre; Service Department for Diplomatic Corps; The Shilla; The Embassy of New Zealand in Vietnam; The Fund to End Violence Against Children; The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations – VUFO; Leave No One Behind – LNOB; Vietnam Association for Protection of Child's Rights (VACR); Vietnam Television (VTV1); Voice of Vietnam (VOV); Bac Kan Radio - Television Station (TBK);

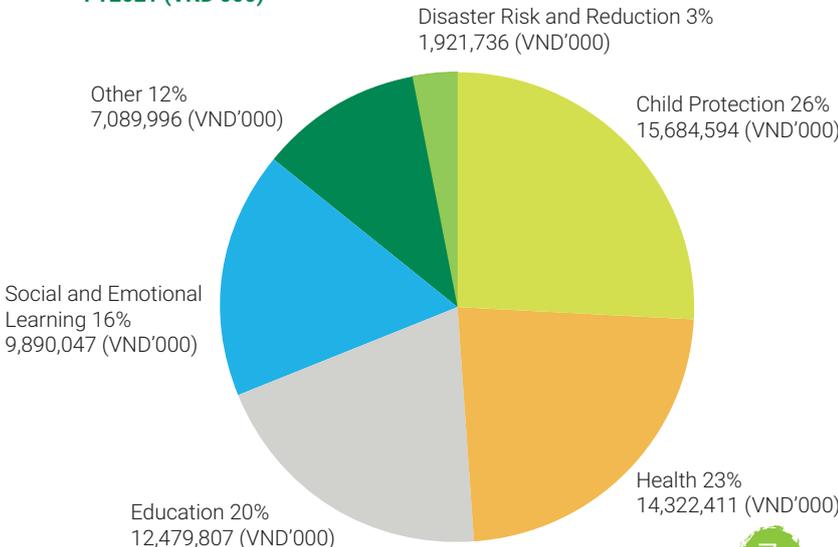
FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2021

REVENUE	FY20 (VND'000)	FY21 (VND'000)
Donations	68,173,556	66,740,907
Grants	13,559,705	25,292,554
Other income	8,195	7,135,830
Total revenue	81,741,456	99,169,291

EXPENDITURE	FY20 (VND'000)	FY21 (VND'000)
Program and projects	70,233,663	61,388,591
Program support	11,067,239	12,031,334
Accountability and administration	14,566,066	13,737,481
Total expenditure	95,866,968	87,157,406

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY2021 (VND'000)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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