

ChildFund  
Vietnam

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



**WEB**  
**Safe & Wise**  
*Creating a better digital world with children*



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 11 organisations which assists almost 36 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 children and young people in vulnerable situations, to assert and realise their rights.

Projects are mainly 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 and marginalised sections of the population. ChildFund Vietnam also implements nationwide projects that provide support to both formal and informal systems at national and provincial levels.

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

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

This year was a significant year for ChildFund Vietnam, marking the strong start of our 2022-2025 strategic plan. Many changes took place both within the organisation and in the development sector in general. The transformative changes in our approach to fundraising, project development, and partnerships presented us with a number of initial challenges, but also opened up tremendous opportunities for ChildFund to continue supporting children and communities in a sustainable way.

With our local partners, we have reached 50,000 children directly, and millions more indirectly, through our child protection, education, social and emotional learning, and health projects.

Online safety was a key focus of our activities and advocacy this year. We are proud to have collaborated with the Department of Child Affairs to organise a ‘Child Protection Game Ideas’ contest, which involved participants of various age groups across the country. This was a playground for children and young people to unleash their creativity and take part in raising community awareness on child protection, both online and offline. The contest, the first of its kind, was a huge success and attracted media and public attention. In addition, nearly 740,000 secondary school students nationwide participated in a ‘Students with Information Security’ contest, which was held as part of ChildFund’s online safety flagship program, Swipe Safe. We also became an active member of the WEB Safe & Wise campaign, an initiative by the ChildFund Alliance aimed at creating a better digital world for children.

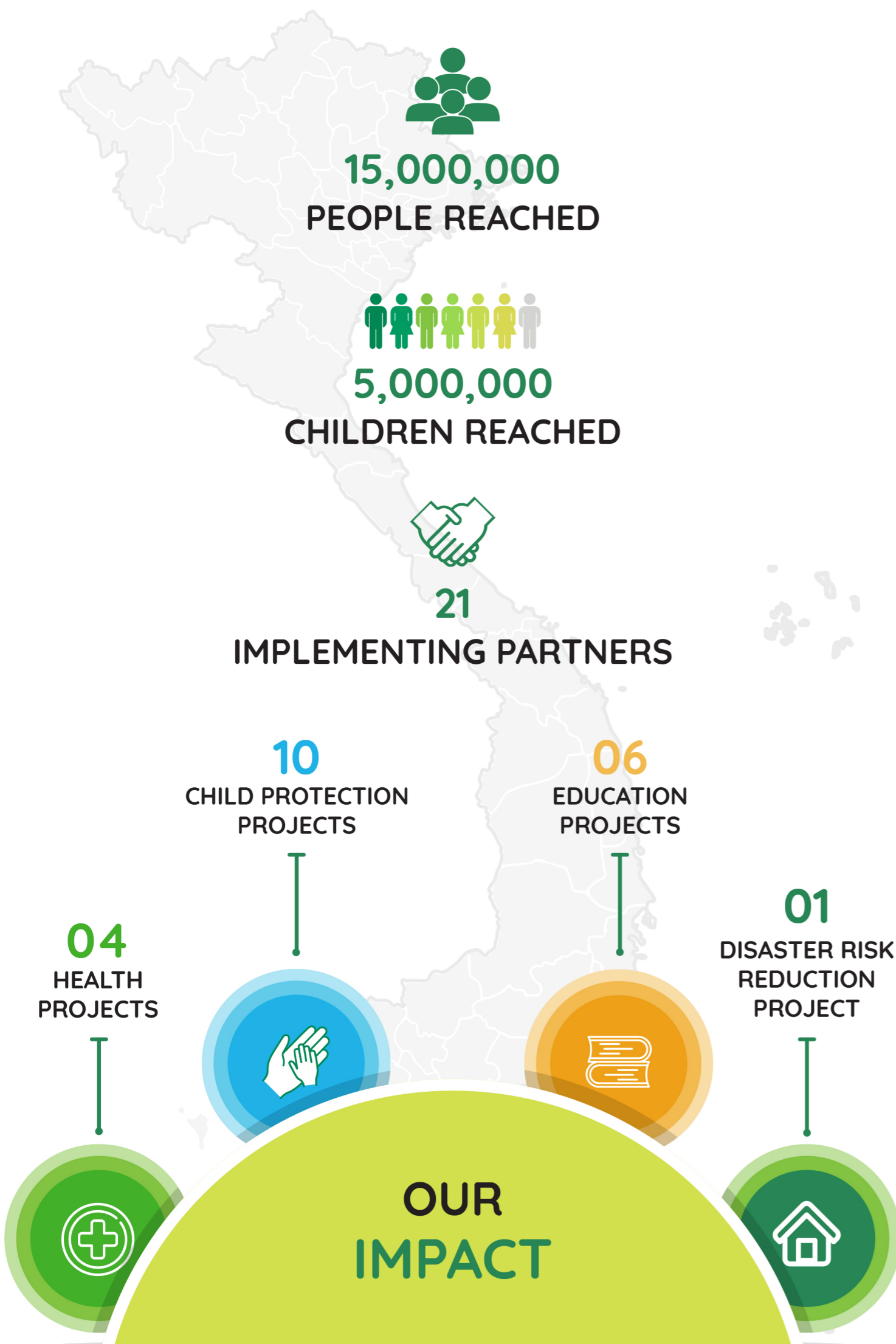
This year, together with the Department of Ethnic Education, we also developed minimum standards of care in the management of semi-boarded schools. This is the first time such standards have been applied and led to many positive changes for students attending schools in remote, mountainous areas.

ChildFund continues to support locally-led development initiatives. We have achieved notable results in this area through activities to promote co-operation with local social organisations and non-governmental organisations. ChildFund Vietnam recognises the Vietnam Association for the Protection of Child Rights (VACR) as a strategic partner, and goals with VACR are specified in a strategic plan. We continued our partnership with the Na Ri District’s Organisation of People with Disability in a new project, ensuring the rights of people with a disability are upheld and they can access services in their communities.

We engaged in technical networks to learn, seek cooperation opportunities, and support the Vietnamese government in promoting and upholding children’s rights. This included contributing to the Voluntary National Review on the implementation of sustainable development goals, along with the Leave No One Behind Vietnam network.

On behalf of the entire team at ChildFund Vietnam, we extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors, partner organisations, local government leaders, and the children, and their families, with whom we work. Your support and commitment will always be the driving force to achieving ambitious, impactful goals and positive change for children and communities in need.

**NGUYEN THI BICH LIEN**  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR



## Empowering parents, nurturing children

Twin sisters Ngan and Ha were born in 2019 in Vietnam. Since birth, they were malnourished and underweight. Their mother, Thuy, (pictured above with her twin girls) was worried as she didn't know how to care for them properly.

"Luckily, Ngan and Ha were born right when ChildFund Vietnam's health project was launched in our commune," Thuy said. "Other mothers and I were invited to participate in many activities such as weighing the children, measuring their height, and receiving micronutrients for the children if they are malnourished. Parents are encouraged to participate in communication activities, and are given a maternal and child health monitoring book to learn how to support their children."

Thuy attends regular training sessions to learn how to breastfeed newborns, when to start giving babies solid food, how to take care of a sick baby, and the nutrients and foods that a mother needs to help breastfeed. Thuy never had the opportunity to take part in these types of sessions when she had her first child. Back then, Thuy only received advice from her mother-in-law, and began feeding her baby porridge at three months old, which she now knows was too young.

Every day Thuy takes special care when preparing her children's meals. She always makes sure that their meals are full of vitamins and nutrients. For example, their porridge is usually made with shrimp or crab caught by Thuy's husband in the field near their home, as Thuy has learned that these foods are good sources of calcium for her children's growth. "I also add a little bit of oil or fat to my children's porridge to help them gain weight and absorb vitamins better," Thuy said.

Whenever Ngan and Ha fall sick, Thuy promptly takes them to the local health station for consultations and treatments. She also seeks information in the Maternal and Child Health Monitoring book to monitor and care for her children when they are unwell. Today, Ngan and Ha are healthier and no longer malnourished. "Now that they have grown up and are well and no longer malnourished, I'm very happy."



## Children speak out about child abuse and violence and build safer communities

ChildFund is supporting children's groups in communes to help young people make their communities safer. These groups gather together once a month to learn about child protection, including how to identify risks related to child abuse and violence. The monthly meetings are also an opportunity for children to share valuable information with their peers and report cases of abuse or violence, or people at risk, to social workers and child protection workers in their communities.

Children participating in the groups also come up with creative skits to perform at summer clubs and share what they have learned. An\*, a member of a children's group in Kim Boi district, Hoa Binh province, said: "I wanted to learn more about how to protect myself and how to share this knowledge with others. I was also interested in games on child protection that were organised by the group."

Long\*, a leader of one of the children's groups, shared: "Our group often



visits children with special circumstances to share with them about abuse prevention. Recently, I learnt that a friend living with disability in our neighbourhood often stayed at home alone without adult supervision, which I found very dangerous. I reported this issue to the local child protection officer."

Lan\* has become more confident in reporting child abuse cases since attending the core children's group meetings. "If I encounter a case of child abuse at school, I will notify the homeroom teacher and the school administration. In the community, I would report to a child protection worker, the commune chairman, the village head, the police, and the commune's Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs officer. I can also call the National Child Helpline 111 to report the case."

\*Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities.







other roommates to clean the living space, make their beds, and keep up personal hygiene”, Binh said. “I’ve been through various trainings like injury prevention, first aid, and personal hygiene habits.”

Binh is also learning how to overcome challenges that come with being a lead tenant. “Sometimes the roommates don’t follow what I say,” Binh said. “I always try to set a good example for them.”

When challenged, he puts what he learned in the training sessions into action. “At the training, many of us were shy at first but after some warm-up games, we felt much more engaged and energised. I applied what I learned to guide my roommates effectively. For example, when someone washes their hands properly, I give them compliments.”

Now that they have a safe and healthy environment to live in, Binh and his peers are enjoying school life more. “I love living in the semi-boarding house. It is nice with lots of trees and flowers,” Binh said. “Each room has sanitation stations and bright light bulbs that help us study better. I have also made a lot of friends that I can play with.”



“

I always try to set a good example for my roommates.

Binh, 12

\*Name has been changed to protect individual’s identity.

## Supporting safer environments for better learning

Binh’s\* home in Cao Bang province is about seven kilometres away from school. Steep slopes and bumpy roads make it difficult for him to get to school every day, especially when it rains. But Binh (pictured above, wearing red and black) is a bright boy with a thirst for learning and, like many other children living in remote parts of the country, he never wants to give up his education.

During the school week, Binh and other students used to stay in temporary shelters made of bamboo and wood near their school. Living alone, they have had to learn to care for themselves from a very young age. “I started staying at the shelter when I was seven,” Binh said. “I used to share a bed with two others, and it was very small and narrow. Every day after school I would come back, cook for myself and do all the washing.”

In recent years, ChildFund Vietnam supported Binh’s school to build a supervised, two-storey semi-boarding house equipped with a kitchen, living area, and bunk beds. Trainings were also organised to help students build necessary skills to live independently and lead a healthy life.

At the age of 12, Binh moved into the new semi-boarding house and was selected to be the lead tenant of his boarding room. “The lead tenant’s responsibility is to help and remind

Semi-boarding students enjoying their meal in the newly built kitchen.





## Supporting young people to create a safe world online

Sixteen-year-old Hong (pictured below), from Hoa Binh, is a confident spokesperson. He represents his peers at youth events and forums, and speaks out on the issues they face in their communities.

One challenge that many young people are facing, says Hong, is how to navigate the digital environment safely. As a participant of communication events with ChildFund, Hong learnt the skills needed to make the most of his online world and protect himself from harm such as cyberbullying. He is determined to make a difference and is sharing this knowledge with his peers. "Many of my friends encounter issues online, but they lack the confidence to share," Hong said. "I aspire to represent them and contribute to discussions with leaders."

Hong's involvement in child protection goes beyond speaking at local youth forums. He participated in the first national Youth Parliament simulation, where he contributed his thoughts and opinions on how to end violence and abuse, and protect children's safety online.

He is also one of 15 members of the Youth Advisory Council for the WEB Safe & Wise campaign, a ChildFund Alliance initiative that aims to create a better digital world with children.

"When I joined the Youth Advisory Council, I got to meet and exchange ideas with peers from all around the world," he said. "I also have the opportunity to discuss challenges faced by Vietnamese children. I feel like we are united, working together to find the best ideas and solutions for children in the online environment."

Hong is proud of his accomplishments, but is eager to contribute further. "I hope to become an advocate, providing valuable information to my peers about online safety," he said.



## 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:



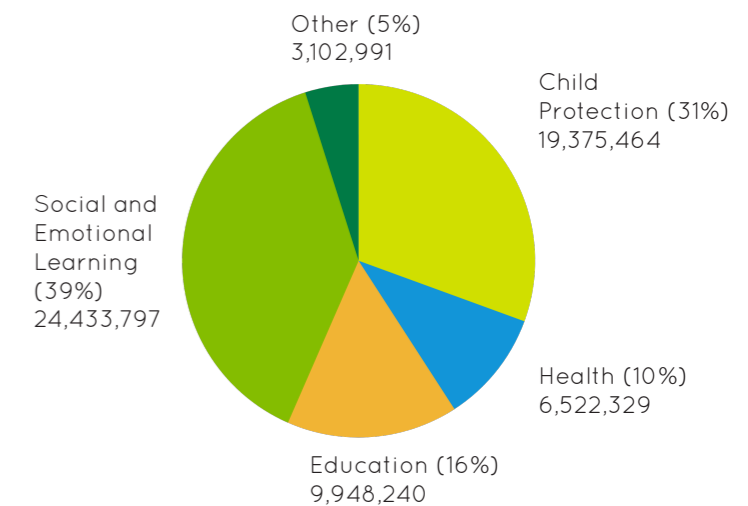
- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Bulgarian Development Aid
- ChildFund Alliance Members
- Hanwha Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Bumhan Cable & System
- Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs - Department of Child Affairs
- Ministry of Education and Training - Department of Education for Ethnic Minorities
- District People's Committees and relevant offices of Na Ri and Ngan Son district and Bac Kan city
- District People's Committees and relevant offices of Quang Uyen, Tra Linh, Thach An district and Cao Bang city
- District People's Committees and relevant offices of Kim Boi and Tan Lac district and Hoa Binh city
- Vietnam Association for Protection of Child's Rights
- Action for Community Development Institute
- Hagar International
- Vietnam Information Security Association
- Child Rights Working Group
- Leave No One Behind
- Education Sector Group
- Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance
- Marie Collins Foundation
- INHOPE

## Financial report for year ended 30 June 2023

REVENUE	FY22 (VND'000)	FY23 (VND'000)
Donations	62,979,768	55,201,553
Grants	22,315,618	23,195,072
Other income	6,688	4,378
Total revenue	85,302,074	78,401,003

EXPENDITURE	FY22 (VND'000)	FY23 (VND'000)
Program and projects	63,744,660	63,382,821
Program support	11,757,909	12,431,114
Accountability and administration	16,473,119	12,852,838
Total expenditure	91,975,688	88,666,773

### PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 22-23 (VND'000)





**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

[www.childfund.org.au](http://www.childfund.org.au)