

ChildFund
Vietnam

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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

Last year, ChildFund Vietnam had a meaningful journey with significant milestones in protecting children's rights, improving education, healthcare, and well-being for children. We continuously strive to help young people develop life skills and build confidence in having a voice in local decision-making. This is how we empower children to build resilience and thrive in the future.

Even more remarkably, the past year marked a turning point as we entered the second year of our 2022-2025 strategic plan. Thanks to close cooperation with local partners, we have directly reached over 384,000 children and extended positive impacts on millions of others. We are incredibly proud of our child protection, education, social-emotional learning (SEL), and health projects, where children remain at the heart of everything we do!

One of the brightest highlights is the "Swipe Safe" project — our flagship initiative dedicated to protect children online. We are proud to be founding members of the Vietnam Cyber Safety for Children Club (VCSC). This close collaboration has brought significant progress in keeping children safe while browsing the web, empowering them to navigate the digital world with greater confidence. We also successfully advocated for integrating online safety content into the curriculum in all three project provinces, ensuring children learn about online safety as a critical part of their educational journey. At the same time, working with the Department of Child Affairs, ChildFund has contributed to developing essential terms and standards for online child protection, providing greater safety for children in the digital world.

Additionally, we continue to promote inclusive education with official guidelines from the Departments of Education and Training in the project provinces, helping thousands of teachers and students with disabilities access a higher quality education.

The three-year "Empowering digital learning for all" project is our first digital project aimed at addressing the urgent learning needs of adolescents. This project creates accessible, equitable digital learning environments, helping ethnic minority children develop essential skills to confidently navigate the digital age. And we can't forget the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) program, which equips young people with the skills to face all the challenges of modern life.

We are also thrilled to continue supporting local initiatives, partnering with local governments and social organisations and providing capacity-building activities for community-based organisations like the Na Ri Organisation of Persons with Disabilities. This helps develop creative and sustainable community projects. ChildFund has also adjusted its policies to ensure resources are shared equitably with local partners — a significant step towards creating lasting change together. Not to mention, we have integrated Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Adaptation into every project. This ensures that the impacts we achieve not only bring positive results today but also lay a solid foundation for the future.

On behalf of the entire ChildFund Vietnam team, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, partners, local leaders, and especially the children and their families. Your companionship and enthusiastic support have inspired us to keep pushing forward and bring meaningful change to vulnerable children and communities. Let's continue this journey together!

NGUYEN THI BICH LIEN
COUNTRY DIRECTOR



12,000,000
PEOPLE REACHED



4,000,000
CHILDREN REACHED



21
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

10

CHILD PROTECTION
PROJECTS

07

EDUCATION
PROJECTS

03

HEALTH
PROJECTS

01

OTHER
PROJECT



**OUR
IMPACT**

MÔ HÌNH VƯỜN RAU DINH DƯỠNG

DỰ ÁN: CHĂM SÓC 1000 NGÀY ĐẦU ĐỜI CHO MỘT TƯƠNG LAI
Tươi sáng giai đoạn 2022 - 2026

HEALTH



Boosting children's nutrition for a brighter future

Xuan lives in Ngan Son District, Bac Kan Province, with his wife and two children. Their youngest child is just 28 months old. Like many in their community, Xuan's family is classified as a poor household. Their primary income comes from farming and working as hired labour, but the challenges they face are numerous.

Their home is 10 kilometres away from the nearest market, accessible only by a mountainous road. This makes it difficult to buy food for their daily meals, especially on rainy or windy days. Previously, Xuan's family grew only a small amount of vegetables, and only during one season. Their flock of chickens were limited to just three or four, and they did not raise chickens for eggs, further contributing to their reliance on market purchases.

In late 2022, everything began to change for the better. The project "The first 1,000 days approach for a bright future" introduced a model encouraging households to raise chickens for eggs and grow nutritious vegetables. Xuan's household was among the first to sign up. They received chicken breeds, vegetable seeds, and, importantly, training on the techniques needed to raise chickens and cultivate a thriving vegetable garden.

Under the project's guidance, Xuan and his wife worked diligently, caring for their chickens and tending to their garden. Nearly a year later, the results have been transformative. Their chickens

have not only provided a reliable source of eggs for their daily meals but also produced enough excess eggs to sell. This additional income has allowed them to buy other types of food, enhancing their family's diet. The vegetable garden has also flourished, offering a steady supply of fresh, nutritious produce.



Moreover, the family actively participated in the project's communication sessions and training on nutrition care and early childhood education. With a reliable source of safe, nutritious food and newfound knowledge about childcare, their two children are thriving both physically and mentally. The benefits extend beyond nutrition: by saving money on food and travel expenses, and spending less time traveling to the market, Xuan and his wife now have more time to care for their children.

"Having 5 to 7 egg-laying chickens and a nutritious vegetable garden ensures an available food source for pregnant women, children, and other family members," Xuan shared. He committed to sharing his knowledge with others in the village and commune. "It's easy to do and brings many benefits to the family," he added.

Looking ahead, the project will continue to support the community by expanding communication efforts and creating opportunities for more households to adopt this life-changing model.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Sex Education: A Crucial Stepping Stone for Adolescents

Sex education may not be a favourite subject for many students, but it plays a critical role in their development. In Tan Lac district, Hoa Binh province, students from grades 6 to 9 are learning to manage their emotions and talk openly about sexual and reproductive health with guidance from dedicated teachers like Lua and Sam.

Initially, 14-year-old Dan was skeptical about the “Health and well-being for students” project, thinking it would be just another burden. However, after Lua explained the importance and benefits of the program, Dan and her friends, Nhu and Bich, decided to join the core group of participants. Since then, Dan has gained valuable insights into herself and her rights. “The lectures helped us understand the psychological changes during puberty and how to take care of ourselves,” she shares. “I’ve learned more about my period and can now maintain better menstrual hygiene. We also understand the consequences of having sex at a young age without proper safety measures. We can manage our emotions and cope with stress better.”

Bich, who often struggled with anger, found the project particularly beneficial. She has learned to recognise her frustration and manage it by talking to others, practicing breathing exercises, or singing her favourite song to calm down.

The training sessions used game-based activities and created a safe, non-judgmental space for students to share their experiences and feelings. This approach helped students like Dan and Bich open up and learn more effectively. “We feel lucky to have participated in the training sessions and learned so many interesting things,” Dan says. “We plan to share this knowledge with our classmates.”

Sam, a Year 9 teacher, has seen firsthand the negative impacts of unsafe sexual behaviors among students, including early and unintended pregnancies. Some girls even seek out unlicensed abortion clinics, risking their lives. These experiences can have severe consequences on their physical and mental health, as well as their future.

Before the project, Sam found it challenging to engage students in reproductive health sessions. “I had organised a few extracurricular sessions on topics like menstruation, pregnancy signs, sexually transmitted diseases, and contraceptive methods, but they weren’t very effective,” she admits. “I talked about condoms and emergency contraceptives but didn’t know enough about the pills’ dosage or effects since it wasn’t part of the curriculum.”

Last year, Sam attended a ChildFund-supported training for teachers on sexual and reproductive health. The training provided new, comprehensive knowledge and interactive teaching materials like videos and educational games, which greatly improved student engagement and strengthened the trust between her and her students.

Son, one of Sam’s students, appreciated the new teaching methods. “Ms Sam uses videos and images to explain things, which makes us feel more comfortable and less embarrassed,” he says.

Sam is eager to continue applying what she has learned to help her students navigate puberty safely. “I will keep researching and incorporating new topics into my lessons and use more group discussions to encourage active participation,” she says.





Technology application: A breakthrough in child protection

“Every year, the National Child Helpline receives and supports over 500,000 calls. Despite considerable efforts, the processing of requests, queries, and reports related to child protection has not met expectations,” shared Le Thi Thao, Deputy Head of the National Child Helpline.

At the Helpline 111, 32 counsellors work in three shifts, 24 hours a day, tirelessly handling a continuous stream of calls day and night. However, the lack of human resources is not the sole concern of Thao and her

colleagues: “The coordination between the Helpline and local authorities in resolving and supporting child protection cases is also limited due to the lack of communication channels and information-sharing platforms”.

In this context, the Department of Child Affairs and ChildFund Vietnam have collaborated on the project “Technology for effective child protection system and service”.

This project includes an upgrade of the Helpline 111 application and case management software, which has played a crucial role in addressing existing challenges.

“This upgrade is a significant step forward in improving the performance and features of the Helpline system. The changes have created a better user experience and improved our work processes,” said Thao.

The National Child Helpline application is not only an invaluable aid to Helpline staff. It is also a friendly companion for children. “Using this application, I feel like I have an extra friend to protect me. When encountering issues such as bullying or violence, we can use the application to report them. It is user-friendly and easy to use”, shared Luu, a sixth-grader in Hoa Binh province.

Luu’s friend, Hai, enthusiastically talks about this “new friend”: “Using this application, I can also learn about safety skills, such as preventing abuse, essential life skills for children, and reliable contacts who are always ready to protect children”.

The Helpline 111 application does not only protect students but also proves to be an useful tool for parents in caring for their children’s safety. “This application is great! Other than reporting concerns about children, my children and I can also gain child protection knowledge and skills through the documents library”, said Luan, a parent in Kim Boi district.



In addition to the Helpline 111 application, the case management software is gradually demonstrating the power of technology in enhancing the effectiveness of child protection work. Phuong, a Social Work Officer in Kim Boi district, Hoa Binh province, shared: “I find using the case management software very convenient and practical. Instead of sending hard copies of documents as we traditionally did, the software allows users to export data and store files for both current and past cases. I can easily monitor the status of cases and generate reports when required”.

In the upcoming phase, after testing the National Child Helpline 111 application and case management software on a broader scale beyond ChildFund’s project area, the Department of Child Affairs will provide guidelines for nationwide implementation of the online reporting mechanism. This transformative change is expected to eliminate constraints and provide local leaders with a database to make informed policy decisions, promising a brighter and safer future for children.





Supporting students' jump to primary school

A mix of excitement, nerves and sometimes tears – for many parents, teachers and students, it can be hard to navigate the transition from preschool to primary school. However, for My, a new 1st grader in Hoa Binh province, the transition to primary school was much smoother after My and her mother participated in activities organised by the 'Ready for Primary School' project.

"Last school year, my preschool teachers took us to a primary school where I got to meet the teachers and upperclassmen. I visited their classrooms and library, and also participated in a musical performance with older students. Now that I am in grade 1 like them, I don't feel unfamiliar at all", My said.

Loc – a 2nd grader in My's primary school also said he has enjoyed helping younger children prepare for primary school: "My teacher took me to visit my old preschool. My favourite part was guiding preschool students on how to hold a pen and colour. I like that I get to go back and have preschool students call me 'big brother'."

Previously, My's preschool had limited skills in organising care and educational activities for students, as well as difficulties in coordinating with primary school teachers. Phuong, the preschool's principal shared: "I used to only support teachers with basic knowledge

such as how to teach children to recognise, pronounce 24 letters and 10 numbers correctly, how to hold a pen, how to colour, and some other skills such as combing and tying up hair, putting on clothes. I honestly did not spend much time coordinating with primary schools to support children during the transition period”.

Since the end of 2021, Phuong started participating in ChildFund trainings to support children during the transition period. After two years of hard work from teachers, parents, and students, the preschool has seen positive changes. Students get to regularly participate in activities at elementary schools such as performing, decorating classrooms, making toys, and participating in extracurricular activities like competitions, etc. Teachers at the school have been equipped with additional skills to effectively integrate content that supports children during the transition period into daily school activities. Through various formats, teachers have also given parents more knowledge to support their children during this important time.



Thanh, My’s mother shared: “My used to be shy, but now she seems happy and more confident. From what I have learned through ChildFund’s training and a workshop at school, I have supported my daughter to grow her confidence and become more independent, improve her language skills and get familiar with physical exercises. I always spend at least two hours each night to study with her. I do not pressure her and compliment her when she does something well”.

The successful transition of children like My and the improvements at My’s preschool highlight the importance of collaborative efforts among schools, teachers and parents. These efforts not only ease the transition from preschool to primary school but also lay a strong foundation for the children’s academic and social growth.





Livelihood model creates a better future for children with disability

Hao, 8 years old, is the eldest child of a family currently living in Quang Hoa district, Cao Bang province. Hao was diagnosed with Down syndrome at the age of 1. Her family is economically disadvantaged, with only a few fields to cultivate, and there are days when they don't have enough food to eat. Hao's father - Hung faced many difficulties in raising Hao. He shared: "I didn't know what to do, everything must follow Hao's wishes. She doesn't know how to speak, and when she speaks it's not clear, sometimes only a few words."

When participating in the project 'My Right to Education', Hung learned about the livelihood model that supports parents to raise chickens and pigs to improve their children's nutrition. He signed up to raise chickens, hoping to improve the quality of meals and his family's finances. "Since Hao likes to eat chicken, I signed up to raise 100 chickens. I planned to raise them for food or sell them to buy school supplies for my child".

The project supported part of the cost (80%) for participating families to buy chickens and provided food for the chickens for the first 20 days. This year, Hung continued to participate in this livelihood model and was given guidance on raising his chickens better. "I installed warm lights for the chickens and gave them medicine to prevent illnesses. I also boiled guava leaf water for the chickens to drink. They are healthy and

growing fast. Hao also occasionally feeds the chickens and plays with them. She hopes they grow up quickly!" he happily shared.

Participating in the project, Hung and his wife also have the opportunity to connect with other families of children with disabilities. They learned how to guide their children to perform daily activities on their own such as brushing teeth, combing hair, and getting dressed. "Hao now listens to her parents. She knows how to brush teeth, get dressed, and comb hair all by herself", Hung said.

Hung also found himself becoming more patient with his children, spending more time taking them out to play around the neighbourhood. He and other parents of children with disabilities can now openly discuss with commune leaders or teachers so that their children can access benefits and learn better. He said: "Previously, Hao could only call the name of one friend from the same commune, but now she can speak to her teacher and friends. When participating in the project, my child received a lot of help and guidance from teachers as well as members of the project team."

Hao's father's dream is simple. He confided: "We hope Hao will always be healthy and won't be criticised or shunned by others."



COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

THANK YOU & FINANCIALS

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 !

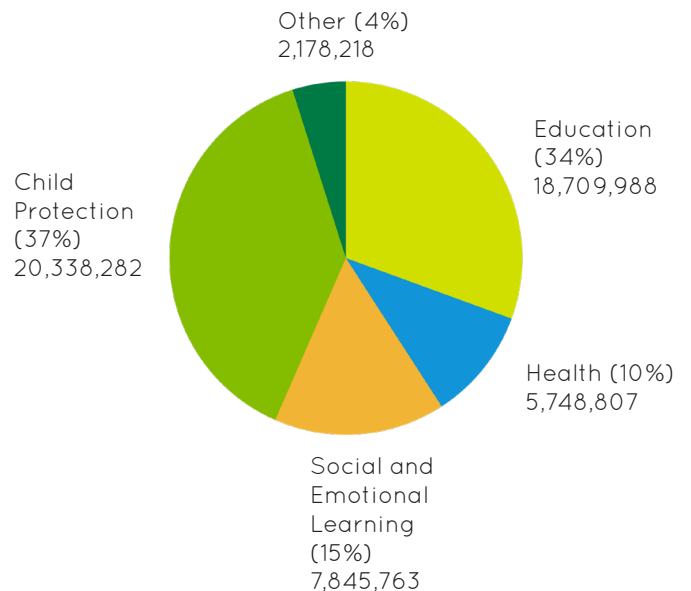
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Financial report for year ended 30 June 2024

REVENUE	FY23 (VND'000)	FY24 (VND'000)
Donations	55,201,553	45,031,511
Grants	23,195,072	19,069,946
Other income	4,378	2,995,724
Total revenue	78,401,003	67,097,181

EXPENDITURE	FY23 (VND'000)	FY24 (VND'000)
Program and projects	63,382,821	54,821,058
Program support	12,431,114	10,924,129
Accountability and administration	12,852,838	9,290,783
Total expenditure	88,666,773	75,035,970

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY 23-24 (VND'000)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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