

# ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016





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 11 organisations which assists more than 14 million children and families in 63 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, child rights and child protection, food security, and maternal and child health, including HIV prevention. With a strong focus on building the resilience of young people, ChildFund also gives children and youth the opportunity to take part in sports, vocational and life skills education, and supports their participation in local decision-making processes.

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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**Photography:** ChildFund staff

**Front cover:** Tang, age 11, Vietnam

## FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

**CHILDFUND VIETNAM** is happy to see, and be part of, positive change for children. We are proud to be part of a global network of people and organisations that are working tirelessly to tackle child poverty.

The work we do in Vietnam is helping children and youth come closer to the moment when they can confidently say: "I am safe. I am educated. I am heard. I have a future." In this Annual Report for 2015 - 2016, we will share the stories of our work, our successes and the people we partner with.

In Vietnam we have seen many significant developments in the fight against poverty since the launch of the Millennium Development Goals. Children and their families have better access to water and healthcare, and the quality of education has improved.

Yet, despite these positive developments, extreme poverty persists and affects the lives of too many children. There are almost three million people in Vietnam living in extreme poverty; with the majority being from ethnic minority groups that ChildFund Vietnam works with.

In the last year, we have partnered with local organisations, communities and the government to address the causes of this inequality and we will continue to do so in the coming years. Independent consultants, the people we work with, and our own Development Effectiveness Framework, confirm that ChildFund programs have contributed to significant change for the children and families in the communities where we work.

We are living in a time of change and disruption that is creating new risks and challenges for children. Our programs will continue to adapt and respond to strengthen children's protection and advance their rights. In the last year, our work has tackled



Deborah Leaver (left) with ChildFund Australia Board members Michael Pain and Marcus Laithwaite, and CEO Nigel Spence

issues such as climate change, declining economic opportunities and the safety of children and youth in an increasingly connected world. In the coming years, guided by our new Strategic Plan, we will continue to address the realities of children living in poverty – to promote the participation of children in community life, to strengthen their protection, and advance their rights.

Our work is made possible because of the support and work of many. On behalf of all the staff at ChildFund in Vietnam, I would like to thank our many supporters, donors, partner organisations, governments, and local leaders, children, youth and their families.

I hope this report gives you a better understanding of the work we do and the changes we are so proud to be a part of.

Yours sincerely,

*Deborah Leaver*

**Deborah Leaver**  
Country Director  
ChildFund Vietnam



## I AM SAFE

### CLEAN WATER FOR CHILD HEALTH

**SIX-YEAR-OLD KHANH** lives with his family in Cao Bang. His parents used to fetch water from a stream for the family to use daily. "The water looked cloudy, but it was the only nearby water source available so we had to use it. Even when it had been boiled, it smelled strange," shares Tuoi, Khanh's mother.

As part of a project to improve access to clean water for families, ChildFund has introduced bio-sand filters to the local community, a cost-effective water cleaning tool. The local water management group has been trained to construct the bio-sand filters themselves and are using locally available materials to build the concrete filters, which helps lower the cost. Importantly, the bio-sand filters require little maintenance and so far, are proving extremely effective. "I feel safer as my children now have clean water for their daily use. I am no longer worried about them getting sick due to diarrhoea," says Tuoi.



## I AM HEARD

### CONNECTING CHILDREN

**THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD LINH** is an active member of the first sign language class organised by ChildFund in Bac Kan, even though she has full hearing.

"Within my community, there are some deaf people. Most of them were not sent to school so they cannot communicate with other people in the village except for their parents. I believe both those who can hear and those who are hearing-impaired should know sign language so they can talk to each other. Otherwise, we cannot do much together. I want to help people with a hearing disability so I go to the class."

On weekends, a group of children from different villages in the commune gather with teachers from the Bac Kan Inclusive Education Centre and spend two hours learning to communicate in sign language. "I have a new friend from the class. Being hearing impaired, Nhay has been learning at the Inclusive Education Centre for four years and she is the best at sign language. We share a lot when we see each other," says Linh.



## I AM EDUCATED

### LEARNING THROUGH STORY TELLING

**FOR CHILDREN** from ethnic minority groups, language is one of the biggest obstacles they face when starting school, as lessons are delivered mostly in Vietnamese, while their mother tongue is their own traditional dialect. Recognising this issue, ChildFund has introduced the Total Physical Response methodology, which enables children to learn Vietnamese through stories and poems; a great method of engagement that is also fun for those taking part.

"We focus not only on vocabulary, but also on sentence structure by fostering the natural communication processes of children. They respond to the teachers' requests with actions, which in turn enhances their understanding and memory. No stress is involved in any lessons," shares Bich, a teacher at a preschool in Hoa Binh.



## I HAVE A FUTURE

### SUPPORTING RURAL ENTERPRISE

**HAO'S FAMILY** is participating in a new ChildFund-supported livelihoods program in Cao Bang, which is enabling families to borrow 50% of the funds needed to buy six goats.

Repayments are made to the village credit scheme, with the money then loaned out to help other families in need. ChildFund has also organised technical training to give people practical skills in goat raising.

Goats are being promoted as a new income-generation activity as research shows that they are suitable to the local environment in Cao Bang, with goats feeding in nearby forests and well-adapted to the mountainous topography of the area.

"I will sell the goat kids as soon as they can feed themselves. The money will help cover our daily expenses and Hao's schooling. I am sure it will help a lot," says Dau, Hao's father.





# BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES



**IN MANY** remote parts of Vietnam, small scale construction to improve the lives of people in rural villages is difficult to organise - constrained local government budgets generally only allow for the completion of one or two large scale developments, in each province, every year.

In light of this, ChildFund Vietnam has developed a partnership model in the provinces of Bac Kan, Hoa Binh and Cao Bang to make small scale constructions possible. With ChildFund supporting local communities with construction materials, and technical advice provided by the functional departments of the local management system, local people are responsible for community engagement, manpower and financial contributions.

The Youth Union plays a key role in mobilising the young people in each village to work on-site. After learning about the project vision and its impact, people not only

participate in the construction phase, but take an active role in the maintenance management process.

“It is important that local people are involved from the beginning, and that everything is effectively communicated, and work is properly informed,” advises Vinh, Provincial Manager of ChildFund Vietnam in Bac Kan.

“By applying the partnership model, which mobilises the skills of local people, we can expand our support to many more communities,” he adds.

By early 2016, ChildFund had assisted in the construction of three irrigation canals – providing water for 16.3ha of rice fields, along with thirteen culvert-bridges and village lanes. These projects now give people in villages better and safer access to public services. Each small scale construction that ChildFund supports benefits around 15 to 45

households, which means these local developments can be life-changing for many children and families living in remote areas.

Thuan, a mother of two from Bac Kan, explains: “Previously, my children had to walk to school every day as no vehicles could be used to cross a local stream. During the rainy season, when the stream was full of water, it would be very dangerous to walk over the bamboo bridge, as the overflowing water could destroy it in the blink of an eye. Often, my children had to skip school to stay at home for their safety.

“Now that we have a concrete bridge, parents like me do not have to worry about our children getting to school. We can also sell our farming products at the district market for a better price, as well as carry them straight from home to the market. Life is more convenient and safer with this bridge,” she adds.

## 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 • Becher Foundation • Hanwha Life Insurance • iSEE • Local Authority and Relevant Offices of Bach Thong, Na Ri and Ngan Son 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. Dinh Quang Hung and Mr. Nguyen Duy Luan, vice chairmen of Bach Thong district people’s committee • Mr. Dinh Huy Giap, chairman of Quang Uyen district people’s committee • Mr. Le Duc Hung, vice chairman of Kim Boi district people’s committee • Mr. Nong Danh Hien & Nong Quang Ke, chairmen of Na Ri District people’s committee • Mr. Pham Van Long, chairman of Cao Phong district people’s committee • Mr. Nguyen Van Ba and Mr. Trinh Truong Huy, chairmen 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 • PACCOM • Women Plans Foundation • 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 • Vietnam Government – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment • NGO Resource Centre • Service Department for Diplomatic Corps • The Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations - VUFO

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2016

Income	2016 ('000 VND)	2015 ('000 VND)	Balance Sheet	2016 ('000 VND)	2015 ('000 VND)
Income	92,151,665	102,523,675	Total Assets	74,504,185	73,830,535
Expenditure	96,359,421	86,349,507	Total Liabilities	18,006,673	18,130,855
Excess of Income over Expenditure	(4,207,756)	16,174,168	Net Assets	56,497,512	55,699,680

**BECAUSE  
EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS A  
CHILDHOOD**

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