

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE FROM VIETNAM

We wanted to share some exciting progress made possible in Vietnam—thanks to support from you!

Children in Plan Vietnam’s project area grow up in poverty, with impact of the Vietnam War still affecting the lives of communities today. Poverty severely impacts children’s well-being, especially those living in ethnic minority communities, causing malnutrition, inadequate access to health services, child marriage and dropping out of school.

Throughout fiscal year 2020, with the help of your sponsorship, we were able to work with community partners to reduce child marriage. We also empowered ethnic minority communities with improved leadership opportunities. Apart from that, school safety and quality education were improved.

We are grateful to you for making these changes possible. We know you will enjoy reading on to see how your generosity is changing the lives of children, like your sponsored child, across this region.



## OUR IMPACT

**362** LOCAL HEALTH STAFF IN HA GIANG WERE TRAINED ON CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

IN LAI CHAU, **199** SCHOOL LEADERS COMMITTED TO ENDING GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE

**1,830** CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN READING AND PLAYING GROUPS IN QUANG BINH

**23,507** PEOPLE IN QUANG TRI BENEFITTED FROM BUSINESS START-UPS

## PLAN INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID-19 is having devastating impacts all over the world. It is not only a health emergency, it is an education and protection emergency. Since girls are often worse affected during a crisis, Plan International is putting them at the heart of our response and long-term outlook. We have scaled up healthcare systems, food security, access to clean water, handwashing and awareness campaigns, and keep education in children’s lives via radio broadcasts.

# REDUCING MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition and stunting are severe problems in Lai Chau, especially for children living in ethnic minority communities.



**MONTHLY PARENTING GROUPS HELPED FATHERS LEARN TO SUPPORT THEIR PARTNERS DURING AND AFTER PREGNANCY SO CHILDREN DEVELOP HEALTHILY**

We worked with health workers at district and community levels to implement programmes reducing malnourishment. Thanks to micronutrients and regular monitoring by health workers, 1,250 stunted and underweight children under two years of age developed healthily.

Healthy pregnancies are important. Home visit consultations provided 1,109 new mothers with guidance on vaccination, nutrition, and healthcare and Vitamin A intake. 750 women in their last 3 months of pregnancy received micronutrients to ensure the healthy development of the foetus, reducing the risk of low birth weight and other complications.

Local health workers and parents helped implement and monitor the project activities, empowering the community with important skills and resources to improve the health of their families.

## PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE

Early marriage can result in pregnancy, social isolation and limited education. In some ethnic minority communities, the rate of early marriage is more than 20%. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health is a sensitive issue in Vietnam and rarely discussed in families. We worked to educate youth on their sexual rights and the consequences of child marriage.

The Girls and Boys Clubs in Quang Binh teach 480 youth about sexual and reproductive health through discussion, presentation and problem analysis. The Children Forum featured speeches, presentations and discussion on gender equality from 104 girls and 26 boys, representing more than 130,000 local children. Youth took on leadership roles in these programmes, and acted as change agents within their communities.

*"One of my friends got married at 15 and had a baby. Both her health and the child's health are very poor. This is an example for us not to get married too early. My friends and I have been actively involved in spreading our message: say 'no' to early marriage."*

**Thanh, 15, sponsored child**



# IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF FAMILIES

Empowering families with information and resources to improve their financial security is essential to overcoming the cycle of poverty.



**PARTICIPANTS LEARNED HOW TO RAISE INDIGENOUS GOATS, PIGS, DUCKS, CHICKENS AND COWS**

In Quang Tri, we developed programmes to increase family financial literacy, teaching 24 coaches and 43 project committee members about money management, banking and investing. These community members then shared their knowledge with other families in poor areas. In addition, 3,310 women and 418 men from village savings and loan groups enriched their knowledge of basic financial literacy. Through this training, participants were able to set up and access basic financial services.

To counter poverty and resulting malnutrition, we helped 65 ultra-poor households improve their financial situation with the provision of livestock such as goats, pigs and chickens. The participants learned animal husbandry and veterinary skills. By breeding and selling the animals, families were able to improve their livelihoods and address the high rate of malnutrition in the community.

## CULTURALLY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

For ethnic minority children in Ha Giang, accessing education can be a challenge. Lessons are taught in Vietnamese, and the language barrier often results in children dropping out. Teachers are not trained to adapt to the needs of their students, and many schools are poorly equipped.

To help all children go to school, we have trained 381 teachers on how to adapt the national curriculum into local contexts.

*"I like drawing and singing in class. My teacher sings songs in Vietnamese and my mother tongue very well. I can follow her easily and I like this very much!"*

**Ganh, 5, sponsored child**

Now, 10,079 girls and 10,388 boys have improved their Vietnamese language skills and are engaged in their lessons.

We have also built 2 primary schools and 1 preschool, fully equipping them with desks, learning materials, and library books. More than 1,000 students can now attend school in these inclusive and inspiring environments.



# YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES

With your support, we will continue to protect children's rights so they are able to thrive.

In the coming year, we will continue to work with the children, families and partners across Vietnam:



- Eradicating malnutrition and stunting by increasing access to nutritious foods and improving health care for mothers and babies. We support families' health and nutrition, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers with proper nutrition and care.
- Operating and maintaining parenting groups, playing and reading groups. Education will be improved by training teachers and building and equipping new schools.
- Acting as drivers of change for girls' rights, leadership and education. In addition, we support youth-led communication activities in schools and communities addressing sexual health rights, reproductive health and gender-based violence.
- Supporting government to implement a community-based child protection system. We will support local child protection groups to respond to cases of child marriage, child trafficking and child abuse. Children Council members will be provided with necessary knowledge and skills to act as effective drivers of change.
- Increasing opportunities and developing vocational skills for young people, particularly young women, to gain the skills and knowledge they need to get a good job or start their own business.

These are just some of the many ways your kindness will continue to touch the life of your sponsored child and other children. We would not be able to do this without supporters like you!

## MESSAGE FROM DUONG VAN TUY

Programme Area Manager, Ha Giang



"Our projects aim at helping ethnic minority children who face limited access to education and quality of life. We focus on children's learning improvement and nutritional care. Many thanks to our sponsors for supporting our children to have healthier lives and better futures."

## MESSAGE FROM NGUYEN HUY HOANG

Programme Area Manager, Lai Chau



"Last year was difficult for the children and people in Lai Chau. On the one hand, they have made efforts to address the current burning issues affecting children and communities. On the other hand, they have been preventing the outbreak of COVID-19. On behalf of all children in Lai Chau, I would like to thank you for your valuable support."

## MESSAGE FROM LE DUC HA

Programme Area Manager, Quang Binh



"We are grateful to all sponsors for your kind support and contribution to the improvement of the lives of vulnerable children and communities in our area. With your continuous support, we commit to work actively with the authorities, children and communities to achieve the advancement of children's rights and equality for girls."

## MESSAGE FROM PHAN DINH HIEP

Programme Area Manager, Quang Tri



"Your kind dedication and contribution is truly meaningful to children, families and communities in Quang Tri. We strive for better lives and the development of the local community. We do hope to receive your support in the year to come. Thank you for your continuous support to Plan International."

