

## YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

**Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Lai Chau. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted.**

In Lai Chau, Plan has been working with ethnic minorities, who make up a vast majority of the population, to access education and improve their employment opportunities. Youth from ethnic minorities have been focused on attending training for agricultural practices and generating income for themselves and their families.

Schools have been working on enhancing the knowledge of teachers, parents and students when it comes to gender-based violence (GBV) and bullying. They are helping to prevent it from happening and report it so that appropriate action can be taken.

**Your sponsorship will ensure even more success for children in Lai Chau.**

**576**

Of pregnant women improved knowledge on infant care

**61%**

Of parents are using responsive feeding practices

**1036**

Children improved their language & reading skills



## COVID-19'S IMPACT IN VIETNAM

**Hear from Thao about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.**

“We found it really difficult when most of our family members were infected with COVID-19. Children had to stay at home and couldn’t go to school. During this difficult time, Plan International supported us with the most essential foods, rice and other supplies. This support enabled us to protect ourselves and stabilize our lives.”

# CASE STORY: PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGE



**NAME: HAI**

**AGE: 16 YEARS OLD**

**HOBBY: TIKTOK**

"We hope to expand our goat herd to become a small goat farm and by that time, we will create more jobs for girls like us. We will only think of marriage when we are able to manage and take care of our lives and help our parents financially a little bit."

## Meet Hai

**Like your sponsored child, Hai has been empowered by Plan International to change her life.** Hai dropped out of school at the age of 16 and was helping her parents with chores and caring for her younger siblings. There are no centres for vocational education in Hai's community, so she had few options for pursuing further opportunities.

With Plan's help, she and a group of girls acquired some goats and now have a small business.

## Life Skills to Succeed

There are very few employment and livelihood opportunities for girls in Hai's community, and poverty rates are high. Many girls are also expected to be married by the age of 16.

Through a Girls Club run by Plan, Hai and a group of others were granted six goats. They learned from other community members how to raise the goats and made their own plans to generate income through research and discussion. Hai also learned about financial management, family planning and gender equality. She has been able to explain to her parents why she should wait to get married, and pursue her own goals first.

## Generating Income

After improving her own knowledge about raising goats, Hai began to do market research on how to sell them and make a profit. With her earnings, she plans to buy more goats and expand her herd so that she can offer job opportunities to other girls in her community. Hai has become a confident girl, and she uses her own knowledge to give advice to other girls in the community. She creates videos on TikTok to show audiences her model for raising goats and to encourage girls to earn their own money rather than getting married at a young age, preparing them for a better future.



*Hai and other members of the Girls Club*

**WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 5,278 CHILDREN IN LAI CHAU**



# OUR PROJECTS IN LAI CHAU ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



## GENDER RESPONSIVE SCHOOLING



**Gender-based violence (GBV) is widely accepted and occurs commonly among school children, with 79% of students experiencing bullying including sexual violence.** Often, this goes unreported because of a lack of understanding about GBV.

Through activities facilitated by teachers, 4,667 girls and 5,368 boys improved their understanding of gender equality as part of the Girls Get Equal campaign. The campaign covered issues like GBV, school violence, cyberbullying and sexual harassment.

Additionally, 9,834 parents attended a total of 224 teacher and parent meetings which enhanced their knowledge on GBV and bullying, as well as how to encourage positive behaviours without using violence. The meetings included discussions, sharing, question and answer sessions and presentations.

The Girls Get Equal campaign events included theatrical activities, performances, competitions and quizzes to promote gender equality and girls' rights. Girls were given the opportunity to take on leadership roles as part of their learning.

## YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



**In Lai Chau, 85% of the population is ethnic minority and the province has a poverty rate of 26%.** Ethnic minority youth struggle with unemployment and limited education opportunities, especially women who are excluded because of male-dominated customs and do not have a say in economic decisions.

Through a Plan partner, 400 youth attended training courses to improve their agriculture techniques and skills. They enhanced their knowledge on caring for crops and chickens and were provided with initial tools for implementation.

240 girls also attended training courses to improve their financial skills, giving them the knowledge they need to calculate business expenses and generate more income.



"I was taught how to build an airtight coop to incubate the chicks and keep them warm. I will keep them in the coop to ensure healthy development. I am sure that I will have more income from this work."

**- Ngoc (24) from Lai Chau**

# YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



## FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



11%

Of children under age 3 have access to childhood development services



21

Villages out of 118 in the province have a Child Protection System



50%

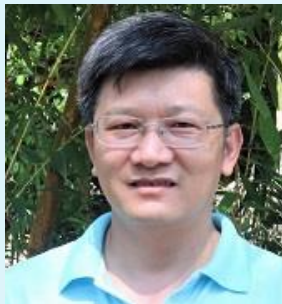
Of the population have access to a hygienic toilet



**Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.**

- The rate of child marriage in the province is high. Plan continues to work with girls and their families to provide education and alternatives to early marriage.
- We will expand our gender-responsive school programmes to support more children to identify and report bullying and GBV.
- School enrolment rates reduce from around 99% to less than 95% as children get older. We work with families and children to provide opportunities for vocational education and training to ensure they are able to generate income.
- Parents do not always have the knowledge they need to support children's physical and mental development. Working with Plan and partners, they continue to improve their parenting practices.

**We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Lai Chau.**



“Your contribution not only supports children and local community people to overcome the pandemic but also to solve problems affecting children and bring a brighter future for children in Lai Chau. I would like to express my sincere thanks to you and your family.”

**Nguyen Huy Hoang**  
Programme Area Manager, Lai Chau

## YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS