

## Ha Giang Vietnam

**Positive changes are happening in Ha Giang. Learn more about how we're supporting children and girls' rights through our collaborative, equality-driven work.**

Plan International has been involved with communities in Ha Giang since 2008. This mountainous region is home to 22 different ethnic minority groups, populations that are statistically much more likely to live in poverty.

To date, 362 women from Ha Giang have learnt sustainable skills to generate their own income and manage their own finances. These skills help at-risk women and girls maintain autonomy, which is particularly important in instances of abuse and gender-based violence.

316 local parents are now more informed about children's rights, including the dangers of child marriage. 16 new school counsellors have begun working with local schools, giving 4,240 students a safe space to go to in instances of abuse, early pregnancy, bullying and other forms of harassment.



Two girls in Ha Giang celebrate the Tet festival.

**“I used to be very shy, but I've found my voice. I'm determined to create a better future.”**

– Man (12) from Quang Binh



### Impact in Numbers

**5,600**

**Students took part in self-defence classes**

**23,145**

**Young people know more about their rights**

**7,276**

**Parents discussed the dangers of child marriage**

# Hear My Voice



**NAME:**

**Kieu**

**AGE:**

**15 years old**

**DREAMS TO BE:**

**A teacher**



“Young people want to be seen as individuals with our own set of unique strengths and skills. I believe we can build a better future for all children.”

## Meet Kieu

Like many children in Ha Giang, Kieu is optimistic about achieving her goals and building a strong future.

Participating in youth leadership programmes has given Kieu the confidence to speak for her village on a larger stage.

## Champions of Change

15-year-old Kieu enjoys reading and learning English. Kieu’s family belongs to the indigenous ethnic minority Van Kieu, a culture that centres many traditions around the harvest and the home.

Van Kieu is one of more than 50 ethnic minorities co-existing in Vietnam. Within the country, these communities are exponentially more likely to live in poverty: in 2018, ethnic minorities made up 72% of those living in poverty in Vietnam.

Many local leaders overlook children – and especially girls – when it comes to decision-making about their rights. Plan’s Champions of Change and Children’s Council programmes are designed to empower young people like Kieu to advocate for themselves, practising skills in public speaking, leadership and debate.

## I Speak for Us

Among hundreds of motivated young people, Kieu stood out as an exemplary leader, and was selected to represent her home province at the Children’s National Assembly, featuring several hundred students from across the country.

There, Kieu bravely spoke about the issues her peers face at home. Today, she reports, the local government listens to the Children’s Council for guidance, passing on their concerns to officials at higher levels.



After demonstrating her leadership skills, Kieu was invited to represent her province at the Children’s National Assembly.

**We Currently Work With 7,909 Sponsored Children In Ha Giang**

# Projects That Support Lasting Change

## Sustainable Skills

**73% of young people in Ha Giang do not have marketable skills. We set out to change that.**

In Vietnam, people from ethnic minority groups are statistically more likely to experience poverty: nationwide, 21% of the Vietnamese population lives in poverty, but almost 66% of ethnic minority groups are impoverished.

In partnership with the Ha Giang District Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 640 young people – including 362 women – enrolled in a series of 32 workshops to learn skills ranging from farming and livestock management to marketing. Workshops also covered topics like financial planning and loan policies, as well as basic computer skills.

Powered by what they've learned in these workshops, 256 young people, including 150 women, were able to get loans to jump-start their own small businesses. Participants also received material resources like seeds, fertilisers and tools.



640 children learned sustainable skills in farming and livestock management.

# 640

**young people learned new vocational skills**



Student activists meet as part of a Champions of Change brainstorming session.



13-year-old Dua is one of 22,400 students to take part in career counselling activities.

## My Future Is Bright

**Women and girls in Ha Giang are more likely to have incomplete educations and to be unemployed.**

In partnership with 50 local teachers, 22,400 secondary school students have taken part in empowering career orientation activities, where they were encouraged to imagine their future and learned more about different professional opportunities.

Our partner teachers in Ha Giang have developed a curriculum in collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Sciences to teach adolescents about self-discovery, ambition and confidence. The teachers have gone on to share this curriculum with 1,159 additional educators in the province. We also partnered with 1,290 Champions of Change, youth activists in Ha Giang who have taken on roles as peer educators, to discuss topics like careers, identities and staying in school with their friends and classmates.

**“The linen weaving activity helped me imagine my dream job. Now I see what I’m capable of.”**

**– Dua (13) from Ha Giang**

# You're Supporting a More Equal Future



760 boarding school students have brand-new mattresses, bunk beds and bedding.

**Together, we're working to create a more just world.**

55% of young children in Ha Giang have stunted growth due to malnutrition. Local healthcare workers will receive more training on providing regular health screenings in at-risk communities.

54% of surveyed children in Ha Giang said that they did not care about online safety. We will organise events for young people centred around cyberbullying, online harassment and the protection of sensitive data.

Students at boarding schools in Ha Giang are learning in less-than-ideal conditions. We will work with these schools to improve their facilities, including new water systems and toilets.

## Message from Plan Staff

"Next year, we will continue to focus on children's rights, and girls' rights in particular. We would like to thank our sponsors and donors for helping children in Ha Giang develop their full potential and have a brighter future."



Duong Van Tuy,  
Programme  
Partnership  
Manager, Ha  
Giang

## The Plan Effect

Sponsored children are at the centre of everything we do, and they help plan our programmes based on what's important to them. Sponsors' donations are a gateway into a community. This helps build trust and credibility to attract even more funds from new sources. This makes more sustainable programmes possible in sponsorship communities. This powerful synergy is something we call The Plan Effect.

## Progress in Numbers

**22,400**

**Students  
imagined their  
dream jobs**

**2**

**Community  
learning centres  
built**

**1,303**

**Menstrual  
hygiene kits  
delivered**

**8**

**Clean water  
systems installed  
or repaired**