

# BA THUOC, VIETNAM

AREA PROGRAMME (AP)

PHASE-OUT REPORT



# A LETTER FROM BA THUOC AP MANAGER

Xin Chao!

On behalf of the children and community members of Ba Thuoc, thank you for showing your love and care.

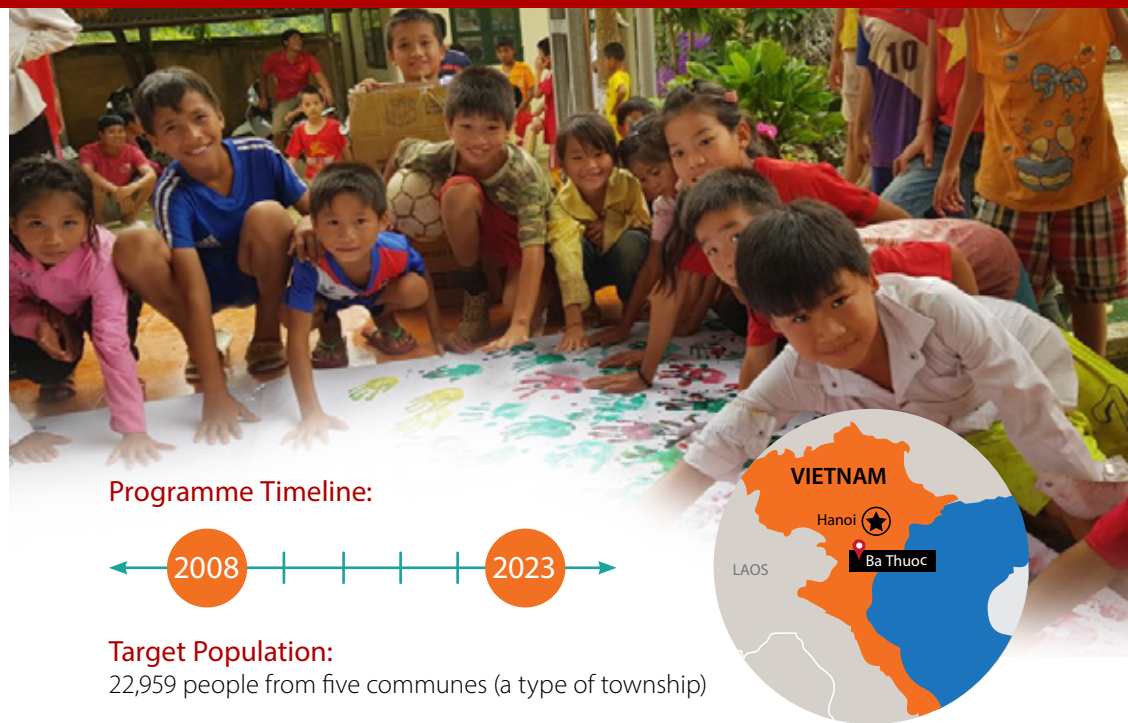
World Vision started partnering with the Ba Thuoc community in 2008 because the children here faced multiple challenges: poor education quality, high malnutrition rate, and poor access to healthcare and clean water. More than a decade later and with your support, we have seen major improvements, which you will read about on the following pages.

The Area Programme will phase out of Ba Thuoc soon but we are confident that the community members are equipped and empowered to continue building a healthy community and provide ongoing care for the children. We have also formed good relationships with local stakeholders – government officials from district, commune and village

levels – who will continue to support the community. Through these ongoing partnerships with a focus on community health, livelihood and education, we were able to tackle malnutrition.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be on the frontlines of change in Ba Thuoc. Every day, I am inspired and delighted at the progress of our sponsored children, their families and community. I hope this report will remind you of the impact you are making and encourage you to continue supporting other vulnerable children and their families. Once again, thank you for your kindness.

Tran Pham Hien  
Ba Thuoc AP Manager



## Programme Timeline:



## Target Population:

22,959 people from five communes (a type of township)

## MEETING CHILD WELL-BEING ASPIRATIONS

World Vision seeks to ensure that we are making a measurable impact on child well-being through the work that we do. In Ba Thuoc, we are guided by these Child Well-being Aspirations:



CHILDREN ENJOY GOOD HEALTH



CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED FOR LIFE



CHILDREN ARE CARED FOR, PROTECTED AND PARTICIPATING







## CHILDREN ENJOY GOOD HEALTH

### MAIN CHALLENGES

- A lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. 67.5% of households consume water from wells while 46.2% of households use unsafe and unhygienic pit latrines.
- Lack of awareness on good hygiene practices such as brushing teeth and washing hands.
- High rate of malnutrition because mothers and caregivers lack awareness and knowledge to care for the nutritional needs of their children and prevent diseases. Most are also unaware of the importance and benefits of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months.
- Health facilities, equipment and expertise are lacking. Diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections are the leading causes of death for children under five.

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Clean water and sanitation systems were implemented in households. 322 latrines were built, giving 63.1% of households access to hygienic latrines. Latrines were also built in 6 preschools, benefiting 374 children and 18 teachers.
- Trainings and communication materials on clean water, sanitation, nutrition and disease prevention were provided for the community (specifically for pregnant women, mothers with children under five and caregivers) and health workers. Some health workers who were equipped to become trainers were able to conduct trainings for the community members, mothers and caregivers.
- Health education campaigns on reproductive health, nutrition and child care were organised.
- 200 vulnerable households with 382 children under five were supported with chickens to improve their nutrition intake. The prevalence of underweight children under five was reduced to 13.1% in 2020, from 17.5% in 2017 while stunting rate dropped to 21.9% in 2020 from 27.9% in 2017.
- 44 local health workers were provided with training. Medical check-ups for the most vulnerable children were conducted.
- Health centres were equipped with new facilities and medical equipment.





# CHILDREN ARE EDUCATED FOR LIFE

## MAIN CHALLENGES

- Low school enrolment rate and high dropout rate. This is due to poverty (with children being forced to work) and a lack of awareness on the importance of education. Language barrier also poses a challenge as most of the local communities are of Thai ethnic origin while the teachers speak Vietnamese.
- Poor school facilities and learning tools, exacerbated by inexperienced educators.
- Due to a scattered population, there is an unequal distribution of schools. Children living in villages close to the commune centres have access to proper schools while children living in remote villages attend schools in makeshift shelters. Some children also walk a long distance to school; sometimes having to cross a river. This exposes them to the risk of drowning and other injuries.
- Children do not have enough to eat in school.



## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awareness sessions on the importance of education were conducted for the community, benefiting 5,000 parents and caregivers.
- 99 preschool teachers were trained to use the child-centred approach. 100% of preschools received support in the form of teaching equipment, learning tools and upgraded facilities. Day boarding classes (where children stay in school for extended hours and are provided with meals) were implemented.
- 128 primary school teachers were trained on the Active Learning Method (ALM; where learners are actively engaged in the learning process rather than passively absorbing lectures) and all primary schools were equipped with facilities to apply the ALM. As a result, students' interests in learning and results have markedly improved.
- Preschool enrolment rate reached 100% in 2017, from 73.7% in 2008 while primary school dropout rate was reduced to 0% in 2017, from 5% in 2008. 99% of students also graduated at Grade 9 and passed their high school exams.
- 1,350 children participated in 37 Reading Clubs across five communes.
- The most vulnerable children were supported with learning materials such as books, school bags and clothes while 120 children were given swimming and drowning prevention classes.







## CHILDREN ARE CARED FOR, PROTECTED AND PARTICIPATING

### MAIN CHALLENGES

- Parents do not have time to care for their children as they are busy making a living.
- Limited awareness on child protection and child rights among children, parents and community members.
- Children are subjected to abuse and violence in school and at home. They do not know how to protect themselves and the local authorities are not equipped to solve such issues.
- Lack of life skills training for children.



### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Improved livelihoods** (mainly rice production) through the implementation of advanced irrigation system, and increased knowledge and skills training on sustainable food crops.
- **953 parents learned how to develop positive relationships with their children** through better communication.
- Trainings and capacity building events on child protection (including emergencies due to natural disasters, abuse, violence and kidnapping), child injury prevention and related policies were conducted for families. **2,984 students from 12 schools also learned how to prepare for, and stay safe, in the event of a natural disaster.**
- Through trainings, contests and forums, various parties (local partners, teachers, parents and children) were educated on child rights and the importance of child participation. Extracurricular activities, forums and trainings on life skills were conducted in partnership with the local government to improve child participation.
- Established Children's Clubs (participated by 1,116 children) and **organised child forums create opportunities for children to express their concerns** and participate in decisions that will affect them.
- **3,440 children learned how to protect themselves** from abuse, exploitation and injuries. Safe playing spaces were also established for children in schools.
- Established and maintained six Child Protection Committees, and equipped members of the Committees for their roles.



## STORIES OF CHANGE

“World Vision truly brings hope,” says Phuong gratefully.



“My condition is now controlled and I am getting better every day. I want to thank World Vision, my sponsor and the community leaders for their support,” says a happy Phuong after receiving her medical examination results.

Now 21, Phuong was diagnosed with ovarian cancer when she was 17 years old. “My family couldn’t afford my medical treatment. I had to leave school and my home to work in the city. I had no hope for the future.”

Upon learning about her situation, World Vision worked with the local Child Protection Committee and her community leaders to develop a plan to help Phuong and her family. With the financial assistance, Phuong returned home to Ba Thuoc, went back to school and also received medical treatment.

Phuong went on to graduate from high school and was supported to attend a sewing course at a vocational school for special needs children. After graduating, she found a job with a sewing company.

“I now earn my own living and can pay for my monthly medical expenses. World Vision truly brings hope.”

## CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP

“My sponsor is a big part of my life,” says young Thang.

“Ketty’s letters always encourage me. I have become more confident and no longer afraid to interact with strangers,” says 10-year-old Thang. “She has become a big part of my life and I am very grateful for her.”

“I never thought I would meet Ketty in person but in December 2019, Ketty and her family came to Ba Thuoc. I was very happy to meet them. They visited my school and met my classmates, teachers and family members. We spent time singing, drawing and taking lots of photos. I also made friends with her son. I will forever treasure the time I spent with them. Before they left, I promised Ketty that I would study hard and achieve good results.

“Thank you, Ketty, for visiting me despite your busy schedule. I miss you and your family very much, and hope to see you all again soon. I wish you peace, happiness and good health, especially during this pandemic.”



Ketty and son with Thang (holding ball) and his mother.



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR BA THUOC?

The goal of every World Vision Area Programme is to build hope for the future by empowering the community to take the lead in development work, and ensuring children and their families are self-reliant.

By September 2023, we will phase out of Ba Thuoc. Until then, World Vision will focus on the following:

- Empower local leaders of the five communes to initiate, monitor and support development work.
- Build capacity and confidence of the community to care for the well-being of children.
- Equip schools and Children's Clubs to maintain facilities so that existing programmes can continue while improving child participation.
- Engage with the Department of Education and Training to maintain progress and monitor or improve (where needed) the quality of education.
- Strengthen existing development work and partnerships with like-minded stakeholders to ensure sustainability.



World Vision helps the most vulnerable children overcome poverty and injustice to experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender, even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith.

**World Vision Malaysia Berhad (394690-U)**

**Tel:** (603) 7800 0899 | **Email:** [admin@worldvision.com.my](mailto:admin@worldvision.com.my) | **Website:** [worldvision.com.my](http://worldvision.com.my)