



CAPITAL PROJECTS
Annual Report 2014

Children at a newly renovated kindergarten

Programme Description

Established:	1997 Vietnam
Locations:	Lam Dong Province in Central Highlands Region, Ben Tre, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Kien Giang and Ca Mau Provinces in Mekong River Delta Region
Target group:	Communities living in poverty with focus on children and women
Local partners:	The Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) of Lam Dong, Ben Tre and Kien Giang Provinces; The National Fund for Vietnamese Children (NFVC) of Dong Thap Province; The Union of Friendship Organisations (UFO) of Vinh Long and Ca Mau Provinces
Sponsors:	Capital International [60 water tanks in Dong Thap Province, Phuoc Tuy Kindergarten in Ben Tre Province], Cantors Fitzgerald 2013 Charity Day Fund and in memory of Derek Smyth [Thanh Ngai Kindergarten, co funded with Capital International], Australia International School in Hong Kong [Tan Nghia Kindergarten, Dong Thap Province], Gemini [Phong My Kindergarten, Dong Thap Province], CNCF Australia {Kim Dong and Huu Thanh Kindergartens, Vinh Long Province}, Sue and Paul Lines and friends [40 water tanks, Dong Thap Province], Individuals: Miriam Kalam, Christina Yao, James Down [Glenealy School and Mekong Venuture [50 water tanks, Vinh Long Province], Funds received 2013, projects completed 2014 Irish Aid [Loc Nga Kindergarten, Lam Dong Province] Electric Aid and CNCF Ireland [66 water tanks, Dong Thap Province]
CNCF Staff:	Mr. Nicolas Pistolas, Ms. Son Thu Trinh, Ms. Donna Burr, Mr. Nguyen Huu Nghia, Ms. Nguyen Kim Thao and Ms. Nguyen Thi Mong Thuyen
Monitoring Visits:	Regularly scheduled
CNCF Involvement:	One-stop investment
Budget:	USD 128,167 (Represents actual payments made to CNCF’s local partners in 2014)
Future Plans:	Continue to work with local government partners to identify needs in their local communities for kindergartens (including playgrounds and fencing, classroom equipment, classroom furniture and playground equipment), medical stations, water tanks and/or water supply system schemes.
Reporting Period:	January - December 2014
Compiled By:	Ms Nguyen Thi Mong Thuyen

On behalf of our Foundation and the Sunshine Children of Vietnam, we thank all sponsors for supporting this programme in 2014.

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ABBREVIATIONS	
CNCF:	Christina Noble Children’s Foundation
CAP:	CNCF Capital Projects
DOLISA:	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
NFVC:	National Fund for Vietnamese Children
VND:	Vietnamese Dong
UFO:	Union of Friendship Organization



Conventional water source - Mekong Delta

Programme Background

NEED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN VIETNAM

In the past, due to the government’s limited budget, early childhood education was not ranked a priority compared to other education components.¹ In 2006, however, the Government formally endorsed ECE* as a priority although in reality financial constraints have meant that local Government’s focus has remained on other educational levels.

Due to a lack of available funds the Vietnamese Government - in particular local authorities - have no option but to seek outside support from the private sector and from foreign aid.

According to UNICEF’s December 2013 report ‘Out of School Children in Viet Nam: A Country Study’, part of a global initiative aimed at getting children in school, the Vietnamese Government’s policies and initiatives on schooling have had wide-sweeping positive impact. There remain many areas for improvement, however, with significant problems still needing to be addressed. One of the main issues, according to UNICEF, is the failure of the Government’s targets on ECE

1 Viet Nam’s national education system has five components: early childhood education, general education, vocational training, tertiary education, and continuing education. *Early childhood education includes nursery school (from three months to three years of age) and kindergarten (from three to five years of age).

“The 2010 target to have 100 per cent of the children aged five attending public schools in disadvantaged areas or the 2012 target to have 90 per cent of the ethnic minority children in disadvantaged areas attend full-day schooling. Some communes in upland and ethnic minority areas were still without a kindergarten. By 2012 the plan to subsidize lunch had not been fully implemented, especially in disadvantaged areas. There was shortage of infrastructure and facilities at preschools, and there was a quality issue. The 2015 target for nutrition was difficult to achieve.”²

CLEAN WATER ISSUES IN VIETNAM

Water and sanitation related diseases remain a major health problem in Vietnam despite a dramatic decline in child mortality and the incidence of communicable diseases. Diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of childhood morbidity nationwide and according to UNICEF, it accounts for 12 per cent of all child-under-5 deaths in the country.

As many as 44 per cent of Vietnamese Children are infected with water-borne parasites, according to recent estimates. Partly as a consequence, Vietnam has one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in East Asia.³

Although Vietnam has made rapid progress in improving its water supply situation over the past decades, many parts of the country – especially those areas heavily populated with

2 From Unicef Report: All Children in School by 2015 A Global Initiative on Out of School Children (Out of School Children in Viet Nam: A Country Study), issued in Hanoi December 2013

3 <http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/wes.html>



ethnic minority groups and remote rural and often the poorest communities – have been left behind.⁴

In fact according to the most recent studies by UNICEF: “about one third of all children [in Vietnam] below 16 years of age, or seven million Children, can be considered poor. One third of children below five are stunted as a result of chronic malnutrition. More than one out of every three children is not fully immunized by the age of five. Almost half of all children do not have access to a hygienic sanitation facility in their home and two thirds of all children do not have a children’s or picture book to read.⁵”

CNCF TARGETS. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CNCF will provide poor and/or remote rural areas in southern Vietnamese Provinces and Central Highlands Provinces with kindergartens, medical stations, and water supply solutions with the objectives of:

- Improving children’s access to quality education by providing them with government standard classrooms and supplies of equipment for local children;
- Improving access to better healthcare facilities and medical equipment, thereby reducing rates of disease and illness in local people, especially women and children;
- Addressing a growing need for clean water for poor people by providing access to clean water and promoting changes in hygiene behaviours amongst the poor.

⁴ <http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/wes.html>

⁵ <http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/wes.html>

These facilities are built with the following specific objectives:

Kindergarten project

- To allow children to have access to education in well built classrooms and access to quality equipment
- To provide children with a learning environment that is healthy, safe, and equipped with adequate resources and facilities
- To reduce overcrowding in classrooms
- To increase overall school attendance numbers

Medical station project

- To facilitate access to healthcare for poor people so they may receive proper information, diagnosis and timely treatment
- To reduce the costs to poor people of having to commute to distant medical facilities
- To improve health levels in poor communities and encourage poor people to seek preventative care

Water tank project

- Provision of well built water tanks for rainwater collection
- Increase access to clean water
- Increase awareness of clean water issues





Conventional water source at home.



Clean water at home from a CNCF water tank



Conventional communal water source



Clean water at home from a CNCF water tank

THE INTERVENTIONS OF THE SCHEME

- Education: Pre-school Education
- Healthcare: Rural Clean Water

STRUCTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS

The project is staffed with one full-time manager and one project assistant under the direct management of the CNCF Board of Management. CNCF is licensed to operate in the six provinces for project implementation and cooperation agreements have been signed with the following government departments.

1. The Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Lam Dong, Ben Tre and Kien Giang Provinces
2. The National Fund for Vietnamese Children of Dong Thap Province
3. The Union of Friendship Organisations of Vinh Long and Ca Mau Provinces

PROGRAMME SITES IN 2014

In 2014, CNCF implemented projects in Ben Tre, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Lam Dong and Kien Giang Provinces. There were no project implementation requests from Ca Mau Province in 2014.

At the present, the only project CAP runs in Kien Giang Province is a Microfinance Loan Program⁶ in Son Kien Commune, Hon Dat District. There has been no request from the local partner for any construction projects and they have confirmed that

⁶ See separate MicroFinance Loan Programme report

there is no present need of additional kindergarten or water tanks in rural areas. CNCF has had no involvement in projects in Ca Mau for a number of years; CAP will propose to conduct a needs assessment in 2015.



PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES

- Children with little to no access to early childhood education as well as those who are studying in substandard facilities that do not meet their basic needs, i.e. unsafe facilities, inadequate supplies of equipment, lack of teaching aids and functional rooms, etc.
- Poor people with little to no access to safe, clean water sources and facilities
- Communities, with a particular focus on poor children and their mothers – in Vietnamese society it is the women who bear the brunt of child raising and domestic work therefore it is they who are impacted the most by improvements in childcare and domestic sanitation facilities - who have little to no access to proper, basic healthcare services or adequate, modern medical equipment.

Programme Overview

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Kindergarten project beneficiaries: 516 children
Water tank project beneficiaries: 196 households [588 people]

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

PROJECT UPDATE

This year, through the generous support of our donors, our Capital Projects team worked on:

- a total of 9 projects including 6 kindergartens and 3 water tank projects.
- Of these, 4 kindergarten projects and 1 water tank project [40 tanks], were completed and handed over to beneficiaries.
- The remaining 2 kindergartens and 2 water tank projects are in the process of completion and we expect to complete them within the first quarter of 2015.

You have helped to fill these kindergartens with happy, smiling faces and helped to create a sustainable future for all the beneficiary families and their children; children and families now have access to safe, clean water and their parents can go to work, knowing their children are in a safe, well- equipped kindergartens.

A total disbursement of USD 128,167 (see Table 2 below) was transferred in 2014 to local partners in accordance with the conditions set out in the Cooperation Agreements between CNCF and local partners.

In 2015, an additional USD 31,157 (see Table 3 below) will be disbursed to local partners for the remaining payments of two kindergartens and two water tank projects. In addition, another three projects including two kindergarten projects and one water-tank project are expected to be completed and funds distributed will be USD 97,568.



Programme Activities

A SUMMARY OF MAIN CAP ACTIVITIES IN 2014

Table 1: A summary of main CAP activities

Project	Received Application	Initial inspection ¹	Assessment reports ²	Completed proposals	Funding approval by donors	Inspection of construction	Completion reports	Donor visit
Kindergarten	3	3	5	5	2	15	3	1
Water tank	1	0	-	3	2	7	1	0
Total	4	3	5	8	4	22	4	1

1. Initial inspections of water tank projects are conducted after receiving donors’ funding approvals for these projects.

2. Assessment reports are not applied to water tank projects, only for kindergarten and medical station projects.

Table 2: Payments for projects conducting in 2014

No.	Project	Location	Status	Payment (USD)		No. Children/ People assisted
				Amount	Number of payments	
I	KINDERGARTEN					
1	Three-classroom Kim Dong Kindergarten	Vinh Long Province	Handover to beneficiaries	19,512	3	100
2	Three-classroom An Hiep Kindergarten	Dong Thap Province	Handover to beneficiaries	4,878	1	90
3	Three-classroom Loc Nga Kindergarten	Lam Dong Province	Handover to beneficiaries	29,366	3	120

No.	Project	Location	Status	Payment (USD)		No. Children/ People assisted
				Amount	Number of payments	
4	One-classroom Thanh Ngai Kindergarten	Ben Tre Province	Handover to beneficiaries	14,329	2	48
5	Three - classroom Huu Thanh Kindergarten	Vinh Long Province	Completion period	39,020	3	98
6	Two-classroom Tan Nghia Kindergarten	Dong Thap Province	Completion period	18,732	3	60
TOTAL (1)				116,085		516
II	WATER TANK ¹					
1	40 Water Tank Project in Hieu Phung Commune	Vinh Long Province	Handover to beneficiaries	863	1	120
2	50 Water Tank Project in Nguyen Van Thanh Commune	Vinh Long Province	Completion period	1,463	1	150
3	106 Water Tank Project in Tan Kieu Commune	Dong Thap Province	On second stage of 66 Water Tanks	9,756	2	318
TOTAL (2)				12,082		588
TOTAL (1 + 2)				128,167		1104

1. A tank will benefit an average size family of 3 people



Proud mother taking her children back home after school



Receiving school supplies at a kindergarten opening



Family benefitted by our programmes



Clean water at home from a CNCF water tank

REMAINING PAYMENTS MADE IN 2014

There are two kindergartens and two water tank projects with final payments outstanding and falling due in 2015 with total budget of USD 31,157.

Table 3: Remaining payments of 2014

No.	Project	Location	Status	Payment (USD)		No. Children/ People assisted
				Amount	Number of payments	
I	KINDERGARTEN					
1	Three - classroom Huu Thanh Kindergarten	Vinh Long Province	Completion period	17,634	2	98
2	Two-classroom Tan Nghia Kindergarten	Dong Thap Province	Completion period	4,878	1	60
TOTAL (1)				22,512		158
II	WATER TANK4					
1	50 Water Tank Project in Nguyen Van Thanh Commune	Vinh Long Province	Completion period	1,338	1	150
2	106 Water Tank Project in Tan Kieu Commune	Dong Thap Province	On second stage of 66 Water Tanks	7,307	2	318
TOTAL (2)				8,645		468
TOTAL (1+2)				31,157		626

COMPLETED PROJECTS IN 2014

Of the nine projects that CAP was working on in 2014, four kindergarten projects and one water tank project were completed and officially handed over to the local partners in Vinh Long, Dong Thap, Lam Dong and Ben Tre Provinces providing support to 498 people.

Table 4: Completion projects in 2014

No.	Project	Location	Status	Payment (USD)		No. Children/ People assisted
				Amount	Number of payments	
I	KINDERGARTEN					
1	Three – classroom Kim Dong Kindergarten	Vinh Long	Completed	19,512	3	100
2	Three – classroom An Hiep Kindergarten	Dong Thap	Completed	4,878	1	90
3	Three – classroom Loc Nga Kindergarten	Lam Dong	Completed	29,366	3	120
4	One classroom Thanh Ngai Kindergarten	Ben Tre	Completed	14,329	2	48
TOTAL (1)				68,085		358
II	WATER TANK					
1	40 Water Tank Project in Hieu Phung Commune	Vinh Long	Completed	863	1	140
TOTAL (2)				863		140
TOTAL (1+2)				68,948		498



ON-GOING PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE CONTINUED IN 2015

Three of the four on-going projects listed in Table 5 below were originally projected to be completed in January 2015 but are not yet complete. The remaining project of 106 water tanks in Tan Kieu Commune is complete pending finalisation of the legal documentation and payment of the final balance.

Table 5: On-going projects ⁷

No.	Project	Location	Status	Payment(USD)		No. Children/ People assisted
				Amount	Number of payments	
I	KINDERGARTEN					
1	Two-classroom Tan Nghia Kindergarten	Dong Thap	Waiting for finalization report from local partner	4,878	1	60
2	Three-classroom Huu Thanh Kindergarten	Vinh Long	Waiting for finalization report from local partner	17,634	2	98
3	Two-classroom Phuoc Tuy Kindergarten	Ben Tre	Paperwork process	31,080		40
4	Three-classroom Phong My Kindergarten	Dong Thap	Paperwork process	56,829		90
TOTAL (1)				110,421		288
II	WATER TANK					
1	50-water tank project in Nguyen Van Thanh Commune	Vinh Long	Waiting for Paper Acceptance	1,338	1	150
2	106-water tank project in Tan Kieu Commune	Dong Thap	On second period of constructing 66 water tanks	7,307	2	318
3	60-water tank project in Tan Kieu Commune	Dong Thap	Paperwork process	9,659	2	180
TOTAL (2)				18,304		648
TOTAL (1+2)				128,725		936

⁷ Exchange rate 1USD = 20500

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Achievements

- Revised ‘Official Acceptance and Handover Form’ of
- Water tank project
- Revised ‘Application Form’ of kindergarten project
- Revised ‘CAP Manual’
- Improved/upgraded contents of ‘CAP Proposal Outline’ and change to new Proposal Format of kindergarten project

Remaining activities

Planning needs assessment for clean water sources and facilities in poor rural areas.

In 2014 the main focus has been on projects already in progress, evaluations of the Microfinance Loan projects, and a comprehensive review of CAP documents and procedures. One area that still needs to be explored is an assessment of clean water sources and facilities in poor rural areas in Dong Thap and Vinh Long Provinces that the team will carry out in 2015.

Success Story

The biggest successes have been the completion of the kindergarten projects [see in Table 3] thereby providing 498 more access to education in 2014.

Kim Dong Kindergarten
From the blog 4 July 2014

Even for those children fortunate enough to have a place in the local kindergarten in the Binh Ninh Community, it still meant sitting on a dirt floor in a dilapidated building. But today, thanks to the Christina Noble Charitable Fund Australia and our local partner, the Union of Friendship Organization of Vinh Long Province, 90 children are enjoying brand new facilities.

The children and their families were so excited to see their new kindergarten - named the Kim Dong Kindergarten - complete with brightly painted walls, a rainbow arch, new toys and equipment and a safe shiny new floor to play, sit and lie upon. The community and the local authorities say that they are pleased to have created a spacious and clean learning environment for the children.

In improving early education facilities the community hopes to continue to increase school enrolment rates and the level of literacy. The long-term effects of early childhood education are expected to lead to a better economic and social future for the community. Binh Ninh is a small community, in the Vinh Long Province of Vietnam’s Mekong Delta. Most families living here rely on agriculture, particularly rice farming and

cash crops. But, as there is very little access to technology or mechanised farming, the work is still highly labour intensive.

Crop yields are also at the mercy of the extreme weather conditions that affect this part of the Mekong Delta and often farmers can be left with little income for their hard labour.

Vietnam has made rapid progress in its economic development over the past years. Universal access to basic education services is now provided but disparities between urban and rural areas still exist. According to UNICEF there is a widening gap between Vietnam's rich and poor and many, especially in remote rural locations, still struggle to maintain a livelihood. UNICEF states that although the poverty rate is 18.3 per cent in urban areas, it is 44.9 per cent in rural areas.

The Union of Friendship Organization says that more than 200 families out of the 2,500 living in Binh Ninh have been identified as poverty-stricken and are forced to live on an average amount of 21 USD per person, each month. The community has poor infrastructure and a serious lack of clean water leading to high illness rates as people are drinking from contaminated sources.

Parents who find themselves in difficult financial situations are sometimes forced to leave their children at home while they work. And so Kindergartens become even more important, not only for early childhood development but to prevent children being left at home unattended or left in the care of older siblings where they are at risk of accident and poor supervision.

The Kim Dong Kindergarten in the Binh Ninh Commune not only provides an education for the children but also has a positive economic impact on the families. The parents are able to work knowing that their children are safe. Although Vinh Long Province receives some financial support to build kindergartens from the Government, they are still in need of assistance from outside donors, like CNCF, to help them build more kindergartens to meet the needs of the families living there.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2015 with two more projects in the works: Huu Thanh and Tan Nghia Kindergartens and two water tanks projects due for completion in the first quarter of 2015.

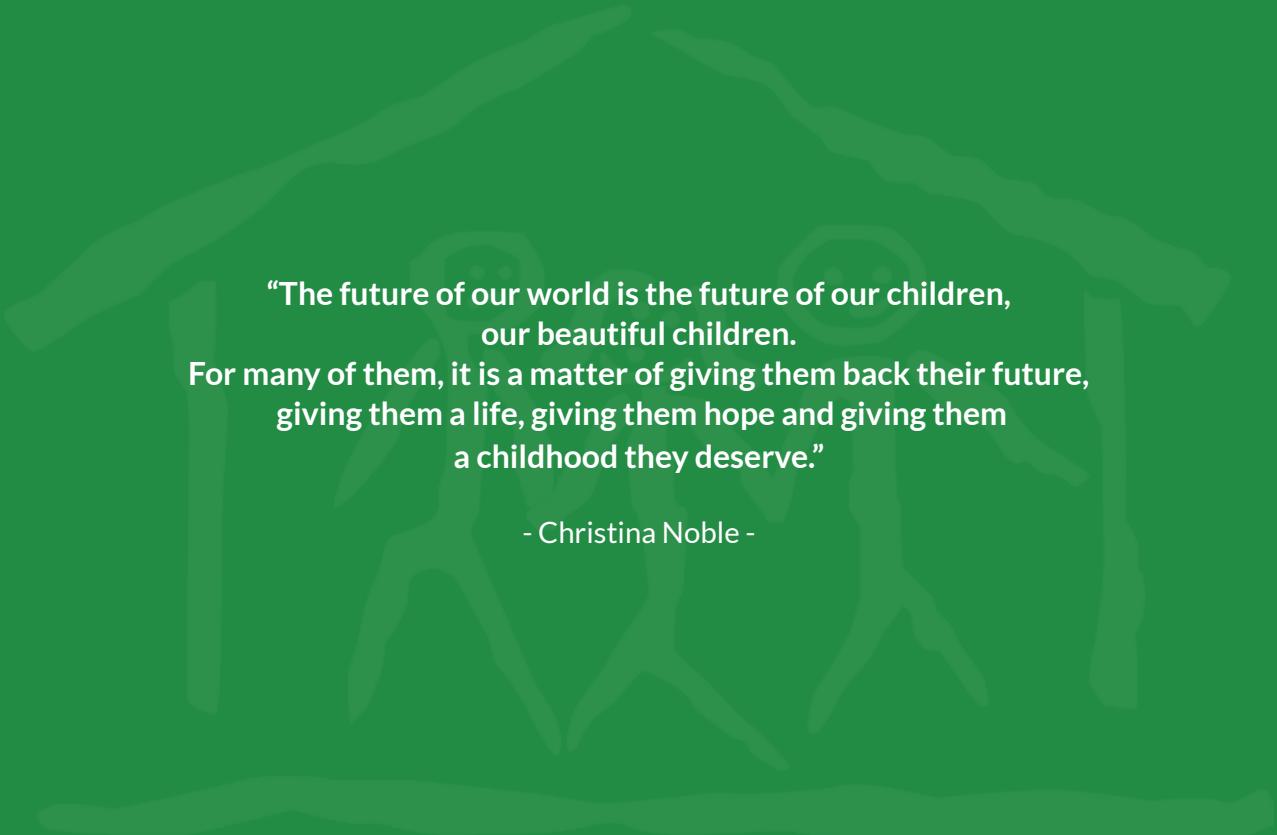
We also hope to complete two additional kindergartens including Phong My Kindergarten in Dong Thap Province and Phuoc Tuy Kindergarten in Ben Tre Province later in 2015.

Each individual donation counts. Your donation can and WILL make a difference!



Smiles at Kim Dong Kindergarten





**“The future of our world is the future of our children,
our beautiful children.
For many of them, it is a matter of giving them back their future,
giving them a life, giving them hope and giving them
a childhood they deserve.”**

- Christina Noble -



If you or your organisation are interested in supporting this programme in 2015/2016 please contact our Foundation.
It is only through the kind generosity of others that we are able to continue our work with some of the world's most vulnerable children.

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