



**FRIENDS OF VIETNAM  
ORPHANAGES INC**

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## **REPORT TO DONORS FOR 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

### **CONTENTS**

**Overview**

**Our Donors**

**Project Summary**

**Project Details**

**Travel Stories**

## OVERVIEW



**Red circles = some project locations**

Each year I take a motorbike across Vietnam, visiting orphanages, shelters and villages to make a needs assessment on the ground. The aim of this “barefoot charity” model is to reach the poorest and most unsupported communities. The guarantee to donors is that **every** donated dollar goes to direct assistance in Vietnam. Our local project partners are mostly the traditional breadwinners of Vietnam – the women. They are also uni student groups and nuns, both Christian and Buddhist. Together, we design useful projects, to get best value for money. No project is too small. Each financial year, this grass roots work is summarised in a report to donors.

# OUR DONORS

**Our Committee thanks people who helped us assist communities in Vietnam:**

## Monthly contributors

Family and friends who made monthly contributions: **Clive, Michael & Adrienne, Geoff & Rachelle, Franziska, Hayden & Yên, Helen & David, Leo, Patrick H, Peter & Margaret.**

## Donors

Our Friends who gave donations were **Amanda, Dennis, Karna, Julie & Jan, Paul & Suzette, Aranda Men's Group, Anna & Ashley**, Vietnamese-Australians **Kim Huỳnh**, Beyond Bank (via Community Reward Scheme) and others.

## Board & Advisers

Our board, **Julie, Dennis, Geoff** and **Clive**, provided encouragement and support. I also regularly consult our Australian-Vietnamese cultural advisers **Loan & Tiệp**. They are very patient in explaining Vietnamese method and custom to Westerners.

## Local Interpreters

Our volunteer interpreters and "fixers" in Vietnam included **Châu, Tam, Hiệp, Xoan**. Interpreters help to negotiate each project, fix any problems and ensure completion.

## Local Project Partners

We rely on local project partners. These monastic, volunteer or social groups spend their valuable time. This requires detailed local knowledge, visits and negotiations with people in their homes. We get a "multiplier effect" from time contributed by these helpers. Our project partners in Vietnam were:

- Ba Na and J'rai people of Kon Jo'DREH, Vong Chep and Angleh villages.
- Sisters of the Anh Phep La order, Vinh Son shelters in Kontum.
- Yên (in charge) and Quế (assisting), Thiên Ân orphanage, Cần Thơ.
- Bích Hường (host) and Kim Anh (in charge), Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa of Calcutta's order), orphanage and single mothers shelter, Mai Âm Tình Mẹ, Bình Dương.
- Bắc Ái Vinh (Vinh Sisters of Charity order), serving Phong Nha villages.
- Hiệp, Huong Khe village, Ha Tinh.
- Legion of Mary (Legio Marie) women's group, Thạch Long & Thạch Sơn village, Hà Tĩnh.
- Lành (in charge), 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled, Vinh Sisters of Charity, Xã Đòai.
- Kính (deputy), Phát Diệm Holy Cross order, serving the poor around Phát Diệm.
- Ngọc Nu, St Paul De Chartres order, serving disabled and poor in Saigon.
- Loan, Director, SPDC convent in Buon Me Thuot, running the Vi Nhan Disabled Children's School.
- Dr Trong and other medical volunteers Oanh and others, Gia Lai province.
- Danang Uni Christian student volunteer group for Child Centre No 5.

To summarise, the help from monthly contributors, donors, board members, advisers, local interpreters and local project partners enables us to take Australian friendship to Vietnam, to carry out both small and large local projects, at orphanages and villages.

**On behalf of Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc, I wish to express thanks to all, for generous donations to the fund, practical help, moral support and good counsel.**



**Peter Kabaila, Public Officer**

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**Every** dollar you donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam.

During this financial year we carried out projects across Vietnam, with a focus on the Central Highland provinces of Kontum and Gia Lai, where the Ba Na and J'rai peoples reside. We partnered with university student groups and other volunteers. 100% of every dollar donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam, because we have \$0 admin cost. Our project manager and Vietnam contacts were essential to success. This financial year, donation income was \$18,945.84 and we spent \$19,500 AUD on 16 projects.

No.	Million VND	\$ AUD	PROJECT
1	27.5	1,720	Kontum – student volunteer program - Vinh Son 2 shelter
2	10	625	Medicines for Vinh Son 4 shelter – Kontum.
3	10	625	Binh Duong – single mother’s shelter.
4	16.5	1,035	Mong people in Cong Cuong, Nghe An province.
5	16.5	1,035	Pleiku indigenous boarding school – bags, desks, chairs.
6	21	1,405	Furniture for Ngoc Reo shelter – Kontum.
7	20.5	1,285	Furniture for Vinh Son 1 shelter – Kontum.
8	20	1,250	Furniture for remote village school – Kontum
9	20	1,250	Furniture for remote village shelter – Gia Lai
10	12	650	Children’s bicycle enclosure for Vinh Son 1 Shelter
11	20	1,250	Tutoring support for Vinh Son shelters in Kontum for 6 months
12	21	1,285	Medical checks at two shelters and two villages
13	10	625	Duck raising in Kon jo’DREH Village, Kontum
14	34	2,130	Bicycles as school study awards: 20 kids in Vong Chep, Gia Lai
15	20	1,250	Assistance to Thien An Shelter in Can Tho
16	33	2,065	Food parcels in Angleh village, Gia Lai
	<b>312 M VND</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>	<b>TOTAL</b> Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Totals were rounded.</li> <li>• Exchange rates varied, generally @ 1.597M/\$100.</li> <li>• We also paid one \$32 bank transfer fee.</li> </ul>

## PROJECT DETAILS

*This year's work commitments caused travel to Vietnam to be delayed to 2024. We carried out some great projects with the help of our project partner groups and interpreters.*

### VINH SON 2 SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM - KONTUM

The annual summer holidays for school and uni students last for 2 months (July-August). This fabulous little project was to leverage the enthusiasm and energy of uni volunteers to run a 2-month summer holiday program at Vinh Son 2, one of the chain of *Vinh Son* (Vietnamese spelling for St Vincent's) shelters for indigenous children run by a special monastic order, set up for local indigenous nuns in the Central Highlands' Kontum Province. Vinh Son 2 has around 250 kids.

Our local project manager began by advertising, organising and coordinating the student volunteers. Advertising was on Facebook for volunteers from University. Conditions were:

- Experience in teaching.
- Good health.
- Know how to manage indigenous children.
- Know how to organise team building (group) activities.

The volunteer group was 5 students and 2 staff members from Hue University. They worked at the orphanage in 2 shifts over the whole 2-month period. They tutored the school curriculum every day in three shifts (morning, afternoon and evening). The end of the holidays was a team building "camp" on the orphanage grounds. The morning was:

- Group discussions about social media.
- Quiz.
- Sharing thoughts.
- Drawing competition with prizes.
- Cooking competition with prizes.
- Group lunch for children, volunteers and orphanage staff with the competition cooked food.

The afternoon was organised games. The camp fire night, with music and dance, aligned well with local indigenous custom. Most children wore their traditional costume and knew the fire dance.

We spent:

- 6M for volunteer transport and school materials 6M.
- 4.5M for encouragement awards for children 4.5M.
- Food supply for the cooking competition 5M.
- Food supply for the neighbouring but smaller and more remote Vinh Son 4 orphanage 12M.
- The project cost was 27.5M (approximately \$1,720).



Cooking competition



Winning entries in the cooking competition.



Cooking competition display and prize judging.



Our food supply purchase for nearby Vin Son 4 orphanage is delivered on a motorbike truck.



Fire dance marks the end of the summer holidays



Nearby orphanage of Vin Son 4: St Martin de Porres stands at a mural of an idealized landscape and traditional indigenous life (topped by razor wire).

## MEDICINES FOR VINH SON 4 SHELTER – KONTUM

Vinh Son 4 shelter is 10km out of Kontum City. There are 130 children (all indigenous) and 4 nuns at the shelter. The children seemed well behaved, well organised and busy with cleaning work. The walls have been painted with murals by seminary students organised by a teacher. It relies heavily on the farm for income. The farm has chickens and pigs. Its coffee and rubber are harvested by the children's families in lieu of boarding fees.

This project was to support Dr Trong's medical volunteer group for their work of medical checks, with funds for an estimated 5 months' supply of medicines for Vinh Son 4 shelter. The volunteers also carry out basic medical checks, consults and treatment for small remote leper settlements across Gia Lai Province. Dr Trong's group visited Vinh Son 4 to do the med checks at in August 2023. The project cost was 10M (approximately \$625).



Local J'rai people labouring in coffee plantations are Dr Trong's regular clients.



A leper shows his prosthetic legs and missing fingers.



Sick children are gathered at Vin Son 4 orphanage for Dr Trong's medical checks.



Hair cuts from our uni student volunteers help the kids reduce lice and boost their self-esteem.



"Say aaah!" says Nguyet, an indigenous nun aged 35, who runs Vinh Son 2 orphanage.

## **BINH DUONG – SINGLE MOTHER’S SHELTER**

For some years, we have been visiting this Sisters of Charity of Calcutta shelter for single mothers and babies, we helped the Mai Am Tinh Me single mother’s shelter, which houses around half a dozen single Mums and over a hundred kids is in the factory worker district of Binh Duong, 30 km north of Saigon. Former Hue Uni English student Ngoc is our local contact for this project.

As last year, in discussion with Ngoc, the shelter identified their needs. Ngoc purchased the supplies and arranged delivery to the shelter. This is a simple, small project to provide some support to the Sisters of Charity, in helping single mothers. The project cost was 10M (approximately \$625).

## **MONG PEOPLE IN KY SON, NGHE AN PROVINCE**

Ky Son is a highland village area near the Laos/Vietnam border. Mông people are one of several ethnic minorities there. Historically, as nomadic, stateless people, they moved freely across the mountain range and across the Vietnam/Laos border.

As elsewhere, most of the old growth rainforest was clear felled and replaced by *cay tram* (wattle tree) plantations.

Hiep is a business man based in Ha Tinh Province. His friends formed a group to do a charity project once a year, to mark Tet, the lunar New Year. This is a common phenomenon in Vietnam. Small groups of people, who have done well economically, band together and do a trip to an area outside their city to give alms to the poor. This pattern aligns well with Vietnamese custom and with Buddhist and Christian traditions of alms-giving. Typically, such groups think up a name for the group, advertise for contributions on Facebook, do their annual trip, take a photo of themselves holding a banner, then get on with the rest of their lives for the remainder of the year. These small groups are also our valued project partners. We can leverage off their desire to have a successful charity trip, by supporting them with funds for specific aid to the poor.

This year, Hiep and his group chose a Mong ethnic minority village. We contributed to the group’s total budget of 60M, for the group to purchase and bring schooling supplies to the village. Our contribution will be part of the supply of school sandals, jackets, uniforms, exercise books and the like for 65 kindergarten and primary school children. The project cost was 16.5M (approximately \$1,035).

## **PLEIKU INDIGENOUS BOARDING SCHOOL – BAGS, DESKS, CHAIRS.**

The Vietnamese La Salle Brothers have established a boarding school at Pleiku (Central Highlands Province of Gia Lai) for local indigenous children. These are mainly from the J’rai, Sedang and Ba Na language groups in coffee plantations outside Pleiku City. This project was simply to support them with bedding, school bags, school desks and chairs for 50 children from the local area. The project cost was 16.5M (approximately \$1,035).



Parcels of bedding and school bags being delivered and handed out to young students.

## NGOC REO SHELTER, KONTUM – FURNITURE, STUDENT LIBRARY

This innovative project was to assist Ngoc Reo shelter at Kontum to repair and rebuild some of their worn-out furniture and make new bookshelves for a student reading room.

As background, the project included:

- Hue Uni student volunteer to assess state of the worn out/broken furniture.
- Buy materials to do the repairs and bookshelves.
- Employ two village men, a welder and a carpenter, to travel to the shelter, live in the monastery for a few weeks and carry out the repairs.

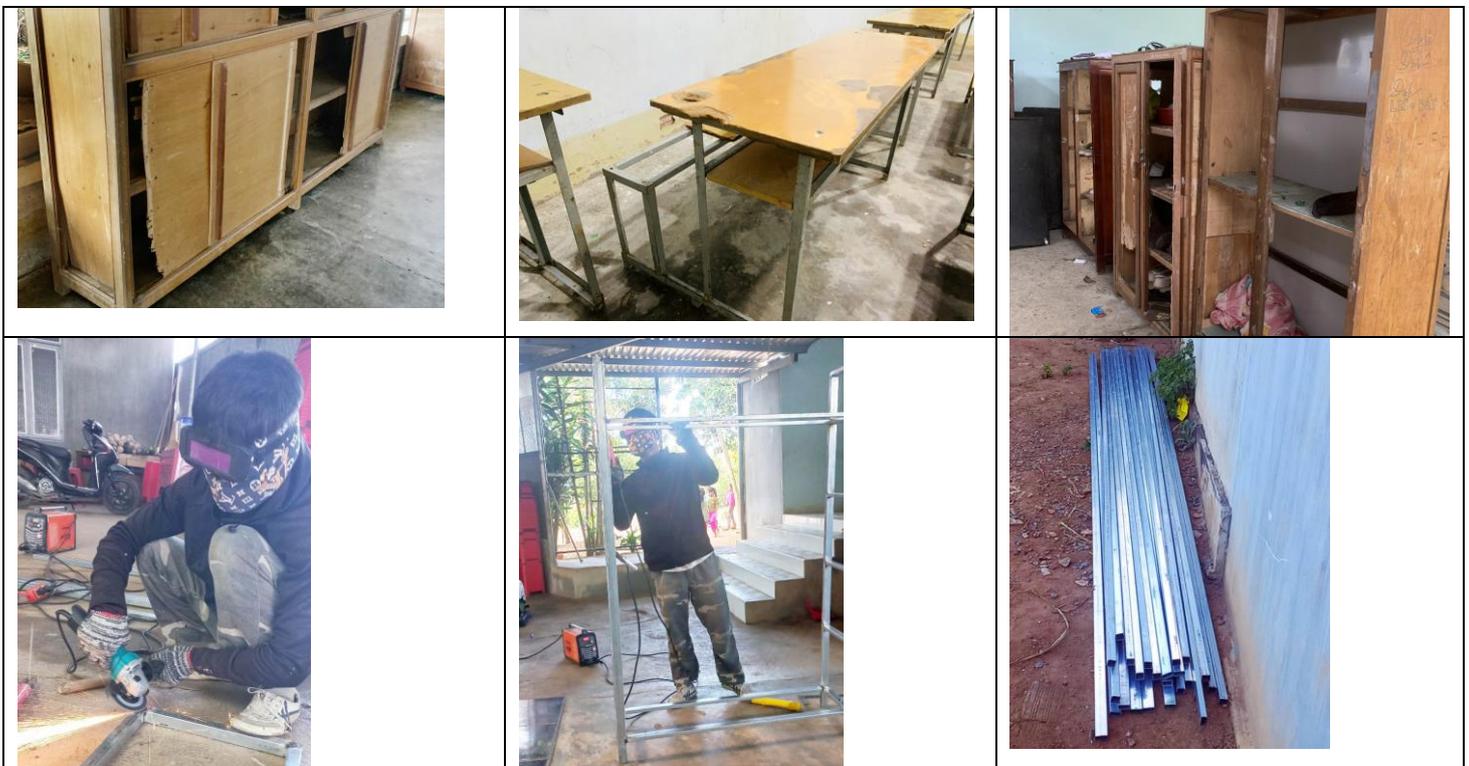
Benefits were:

- Reuse old furniture rather than encourage purchase of new plastic furniture.
- Lift some furniture above regular flood level.
- Provide some new study desks.
- Build new bookshelves for a reading room.

Community benefit was reduction of waste by furniture recycling and providing a useful occupation and employment opportunity for two men from a village. The nuns contributed food for the workers at their own cost.

Our welder/handyman spent 16 days making furniture with a local volunteer.

- Cost of labour (16 days) to make 12 tables (1.2m long x 0.45m wide x 0.75 m) and 5 bookshelves (1.8m high x 1.2m wide).
- Cost of materials (steel, timber boards, paint, brackets, varnish was \$830.
- The project cost was 21M (approximately \$1,405).





*Our welder Sy, making up a very solid frame for a bookshelf.*



*Children at Ngoc Reo using our completed steel framed desks.*

## FURNITURE FOR VINH SON 1 SHELTER – KONTUM

This great little project was to make some solid furniture for the first-built of the six Vinh Son (St Vincent's in Vietnamese) shelters in Kontum (Central Highlands).

The La Salle Monastery in nearby Gia Lai province recommended the Vinh Son shelters for our help. Vinh Son 1 shelter is next to the Cathedral in Kontum.

An indigenous order of nuns operates the Vinh Son shelters. Each Vinh Son shelter is run by a small household of sisters. Some children simply board at the shelters to be closer to schools. Others are placed by families that have too many mouths to feed, or are in other difficulties. Activities, chores, singing and daily prayers are all conducted in the local highland *Ba Na* language. Several other languages are also used, such as *Sedam*, as well as Vietnamese (the State language).

Like indigenous children in other places, they play great sport and dance well. They study with difficulty as they have to study in Vietnamese, which is a lesser-known, second language to them.

There are 170 children living at Vinh Son 1 shelter. They range in age from newborns to school leavers. Children are involved in all the chores, including cooking, cleaning, and selling bread from the shelter's bakery. To provide more self-sufficiency, each Vinh Son shelter runs as a monastery with its own on-site bakery, drinking water filtration plant and farmland with livestock, vegetable plots, rubber plantations and coffee fields.

Donations, however, are still the most stable income for shelters. Many *Viet kieu* (overseas Vietnamese) still visit their ancestral home and give generously. Why? Partly because alms-giving aligns so well with Buddhist (and Christian) traditional practices. We are small. So as usual, we designed our project to be carefully targeted, cost effective and achievable.

The project was to employ a craftsman (on local rates) to make simple and strong furniture on site:

- There is always a need for more clothes hanging space, so we provided 3 mobile (on castors) clothes hanging/drying racks.
- Six storage cupboards for children's personal effects.
- One classroom storage rack for school bags.
- Fifteen school desks.
- One large table for flour kneading at the student bakery.

Our costs were:

- Furniture maker welder 13 days @ \$30/day.
- Structural steel = \$380.
- Laminated timber bench tops = \$125.
- Aluminium sheets for linings = \$120.
- Hardware and paint (welding rods, fixings, paint, PU varnish and door hardware) = \$225.

The project cost was 20.5M (approximately \$1,285).

My interest in this project was to aim for a cost-effective fitout/upgrade for the primary school age group. Instead of plastic disposable furniture we welded steel frames and used local timber bench tops. The glue laminated bench tops are *cay tram* plantation timber. This is Queensland wattle.

This is a reminder of the remarkable, and very early, aid provided by foreign scientists for Vietnam's recovery from war. Queensland wattle was introduced very early after the Vietnam War by CSIRO for reforestation of the bombed-out forests. Ecologists at CSIRO began this work very early, well before diplomatic relations had been established between Australia and Vietnam,

foresters at Australia's CSIRO were researching how to save Vietnam's denuded mountains with trees that were easy to grow, repaired the soil and were more fire-resistant, than the pine plantations of the old French occupation. The Chinese were also involved in Vietnam's war. Their greatest scientist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Tu Youyou) secretly worked for Ho Chi Minh's Communist Party to beat the greatest enemy in the Vietnam War - the malaria mosquito.



*Old plastic furniture in the primary kids' study room*

*Steel and timber arrive.*

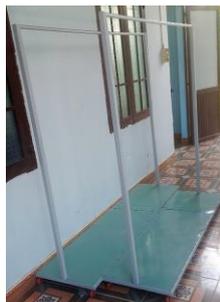
*"Our man" welds the framing*



*Making a school desk.*

*These new cupboards are solid!*

*Trying out the cupboards.*



*Stacking the new bag rack.*

*Mobile clothes hang/dry rack*

*Completed cupboards.*



*Completed study room fitout for the primary school kids at Vin Son 1*

## FURNITURE FOR REMOTE VILLAGE SCHOOL – KONTUM

- The remote Ngọc Leang village, Tu Mơ Rông district, is about 50km from Kontum City, up a mountain. About a thousand Sê Đăng people live here. They are famers, cow herders, and labourers on Vietnamese-owned coffee plantations. The children's school is new but basic. Children did not have school desks before. So, we have fabricated 20 school desks, 6 cabinet units for student personal effects and 2 student reading room book shelves for 3 classes of children of different age groups. We can look at more assistance in the near future. The project cost was 20M (approximately \$1,250).



Before



After

Classroom under the verandah. The water well, pump and outdoor filtration plant visible at the rear, next to steps cut out of mountain soil.



## FURNITURE FOR REMOTE VILLAGE SHELTER – GIA LAI

The remote Kon-Sơ-Lãng shelter provides accommodation for 20 students from Sê Đăng, Ba Na, J'rai language groups, ranging from 9-17 years old. Kon-Sơ-Lãng village belongs to Chư-Păh district, Gia Lai Province. It is about 55 km from Gia Lai City. As with the previous remote school project we assisted by fabricating 20 school desks, 6 cabinet units for student personal effects and 2 book shelves for a student reading area. We can look at more assistance in the near future. The project cost was 20M (approximately \$1,250).





## CHILDREN'S BICYCLE ENCLOSURE FOR VINH SON 1 SHELTER

Vinh Son 1 shelter in Kontum has a covered area for children's bicycles. For this project, the sister-in-charge asked for security fencing at the sides of the bicycle enclosure. The fencing may discourage theft from outside. But the greater need is fencing to discourage children taking their bikes on unauthorised outings at night, or congregating at night in the shelter. We initially budgeted \$1,000. But final cost including employing our village welder was only 12M (approximately \$650).



## TUTORING FOR SHELTERS IN KONTUM FOR 6 MONTHS

Lan Anh is a Hue University graduate who has started volunteer tutoring in numeracy and other subjects for the Ba Na and J'rai children in the Vinh Son shelters at Kontum.

- Meeting Lan, I was impressed by her determination to continue tutoring despite any regular income. So, we are providing a living allowance of \$200/month until such a time as when Lan moves to other work (but no longer than 6 months). The project cost was 20M (approximately \$1,250).



## MEDICAL CHECKS AT TWO SHELTERS & TWO VILLAGES

Dr Trong and Oanh the pharmacist agreed to assist us by this project of coming from Pleiku City two hours ride away on a public holiday, to do medical checks for the Vinh Son 3 shelter (of 75 children from age 2 to uni student entrants) and Vinh Son 5 (a new shelter of 85 children). We provided them with cost of medical supplies and travel fuel. Sitting in on the medical checks at Vinh Son 5, the consult went something like this: Dr Trong says, "Is this boy Ba Na or J'rai?", "J'rai", says the nun, who is also interpreting. "Where does it hurt?", says Dr Trong in the J'rai native language. The little boy explains, "I fell and knocked out some front teeth". "Are they very loose?", asks the doctor, "See if you can wiggle them with your fingers". "No, they not too loose", says the boy. Doctor to Oanh: "Give this boy some pain relief and explain how to take the medicine in J'rai." This all done with speed, kindness and good humour.

I was reminded of how the highland people, both indigenous and Vietnamese, are very hardy. Oanh, who had accidentally dropped the motorbike on herself earlier in the day and pinned her very bruised foot under the machine, was laughing with my interpreter about how Oanh had the misfortune to land on top of a bull ant nest while wearing a skirt and suffering extensive ant bites. I had attended dinner with Oanh and watched her chomp through 20 whole hot chillies with her meal, as well as put down quite a few beers. The local children, though tough, still suffer from the round of skin injuries, sprained joints, chest infections, headaches and the like. So, this project to relieve them of their pain and help them recover to their full resilience, is very meaningful.

Medical checks were also carried out at my visits to carry out other projects at Vong Chep and Angleh villages, each an hour from Pleiku City.

Our project reimbursed the medical volunteers with their fuel and meal travel costs as well as reimbursing their costs for medicines. The project cost was 21M (approximately \$1,285).



Oanh and Chau set up a table and unpack the delivered medicines, while one of the children brings hospitality of green tea and fruit to a nearby table.



On the left, the children with health complaints are lined up. They are kept in check by one of the older girls who holds a stick as a mark of her authority. On the right the medical check and medicine dispensing table is being set up.



The children are impressed with the special attention.



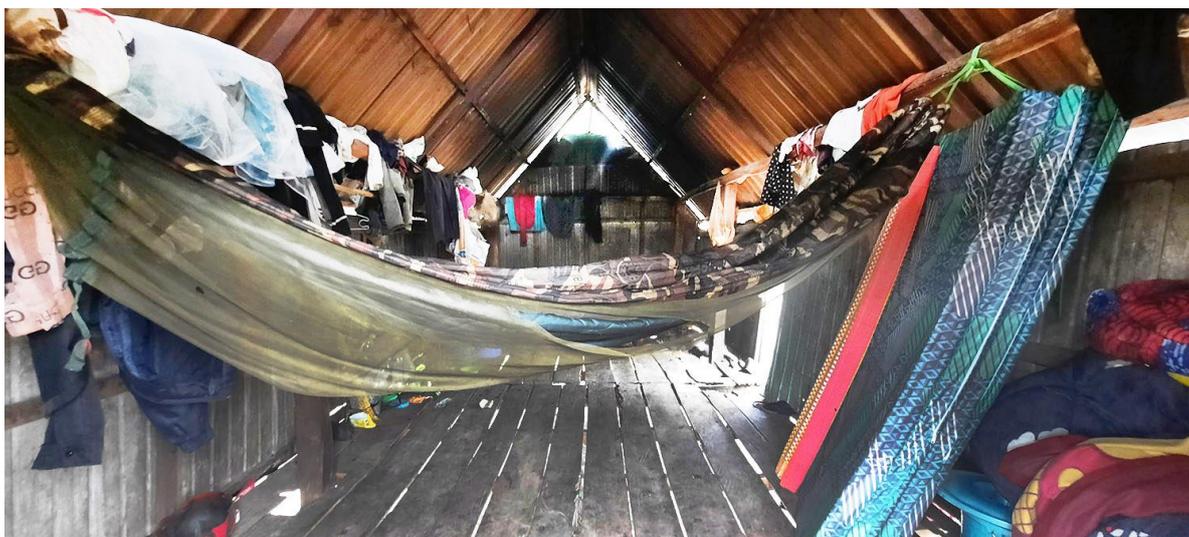
Our medicine supply is spread out on the table. Dr Trong does quick assessments. A J'rai woman interprets. A student writes patient names and meds. Oanh dispenses meds.



At Angleh Village, elderly patients line up for medical checks.



Dr Trong does quick assessments. A J'rai woman interprets. A volunteer writes patient names and meds. Oanh dispenses meds.



Villagers have no general knowledge of Western medicine (*thuoc tay* in Vietnamese) and this can lead to unintended consequences. In this hut floor in Vong Chep, a man explained the tablet packets on the floor were for his backpain. We then saw children picking them up to chew them.

## DUCK RAISING IN KON JO'DREH VILLAGE, KONTUM

In the Ba Na village of Kon Jo'DREH, close to the Vinh Son 3 shelter in Kontum, we were advised by the designated local community leader that the villagers have more experience raising ducks than chickens. Our village duck raising project was: 10 out of 140 households in the village who are most likely to success in raising ducks, have a garden and a suitable cage. Each household averaged 30 ducklings and a large feed bag of poultry feed.

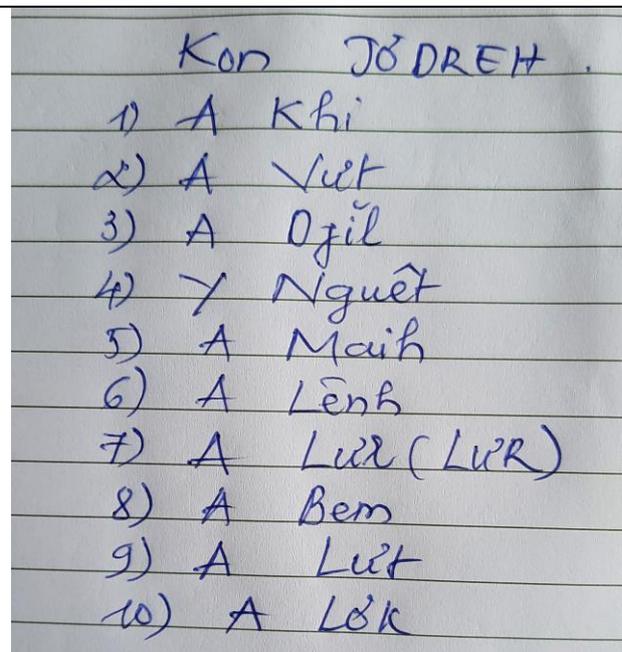
The village leader Lok Lok, is an exceptional man. He has been selected by the local priest to lead the parish and also selected by local government to be the village representative. His native language is Ba Na but of course he also speaks J'rai and fluent Vietnamese, as well as being able to read and write well, play guitar and even speak English. I later found out that part of his being exceptional is that he trained as a seminarian (prior to marriage and three children).

It struck me at this time that Lok Lok, having to switch seamlessly between two worlds (the Ba Na and Vietnamese worlds) has to remain alert and flexible. Like most of the other 50 minority language (indigenous) groups, the Ba Na now live in poverty as a managed and occupied population within the Vietnamese nation state. As elsewhere across the world, indigenous people realise, at some level, that they are an occupied people and that the majority population (e.g. the ethnic Vietnamese) run the whole system of banks, army, police force, education and government. While they, the indigenous minority groups, live in the badlands, far from the well-watered and fertile irrigated river valleys. Official policy is to celebrate ethnic diversity and preserve cultures. Previous wartime tensions with minorities translates into restriction of "foreigner" influence. Incorporation into the dominant Vietnamese economy is infrequent and patchy.

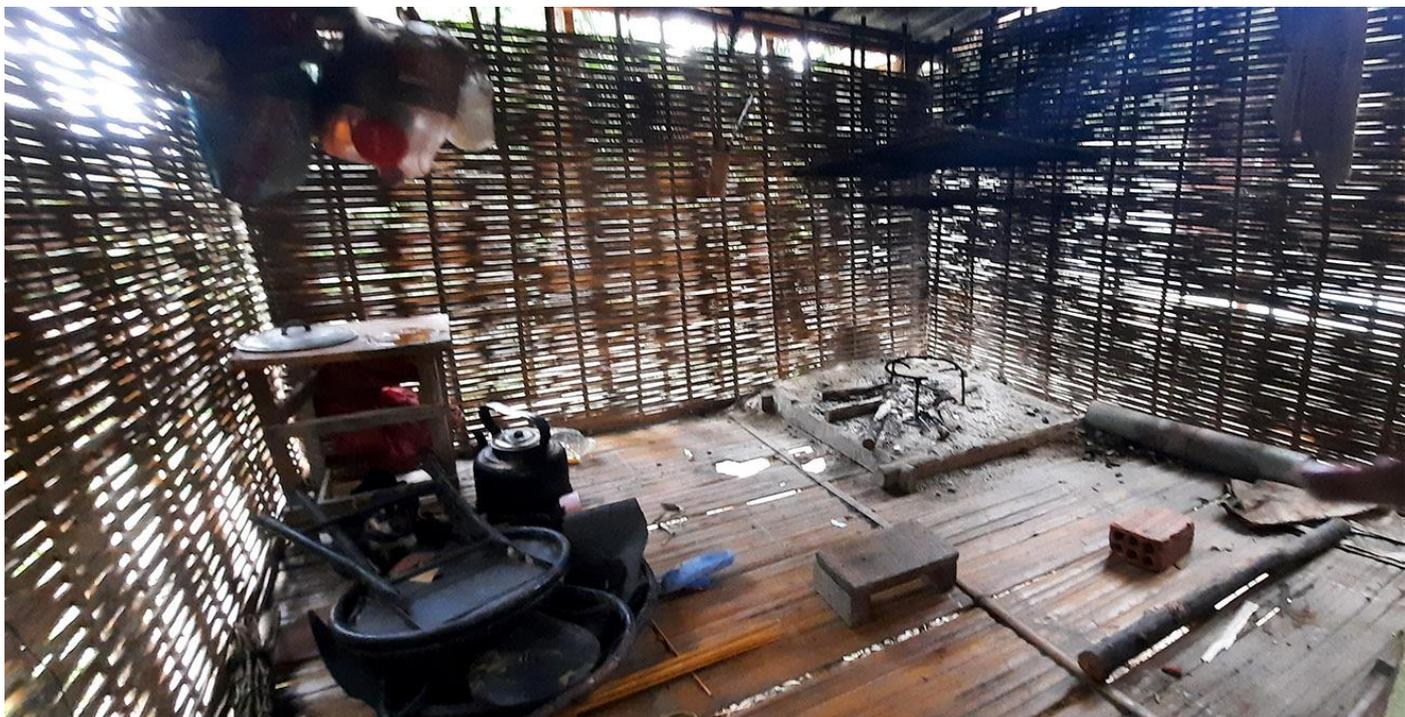
The day was spent accompanying Lok Lok on a tour of the households to persuade them to make preparations for the ducks. To community members, he explained that if the ducks grew well (instead of all being eaten in the next few weeks) then our charity would consider supporting them again next year. Including transport the project cost was 10M (approximately \$625).



Lok Lok shows his name spelling in Ba Na, as well as a common Vietnamese misspelling (Loc).



Household list. Ba Na male household heads are prefixed A, and female household heads Y.



Typical Ba Na detached kitchen hut.



Kitchen hearth in a house.



Lok Lok explained the project at each household visit, to secure an undertakings to properly house and look after the ducklings.



Housing for ducks



Each household discusses how they will house ducklings.



This is a good man; doing as he is told by his wife.



I found this boy rewiring and restoring a remote-controlled toy truck. In another country this boy should grow up to become an engineer. But his likely destiny is illiterate farm labouring.



Left: Old chicken cage ready to be repaired into duck housing.  
Right: Lok Lok demonstrates a pounder for rice and livestock feed.



The 21<sup>st</sup> century arrives. At the edge of the village, a Vietnamese entrepreneur has leased village land to run a solar farm to sell back to the grid.

Duck project supervised by our project partner Lok Lok:





Owner shows the access door to his constructed duck house.



Inside of a duck raising enclosure.



Some households specially constructed high quality, fenced free-range areas.



A few households prepared a good-sized cage for the ducks.

Đã B/L, ngày 3/10/2024.

A Dji (15x24) + (10x15) + (15x30) = 690K  
 A LOK (25x18) + (5x30) = 600K  
 A Lu (25x24) + (5x30) = 750K  
 A Wut (25x18) + (5x30) = 600K  
 A Khi (25x18) + (5x30) = 600K  
 A Lenh (25x18) + (5x30) = 600K  
 A Bem (25x18) + (5x30) = 600K  
 A Hla (25x24) + (5x30) = 750K  
 Y Nguyệt (15x30) + (15x18) = 720K

5,910,000

Bảng sữa: 9 x 400K / hàng = 3,600,000  
 Cám: 9 bao x 310K / bao = 2,790,000  
 TC: 9,060,000 VND

Lok Lok's meticulous accounts

Đơn vị: *Đơn vị con giống Sao Vàng* HÓA ĐƠN BÁN LẺ

Số: .....

Họ Tên Người Mua Hàng: *A LOK*  
 Địa chỉ: *Đã B/L - TP Vinh*

Điện Thoại: .....

No.	Tên Sản Phẩm	ĐVT	SL	Đơn Giá	THÀNH TIỀN
01	<i>Nickson Mui</i>	Con	150	18	2.700.000
02	<i>Vit xian Trong</i>	Con	55	30	1.650.000
03	<i>Vit Bao</i>	Con	65	24	1.560.000
04	<i>Bang Sui</i>	Cái	9	400	3.600.000
05	<i>Cam</i>	Bao	9	310	2.790.000
06					
07					
08					
09					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					

TỔNG CỘNG: 9,060,000  
 Số Tiền Bằng Chữ: *Chín triệu không trăm sáu mươi ngàn đồng*

Khách Hàng: *A LOK* Ngày: *3* Tháng *10* Năm *24*  
 Ngày Bán Hàng: *3* Tháng *10* Năm *24*  
 Người Bán Hàng: *Nguyễn Thị Thủy*

## 20 BICYCLES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, VONG CHEP, GIA LAI

The ancient history of the J'rai people is little known. Most groups appear to be part of an ancient neolithic Khmer or Chinese diaspora who became native to Vietnam. The J'rai came into focus at the end of the Vietnam War when many who had worked with American forces were evacuated to the USA. Many more, however, became trapped in the failed evacuation in which the population tried to walk to the coast to escape North Vietnamese forces and were killed, or died of starvation en route.

We awarded bicycles to the 20 children that attend secondary school in the two connected remote villages of Vong Chep valley, in Gia Lai Province. Bicycles for easier access to school is a good encouragement award. The bicycle transport was by truck to this remote location over an hour away from the city, but the transport assisted our friend Thuy, who runs a separate small charity, who also provided a food parcel to 150 households, each with: 10kg rice, cooking oil, fish sauce, sugar, salt, 1 kg dried fish, half a kg of dried shrimp. The project cost was 34M (approximately \$2,130).



Our bicycle project delivered to every high school student in the village



Experiencing the rain



Village housing



A girl cries that she could not get a bicycle. She is only in Year 4 and was told she might get one, if she one day continues to high school.



Picking out lice while the babies socialise



Girl at the village well



Albino boy struggles to see the big event

## ASSISTANCE TO THIEN AN SHELTER IN CAN THO

Essential food and hygiene supplies as well as school shoes and sandals were delivered to the Thien An shelter of 55 school age children in Can Tho by our dedicated volunteer, Thuong. Our volunteer discussed the shelter needs with Chi Que, who assists in running the shelter.

We provided: Fish, meat and, tofu. Two boxes each of cooking oil bottles, fish sauce bottles, soy sauce bottles. Knorr seasoning. 5 litres chilli sauce and 5 litres tomato sauce. 1 box of toothpaste tubes. Shampoo 10 litres. 10 boxes of instant noodles. 10 boxes of various cooking noodles. 5 large boxes of toilet paper. 10 school tables and 20 stackable chairs. 1 small and 1 large stainless steel cooking pot. 3 kitchen knives. 20 pairs of basic school shoes, 9 pairs sports shoes, 10 pairs sandals, 4 pairs slip-ons, 2 pairs lace-up shoes. The project cost was 20M (approximately \$1,250).



Nutrition still the first priority.



These teenagers will go back to school with new sandals or sport shoes.

## FOOD PARCELS IN ANGLEH VILLAGE, GIA LAI

We were going to join a Hue uni student social group of volunteers to visit a disabled children's school in Hue to create an exciting day of festival activities for the children at the occasion of the mid-Autumn Moon Festival. By way of background, in Japan, China and Korea the Festival is a big public day, but in Vietnam the Festival is mainly a children's day. The uni students organised a day of activities for the children which included dancing and singing. However, at the last minute, the student group decided to expand to a wider project of moon cake gift giving. I then pulled the pin on our involvement.

Instead, I visited Angleh, which has three connected villages of J'rai, Sedang and Ba Na indigenous people. A truck was loaded up at Pleiku City with food parcels for the poorest households identified by the local nuns. We then drove with a group of volunteers 40km from Pleiku City to meet at an open space near the village. We timed our arrival for medical checks to commence earlier. Otherwise, the people would be distracted by queuing up for food. We provided a food parcel to 110 households, each with: 10kg rice, cooking oil, fish sauce, sugar, salt, 1 kg dried fish, half a kg of dried shrimp. At 0.3M/parcel. The project cost was 33M (approximately \$2,065).



A loaves & fishes project (literally)

## FOLLOW-UP ON OUR PREVIOUS HELP TO DAO IN GIA LAI

Also, on this occasion I got to meet Dao, the brave little J'rai girl who, two years ago, at the age of seven, had a life-threatening leg infection. Antibiotic treatment at a local clinic had failed and we assisted Dao to be accompanied by her father and be transferred to the main hospital in Saigon for surgical removal of infected tissue. Otherwise, Dao would have had her leg amputated locally.

Dao took about 12 months to recover. This was two years ago. Dao has now grown into an active 9-year-old. This visit, I took Dao and her mother to an interview at a boarding school close to the city, to find out if Dao could get her a better education. The school did not agree to take her in.

Dao had reached Year 4 at the village school, but not learned to read or write at all. The strategy suggested by the school principal was for the girl to board for a year in a local convent and be tutored in a small class by one of the nuns. Removal from the family and placement under strict supervision of the nuns seemed to be a step too far.

Dao will remain at her local village school until she gets a job labouring on a coffee farm and if she works hard on the coffee farms like her mother B'ren, might one day be on the same wage of 0.15M (\$8.50) per day.



With Dao and her mother B'ren, visiting non-government boarding school for J'rai children, close to the city in Gia Lai.



Dao during our meeting.