FoVO

Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc.

Helping disadvantaged communities in Vietnam

Report to Donors

2018 Financial Year

REGISTERED CHARITY · acnc.gov.au/charityregister



FoVO Vietnam Field Trip Key Map Red circles indicate some project locations.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

Introduction

Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc (FoVO) is a small registered Australian charity working directly with disadvantaged people and communities in Vietnam.

During the 2018 financial year FoVO carried out projects across Vietnam with the assistance of volunteer interpreters and local project partners. Projects included educational assistance, medicines, food and household supplies, assistance to orphanages and shelters, and small livestock and tree-planting projects intended to help disadvantaged households raise food or income.

FoVO had no administration costs. Every dollar donated went to direct assistance in Vietnam. Travel and personal expenses associated with the annual field trip were paid separately.

During the financial year FoVO received $16,335 in donations and spent $18,286 on projects in Vietnam.

Acknowledgements

FoVO thanks everyone who supported our work during the 2018 financial year.

Our Board was Julie Kulikowski, Dennis McManus, Geoff Stannard, Clive West and Peter Kabaila.

We thank our donors and supporters: Clive, Vytas, Michael and Adrienne, Geoff and Rachelle, Hayden and Yến, Karna, Parika, Mal, Kim, Thủy, Dennis and Kyle; Greta for the Christmas cakes fundraiser; Jock, Paul, Bill and Morris from the Aranda Men's Group; and Liên, Loan, Hà, Bình and Dung from the Canberra Vietnamese Buddhist women's group.

Our projects in Vietnam depended on a small network of local project partners and volunteers. We thank Hiền in Cần Thơ; Sister Hường in Đồng Nai; Sister Loan in Buôn Mê Thuột; Lâm in Nha Trang; Châu and the Lasan group in Đăkrông; Sister Nhàn in Phong Nha; Nam in Hà Tınh; Thủy in Hương Sơn; Sister Lành in Xã Đoài; Sister Bắc at Trang Nứa; Sister Nguyễn in Quỳnh Lập; and Sister Kính in Phát Diệm.

Their local knowledge and practical assistance helped FoVO identify needs, purchase and distribute assistance, and carry out projects throughout Vietnam.

Peter Kabaila
Public Officer
Friends of Vietnam Orphanages Inc (FoVO)

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

Project Summary

How Your $18,286 Was Spent

NO.	PROJECT	AUD	MILLION VND
1	Hiếu — sewing equipment, baby supplies and chicken raising	$490	8.6
2	Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage, Cần Thơ — nutrition	$530	9.3
3	Thiên Ân Orphanage, Cần Thơ — nutrition and chicken raising	$600	10.6
4	Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital — food for volunteer canteen	$590	10.4
5	An Bình Shelter, Sài Gòn — course fees and supplies	$735	13.0
6	Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ, Bình Dương — shelter and orphanage supplies	$590	10.4
7	Suối Tiên Shelter for Homeless Women, Đồng Nai — education, water filter and medical equipment	$635	11.2
8	Cây Gáo village clinic, Đồng Nai — medical equipment	$150	2.6
9	Sóng Mây factory workers' canteen, Đồng Nai — chicken raising	$555	9.8
10	Vi Nhân School for Disabled Children, Buôn Mê Thuột — padded flooring and educational materials	$885	15.6
11	Buôn K Dũn Ê - đê village, Đắk Lắk — food and poultry raising	$980	17.3
12	Buôn Mê Thuột rubbish tip — protective clothing	$180	3.2
13	Kontum/Gia Lai — medicines for resettled Indigenous community	$235	4.1
14	Phật Bửu Pagoda Orphanage, Ninh Hòa — supplies	$355	6.3
15	Ninh Hòa School for the Disabled — clothing	$470	8.3
16	Thanh Sơn Pagoda Orphanage, Cam Lâm — food and sanitary supplies	$295	5.2
17	Mái Ấm Hy Vọng, Cam Lâm — football game table	$285	5.0
18	Nha Trang region — medicine packages for 10 institutions	$2,235	39.4
19	Bản Khe Ngài, Đăkrông — provisions and tree planting	$775	13.7
20	Phong Nha mountain villages — provisions and pig raising	$885	15.6
21	Hà Tịnh — school fee scholarships for three children	$480	8.5
22	Đồng Đại village, Hà Tịnh — provisions and chicken raising	$180	3.2
23	Hương Sơn, Hà Tịnh — provisions for five households	$90	1.6
24	Trang Nứa Orphanage, Xã Đoài — hot water, infant supplies and winter clothing	$705	12.4
25	19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled and Mother Teresa of Calcutta Children's Orphanage, Xã Đoài — supplies	$1,130	19.9
26	Xã Đoài medical clinic — medical equipment	$355	6.3
27	Quỳnh Lập leprosy community — chicken raising, medicine and winter blankets	$1,415	25.0
28	Phát Diệm — household assistance, chicken raising, mother-and-baby assistance and clothing	$1,520	26.8
	TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE	**$18,286**	**322.5**

VND converted at the Reserve Bank of Australia average rate for the financial year, approximately 1.76 million VND = AUD $100.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

1. Hiếu — Sewing Equipment, Baby Supplies and Chicken Raising

Assistance — $490 (8.3M VND)

Description

FoVO had previously sponsored Hiếu to undertake a sewing course. During the 2018 financial year we bought her a second-hand sewing machine and overlocker to help her use these skills and earn an income.

Later, FoVO visited Hiếu and provided 300 nappies and baby clothing for her three-month-old baby. FoVO also supported a small chicken-raising project for Hiếu, carried out by Sister Nguyễn, with 50 one-month-old chickens provided for raising.

Project expenditure

Second-hand sewing machine and overlocker — 6.7M VND. Nappies and baby clothing — 0.6M VND. 50 one-month-old chickens — 1M VND.

Observation

The assistance combined practical support for Hiếu as a new mother with equipment and livestock that could help her household earn income.

Reflection

The sewing equipment built on training already provided to Hiếu, while the chickens offered another small source of household income.



Second hand sewing machine and overlocker for Hiếu who we sponsored for a sewing course.





REPORT TO DONORS 2018

2. Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage, Cần Thơ

Assistance — $530 (9M VND)

Description

FoVO provided food and cooking supplies for 40 children at Bửu Trì Pagoda Orphanage in Cần Thơ.

Project expenditure

45kg cooking gas bottle refill — 1M VND. 15kg chicken meat — 0.47M VND. 1,000 chicken eggs — 1.7M VND. 10kg garlic — 0.25M VND. 5kg pepper — 0.9M VND. 5 boxes (50kg) Vedan seasoning — 2.35M VND. 10 bags (10kg) Knorr powder — 0.67M VND. 3 boxes (30 litres) cooking oil — 0.82M VND. 5 bags (50kg) sugar — 0.81M VND.

Observation

A nun and the orphanage cook checked the quantities as the supplies were delivered to the temple.

Reflection

Buying basic food and cooking supplies in bulk provided practical support for the everyday cost of feeding the children.



A nun and the cook check the quantities delivered to the temple






USTRALIA

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

3. Thiên Ân Orphanage, Cần Thơ

Assistance — $600 (10.2M VND)

Description

FoVO provided food and cooking supplies for 40 children at Thiên Ân Orphanage and supported the orphanage's free-range chicken-raising project.

Project expenditure

Cooking gas bottle refill — 1.4M VND. 100kg rice, 10kg chick feed and 5kg cracked rice for the chicken project — 0.8M VND. 15kg chicken meat — 0.46M VND. 1,000 chicken eggs — 1.7M VND. 10kg garlic — 0.25M VND. 5kg pepper — 0.9M VND. 5 boxes (50kg) Vedan seasoning — 2.35M VND. 10 bags (10kg) Knorr powder — 0.67M VND. 3 boxes (30 litres) cooking oil — 0.82M VND. 5 bags (50kg) sugar — 0.81M VND.

Observation

The orphanage had two staff members involved in looking after the chickens. The project combined purchased food with support for food being raised at the orphanage.

Reflection

Chicken raising supplemented the purchased food and provided the orphanage with a small continuing source of food.



One of the two staff members in the chicken coop

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

4. Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital Volunteer Canteen

Assistance — $590 (10M VND)

Description

FoVO supported the volunteer soup kitchen at Sài Gòn Cancer Hospital. The volunteer group prepared food and distributed food packets to cancer patients.

Project expenditure

3,000 packets of noodles (100 boxes). 24kg vegetarian seasoning powder. 100kg sugar. 11 boxes of seasoning.

Total — 10M VND.

Observation

The provisions were delivered by motorbike and stacked in the hospital kitchen ready for use by the volunteer group.

Reflection

Supporting an existing volunteer group allowed FoVO's contribution to be used immediately for food provided to hospital patients.



Our provisions delivered by motorbike and being stacked in the kitchen



REPORT TO DONORS 2018

5. An Bình Orphanage, Sài Gòn

Assistance — $735 (12.5M VND)

Description

FoVO continued its support for girls and young women at An Bình Orphanage. Assistance included sponsorship towards vocational course fees and practical supplies for ten disabled girls and women.

FoVO paid half of the course fees. Receipts showing total course fees of 14M VND were presented, with FoVO contributing 7M VND.

Project expenditure

Half course fee sponsorship — 7M VND. Supplies for ten disabled girls and women — approximately 5.5M VND.

Total — approximately 12.5M VND.

Observation

The course assistance was intended to help young women develop practical skills that could improve their opportunities for greater independence.

Reflection

Combining vocational training with practical assistance continued FoVO's approach of supporting both immediate needs and opportunities for greater independence.





With staff and women sponsored for courses

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

6. Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ, Bình Dương

Assistance — $590 (10M VND)

Description

FoVO provided household, personal-care and food supplies for the Mái Ấm Tình Mẹ single mothers' shelter and orphanage at Bình Dương.

Project expenditure

12 toothbrushes. 4 hair dryers. 2 mosquito swatting racquets. 1 food blender. 1 fruit juice blender. 2 laundry baskets. 4 circular clothes hangers. 18 packets of toilet paper rolls. 50 packets of tissues. 10 bottles of shampoo. 10 tubes of toothpaste. 5 bottles of chilli sauce. 5 packets of cheese. 2 boxes of yoghurt. 3 packets of women's sanitary pads. 5 packets of seasoning powder. 3 packets of Knorr chicken powder. 24 one-litre bottles of fish sauce. 2 cans of Milo powder. 5 boxes of fresh milk, each containing 40 mini-cartons.

Total — 10M VND.

Observation

The supplies were delivered by motorbike to the shelter. They included everyday household equipment as well as food and personal-care items.

Reflection

The project responded to the practical day-to-day needs of a shelter caring for children and single mothers.



Staff and two resident women with our donated supplies





REPORT TO DONORS 2018

7. Suối Tiên Shelter for Homeless Women, Đồng Nai

Assistance — $635 (10.8M VND)

Description

FoVO provided three forms of assistance to the Shelter for Homeless Women at Suối Tiên: school fees for two girls, a hot and chilled water filter machine for the elderly women's house, and a medical cupping kit.

Project expenditure

One-year school fee scholarship for Loan — 1.625M VND. One-year school fee scholarship for Phượng — 1.3M VND. Hot and chilled water filter machine, supplied and installed — 7.5M VND. Fireless medical cupping kit — 0.3M VND.

Total — approximately 10.8M VND.

Observation

The water filter machine provided both hot and chilled drinking water for the elderly women. The two school scholarships enabled Loan and Phượng, who were living at the shelter, to continue their schooling for the year.

Reflection

The project combined immediate improvements to living conditions with support for the education of two younger residents.



The new water filter machine.





Loan is feeding one of the women in the nursing home



REPORT TO DONORS 2018

8. Cây Gáo Village Clinic, Đồng Nai

Assistance — $150 (2.5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided basic treatment equipment for the village clinic at Cây Gáo in Đồng Nai.

Project expenditure

7 acupuncture kits. 2 fireless medical cupping kits.

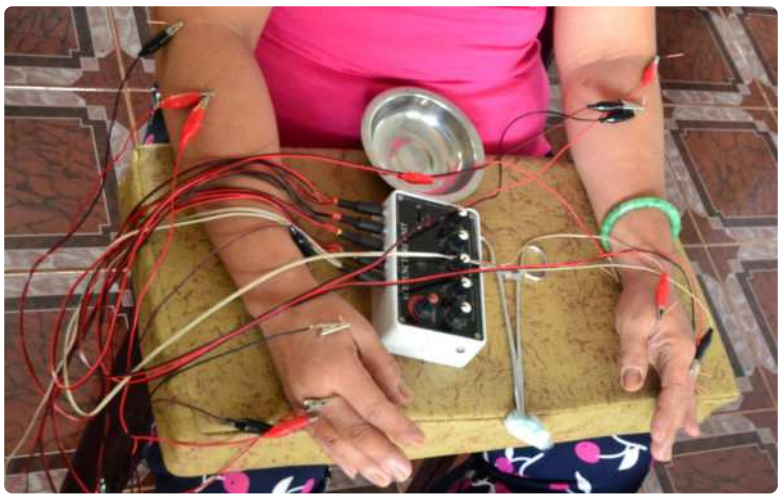
Total — 2.5M VND.

Observation

The equipment was supplied for use at the local clinic. Acupuncture and cupping were treatments already being used there.

Reflection

This was a small project providing equipment that local health workers could continue to use after our visit.



Acupuncture kit in use



Fireless cupping kit



A common village clinic remedy to try to relieve back pain

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

9. Sóng Mây Factory Workers' Canteen, Đồng Nai

Assistance — $555 (9.4M VND)

Description

FoVO supported a free-range chicken-raising project associated with the factory workers' soup kitchen at Khu Công nghiệp Sóng Mây in Đồng Nai.

Project expenditure

50 egg-laying chickens at 0.132M VND each. Chicken feed at 0.69M VND per month for four months.

Total — approximately 9.4M VND.

Observation

The project provided egg-laying chickens rather than simply purchasing food for the canteen.

Reflection

The intention was to establish a small continuing food source for the volunteer canteen rather than provide only a one-off supply of food.



REPORT TO DONORS 2018

10. Vi Nhân School for Disabled Children, Buôn Mê Thuột

Assistance — $885 (15M VND)

Description

FoVO provided padded flooring and educational materials for Vi Nhân School for Disabled Children in Buôn Mê Thuột, Đắk Lắk Province.

Padded flooring was provided for the kindergarten and two other classrooms. Educational materials were also purchased for distribution throughout the school.

Project expenditure

Padded flooring for three classrooms and educational materials — 15M VND.

Observation

The padded flooring provided a more suitable floor surface for children using the kindergarten and other classrooms. The educational materials could be distributed among children throughout the school.

Reflection

This project improved the physical teaching environment while also providing materials for everyday classroom use.



REPORT TO DONORS 2018

11. Buôn K Dũn Ê - Đê Village, Đắk Lắk

Assistance — $980 (16.6M VND)

Description

FoVO provided food for 17 of the poorest households at Buôn K Dũn, an Ê-đê village near Buôn Mê Thuột. The households were identified with the assistance of the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres.

A second part of the project provided chickens, geese and feed for 15 of the poorest families to raise.

Project expenditure

Food assistance for 17 households:
170kg rice. 17 boxes of noodles, each containing 30 packets. 9kg ground pork sausage. 17kg sugar. 17 litres fish sauce. 17 litres cooking oil. 2 bags rice pancakes. 5kg sweets. 4 cans sweetened condensed milk.

Food assistance — 5M VND.

Poultry-raising project:
70 geese. 150 chickens. 8 bags of feed.

Poultry raising — 11.6M VND.

Total — 16.6M VND.

Observation

The food was distributed among 17 households. The poultry project was more selective, with chickens and geese provided to 15 families to raise.

Reflection

The project combined immediate food assistance with livestock that families could raise as a continuing household resource.



Food assistance parcels being organised.



Dividing up the poultry.







Village headman checks off the family list for poultry distribution.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

12. Buôn Mê Thuột City Rubbish Tip

Assistance — $180 (3M VND)

Description

FoVO provided protective clothing and equipment for 36 people collecting recyclable materials at the Buôn Mê Thuột City rubbish tip.

Project expenditure

36 sets, each including:
Plastic boots. Face mask. Long plastic gloves. Work gloves.

Total — 3M VND.

Observation

The recipients worked directly among rubbish collecting recyclable materials. The protective equipment was selected for the conditions in which they worked.

Reflection

This was simple practical assistance intended to provide some protection for people doing difficult and dirty work.





REPORT TO DONORS 2018

13. Kontum/Gia Lai — Medicines for a Resettled Indigenous Community

Assistance — $235 (4M VND)

Description

FoVO provided medicines for a remote village of resettled Indigenous people in the Kontum/Gia Lai region.

The medicines were supplied through nuns who made home visits to the community.

Project expenditure

Medicines — 4M VND.

Observation

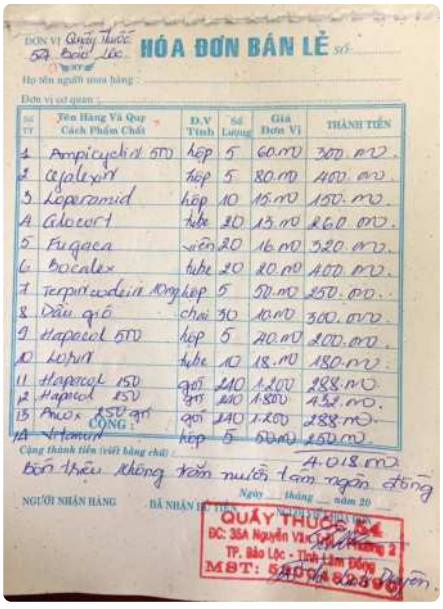
Women and children gathered at the convent medical store when the medicines were supplied. The nuns already had contact with the remote community and were able to distribute the medicines through their visits.

Reflection

Working through people already visiting the community provided a practical way for a small charity to get medicines to people living in a remote area.



Ede women and children gather for supply of medicines at convent medical store, Kontum



Pharmacy seller's list

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

14. Phật Bửu Pagoda Orphanage, Ninh Hòa

Assistance — $355 (6M VND)

Description

FoVO provided mosquito netting, food and personal-care supplies for children at Phật Bửu Pagoda Orphanage in Ninh Hòa.

Project expenditure

Mosquito netting for the children's dormitory — 3M VND.

100kg rice, nappies and shampoo — 3M VND.

Total — 6M VND.

Observation

Half of the project expenditure was used for mosquito netting in the children's dormitory, with the balance used for everyday consumable supplies.

Reflection

The project combined a practical improvement to the children's sleeping accommodation with basic food and personal-care supplies.




AUSTRALIA

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

15. Ninh Hòa School for the Disabled

Assistance — $470 (8M VND)

Description

FoVO provided clothing for the children at Ninh Hòa School for the Disabled.

Project expenditure

40 sets of tops and bottoms. 54 sets of underwear. 2 pairs of sandals for Indigenous sisters.

Total — 8M VND.

Observation

The project provided sets of clothing for all 40 children at the school, together with underwear and two pairs of sandals for the sisters.

Reflection

This was straightforward practical assistance responding to the everyday clothing needs of the children at the school.



Group photo modelling the new clothes



Sandals for these two siblings



The local market is FoVO's main source for all Vietnamese manufactured clothing and necessities.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

16. Thanh Sơn Pagoda Orphanage, Cam Lâm

Assistance — $295 (5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided food, sanitary and personal-care supplies for 30 children at Thanh Sơn Pagoda Orphanage in Cam Lâm.

Project expenditure

100kg rice. 110 nappies for babies. 40 x 450g bags seasoning powder. 24 one-litre bottles cooking oil. 7kg sugar.

Food and nappies — 4M VND.

30 toothbrushes. 30 tubes toothpaste. 10 hand soap pumps.

Personal-care supplies — 1M VND.

Total — 5M VND.

Observation

The assistance consisted mainly of everyday consumable items needed for feeding and caring for the children.

Reflection

Bulk purchases of basic supplies provided direct practical assistance with the orphanage's everyday running costs.



Carrying the lunch soup pot for the children







Earning money with a high value product – bird's nest



Senior child minding young ones inside the temple.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

17. Mái Ấm Hy Vọng Disabled Day Centre, Cam Lâm

Assistance — $285 (4.8M VND)

Description

FoVO bought a second-hand football game table for Mái Ấm Hy Vọng disabled day centre in Cam Lâm.

Project expenditure

Second-hand football game table — 4.8M VND.

Observation

The table was provided for autistic and Down syndrome children and teenagers attending the centre.

Reflection

Not all assistance needed to be food, medicine or household supplies. This small project provided recreational equipment for children and teenagers using the centre.





REPORT TO DONORS 2018

18. Nha Trang Region — Medicines for Ten Orphanages

Assistance — $2,250 (38M VND)

Description

With the help of local interpreter Lâm, FoVO provided medicine packages to ten orphanages and centres in the Nha Trang region. Each received medicines valued at 3.8M VND.

Each medicine package included:

Multivitamins. Antihistamines. Worm tablets. Pain relief. Dermatitis cream. Cough syrup. Anti-nausea tablets. Betadine. Band aids. Gastro-stop. Eye drops. Paracetamol. Headache patches.

The ten recipients were:

La Salle Disabled Workshop, Nha Trang. Lộc Thọ Pagoda Orphanage, Nha Trang. Hướng Dương Orphanage, Nha Trang. Chùa Phật Bửu, Ninh Hòa. Thanh Sơn Pagoda Orphanage, Cam Lâm. Nhân Ái Orphanage, Cam Ranh. Đại An Orphanage, Cam Ranh. Mái Ấm Hy Vọng Disabled Day Centre, Cam Lâm. An Đào Orphanage, Ninh Hòa. Ninh Hòa School for the Disabled, Ninh Hòa.

Project expenditure

10 medicine packages at 3.8M VND each.

Total — 38M VND.

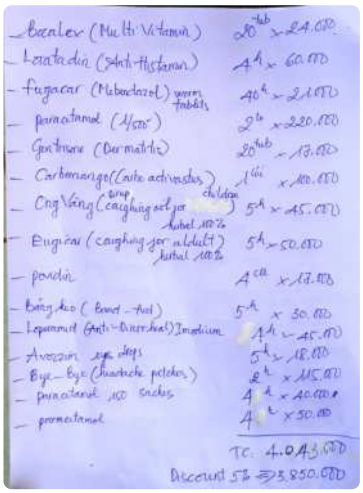
Observation

The same basic medicine package was supplied to ten different institutions across the region. Lâm assisted with organising and carrying out the project locally.

Reflection

Purchasing similar medicine packages for several institutions allowed FoVO to provide useful basic medicines across a number of orphanages and centres during the same regional visit.


HAPACOL
BYE BYE FEVER
SHINPOONG
GENTRI SONE
IMOBOSTON
VIDUGO


Bealex (Multi Vitamin)
Loratadin (Anti-Histamin)
fugacar (Mebendazol)
paracetamol (Hapa)
Gentrisone (Dermatitis)
Carbomarigo (Caite activastes)
Eugica (caughing syrup for children)
Eugica (caughing syrup for adult)
povidin
Bang keo (Band-Aid)
Loperamid (Anti-Diarrheal) Imodium
Aversan eye drops
Bye-Bye (Headache patches)
paracetamol 150 sachets
paracetamol
TC. 4.043.000
Discount 5% ⇒ 3.850.000

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19. Bản Khe Ngài Vân Kiều Village, Quảng Trị

Assistance — $775 (13.2M VND)

Description

FoVO provided food and household provisions and supported a tree-planting project for 15 poor households at Bản Khe Ngài, a Vân Kiều (Bru) village in Đăkrông, Quảng Trị Province.

Each household received:

25kg rice. 2 bars soap. 1 tube toothpaste. 3kg washing powder. 1 litre cooking oil. 1 litre fish sauce. 1 box containing 32 packets of noodles.

FoVO also funded a tree-planting project involving 1,000 acacia trees for the 15 households.

Project expenditure

Household provisions — 6.2M VND. 1,000 acacia trees — 7M VND.

Total — 13.2M VND.

Observation

The provisions met immediate household needs. The acacia trees were planted as a cash crop with an expected return after approximately three to five years.

Reflection

The project combined immediate assistance with a longer-term activity from which the participating households could potentially earn income.





River canoe arrives for transport.



Our delivered items stacked at a communal area for the village.







Cay tram seedlings

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

20. Phong Nha Mountain Villages

Assistance — $885 (15M VND)

Description

Working with Sister Nhàn, FoVO provided household provisions for ten poor households in four mountain villages around Phong Nha and established a pig-raising project for five households.

Each of the ten households receiving provisions was given:
10kg rice. 2 cartons milk. 1 litre cooking oil. 1 litre fish sauce. 3kg washing powder. 20 sachets health drink. 2kg tapioca noodles. 1 litre dishwashing liquid. 1kg seasoning. 2 toothbrushes. 1 tube toothpaste.

Five households were also selected for the pig-raising project.

Each of these households received:
6 piglets at 0.3M VND each. 5 bags of pig mash at 0.2M VND per 10kg bag.

The pig mash was cooked with sliced banana-tree trunk as feed.

Project expenditure

Household provisions — 5M VND. Pig-raising project — 10M VND.

Total — 15M VND.

Observation

The provisions were distributed among ten households, while the livestock assistance was concentrated on five households. Each of those five families received six piglets and feed.

Reflection

As at Bản Khe Ngài, the project combined immediate household assistance with livestock intended to provide a longer-term benefit.




09/12/2017


09/12/2017

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

21. Hà Tınh — School Fee Scholarships

Assistance — $480 (8.2M VND)

Description

FoVO provided school fee scholarships for three girls in villages in Hà Tınh for the September 2017 to June 2018 school year.

Võ Thị Thiên Trang and Võ Thị Linh Đan lived in Thạch Hà and were children of illiterate parents. Their school fees had been reduced because their village was affected by pollution from the Formosa company.

Trần Thị Hồng Ân lived in Thạch Bằng. Her father had died from liver cancer. She was the eldest of five children and was living with her uncle's family.

Project expenditure

School fees for Võ Thị Thiên Trang. School fees for Võ Thị Linh Đan. School fees for Trần Thị Hồng Ân.

Total — 8.2M VND.

Observation

The three scholarships provided school fee assistance for girls from disadvantaged families during the 2017 – 18 school year.

Reflection

Paying school fees was a direct way of helping the three girls remain at school despite difficult family circumstances.





REPORT TO DONORS 2018

22. Đồng Đại Village, Hà Tĩnh

Assistance — $180 (3M VND)

Description

FoVO provided household provisions and a chicken-raising project for two families at Đồng Đại village in Hà Tĩnh. The project was organised locally by Nam.

The two households were selected as those considered most likely to succeed with the chicken-raising project.

Each household received:
10kg rice.

1.5 litres cooking oil. 1 litre fish sauce. 1kg sugar. 1kg Knorr chicken seasoning powder. 1 box containing 30 packets of noodles.

Project expenditure

Household provisions for two families — 0.6M VND.

Chicken-raising project:
126 chickens. 4 bags of chicken food. Medicine to care for the chickens during the first month.

Chicken project — 2.4M VND.

Total — 3M VND.

Observation

The livestock assistance was deliberately limited to two households considered likely to be able to raise the chickens successfully.

Reflection

The project combined immediate food assistance with a small income-raising activity, while selecting households considered able to look after the livestock.











Over hospitality in this room was where my project partner was asked if I had come from the Soviet Union to help them.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

23. Hương Sơn Mountain Village, Hà Tınh

Assistance — $90 (1.5M VND)

Description

FoVO provided food and household provisions for five households identified as the poorest in a mountain village at Hương Sơn, Hà Tınh.

Each household received:
15kg rice. 2 litres cooking oil. 1kg seasoning.

1.5 litres fish sauce. Sweets for the children.

Project expenditure

Provisions for five households — 1.5M VND.

Observation

This was a small project directed to five households identified locally as being in greatest need.

Reflection

The assistance was simple and immediate, providing basic food supplies directly to the selected households.



Thi and her friend Thuy, organiser of another very small charity, on their way to visit a households in the village.



Simple traditional house.



Kitchen in an annexe to the house.



Ancestor shrine

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

24. Trang Nứa Orphanage, Xã Đoài

Assistance — $705 (12M VND)

Description

FoVO provided a hot-water unit and supplies for children at Trang Nứa Orphanage in Xã Đoài, Nghệ An Province. The project was carried out with Sister Bắc.

The orphanage had three new infants requiring formula and nappies. Winter clothing was also provided for 26 children.

Project expenditure

Hot-water unit for the shower — 4.85M VND. Infant formula — 2.2M VND. Nappies for three new infants — 1.5M VND. Winter clothing for 26 children — 3.4M VND.

Total — approximately 12M VND.

Observation

The project combined an improvement to the orphanage's shower facilities with immediate supplies for three infants and winter clothing for the children.

Reflection

The assistance responded to several practical needs identified at the orphanage during the year.







REPORT TO DONORS 2018

25. 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled and Mother Teresa of Calcutta Children's Orphanage, Xã Đoài

Assistance — $1,130 (19.2M VND)

Description

FoVO provided nappies, padded flooring, food and household supplies for the 19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled and the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Children's Orphanage at Xã Đoài. The project was carried out with Sister Lành.

Project expenditure

6 bags of 100 nappies — 1.92M VND. 8 packets of 120 nappies — 1.2M VND. 6 packets of 56 nappies — 2.73M VND. 15 sections of padded flooring, each 2.4 square metres — 1.62M VND. 350kg rice — 3.5M VND. 8 handsoap pumps — 0.288M VND. 9 one-litre bottles shampoo — 0.76M VND. 20 x 1kg packets laundry powder — 0.5M VND. 100 sachets chicken soup powder in 4 boxes — 0.82M VND. 5 x 5-litre containers cooking oil — 0.59M VND. 2 boxes sweet biscuits — 0.32M VND. Knorr chicken powder — 0.59M VND. 50kg sugar — 0.8M VND. 300 packets noodles — 0.58M VND. 6 boxes of mini-cartons of milk, 48 per box — 0.96M VND. 4 boxes of large cartons of milk, 48 per box — 1.18M VND.

Total — approximately 19.2M VND.

Observation

This was one of the larger supply purchases of the field trip. It included large quantities of nappies and food as well as padded flooring for use at the shelter.

Reflection

The detailed shopping list reflected the everyday requirements of institutions caring for children and people with severe disabilities, where basic consumable supplies were a continuing expense.





Mother Teresa of Calcutta Children's Orphanage at Xã Đoài



19.5 Shelter for Severely Disabled

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

26. Xã Đoài Medical Clinic

Assistance — $355 (6M VND)

Description

FoVO provided medical equipment for the doctor at Xã Đoài medical clinic.

Project expenditure

Compressor nebuliser. Blood pressure gauge. Ear and nose examination torch. Infrared heat lamp. Replacement stethoscope.

Total — 6M VND.

Observation

The equipment was selected for practical use by the doctor at the clinic. An ECG machine was also considered but left for possible assistance in the following year.

Reflection

Providing basic reusable medical equipment was a practical way of supporting the clinic beyond the period of the field visit.



Dr Hai Yen in the clinic consulting room

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

27. Quỳnh Lập Leprosy-affected Community, Nghệ An

Chicken raising, medicine and winter blankets — $1,415 (24M VND)

Description

Quỳnh Lập was an isolated community in Nghệ An Province where more than 300 people affected by leprosy lived in about 100 households. People able to live independently occupied simple tenement housing, while those requiring greater assistance were cared for in a small hospice. FoVO worked with Sister Nguyễn of the Holy Cross Order, who lived within the community and knew the households and their circumstances well.

The main project was chicken raising for 55 households considered capable of caring for the birds. Each household received 20 one-month-old chickens.

FoVO also contributed towards medicines for Định, a man recently diagnosed with leprosy who was beginning multi-drug therapy, and provided winter blankets for the sisters living and working in the community.

Project expenditure

Chicken-raising project for 55 households — 22M VND Contribution towards medicines — 1M VND Winter blankets for sisters — 1M VND

Total project expenditure — 24M VND (approximately $1,415)

Observation

This visit also gave us an opportunity to follow up an earlier chicken-raising project.

The purpose of providing chickens was not simply to give households food. Families with the ability and resources to continue raising them could use the initial birds as a small form of seed funding, producing eggs and potentially increasing their flock. If a household instead raised the chickens for a time and then ate them, that was also a useful outcome.

We visited several households to see what had happened.

One elderly couple were both former Việt Cộng soldiers who had been wounded during the war. The husband was affected by leprosy and received a small veterans pension. Their framed military certificates remained prominently displayed in their home.

Phượng was well known throughout the community and had previously helped us identify households that might benefit from chicken raising. Her detailed knowledge of local families made her a useful source of advice about who was likely to manage a small livestock project successfully.

During our visit, Định came to Sister Nguyễn seeking assistance with supplementary medicines. He had recently been diagnosed with leprosy and was about to begin multi-drug therapy. FoVO contributed 1M VND towards the additional medicines he required.

Another household provided a useful follow-up on the earlier chicken project. The husband, who was affected by leprosy and had lost a leg, continued to work using a homemade wooden leg and crutch. His chickens were being raised successfully in a large free-range yard. His wife had developed swollen legs and open sores, and Sister Nguyễn advised her to seek medical attention.

We also visited Yến Khuynh, an Indigenous Thái woman who had come to Quỳnh Lập as a teenager to care for her grandmother. After her grandmother died, Yến remained in the community and raised a family there. One of her daughters, Phương Anh, was living at Trang Nứa children's home.

Reflection

The chicken project required something from the participating households as well as from FoVO. We could provide the initial birds, but families had to contribute their own time, labour and resources if they wanted to maintain or increase the flock.

The follow-up visits showed that there was no single measure of success. For some households the chickens could become a continuing small asset. For others they could eventually provide food.

The visit also demonstrated the importance of working with someone who knew the community. Sister Nguyễn's knowledge of individual households helped FoVO direct a small amount of assistance towards people who were likely to be able to use it.

Her experience of living among the residents, and what this taught us about presence, familiarity and stigma, is recorded separately in the 2018 Field Notes.

Hospice visit



Last year: people in the hospice have limited mobility.



Hospice resident with his heater.

Chickens and winter blankets



Last year's chicken raising project made the women happy with their new chickens.



Winter doonas for sisters living in the leper colony.

Former Việt Cộng couple





Certificate with photo in uniform, attesting disability due to dioxin.



The single room housing is typical.



Vietcong war service certificate.

Widow with disabled children



The widow in her single room.



Meeting a leper outside her house

Grandmother raising a grandchild





These chickens were very active. One escaping through a small vent in the box.

Wife carer for husband and mother





Phượng, village information centre

Phượng is nicknamed as “Phượng nhảy”, meaning she is the local neighbourhood watch.





Young man who recently contracted leprosy



Định with Sister Nguyễn



Định at home with his wife and Sister Nguyễn

Hard working man with ill wife





The chicken yard is large and well organised.



The wife, not a leper, married last year.



The wife has bloated legs and wrist with open sores.





As I left, the man returned to work, cutting garden stakes, such as the ones on the right.

Yến Khuynh — Indigenous Thái woman





Typical housing block at the leper colony. One household lives in each room.

REPORT TO DONORS 2018

28. Phát Diệm

Assistance — $1,520 (25.8M VND)

Description

Working with Sister Kính, FoVO carried out several small projects in Phát Diệm and nearby Xã Kim Định.

Warm clothing was provided for 20 disabled children at the Holy Cross Convent.

Food and household provisions were provided for a group household of ten homeless women, several of whom were blind.

Each woman received:
20kg rice. 1 box containing 30 packets of noodles. 1 litre cooking oil. 1 litre fish sauce. 1kg sugar. 1 toothbrush and toothpaste. 1 towel. 1kg washing powder. 2kg salt.

Six baby-care packages were provided for an unmarried mothers' shelter at the St Paul de Chartres convent.

The six packages included:
6 pillows. 20 tops. 6 beanies. 6 blankets. 10 bibs. 60 cotton nappies. 20 pairs of pants. 10 pairs knitted socks. 60 face cloths. 6 mothers' towels. 6 packets wet wipes. 6 bottles shampoo. 6 bottles shower liquid. 6 toothbrushes and toothpaste.

At Xã Kim Định, provisions were provided during visits to five households affected by HIV and ten other disadvantaged households.

Each household received:
15kg rice. 1 box containing 30 packets of noodles. 1 litre cooking oil. 1 litre fish sauce. 2kg salt. 1kg washing powder.

FoVO also established a chicken-raising project for 15 households considered most likely to succeed: five households in Phát Diệm town and ten in Kim Định village.

Each household received 30 one-month-old chickens at 0.02M VND each, together with 0.2M VND of chicken food.

Project expenditure

Warm clothing for 20 disabled children — 3.3M VND. Food provisions for ten homeless women — 4M VND. Six baby-care packages — 2M VND. Provisions for 15 households at Xã Kim Định — 4.5M VND. Chicken-raising project for 15 households — 12M VND.

Total — 25.8M VND.

Observation

The Phát Diệm assistance was spread across several groups with different needs: disabled children, homeless women, unmarried mothers and disadvantaged households. The largest component was the chicken-raising project for 15 households.

Reflection

Rather than one large institutional project, the Phát Diệm work consisted of several modest forms of assistance organised locally with Sister Kính and directed to particular needs.



Disabled children's room at the convent. Children played and slept on a tiled floor



FoVO supplied padded floor matting for the disabled children's room





Visits to disadvantaged households in Phat Diem with food assistance or chickens to raise household income, depending on household capacity.



Household of 10 elderly women without family support.



Woman living at the single mothers shelter and baby care packages supplied by FoVO to the shelter.



REPORT TO DONORS 2018

Some Project Stories

The Chickens and Geese Arrive

At Buôn K Dũn we had agreed with the village headman on a chicken and goose raising project for some of the poorest families.

With 11.6M VND we bought 70 geese, 150 chickens and eight 25kg bags of feed.

Through the afternoon people began gathering and waiting. Eventually motorbikes arrived carrying baskets of young chickens and geese.

Then things became fairly chaotic.

People crowded around while the seller began putting poultry into baskets. The headman tried to keep some order by ticking household names off his list. Once the families had their birds, they stood around waiting to see what happened next.

They were waved away and told to go home and get some water for their new poultry.

It was a slightly chaotic end to what had begun as a carefully planned project.

At the Rubbish Tip

At Buôn Mê Thuột City rubbish tip, local Ê-đê people worked collecting plastic, metal and glass for recycling.

The work took place among mud and rotting rubbish.

FoVO provided 36 sets of protective clothing: plastic boots, face masks, long plastic gloves and work gloves.

The protective clothing did not change the work people were doing. It simply provided some protection while they did it.

The rubbish tip was one of the more confronting places visited during the field trip and a reminder that very simple assistance could sometimes be immediately useful.

The End of the Road

By the time I reached Phát Diệm I had completed an extraordinary month of travelling through Vietnam.

The journey had included Sài Gòn, Cần Thơ and Đồng Nai, followed by two days riding to Đà Lạt. From there I rode through Buôn Mê Thuột, travelled to Nha Trang and Đà Nẵng, then rode the Western Hồ Chí Minh Road through Đăkrông and Phong Nha before continuing through Hà Tınh and Xã Đoài to Phát Diệm.

There had been a lot of wet riding.

Along the way the projects depended heavily on Thi who coordinated local people — Hiền in Cần Thơ, Sister Hường in Đồng Nai, Sister Loan in Buôn Mê Thuột, Lâm in Nha Trang, Lasan group in Đăkrông, Sister Nhàn in

Phong Nha, Nam and Thủy in Hà Tınh, Sister Lành and Sister Bắc around Xã Đoài, Sister Nguyễn at Quỳnh Lập and Sister Kính at Phát Diệm.

At Phát Diệm I finally stopped to rest, recover and finish writing.

Best of all, the projects had used money donated by generous people at home, completing the year's mission of putting every donated dollar to direct use in Vietnam.