

# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME VIETNAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CCH</b>	City Children's Hospital
<b>CH2</b>	Children's Hospital Number 2
<b>CNCF</b>	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
<b>HCMC</b>	Ho Chi Minh City
<b>MAP</b>	Medical Assistance Programme
<b>MEP</b>	Medical Exchange Programme



REPORT 2018

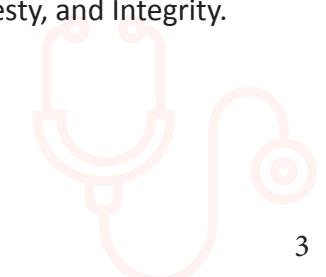
# OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES



**Vision:** A united world where children are free from suffering, poverty, exploitation, fear, and oppression. Where children are aware of their fundamental human rights.

**Mission:** The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational and emotional needs of vulnerable children. We believe that every child deserves love, respect and freedom from all forms of exploitation.

**Values:** Our values represent our beliefs and guide how we behave. They are: Love, Compassion, Respect, Honesty, and Integrity.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following for their generosity and support of our Medical Programme in 2018.

Thank you to our long-term supporter and donor the **British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV)** who have so very generously supported our Medical Assistance Programme since 2001. We remain deeply grateful to the BGV and we are proud to partner with them over the years on this life-saving programme.

CNCF are proud of our partnerships and remain indebted to medical team leader **Professor Martin Corbally who we have partnered with since 2004** and medical teams from **Operation Childlife, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) and RCS Bahrain**. In 2018 the following medical personnel accompanied Prof Corbally and supported the programme in bringing complex paediatric surgery to Vietnam and we are very grateful to: **Prof. Fabio Bartoli, Prof. Mark Redmond, Prof. Mark Ryan, Dr. Brendan O' Hare, Dr Hind Zaidan, Dr Kai, CH2, Dr Kai, CCH Dr. Talal Almayman, and Dr Truc, CH2.**

Thank you also to **Our Lady's Hospital Dublin, Ireland**, for facilitating and supporting incoming Vietnamese Surgeons for training purposes on the



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**We also extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to the following individual donors who very kindly supported MAP in 2018.**

Donal Grogan- Denver Noble Film Event, USA

Emma Connolly, UK

Joy Tuman, USA

Mrs Christen, France

Mr Le Quan, France

Mrs Tavernier, France

Vinh Thi Thu Trang, Vietnam

CNCF Ireland (MEP Donor)

**Thank you also our local partners, Children's Hospital No.2 and HCM City Eye Hospital, Hospital of Tropical Diseases, and City Children's Hospital all located in HCM City who make it possible for CNCF to implement the programmes successfully.**

“

My philosophy isn't just about manding bodies. It's about restoring people's independance, giving them a life, not just an existence. It's about respect and love and dignity. Those are the things we owe our children. Children are the ones who need them most of all.

- Christina Noble OBE -

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

**ESTABLISHED**

1990

**LOCATION**

HCMC, Vietnam (Some beneficiaries also live in various provinces in the South East, Mekong River Delta, Central Highlands, and Central Coast of Vietnam)

**OBJECTIVES**

To provide financial assistance to children so they can receive medical care

**PROGRAMME  
COMPONENTS**

Financial assistance to children in need of medical treatment; provision of psychological counselling and healthcare information to children and their families; Medical Exchange Programme that improves skills, knowledge, and expertise of Vietnamese paediatricians

**BENEFICIARIES**

Children living in poverty who need medical care. Vietnamese paediatric doctors (mainly doctors at CH2)

**LOCAL PARTNERS**

Children's Hospital No. 2, Eye Hospital

**CNCF INVOLVEMENT**

Fully responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring, and evaluation

**CNCF MANAGEMENT  
AND STAFF**

CEO: Helenita Noble; Director of Operations: Son Thu Trinh; Vice Director: Hoang Tu Uyen; Programme Coordinator: Bui Thi Ngoc Huong

**MONITORING AND  
EVALUATION**

Because CNCF is directly responsible for funding and programme management, regular monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted by the MAP team. The team conducts regular meetings with the families of the children to follow up on the health of the children and offer additional support. Monthly meetings are held with local partners. The MAP database and records are regularly updated. Monthly reports and semi-annual reports are sent by CNCF staff to the Board of Management and an Annual Review of the programme is sent to all stakeholders. An annual evaluation is conducted at the end of the year that covers all areas of programme implementation including human resources, finance, management, activities, database, and future plans

**2018 ACTUAL COSTS**

USD \$18,066

**FUTURE PLANS**

In 2019, we aim to support 36 children in need of medical and financial assistance and conduct at least one health promotion activity

**REPORTING PERIOD**

January – December 2018

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2018 the Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) continued to provide life-saving financial support to children living in poverty in need of urgent medical care and treatments at our partner hospitals—Children's Hospital No. 2, HCM City Eye Hospital, Hospital for Tropical Diseases and City Children's Hospital, all located in HCMC.

**44**

CHILDREN  
Medical Assistance  
Programme

In 2018 the Medical Exchange Programme (MEP) performed complex life-saving paediatric surgeries ordinarily unavailable in Vietnam.

**49**

CHILDREN  
Medical Exchange  
Programme



# PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Medical Assistance Programme (MAP) grew out of necessity and from the intuition of our Founder, Christina Noble. In July 1999, thanks to one generous donor, we assisted a young girl from a poor family who was hospitalised and whose family could not pay for her medical treatment. The little girl received the surgery she needed and returned to good health. Because of this event, Christina and her team identified a very real and urgent need for immediate and direct financial assistance to allow poor children in Vietnam to receive medical care. Since its inception, the MAP has helped 2,284 children receive the medical care they need.

According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam moved from low-income to low middle-income country status thanks to rapid economic growth from 2006 to 2010. Although this has been hailed as a positive step for the country, the gap between Vietnam's rich and poor continues to grow. According to Caitlin Wiesen, Country Director of UNDP in Vietnam, the Multidimensional Poverty Index of ranks Vietnam 31st out of 105 countries. Vietnam's multi-dimensional poverty rate is 5 per cent, higher than most countries in the East Asian and Pacific region, ranking only behind Thailand and China. Vietnamese citizens are not only poor in income, but also in need of upgrades to health, education, and living standards. They are also more likely to be left behind when they are ill, lose their jobs, or encounter natural disasters.

For most of Vietnam's very poor, medical care is inaccessible due to the prohibitive cost of care, which is prioritized well below other basic daily needs. A visit to the emergency room can spell financial ruin for a poor family. But even worse, families without medical insurance, who cannot afford the cost of medical treatment, may be turned away from hospitals altogether without outside intervention. According to recent statistics approximately 13 per cent of people in Vietnam do not have government health insurance.

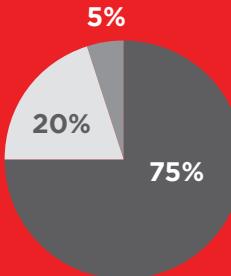
Thanks to the very generous support of our donors and sponsors, our MAP provides financial support to Vietnamese children (up to age 16) whose families are unable to pay for urgent medical care. The financial assistance we provide is used to pay for life-saving surgical procedures, post-operative care, basic medical treatment, social support, and health insurance.

Our Medical Exchange Programme (MEP), designed to help establish best practice in all areas of paediatric surgery in Vietnam, is coordinated through the MAP. The MEP was established in 2004 in partnership with Professor Martin Corbally and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to bring world-class medical expertise to Vietnam, while also bringing local Vietnamese medical staff to Ireland for training. The investment this programme has made to bring top-level international doctors to Vietnam and build capacity of dedicated Vietnamese surgeons and medical teams has led to an enormous improvement in the quality of healthcare services available and accessible to all Vietnamese people.

# OUR YEAR

## Medical Assistance Programme

IN 2018

**95%**

of medical cases were referred to CNCF by Hospitals

- Children's Hospital #2
- HCM City Eye Hospital
- Other

**44** CHILDREN

received funding support for a variety of surgeries and treatments

**86%**

of referred cases were admitted to the programme.

## Medical Exchange Programme

**07** OVERSEAS PAEDIATRIC SURGEONS

performed complex life-saving paediatric surgery unavailable in Vietnam

**49** CHILDREN

received medical consultations:

**43** children

were treated for oncological conditions

**02** children

children were treated for neurological conditions

**04** children

were treated for urological conditions

**27** CHILDREN

underwent surgical procedures by overseas paediatric surgical teams

**21** children

with tumours and cancers

**02** children

with neurological diseases

**04** children

with urological conditions

**01** VIETNAMESE PAEDIATRIC SURGEON

travelled to Ireland for a 5-week training in Paediatric Cardiac Surgery under Medical Exchange Programme

**18** CHILDREN

received further donations and special milk formula to aid their recovery

**10** FAMILIES

received additional long-term post operative guidance and consultations for children needing long-term recovery



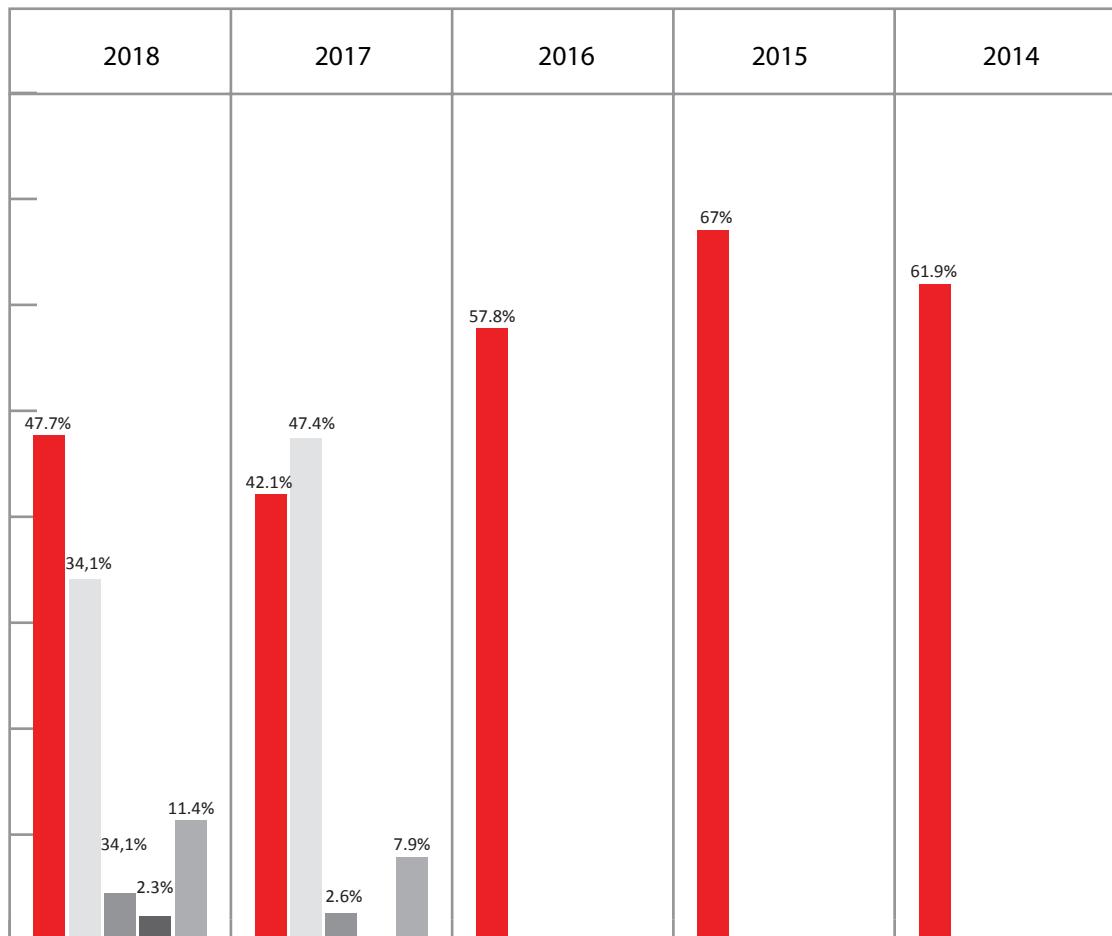
Signing of new partnership agreement at the National Surgery Conference HCM City  
Operation Childlife Chairman and Surgeons, Helenita Noble (CNCF CEO), and Children's City Hospital.



Overseas and Vietnamese Surgical teams meet with CEO Helenita Noble (left) at Children's Hospital 2 to launch 2018 surgery partnership

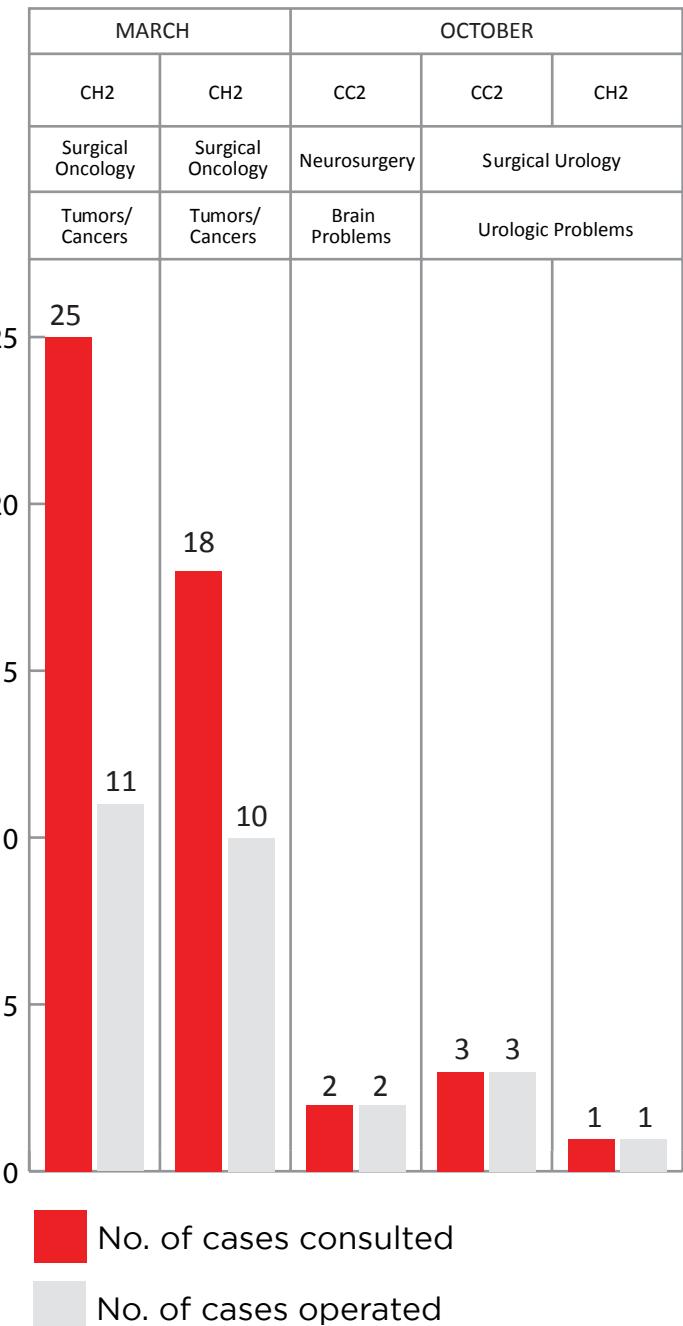
## Medical Exchange Programme Cases 2018

### Medical Exchange Programme Cases 2018



█ Completely recovered    █ Improved    █ Not recovered yet

█ Died    █ Unable to be assessed





# PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

## Referral and Selection

In 2018, **95 per cent of cases** supported by MAP were referred to us by hospitals. CH2 referred **33 cases (75%)** and Eye Hospital referred **9 cases (20%)**. One case was referred to MAP through another CNCF project (Sunshine School) and one case was recommended by a charity clinic in HCMC.

Our partner hospitals refer any child they believe needs assistance. However, we further screen these families, and in 2018, **86 per cent of referred cases** were admitted to the programme. Typical reasons we did not support cases were, our assessment of the child's family's home circumstances did not match the eligibility criteria (i.e., we found the family could afford to cover the medical costs) or the child's hospital fee was subsequently covered by donations made directly to the hospital.

## Medical Exchange Programme

The goal of the MEP is to establish best practices in all areas of paediatric surgery in Vietnam. We are incredibly proud of our MEP and the great relationship formed over many years with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. The investment this programme has made to bring highly acclaimed international doctors to Vietnam and build the capacity of dedicated Vietnamese surgeons and medical teams has led to an enormous improvement in the quality healthcare services available and accessible to all Vietnamese people.

In 2018, **49 children** received medical consultations: **43** were treated for oncological conditions, **2 children** were treated for neurological conditions, and 4 were treated for urological conditions. Among these, **27 children** were operated on by the Irish surgical teams: **21 children** with tumors and cancers, **2 children** with neurological diseases, and **4 children** with urological conditions.

From 2006 to 2018, our Medical Exchange Programme helped **28 doctors** from Children's Hospital No. 2 travel to Ireland to learn new modern surgical techniques at Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Dublin. In 2018, one Vietnamese pediatric surgeon from the General Surgery Department, Children's Hospital No. 2, travelled to Ireland for a 5-week training in Paediatric Cardiac Surgery.



# TESTIMONIAL FROM PROFESSOR MARTIN CORBALLY



Operation ChildLife (OCL) is most grateful for the continued partnership of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation. This partnership has existed since 2004 and is part of a long-term commitment to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice at Children's Hospital #2, HCMC.

All team members extended the level of complexity of surgery in both cardiac and cancer patients in Hospital #2. Through this engagement over 1200 open heart procedures have been performed by the local surgical teams and more than 2000 non-invasive cardiological procedures safely carried out. In addition the local surgical teams have gained significant skill in the management of children with cancer and are skilled in the performance of complex liver, kidney and abdominal surgery.

Operation Childlife, as a registered Irish Charity, works to improve surgical, medical, anaesthetic and nursing practice. All members give their name and expertise freely and are committed to the delivery of safe and expert care.

OCL is pleased to report sustained success in its engagement with Children's Hospital #2 in both the medical and surgical treatment of children with congenital cardiac disease and cancer. It is our continued privilege to be in partnership with the Christina Noble Children's Foundation.

**Professor Martin Corbally**

Chairman and Head, Medical University of Bahrain-Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and Chief of Staff, King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain.

# APPENDIX

BIRTH YEAR	Gender	Diagnosis	Overall cost		Amount supported by CNCF		%	
			VND	USD	VND	USD		
2017	Female	Brain Hemorrhage	8,292,315	366	7,000,000	309	84	
2017	Male	Craniosynostosis	34,955,242	1,543	6,955,242	307	20	
2014	Male	Cataracts	4,759,467	210	4,759,467	210	100	
2017	Male	Cataracts	4,759,467	210	4,759,467	210	100	
2012	Male	Cataract - Left Eye	6,724,467	297	6,724,467	297	100	
2015	Male	Psoas/iliopsoas Abscess	3,736,164	165	3,736,164	165	100	
2003	Male	Left Leg Fracture Due to A Traffic Accident	3,140,841	139	3,140,841	139	100	
2004	Female	Venomous Snake Bite	3,613,561	159	3,613,561	159	100	
2015	Male	Cataracts	8,028,437	354	6,928,437	306	86	
2012	Female	Cataract - Right Eye	3,124,467	138	3,124,467	138	100	
2013	Male	Pleural Effusion - Pneumonia	4,110,179	181	4,110,179	181	100	
2017	Female	Patent ductus arteriosus - Pneumonia	19,321,222	853	7,000,000	309	36	
16	2011	Male	Cataract due to a trauma (Right eye)	650,000	29	650,000	29	100

BIRTH YEAR	Gender	Diagnosis	Overall cost		Amount supported by CNCF		%
			VND	USD	VND	USD	
2011	Female	Cataracts	1,600,000	71	1,600,000	71	100
2017	Female	Ventricular Septal Defect	6,219,658	274	6,219,658	274	100
2017	Female	Severe Pneumonia	1,512,937	67	1,512,937	67	100
2017	Female	Choledochocoele	3,512,427	155	3,512,427	155	100
2016	Male	Phosphor Poisoning	1,403,631	62	1,403,631	62	100
2009	Male	Multiple Trauma Due to A Traffic Accident	2,242,710	99	2,242,710	99	100
2012	Male	Viral Encephalitis	4,362,992	193	4,362,992	193	100
2016	Female	Cataracts	6,724,467	297	6,724,467	297	100
2018	Male	Pneumonia	3,842,676	170	3,842,676	170	100
2015	Female	Cataracts	7,469,134	330	7,000,000	309	94
2011	Male	Venomous Snake Bite	5,694,964	251	5,694,964	251	100
2007	Male	Bacterial Meningitis – Brain Abscess	25,331,051	1,118	7,000,000	309	28
2011	Female	Septicemia	7,685,124	339	7,000,000	309	91

BIRTH YEAR	Gender	Diagnosis	Overall cost		Amount supported by CNCF		%
			VND	USD	VND	USD	
2003	Female	Left Thighbone Fracture due to an Accident	1,347,862	59	1,347,862	59	100
2018	Female	Bacterial Meningitis	1,158,968	51	1,158,968	51	100
2015	Male	Brain Abscess	9,783,653	432	7,000,000	309	72
2014	Female	Japanese Encephalitis	7,915,221	349	5,175,221	228	65
2018	Female	Ventricular Septal Defect - Strong Pneumonia	16,728,609	738	7,000,000	309	42
2006	Female	Peritoneal Adhesions	3,066,182	135	3,066,182	135	100
2011	Female	Rubella	2,059,000	91	2,059,000	91	100
2017	Male	Brain Hemorrhage	5,406,683	239	5,406,683	239	100
2011	Male	Japanese Encephalitis	13,065,476	577	7,000,000	309	54
2018	Female	Ventricular Septal Defect - Transposition of the Great Arteries	6,907,552	305	6,907,552	305	100
2017	Male	Single Ventricle Defects - Pneumonia	3,533,569	156	3,533,569	156	100
2016	Female	Cerebral Aneurysm	20,371,355	899	7,000,000	309	34
2008	Male	Brain Hemorrhage	7,167,160	316	7,000,000	309	98

BIRTH YEAR	Gender	Diagnosis	Overall cost		Amount supported by CNCF		%
			VND	USD	VND	USD	
2012	Female	Cervical Vertebrae Dislocation C1, C2	6,806,442	300	6,806,442	300	100
2006	Female	Myocarditis	10,987,059	485	7,000,000	309	64
2017	Female	Pneumonia – Measles	14,939,348	659	7,000,000	309	47
2017	Male	Ventricular Septal Defect - Atrial Septal Defect - Aortic Stenosis	27,864,011	1,230	7,000,000	309	25
2003	Male	Multiple Trauma Due to A Traffic Accident	129,036,299	5,694	7,000,000	309	5

# TESTIMONIALS

“

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Christina Noble Children's Foundation for supporting our child with hospital fees. Their work is filled with humanity. I hope the Foundation can support more children to let them have better lives.

- Father of child who was treated for cervical vertebrae dislocation at CH2 -

“

Our family greatly appreciates the Foundation for supporting my grandson by paying part of the treatment costs to save his eyes and helping him have vision as good as other children's. I have been moved to tears by their generosity.

- Mother of child who was treated for cataracts at the Eye Hospital in HCMC -



# OUR STORIES

## MAP Helps the Entire Family

Duong\*, seven months old, is the youngest of four children in a family from Dong Nai province. A few weeks after Duong was born in 2017, he was unable to breast feed and was referred to Children's Hospital No. 2 (CH2) by a private clinic. On the way to the hospital, Duong's skin turned pale and his breathing became labored, so he was driven to Dong Nai General Hospital. Diagnosed with congenital heart disease, Duong was treated at the hospital for nine days. Because he did not show any signs of improvement, he was transferred to CH2 where he was admitted with a diagnosis of ventricular septal defect, atrial septal defect, and aortic stenosis.

Duong's large family is currently living in a tiny, deteriorating house. His sisters are in ninth, seventh, and second grade and tuition fees for the family are VND 2,800,000 [USD 124] per year. Both Duong's father and mother have worked at schools for many years, as a guard at a kindergarten and primary school teacher, respectively, but their work has been interrupted by Duong's medical condition.

Before receiving help from MAP, Duong's parents depended on donated meals to get by while they took care of him in the hospital. Although some of Duong's medical care was covered by national insurance, the family was still struggling to keep their heads above water. Money provided by MAP (thanks to the support of BBGV) helped fill the gaps for Duong's family. So they could continue living their lives while Duong got the care he needed.

We talked to Duong's mother in April and she happily informed us that Duong is fully recovered and doing well. He is taking medications to help strengthen his heart muscles. Since his discharge in March, he has gained more than two kilograms. Duong's mom expressed her sincerest thanks to CNCF and the donors who helped her child get the treatment he needed. She is extremely grateful for Duong's quick recovery.

## From Tragedy to Hope

Xuan\* is a 9-year-old boy from Binh Thuan province. Four years ago, Xuan's mother was very sadly killed in a train accident. Since then, Xuan and his 12-year-old brother have been raised by their maternal grandmother because their father abandoned the family several years beforehand.

In June 2018, Xuan was riding his bicycle. On the way home, he stopped near the railroad tracks to wait for the train to pass. He got too close, he was pulled toward the train as it passed and was badly injured. It was the same location where his mother was killed years before. Xuan was brought to the Tanh Linh District Hospital and was later transferred to the Duc Linh District Hospital. Because of the severity of his injuries, he was referred to CH2 in Ho Chi Minh City. Xuan's grandmother was unable to pay for the hospital fees. The total treatment cost for young Xuan was financed by CNCF's MAP (sponsored by BBGV).

Xuan eventually recovered and was discharged, but continued to receive follow-up care at the Tanh Linh District Hospital for several months. He continues to improve and can now walk again and eat normally. CNCF recently received good news that Xuan and his brother were admitted to SOS Village in HCM, who CNCF worked with to help the boys, and where they will be cared for at the village.

\*Names changed to protect privacy.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The total cost of running the Medical Assistance Programme in 2018 was

**USD \$18,066.46**

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Direct costs include the actual costs of running the centre including repairs and maintenance, cost of food and nutrition, healthcare, and provision of vocational and life skills training.

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Indirect costs include salaries of project staff, stationery, communication, transportation and accommodation, security fees, and electricity and water allocated to the project.

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Heartfelt thanks to our kind donors who enable CNCF to keep this project operating and also to those who generously support with gift and time in-kind which enables us to keep our costs down.

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Our 2018 audits are available on line  
<https://www.cncf.org/finance.html>

The British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV) is delighted to be a long-term supporter since 2001 of the excellent work undertaken by the CNCF Medical Assistance Programme. Being one of the longest beneficiary of BGV grant funding is a clear indication of the quality and service that CNCF provides to the children and families they assist. The care and commitment the staff provide to the children is clear as soon as you engage with CNCF. Clearly the needs of the children is the main priority for CNCF and this permeates throughout the whole organisation. Recent governance changes have also demonstrated that CNCF take a long term and serious view of 'business' continuity and the changes implemented were approached in a very professional and transparent fashion. They have an excellent understanding of the difficult social issues that they are helping to address within Vietnam, and they provide quality reports as to how the funding received is allocated and the real benefits it brings. It is always a pleasure to work with CNCF and BGV wishes them every success for the future.



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GROUP  
VIETNAM

**British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV)**

# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES IN 2018

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET 2018 USD \$	ACTUALS IN 2018 USD \$	VARIANCE ACTUAL 2018 USD \$
<b>CHILD CARE</b>	<b>11,724.41</b>	<b>9,483.06</b>	<b>(2,241.35)</b>
Treatment cost	11,724.41	9,483.06	(2,241.35)
<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>10,777.00</b>	<b>8,583.40</b>	<b>(2,193.60)</b>
Project staff salary	10,127.00	8,450.00	(1,677.00)
Others	650.00	133.40	(516.60)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,501.41</b>	<b>18,066.46</b>	<b>(4,434.95)</b>
<b>Travel/Accommodation/Visas for Overseas Paediatric Surgical Team</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	



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