

Impact Report

Sustainable livelihood improvement for ethnic minority families

Background

Blue Dragon Children's Foundation serves children and families in crisis throughout Vietnam. We believe that every child deserves exceptional care and a chance to thrive. Blue Dragon kids are street kids, children with disabilities, and young people who have been trafficked. After rescuing children from danger and slavery, we reunite them with their loved ones and provide all the services needed for recovery and growth while advocating for improvements to policy and law.

The COVID-19 pandemic has multiplied the challenges disadvantaged people in Vietnam face. During the first months of 2021, entire communities across Vietnam were facing dire financial struggles due to the prolonged impacts of the pandemic. When the Delta variant of the virus made its way into the country in late April, those hardships became even greater.

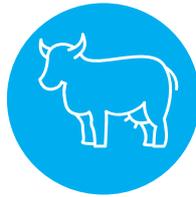
Strict lockdowns and travel restrictions resulted in job and income losses, triggering yet another crisis for impoverished children and families. All the while, human traffickers took advantage of the desperate need for work this situation created to deceive young women and girls and trick them into exploitation.

The timely grant from Mental Health Improvement Viet Nam (MHI VN) has provided crucial livelihood support for children and families to get through the COVID-19 outbreak. **By enabling them to rebuild their livelihood and increase their resilience to hardships, your donation has made their futures brighter and safer.**

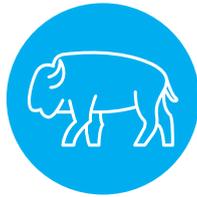
This report summarizes how your crucial support is transforming lives.

Your impact in numbers

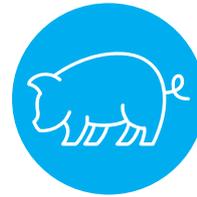
Your donation towards the project *Sustainable livelihood improvement for ethnic minority families* has transformed lives of 8 families in remote areas of northern Vietnam. Specifically, your support has enabled the families to buy:



3 cows



1 buffalo



22 pigs



With the income generated from selling the calves and piglets in the next few months, families will be able to repair their homes, buy food and pay for children's schooling costs.

Transforming the lives for poor families

The project in collaboration with MHI VN has **transformed the lives of 8 families!**

In October 2021, Blue Dragon worked with the local Women's Union – Vietnam's largest public network of support at a grassroots level – in Dien Bien and Ha Giang province to determine which families were needed this assistance. As women have been significantly affected by the pandemic, and in these areas women tend to lack decision making power within their families while still being responsible for all care of children and elderly, we provided the livestock to women. Blue Dragon and our partners identified six women who were at high risk of human trafficking and two survivors rescued from human trafficking in 2021.

Once we had assessed the needs of each family, Blue Dragon supplied the animals and signed an agreement with the family in which they committed to donating one offspring to another impoverished family. In Dien Bien, families live in mountainous terrain and have a long rainy season, therefore cows and buffalo are the best suited animals to raise. In Ha Giang, Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs are more suitable, as they are popular farm animals in these ethnic minority communities. We provided the animals to families in Ha Giang in October 2021; while families in Dien Bien received the animals later in March 2022.

Four families in Ha Giang received 4-6 pigs while families in Dien Bien received a cow or buffalo each. The staff from the Agricultural Service Centre provided animal raising training and supported the families to monitor their health.



This year, my children will not be hungry anymore. When the pigs grow up and have piglets, I will sell them so my children can go to school and see a doctor if they fall sick.”
- Xoa from Ha Giang province

Transforming the communities



Once the family is stable and there are sufficient offspring to rotate Blue Dragon and partners will rotate some offspring to other poor families. A sow can produce 8-12 piglets after 6-8 months; while a cow and a buffalo can produce 1-2 calves after 9-11 months.

We expect after another four months, the families in Ha Giang can start selling part of the pig herd and keep several to build their herd. The income generated can help more families in the community to secure their daily needs, keep their children in school and ensure they are safe from traffickers.



Thanks to the livelihood initiative funded by MHI VN, families in Ha Giang have enough resources to keep their children in school and safe from trafficking” – Leader of the local Women’s Union

In Dien Bien province the impact of COVID-19 has been so severe that we have not yet been able to rotate any offspring. We will reassess all the families in 2023 to determine their stability and feasibility for animal rotation.

Your impact beyond the numbers

Life has always been filled with challenges for Tuoi. She was born to a large family in a remote area of Dien Bien province. Growing up, Tuoi, her parents and her four siblings were very poor and her parents couldn't afford to send her to school. Because of this, she never learned how to read or write.

For her whole childhood, Tuoi followed her parents to nearby districts looking for menial jobs or farming work help put food on the table.

In 2016, when Tuoi was 22 years old, she was determined to find a brighter future for herself. She met a man online who claimed to have a stable job in the city of Dien Bien. He was very kind to her and she started to fall for him. She dreamt of their wedding and a bright future together. So she was elated when he invited her to the city to meet him and plan for their future.

By the time Tuoi realised she had been deceived by the man she thought to be her lover, turning back was no longer an option. She was taken to China, beaten and forced to 'marry' a Chinese man she had never met. She was kept in captivity for five years in China and suffered severe abuse and violence at the hands of her 'husband'.

Fortunately, Blue Dragon rescued Tuoi in 2021 and reunited her with her family in Dien Bien. Being home with her loved ones brought Tuoi immense joy and relief, but her challenges weren't over. When Tuoi disappeared, her devastated parents searched tirelessly for her missing daughter. They sold every single item in the house to look for her. In addition, Tuoi returned home as COVID-19 began to surge in Vietnam. Thousands of new cases were being detected every day. Lockdowns and restrictions were imposed. And finding work was simply impossible for Tuoi.

Thanks to the generous grant from MHI VN, Tuoi received support to get through these difficult times. This March, Blue Dragon provided a buffalo for the family which helped them plough the land, improve productivity and transport crops. Over the next 9-11 months the buffalo will have 1-2 calves – providing an additional source of income for Tuoi.



I never dreamt that our life could change in such a wonderful way. When I came home, I wanted to move to the south with my friends to look for work in a factory, but now I want to stay at home with my family and raise the buffalo. Thank you for turning our lives around."



Thank you MHI VN for helping women like Tuoi find a brighter future!

Financial report

No.	Location	Family	No. of livestock provided	Unit	Spent
1	Dien Bien province	Phuoi LT	1	Cow	15,000,000
2	Dien Bien province	Thuong LT	1	Cow	15,000,000
3	Dien Bien province	Ly VT	1	Buffalo	15,000,000
4	Dien Bien province	Hieng TT	1	Cow	15,000,000
5	Ha Giang province	Xoa LT	6	Pig	15,175,000
6	Ha Giang province	My LT	4	Pig	15,175,000
7	Ha Giang province	Sau GT	6	Pig	15,175,000
8	Ha Giang province	Say ST	6	Pig	15,175,000
Total			26		120,700,000

Please note that the additional 700,000 VND is covered by Blue Dragon.

Thank you for transforming lives!

Please note that the information included in this report is intended for the purpose of reporting to MHI VN. If you would like to use any information publicly, please contact us in advance at info@bdcf.org. Names in the case studies have been changed to protect Individual's privacy.