



# Annual Report 2022

Chance to Grow e.V.



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## FOREWORD BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,  
Dear volunteers, supporters and change-makers,

Thank you so much for being here, taking a look at our work, and hopefully sharing your thoughts with us hereafter. 2022 was a year full of challenges, opportunities as well as decisions for us. For this, my thanks to all those who volunteered and supported us with their donation - through time or money. Thank you - you make everything possible!

In our work, we have become more focused and have worked out and defined our mission more clearly. Back to the roots, so to speak: with a focus on more long-term children's aid projects. We have mainly worked on our foundation, teams, communication as well as our public appearance. Outwardly, this showed through the launch of our new website, calls with members around the world, and even a live call with one of our partner organizations and the families we support in the Mekong Delta - something we would like to organize more often in the future.

All of this requires a strong and engaged community where all members can contribute while having fun and develop opportunities to grow professionally as well. I am very grateful to create a space where we come together to do good - to build a relationship with Vietnam and to develop ourselves. This takes time, commitment and good conditions, but we have reached important milestones along the way this year.

The same goes for our projects: in 2022, we completed a very successful project in which we worked with the German GIZ to train social workers in Vietnam to help traumatized children who lost their parents to Covid-19. We also continued our efforts for the families in our microcredit program as well as supporting our foster children in Gia Lai, among a number of other projects.

In 2022, we overcame many challenges and implemented, improved and launched wonderful projects. All this was only possible thanks to the enthusiasm of our members and supporters, our strategic advisors and all the people who believed in us. We thank you. You are the foundation of our work. Stay with us and watch your commitment continue to bear fruit in the months and year ahead.

Let's continue to work together for children in need!

Philipp Schwab  
Chairman of Chance to Grow



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# 1 ABOUT US

*How it all began and where we are headed...*

## **OUR VISION**

We want to sustainably support children in Vietnam in leading a self-determined life. To do this, they need opportunities and possibilities to discover and use their individual potential. We therefore first support basic needs such as safety and education.

Our vision for 2023 is clear: to deepen our existing projects, to expand the expertise of our members and our community, to find new partners and to spread our vision for disadvantaged children in Vietnam.

## **THE BEGINNING**

Chance to Grow e.V. is a registered non-profit association based in Frankfurt am Main. The association has been in existence since 2009 and, thanks to our donors, has been able to give vital help and hope to children in Vietnam through numerous campaigns. In the beginning, there were three of us. Today we have more than 50 members from different countries.





## OUR THREE COLUMNS



When working in an NGO, it is important not to lose sight of what really matters in the end. In order to always remember our values and our mission, we base all our activities on three focal points that form the foundation of Chance to Grow.

### **CHARITY**

We help children in disasters and situations of need with food, safety and education. In this way, we give hope to the youngest and create the essential conditions for a self-determined life.

### **COMMUNITY**

We are people of completely different origins, from different backgrounds. We are united by the desire to help others, but also to support each other and grow in the process. A "Chance to Grow" also for all those to whom Charity, Vietnam and community mean something.

### **BRIDGE TO VIETNAM**

We are a bridge to Vietnam. We offer a platform and provide information about current developments in the country. Thus, we are a bridge for all who would like to strengthen their connection to Vietnam.





## TRANSPARENCY

We work together with several partner organizations in Vietnam to achieve our goals. We review proposals for projects and concrete aid measures and decide on projects worthy of support in the interest of the children. Our four-person financial team and tax consultant support our transparency and overview.

Our employees on site take care of both the disbursement of the aid money and the implementation of the projects. For example, we check that sponsored children also go to school.

All disbursements are confirmed by at least two people. In addition, we report in detail to the German tax office and to our donors on the use of funds.

Our claim is to use almost 100% of the private donations for the projects - without operating costs, therefore we all work voluntarily. The costs at partners are usually limited to 20%, which is very little in Vietnam.



We also report on our work through newsletters, project reports and annual reports. But money alone does not change anything. It is much more important to accompany children in the long term and to support our members in such a way that joy, cohesion and personal development are in the foreground. This is how we achieve long-term success.

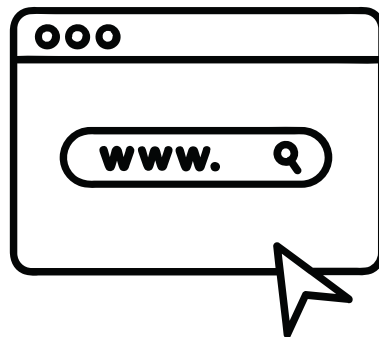
### HIGHLIGHTS

- Cost control and efficient spending. We report very extensively and in detail on our work on our social media channels.
- We have minimal administrative costs and work on a voluntary basis.
- We report all income and expenses to the tax office and the public.



## WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE

We are very happy to announce that we have created our new website! Take a look at our newly designed homepage. There you can learn more about us, our members, our projects and how you can help children in Vietnam.



[www.chance-to-grow.org](http://www.chance-to-grow.org)



## *How we help and stay tuned*

# 2 OUR PROGRAMS

Our two main programs are the **microcredit program** for families and the **sponsorship program**, which enables children from poor backgrounds to go to school.

### ***Microcredits***

#### **What is the microcredit program?**

In the microcredit program, we work with our partner **Bong Sen** to give single mothers in poverty the chance to stand on their own two feet.

With our program, the women each receive an interest-free loan for one year, health insurance and training to gain the necessary knowledge about agriculture and financing to start their own business. The contracts for this are concluded annually.


This acquired knowledge should help the women, for example, to cultivate their own fields or to breed animals. In this way, we enable them to earn their own living and thus escape poverty.

The goal of our program is to help single mothers and women to lead a self-determined life and thus give their children the opportunity to attend school.

#### **How has the project progressed this year?**

Two new models were introduced in 2022. One is "small business", which was temporarily paused in 2021 due to Covid and is now being continued with different types of business. The other new model runs under the name "Handicraft", in which, for example, baskets are woven.





"Thanks to your financial support, I can take out a loan, buy pigs and ducks, and pay medical bills for my grandchildren."

DANG KIM DAM

## MICROCREDIT PROGRAM

### VIETNAM

We would like to help women and single mothers to lead a self-determined life and to give their children the opportunity to attend school.



## *Microcredit*

The two communes, Truong Long A and Tan Hoa, in Hau Giang province will continue to receive support. In addition, a new commune is participating in the project: Truong Long Tay in Hau Giang province.

Due to the aftermath of Covid, 2022 was initially very difficult for many families, but their situation improved in summer. Then, in the fall of this year, there were heavy rains that led to flooding, among other things, which meant that some of the business models of the families supported by our project were not as successful as expected. However, Bong Sen was able to help these families catch up and improve their models.

Other families left the project due to relocation or family problems. Unfortunately, a few families had to be dismissed from the project because they did not follow the agreed model.





## Microcredit

This year, our partner organization Bong Sen has introduced a new livestock model for families called the "pig bank". Under this model, the family receives a small pig from Bong Sen. The family must then raise the pig until it gives birth to piglets of its own. After that, the family has the task of returning a pig of the same weight to Bong Sen as they originally received. The contract does not expire until the pig has given birth to piglets a total of four times, and Bong Sen trains, accompanies and supports the family throughout the whole process. With the returned pig, Bong Sen then in turn helps the other families within the model.



SocialLife  
Khoa học - Nhân bản - Khai phóng



Supported by  
**giz**  
GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Programme Migration & Diaspora

TAY XOA DỊU NỖI ĐAU COVID-19  
CHO TRẺ EM

tiếng để em ph... đau một... một mình"

05.2022

**„We want to raise awareness of how children's lives can change dramatically when they lose the most important people in their lives.“**

CHANCE TO GROW-TEAM

**GIZ PROGRAM**

**COVID-19**

We support the training of social workers in loss and grief counseling so that they can help grieving children and families during the Covid-19 pandemic.



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



## THE PROJECT

The GIZ program is a joint project with the GIZ organization in Vietnam and Viện SocialLife, the Institute for Research in Social Life in Ho Chi Minh City. The training for social workers on grief and loss aims to provide emotional support for grieving children and families through the COVID-19 pandemic.

By training social workers, we contribute to helping orphans who have lost their parents due to COVID-19 cope with loss and grief.

A big thank you goes to our partners **GIZ** and **Viện SocialLife** who made this project possible, we are very grateful for the successful cooperation.





## GIZ PROGRAM

As of October 10, 2021, there have been more than 835,000 community-transmitted covid cases nationwide in Vietnam, resulting in more than 20,520 deaths. According to the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, at least 4,335 children have lost either one or both parents and primary caregivers to the coronavirus as of February 2022.

The loss of loved ones occupies a large part of these children's lives and can lead to trauma that persists after they reach adulthood. People with unresolved trauma tend to have severe mental and physical health problems such as PTSD, depression, anxiety disorders, and heart disease.

The impact of grief on the psychosocial well-being of children and adolescents is hardly noticed in Vietnamese society, as death is still a major taboo subject for many Vietnamese. There is also a lack of services and professionals specializing in child and adolescent mental health, especially in remote areas, leaving many struggling children and young people in need helpless.





## GIZ PROGRAM

Chance to Grow, in collaboration with the GIZ organization in Vietnam and the SocialLife Research Institute, has developed a project to advance the professional development of social workers.

The goal is to equip social workers with specialized knowledge and skills about grief and loss so that they can best support grieving children and families during and after the Covid 19 pandemic.

The training for social workers on emotional support for grieving children and families has had a positive impact on the competence of the participants, according to their own statements. Over 90% of participants gained new, important knowledge and skills for their work. Seven of the participants offered free grief counseling to 57 children and their families and helped them access other helpful resources. The other 10 provided further support to their clients. The remainder shared their newly gained knowledge with their social work students through presentations and lectures.

A network of community organizations has been established and strengthened. Also, Chance to Grow and its partners have attracted the attention of a broad spectrum of the Vietnamese population through various online and offline events and media organizations. Many professionals and individuals became aware of the mental, emotional and physical health problems of the children. In addition, the important role of social workers in supporting grieving children during the COVID-19 epidemic was widely noted and recognized.



**„I want to study, learn, go to university and inspire others in my hometown.“**

DAT, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE IN GIA LAI

## **SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

## **IN GIA LAI**

We want to give young people like Dat the chance to live up to their full potential and to grow beyond themselves.





## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

This year we continued and deepened our work in Gia Lai province, 500 km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City.

As part of a university scholarship, one of our CtG members had the chance to visit our sponsorship project in Chu Se District during the summer and personally distribute our donations to the children. Through the support of our donors, we were able to provide 35 disadvantaged children with school supplies, 29 bicycles and one wheelchair. This will enable them to get to school quickly and safely in the upcoming school year and help them concentrate fully on their lessons.

### *Dat`s Story*

During this visit, we became aware of the story of Dinh Dat, a young local girl who grew up without her parents and lives with her three older sisters. Already struggling with poverty all her life, she has a dream: "I want to study, learn, go to university and inspire others in my hometown".

Despite many challenges in her everyday life, she always held on to this goal and, with the help of a scholarship, passed the last year of high school and the university entrance exam with flying colors. Nevertheless, her dream to study was at risk because of the tuition fee.

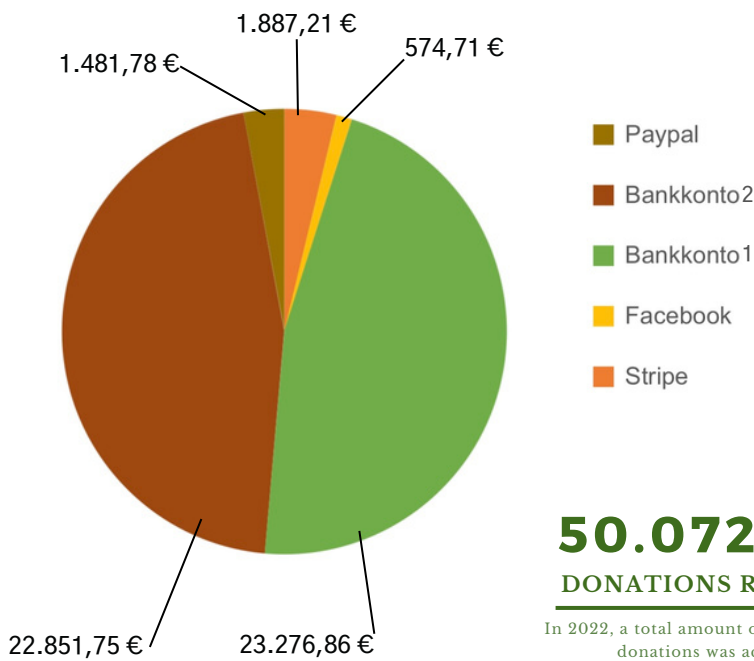
So in September 2022, we posted Dat's story on our social media with an appeal for donations to help her fund the annual fee of 14 million VND (about €583.00). Our appeal was successful and Dat is currently a student at the university in Quy Nhon, a coastal town about 4 hours drive from Chu Se. In a thank you video to Chance to Grow and all supporters, she says, "I am very lucky to have people who love me and help me unconditionally. I don't know what else to say except to thank everyone. I will try to study well so as not to disappoint anyone who supported me to be able to go to school today."

We hope to continue to give young people like Dat the chance to live up to their full potential and to grow (beyond themselves).



# 3 FINANCES & PARTNERSHIPS

## Distribution of donations among the incomes in 2022\*



## Our partners 2022



Red-Cross Vietnam

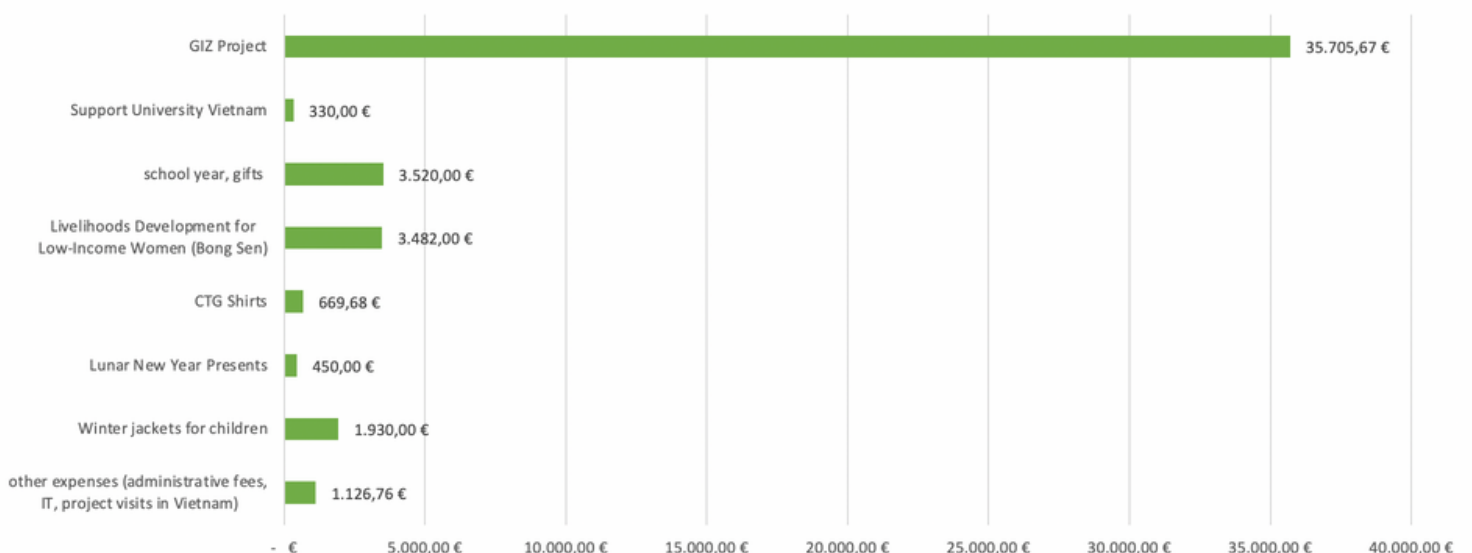
**50.072,31€**  
DONATIONS RECEIVED

In 2022, a total amount of € 50,072,31 in donations was achieved.

**47.166,27€**  
DONATIONS EXPENSES

In 2022, a total amount of € 47.166,27 in donations was spent for projects.

## Distribution of donations among projects in 2022\*



\*All figures as of 2022 refer to 02.12.2022



## 4 HIGHLIGHTS 2022

### LUCKY RICE BAGS

- Fundraiser at Phat Hue Pagoda
- over 1000 rice bags have been sold so far



### WINTER JACKETS PROJECT

- Problem: cold winter months in Thanh Hóa, many children have no warm clothes
- Goal: to create better learning conditions
- with the help of donations we were able to distribute 600 winter jackets to children

### CLEAN WATER PROJECT

- Goal: to provide an entire school with carefree access to clean water





## WINTER JACKETS PROJECT

The winter months in Thanh Hóa province are cold and many families cannot afford to buy warm jackets for their children. The new winter jackets will protect them from the cold and create better learning conditions. Studies have shown, that external factors play a role and have a big impact on

learning abilities. Many children also do not have appropriate footwear for the cold weather and walk around only in slippers. Many schools do not have heating, so the cold affects the children on their way to school and also during their lessons.



In January 2022, Chance to Grow was able to distribute warm jackets to 600 children with the help of €1,900 in donations.



## LUCKY RICE BAGS

The lucky rice campaign is an annual fundraiser at Phat Hue Pagoda in Frankfurt. This year in early August, volunteers of Chance to Grow met again at Phat Hue Pagoda to fill small cotton bags with "lucky rice". In the end, over 200 bags were created from a 40 kilogram rice bag. The special thing about it is that each rice bag was blessed by Buddhist nuns and monks.

For a donation from 5 € up we give away a lucky rice bag. With the money we support the needy children in our projects in Vietnam, e.g. with food and education.

So far, a total of over 1000 lucky rice bags have been sold, which generated significant donations. We sincerely thank everyone who supports us!





## 5 PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

### OUR VISION FOR 2023

**This year, we are focusing on three main areas to become stronger internally and have a greater impact for children externally:**

#### ***Identification and concentration on long-term programs***

with to-be selected local partners in Vietnam, towards more focussed, deeper, meaningful programs in which we accompany and support kids better, over multiple years. So that all children are optimally supported along their childhood.

#### ***Fundraising & transparency***

through reporting more impact- stories, KPIs and make our work more visible. We also approach organizations, foundations and individuals to become funding-partners, helping to expand direct and efficient impact together with us.

#### ***Community***

We always saw us as a charity, a community of like-minded people and a bridge to Vietnam. We want to strengthen this with more online- and offline meetings, support our volunteers with trainings, heart-warming events, live-calls to Vietnam and show appreciation to our wonderful people who help in their free-time to work together.

With that we hope to grow deeper, get stronger, both in our own expertise and outside in our programs and partners, so that our efforts can have lasting impacts.



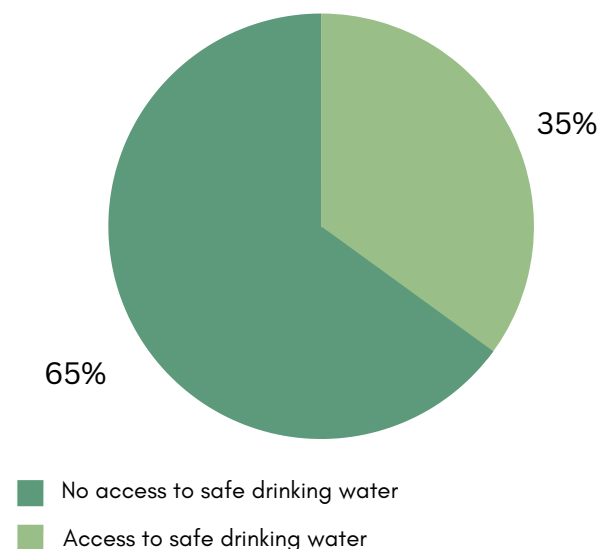
## CLEAN WATER PROJECT

One of the UN's 17 Sustainable Growth Goals is access to clean (drinking) water and sanitation, as these are essential for healthy living. Unfortunately, in Vietnam, only about one-third of the population in rural areas has access to clean water, according to VietnamPlus<sup>1</sup>. For this reason, this year's Chance to Grow Christmas and New Year campaign was about supporting a school that lacks access to water. The school is located in a mountainous area in Dien Bien province and about 65% of the students come from low-income families. We hope that with the right support, these children can achieve a better quality of life and continue their education without having to worry about the availability of clean water.



6 Million out of a total of 26 million children in Vietnam had to continue their education in schools without running water and other sanitation facilities, UNIFEC Vietnam reported in 2020.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN RURAL AREAS OF VIETNAM IN 2022





## ***Sinh Phinh School***

Sinh Phinh School was established in 2005 for Sinh Phinh commune in Tua Chua district, Dien Bien province. The commune is located in a mountainous area, making it very difficult to reach. There is no public transportation between villages and road conditions are very poor. A large part of the children attending the school come from low-income households. A good education is therefore the best way for them to escape the poverty of their families. The unfavorable living conditions in the Tua Chua district pose a great challenge for the general support and education of the children.

In the academic year 2021-2022, the school has 457 students, who are taught in 18 class rooms. 92 of the children are boarders, as their families live in remote areas. The difficult terrain and lack of infrastructure makes a daily commute to school impossible for them.







### *Inadequate water supply*

The children in Dien Bien were very much looking forward to going to school and seeing their teachers and friends again in the new school year, but the principal had bad news for them: Due to insufficient water supply, the planned 246 half-board students cannot be admitted. There is not enough water to meet the basic hygiene needs of everyone, including the 92 current boarders and the 500 regular students and staff.

The entire school relies on a single water source, which is used and shared with the school by several households on the hillside that have water tanks and fetch water from the mountain stream. However, this is not reliable and in the dry season the residents have just enough water for themselves.





## *How we help*

The school has tried several times to drill for water in the ground of the surrounding area, but without success. The best solution is to install several water tanks on the school grounds and build a water pipeline system that transports water from the nearby mountain stream. This will require an estimated 4000 meters of plastic water pipe. In addition, a cement water tank with a capacity of 50 m<sup>3</sup> or five steel water tanks with a capacity of 10 m<sup>3</sup> each are to be installed on the school grounds. We have a local partner organization with experienced engineers who will do their best to realize this project for the school. Of course, non-profit.

The Chance to Grow team will review each process, work closely with the local partner (Happy bridges architects) and the school. Transparency and cost control as well as efficiency are crucial for us here.

With this project we help a whole school. We believe that the effort is worth it and hope that soon hundreds of children will have access to water and will be able to learn, live and above all stay in school.





## *Community*

This year, our community team has made sure that our CtG community grows together even more. Be it on a structural, organizational as well as on a personal level. In 2022, there were several offline events in Germany and Vietnam (partly with our partner organizations), several global calls as well as online (gaming) events to connect our members around the world. In addition to strengthening our already existing community, we have also been able to inspire many new people with our mission, who enrich and advance our concrete projects, but also all other members, with their versatile expertise. So this year we want to bring our Chance to Grow community, all our members and friends, even more opportunities to share and grow with each other. Stay tuned!

Feel free to contact us on our social media, we look forward to hearing from you:



We are thankful to have our partners and invite you to join our course with your engagement and interest...



## VISION 2023

„What makes this journey together so exciting right now is the great potential of Chance to Grow e.V. as a charity which is supporting children all around fundamental needs and opening chances in life.“

PHILIPP SCHWAB, CHAIRMAN OF CHANCE TO GROW