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# Annual Report

CHANCE TO GROW

December 1, 2020 - November 30, 2021





## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear reader,

this is our first Annual Report to say thank you for your support, interest and being with us in so many ways. **Thanks to you**, our members, partners and donors, Chance to Grow today is a way stronger and much more capable and able organization to help children in Vietnam to live a more self-determined life. All of our efforts go towards this goal, and due to this goal, we attained a great feeling of fulfilment and determination, and hopefully, you will share this feeling while reading through this report.

So much has changed and been achieved in our organization this year: more teams, more members, a higher interest in the community, higher information exchange and highly increased focus on our work. There is a lot more still to come and underway. Our goals are an important asset we can see right now in Vietnam due to the Covid pandemic and in rural areas where seemingly natural things such as food, basic education and encouragement can make a world of difference to a young life and the whole community.

This is why , so many individuals from various countries and backgrounds, came together in CtG: to do good, sustainably and meaningfully. In order to realize this, we develop as a triad of being a community of like-minded individuals, a charity and bridge to Vietnam.

Personally, it is my deep satisfaction and happiness to give my support to people on their personal journey in life, and I realize with tremendous gratitude that, for many of us too, CtG has become such a place to grow.

Thank you.

Let's keep on going together!

Philipp Schwab,  
Chairman of Chance to Grow





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## 5

### PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR





“

Many children have the potential to shape their lives in a positive way. But in emergency situations, they can't. We give them a **C H A N C E.**

*Thay, Founder*



# 1 ABOUT US

*How it all began and where we want to go...*

## OUR NORTHSTAR

We want to support children and women in Vietnam to lead a self-determined life by providing food, security, and education. Therefore we support basic needs such as security and education first. In the future, we want to support more advanced needs, such as higher education and mental encouragement as well as companionship. In this way, we would like to give them a „chance to grow“.

## THE BEGINNING

Chance to Grow e.V. is a registered non-profit association based in Frankfurt am Main. The association exists since 2010 and, thanks to our donors, has been able to give vital help and hope to children in Vietnam in numerous campaigns. We started with three volunteers and have been growing ever since.





## OUR THREE COLUMNS



### **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 employees, employers, retirees, students, Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, women, and men of all ages and from different countries. In short: people who want to do something meaningful for others in addition to their everyday lives.

### **Bridge to Vietnam**

We are a bridge to Vietnam. We offer a kind of platform and exchange point for those who want this connection. Be it because of their own origin or interest in the country.



## *How we help and stay tuned*

### TRANSPARENCY

We work with several partner organizations in Vietnam, e.g. a Buddhist organization led by a nun, which gives us suggestions for concrete aid measures, for example after natural disasters.

We review these and decide on projects that are worthy of support. Our four-person finance team supports our transparency and oversight.

Both the disbursement and the implementation are personally supervised by local staff and we check the results. We check, for example, whether a sponsored child later goes to school.

All disbursements are confirmed by at least two people. In addition, we report to the German tax office and our donors in detail about the use of funds. Our aim is to use 100% of private donations for the projects – without operating costs, so we all work voluntarily. Costs with partners are usually limited to 20%, which is very little in Vietnam.



We accompany the sponsored children and see to it that we can help in the long term and sustainably. Money alone does not change anything. Much more we support so that children can feel safe, have enough to eat and receive education, also operations and materials to lead as good a self-determined life as possible.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Cost control and no unnecessary expenses. We report very extensively and detailed on our social media channels about our projects.
- No unnecessary administrative costs
- Double certainty with every booking: Everything is controlled and reported.



## 2 OUR PROGRAMS

Our two main programs are the **microcredit program** for women and the **sponsorship program**, which enables children from poor backgrounds to go to school. In this way, we support the UN Sustainable Development Goals of providing access to education and contribute to gender equality.

### ***Microcredits***

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

Together with our partner, Bong Sen, we aim to support single mothers in Vietnam living in poverty. With the microcredit program, we give them a chance to stand on their own feet.

Our program includes an interest-free loan that is paid out in monthly checks, health insurance and training to provide the women with the knowledge they need. The focus of the training is on agriculture and

the proper handling of their finances. This knowledge will help the women cultivating their fields, which will enable them to earn their living and escape poverty.

The goal of our program is to help single mothers and women lead self-determined lives while giving their children the opportunity to attend school.

#### **What is the composition of the program and what has been achieved so far?**

In total, one household received a credit of 5,875 euros, which was provided to them within the 12-month term. The cost of health insurance was 2,405 euros per household.

So far, about 50 households have been included in our program. Through our help, all households were able to fully pay off their debts on time.



### *Microcredits*

The contracts with the respective households expired in September and new contracts have already been concluded.

### **What are the next steps?**

Our partners from Bong Sen are trying to find more households that would be willing to participate in the program. Our task is to find further strategies to increase and support the budget for the project.

### ***Sponsorship Program***

In the sponsorship project we cooperate with the Youth Union and the Department of Education in Ga Lai Province to give children the chance to complete a school education.

Every child who is of school age qualifies for the project and is supported by us and the sponsors until the age of 18.





## *Sponsorship Program*

### **What is the composition of the program and what has been achieved so far?**

For the project, each child gets 15€, monthly paid by sponsors and our donations. From this, 2€ goes to administrative costs and 13€ is used for school fees, food and other necessities as well as financial support for the families if needed.

With the help of our organization, contact between the child and the sponsors is made possible. This is done in the form of e-mails, newsletters, or through exchanges of letters.

### **What are the next steps?**

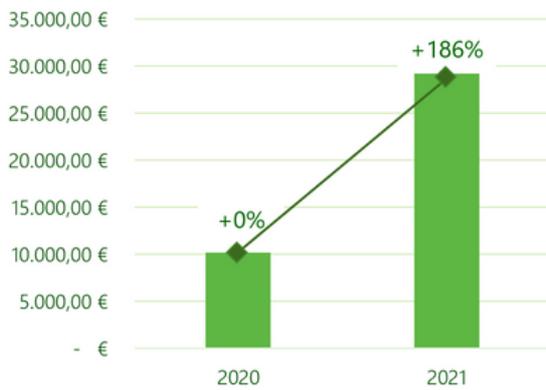
For the following year, we plan to find more regular sponsors, as well as start more fundraisers to increase our budget for the project so that each child receives enough supplies over the years. Other goals also include adding more children to the project and possibly expanding our reach.





# 3 Finances & Partnerships

## Donation Expenses in Comparison\*



## Our Partners



Red-Cross Vietnam



Quang Tri Association for Promoting Education



Centrum für internationale Migration und Entwicklung eine Arbeitsgemeinschaft aus glz und

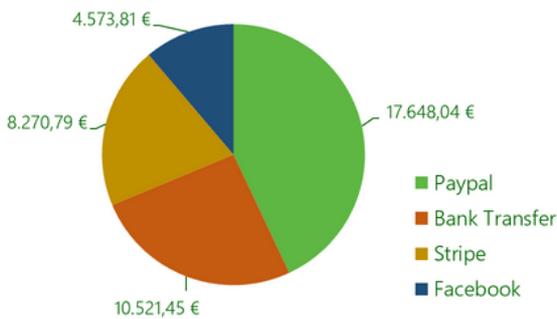


HO CHI MINH CITY OPEN UNIVERSITY



THE SOCIAL CHANGEMAKERS

## Distribution of Donations to Channels in 2021\*



# +186%

INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT DONATED

In total, we were able to increase our donation spending by 186%. The remaining donations will be distributed among the projects next year.

# 41.000€

DONATION INCOME

A total of 240 individual donations were collected. This resulted in a total donation income of 41.000€.

## Distribution of Donations to Projects in 2021\*



\*All figures from 2021 onwards refer to 29.11.2021



## 2021 AT A GLANCE

**50** families supported  
with microcredits  
& health insurances



**1160**  
trees were  
planted

**200**  jackets for children in Quang Binh  
for Tet (lunar new year)

**6500 €**  
for covid patients

**1755 kg**  
of rice for

**117**  families



**5** bicycles were  
purchased  
for five students



**35** scholarships  
for the school  
year 2021-2022 



## 4 HIGHLIGHTS 2021

### Projects during Vietnamese Lunar New Year "Tết"

#### *Tết Gifts in Quang Binh (Jan. 16 and 17)*

This is a personal project of our CtG member Ella, for which she collected donations on her birthday in her circle of friends and at CtG. Chance To Grow supported her with logistics and transport.



The supported children belong to the Bru community – an ethnic minority living in the border area between Vietnam and Laos. The nearest town is 90 km away and their village is very remote.

Due to the remote location, access to higher education is non-existent, clean water is limited and infrastructure is barely developed. In addition, the winter months in the mountains are very cold. So we were able to support them with warm clothes. 200 jackets were distributed to 200 children from this community.

This was Ella's third trip as Chance To Grow's project manager to Quang Binh province.

# 200



**jackets for children in Quang Binh  
for Tet (lunar new year)**



## *Tết Gifts in Gia Lai (Jan. 30 and 31)*

Gia Lai is a highland province, 500 km northeast of Ho Chi Minh. In Chu Se district – an area of 1,310 km<sup>2</sup> – 136,464 people from different ethnic groups such as Gia Rai, Ba Na, and Kinh live together. 50% of the population lives from simple agriculture. (CtG is running a scholarship program here to support 70 children from very disadvantaged families so they can continue to go to school and get a higher education).

On the occasion of Tet Festival, Chance To Grow distributed 1755 kg of rice to 117 families and 5 bicycles to 5 students, wishing them and their families a happy Tet Festival!

**5** bicycles were purchased for five students



**1755 kg**

of rice for

**117** families



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## **Project „Flood Resistant Homes“**

In the project “Flood Resistance Homes”, we try to build or optimize houses against any kind of natural disaster or other catastrophes resulting from climate changes. As a result of this, in the case of flooding, houses should dislocate themselves without taking any damage.

Up until now, with the help of our partner, the [Song Foundation](#), we could reinforce three houses against natural disasters. Our focus lies in the Nam Tra My district, Quang Nam province, Bac Tra My province and Quang Nam province.



## Project „Forest Symphony“

The Forest Symphony project focuses on the Ninh Thuan region, where we aim to increase forest density through new plantings. Diverse tree species are planted for this purpose on the rocky mountains of the region to maximize the functions of forests in protecting watersheds, securing freshwater sources for daily life and sustainable socio-economic development. So far, with the help from Song Foundation, we have been able to plant over 1,160 new trees.

### Why in the Ninh Thuan region?

Ninh Thuan province is located in the southernmost region of central Vietnam. Due to its geographical location and topography, Ninh Thuan is frequently affected by climate change and its extreme natural disasters such as drought, desertification, dry heat, flash floods. In 2020 alone, this caused damages of VND 73,951 million.

### Goal of the “Forest Symphony” project

The main goal of the project and the top priority of the authorities is to limit the impact of climate change in Ninh Thuan region. In addition, we want to create a higher awareness of the importance of the forest and its sustainable development as well as the consequences of climate change and actively involve the community in forest reforestation. This will lead to job creation as well as higher income for those who depend on the forest.

At the same time, the locally typical and unique species of Vietnam’s arid regions will be preserved.



# 1160

trees were planted



## Baby Lam

In spring we started a big fundraising campaign to help Baby Lam and her family. The money was for an urgently needed heart surgery.

To cover all costs and to help the family to get a stable income, a total of 2.215 € was needed. Together with all of you, we even exceeded our goal and raised 4.585,19 €. We have therefore decided to share the surplus among other needy families from our microcredit program.



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## COVID Action

In the summer, the Corona crisis and the newly emerged Delta variant hit Vietnam hard, overwhelming the country with a fourth wave.

With your support we were able to raise over 6,500€ and send it to our partner organization Song Foundation. With their "Stay Strong Vietnam" campaign, the donations were used to buy N95 masks, medical gloves and machines like the HFNC.

**6.500 €**



**DONATIONS**

were used for medical equipment.





## Change of Management Board

There have also been some changes within our membership.

After 8 years as a Chance to Grow Member, including 3 years on the board, Si Anh has stepped down as second chair and Kim Mai is taking his place as his successor.

With that in mind, we sincerely thank Si Anh for his valuable contributions during his time at Chance to Grow. As a member and project team lead for many years, he has driven many things forward. During his time on the board, he actively conceptualized the four main teams. He has also maintained communication with our partner organizations in Vietnam, including Bong Sen, the vietnamese Red Cross and the Song Foundation. We also owe many team members to him.



**SI ANH NGUYEN**

Former Chairman



**PHILIPP SCHWAB**

Chairman



**KIM MAI**

Chairwoman



Currently, he continues to advise the project team on communication with partners in Vietnam and project-related activities. He also accompanies the registration for Chance to Grow in Vietnam as a recognized NGO.

We wish Si Anh all the best for the future and Kim much success in her new position!

## **New Treasurer**

Furthermore, we welcome our new treasurer Hong-Mai. For a few months, she brings an overview of all financial transactions, supports our internal teams in obtaining information about finances, and also issues the donation receipts to our donors.

Thanks also to Denis, Minh and Tu for their willingness to support the new finance team. Together we can improve our transparency and work and report with a better financial overview.



**HONG-MAI NGO**



## Growing Donor Base

Last but not least, a large part of our success is due to our helpers, donors and partner organizations, without whom none of this would be possible! This year in particular, we were able to significantly increase the number of our donors. Therefore we say...



A big **THANK YOU!** from the entire Chance to Grow team to the generosity of our friends and supporters around the world. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and investment in our work change lives.

### +186%

#### INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT DONATED

In total, we were able to increase our donation spending by 186%. The remaining donations will be distributed among the projects next year.

### 41.000€

#### DONATION INCOME

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## 5 OUR PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

### **Our Plans for 2022**

#### ***Transparency***

In 2022, we plan to further improve our communication and structure. This means: more reports, detailed presentation of our work and our projects to donors, media and our members. The newsletter will be sent out at least once a quarter and this Annual Report will provide information about our work. For us, the focus is clearly on the following: We are all volunteers, but the cooperation should become better and better and successes should be visible more quickly.

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#### ***Focus***

Instead of continuing to pursue 5 different projects, we are returning to our original focus: children. Specifically, this means finding more donors for the sponsorship program and aligning future projects with this goal and support them long term. In this way, we want to expand our own expertise and help where we can have the greatest possible impact. To this end, we will visit the children of our sponsorship program in 2022 when it will be possible as planned. At Chance to Grow, we hold the vision that children are our future and we want to promote this for a better future of Vietnam.



## ***Community***

Within the organization, there has been a keen interest in community, more information sharing, and a greater focus on building an online community. With the help of our new community team, who did a wonderful job organizing games and events in 2021, we want to continue to build our online as well as offline community, arrange face-to-face meetings, and connect digitally via Discord. Our goal is not only to volunteer, but to build a community where people can grow, share, and develop together. Anyone or everyone interested can follow us on social media and Discord to become part of our community.

If you want to get in touch with us, you can do so with one click on one of the following ways:

