



Photo by Réhahn Photography

Bicycle Support Programme - Vietnam Annual Report 2015



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The mission of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation is to give all children their childhood by providing the necessary protection, care and education, for them to sleep in peace, surrounded by love. Our Foundation is committed to helping alleviate child poverty in Vietnam and Mongolia and giving all children the right to a happy and safe childhood.

One person **CAN** make a difference. **YOU** can make a difference.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Bicycle Support Programme.

Thank you to all individual donors including Marcus Evan, Mariam Kalam, Christiane Poirier, Mary and Martyn Daniels, Sue and Paul Lines and friends.

We are grateful to be associated with the following organizations/foundations who support the Bicycle Support Programme:

Liquidnet Asia

St Paul's Secondary School, Monasterevin, Co Kildare, Ireland

Simon Cox & Llongsteppers Cycling Club

Jacky Andrews Memorial Fund.

By giving a bicycle to some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children we work with, you are not just giving them a mode of transport but changing the lives of these children and their families. Thank you for giving children the opportunity to go to and stay in school and helping their families break the cycle of poverty.

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Jacky Andrew's husband Malcolm and youngest daughter Ruth, who in memory of Jacky's love for children, set up a memorial in her name to help children from impoverished backgrounds. Jacky passed away tragically just six months before this photo was taken. The fund not only provided 30 deserving children with new bicycles and helmets, it also brought Jacky's family a real sense of purpose and they were delighted to have been able to find a way of remembering their remarkable mother. The family intend to continue raising money for this programme.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BSP	Bicycle Support Programme
CNCF	Christina Noble Children's Foundation
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
ESP	Education Scholarship Programme
GSO	General Statistics Office
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
USD	US Dollar
VHLSS	Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey



Our children receive high quality, branded bicycles that are safe, durable and come with a helmet and a storage basket.

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Established	2004
Location	Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, Ben Tre, Long An
Objectives	By providing children with bicycles, to enable them to have <u>better educational outcomes</u> (by increasing access to school, school attendance and reducing dropout rates) ; to <u>improve child safety</u> during the commute to and from schools ; and to have <u>better economic outcomes</u> (by providing livelihood opportunities to children and their families and reducing their transport costs).
Programme Components	Providing bicycle kits (bicycle and safety helmet) to the children ; providing training on road safety to those who receive the bicycles
Beneficiaries	Poor and disadvantaged children who have no means of transport to get to school. Some of these children are beneficiaries of CNCF Programmes such as CAP, MAP, ESP , Sunshine School and other disadvantaged and/or street children in the community (in HCMC and the neighbouring provinces)
Local Partners	Provincial local partners including DOLISA
CNCF Involvement	Fully responsible for funding, programme management, monitoring and evaluation.
CNCF Staff	Ms. Son Thu Trinh, Director of Operations, CNCF Vietnam and Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Quyen, Programme Manager of the Bicycle Support Programme, CNCF
Monitoring and Evaluation	As CNCF is directly responsible for the funding and programme management, regular monitoring and evaluation activities are conducted by the Programme Coordinator. The Programme Coordinator identifies children most in need of a bicycle and then follows up with all recipients (after a year) to evaluate the impact on the child and the family as well as to review the condition of the bicycle and helmet. Weekly internal meetings are conducted for CNCF staff to discuss programme related issues and updates. 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.
2015 Actual Costs	As this is a supply driven programme, the budgets and number of bicycles distributed are dependent on funds received. In 2015 this was USD 18,120 (i.e. USD 120/ bicycle kit for 151 bicycle kits)
Future Plans	To increase the number of bicycle kits donated to disadvantaged children. To expand the programme to remote rural provinces and hard-to-reach communes.
Reporting Period	January-December 2015

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PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The Bicycle Support Programme was started in 2004 to provide bicycles to children whose families face financial difficulties. Studies have shown that providing transportation can dramatically increase the income for families in developing countries who live outside of urban areas. Without transportation, many children living in these rural villages cannot go to school.

Commonly schools are located too far away for children to walk and they do not have the means to pay for public transport. According to the Vietnam Household Living Standard Survey (VHLSS), 2010, 37% of primary school students go to school on foot. For those who have to walk, the distance and the extreme elements (scorching sun in the dry season or pouring rain in the rainy season) often result in them arriving late for class or worse still being forced to drop out of school altogether. The VHLSS revealed that 11.4% of children communes having children of lower secondary school age and 20.2% of communes having children of upper secondary school age who dropped out or did not attend school, cited the school being too far away as the reason for dropout.

The average distance to school from hamlet without any school, to the school where majority of hamlet's children attend, by types of school (distance in kilometres)

Source: VHLSS 2010, GSO

Primary school	2.5 kms.
Lower Secondary School	2.8 kms.
Upper Secondary School	6.7 kms.
Combined primary and lower secondary school	4.9 kms.
Combined lower and Upper secondary school	8.1 kms.



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1638 bicycle kits have been provided by our Bicycle Support Programme since 2004

Bicycle Kit

- Bicycle**
High quality branded bicycle
Brand: Martin 107
- Helmet**
Safety helmet
Brand: Protec
- Training**
Road safety training for every child (and at least one parent/guardian)

Mobility - Opportunity - Economic Development

For USD 130, one bicycle really can make a world of a difference.

Distance becomes an important factor in the cost of education for children in remote communes.¹ This contributes to a cycle of poverty and prevents children using education as a way to break this cycle. The bicycle, with its low-cost /high benefit ratio, is one of the best means to eliminate poverty. The World Bank has identified non-motorised transport or NMT (including bicycles) as a key element in poverty elimination. In its paper 'Poverty Reduction and Social Assessments', the Bank states that NMT is a powerful tool for targeting and reaching the poor. It has direct impacts on the personal welfare of travellers by increasing accessibility and making their daily trips to work, school, health facilities or recreational facilities easier and more comfortable. The impact of providing transport to the poor is profound. ² Through our work with children and their families, our Foundation has found this to be true. A bicycle becomes a means of transport not only for the child but also for the whole family: the child uses it for travelling to and from school, as do their siblings whereas the parents may use it as a way of carrying out daily tasks such as going to the market. The parents save money as they no longer have to pay for their children's bus fares. But it is also much more; the bicycle becomes a tool for socially mobilising the whole family. Providing children with transport enables their educational development in the belief that they will eventually be able to break the cycle of poverty, not only for themselves but for their whole family. According to World Health Organization statistics, road traffic accidents are the leading cause of death in those aged 15-29 years old in Vietnam and therefore the Bicycle Support Programme uses only high quality, branded bicycles and Protec safety helmets.³ Furthermore, an important component of the programme is training the children on road safety.

For USD 130⁴, one bicycle really can make the world of difference for a poor child and their family.

¹ A Working Paper: Why Children in Vietnam Dropout and What They Do After That: Le Thuc Duc and Tran Ngo Minh Tam http://www.younglives.org.uk/publications/WP/why-children-in-vietnam-drop-out-of-school/yl-wp102-lethucduc_why-do-children-leave-school-early

² Poverty Reduction and Social Assessments, World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/transport/roads/pov&sa.htm>

³ Protec is a 100% American invested enterprise owned by AIP Foundation, a US 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that works in promoting road safety.

⁴ In 2015, a bicycle kit cost USD120. Since the beginning of 2016, this has changed to USD130 because the suppliers of the bicycle kits increased their costs.

"I am very happy with my new bike. I can ride to school independently and my mother has more time to work. My new bike is really helpful."

- Sang (name changed),
11 years old, who
received a bicycle through
the BSP in 2015



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THE BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME IMPACTS WHOSE LIVES

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Poor and disadvantaged children who have no means of transport to get to school.

These children can be:

- Beneficiaries of other CNCF projects (these children are given priority)
- Other disadvantaged children from the community (CNCF's local partners refer some of these children to the BSP)

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Other family members who benefit directly or indirectly from the bicycle

- Children's family /relatives who take children to school
- Siblings who also use the bicycle
- Other family members who use the bicycle



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the Bicycle Support Programme:

- A child needs to live at least 2 kilometres from her/his school
- The family must demonstrate financial difficulties
- The child is identified as at risk of dropping out of school
- The child must be over 8 years old

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OUR YEAR

2015 Highlights

The number of bicycles distributed increased very slightly compared to last year (151 bicycles distributed in 2015 and 149 bicycles distributed in 2014). This is a supply driven programme and the number of bicycle kits we are able to distribute is dependent on funds received. The number of bicycle kits distributed in 2015 demonstrates the on-going commitment by donors and the Foundation to helping to make changes in the lives of disadvantaged children in Vietnam.

- This year almost as many children from the local community (72 children) were selected to receive bicycle kits as were children from other CNCF programmes (79 children).
- A slightly higher number of bicycles were given to children in rural provinces (80) than in Ho Chi Minh City (71).
- More corporate donors supported the BSP this year compared to the previous years.



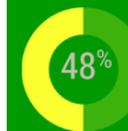
Road Safety training on one of our bicycle distribution days.

BICYCLE SUPPORT PROGRAMME



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

151 bicycle kits provided to children from poor families, who were at risk of dropping out of school



children in the local community



children who are already a part of the CNCF community

600+ direct and indirect beneficiaries



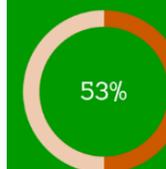
151

direct beneficiaries- children who received the bicycle kits

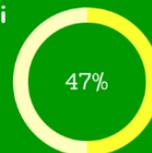


450+

indirect beneficiaries- families of children who received the bicycle kits



children in rural communes in provinces Dong Nai Ben Tre Long An



children in HCMC

10 bicycle distribution days



Distribution and road safety training



Happy children cycle home on their shiny, new bicycles

Bicycle distribution in the provinces with our local partners DOLISA.



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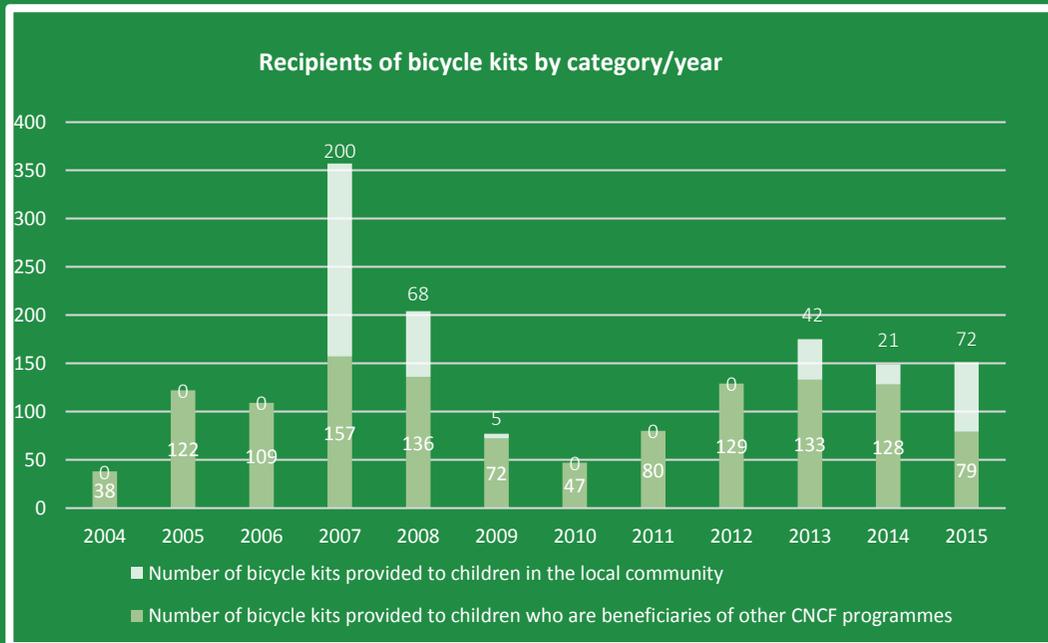
Programme Activities

In 2015, 151 bicycles kits were distributed. Of these:

- 72 bicycles kits were given to children from the local community who were identified as being eligible to be a beneficiary of the BSP
- 79 bicycles were given to children who are already a part of other CNCF programmes and were identified as being eligible to be a beneficiary of the BSP
 - o CNCF Child Sponsorship Programme: 60
 - o CNCF Education Scholarship Programme: 8
 - o CNCF Sunshine School: 6
 - o CNCF Sunshine Homes: 5

Due to changes in supplier costs, the cost of a bicycle kit has fluctuated over the past three years. A kit was USD 120 in 2015. A kit includes the cost of providing the bicycle, helmet, a safety demonstration and a 4% charge to cover our total administration costs which includes:

- Home/ family visits to identify children who are most in need (based on the eligibility criteria of the BSP)
- Bicycle distribution (in rural provinces)
- Follow-up with recipients after one year to review the condition of the bicycle and helmet as well as to see the impact of the bicycle kit on the family.



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The Programme Coordinator's role is to identify children most in need of a bicycle to then follow up with all recipients after one year to evaluate the impact on the child and the family as well as to review the condition of the bicycle and helmet. We found the majority of the bicycles and helmets were in good condition.

In all evaluated cases in 2015, the children stated that the bicycle was used by them to travel to and from school and for other daily activities. The children's families also used them for carrying out daily tasks (grocery shopping, taking children to school, etc.). The children were delighted to have a means of transport that enabled them to participate in extra-curricular activities at their schools.

In 2015, there were 10 Bicycle Distribution Days in total, which took place in HCMC, Dong Nai, Ben Tre and Long An. Some of our donors also participated on Bicycle Distribution Days. Prior to receiving a bicycle kit each child and at least one parent are required to attend a 'Safety on the Road' talk, which takes place on the Bicycle Distribution Days.

There remains a high need for bicycles for CNCF children and other children living in poor communities. Our waiting list currently stands at 100 children whom we have identified as meeting the criteria for a bicycle kit pending donations. We hope to be able to provide all these children with bicycles in the near future.



Road safety training during our Bicycle Distribution Day



One of our staff teaches a girl how to strap on her helmet during a Bicycle Distribution Day



The whole family benefits when a child receives a bicycle through our Bicycle Support Programme.



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OUR STORIES

Seventeen year old Chi (name changed to protect identity) is in Grade 10 and goes to a rural school in Tan Phu District, Dong Nai Province. The closest high school to her house is 5 kilometres away. An excellent student and eager to get a good education, Chi would walk 10 kilometres to school and back every day. Sometimes, if she was lucky, a friend would give her a lift. However most days she walked which would take her an hour each way. This journey to school and back was not an easy one for Chi as not only did she have homework to complete when she got home but she also had to take care of her parents.

Chi's family live below the poverty line primarily because her parents are unable to earn a living. Her father suffers from diabetes, arthritis and chronic stomach problems. Her mother has lost her sight in one eye. Neither of them are able to find much work to earn a living. The responsibility of helping the family with household chores falls on Chi and her siblings. With family responsibilities as well as school, Chi was on the brink of having to give up her dream of getting a good education because she simply did not have enough time to go to school and care for her family.

It is hard to believe that something as simple as a bicycle could mean the difference between going to school and dropping out, but in Chi's case this is exactly what it meant. Now with a new bicycle and helmet that she received from the Foundation, she not only has a means of transport for herself and her brother but also a means of being able to stay in school. A proper education will be key to Chi and her siblings in breaking the poverty cycle.



Chi, 17, at school. With this bicycle, she can now finish her schooling.

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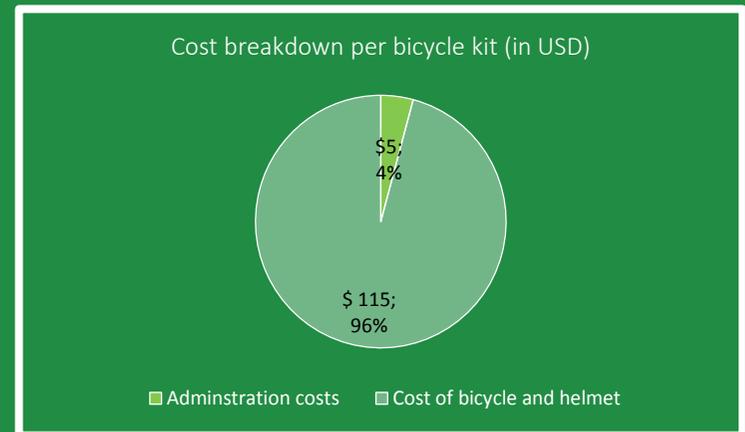
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As this is a supply driven programme, the budgets and number of bicycles distributed are dependent on funds received. In 2015 this was USD 18,120 (i.e. USD 120/ bicycle kit for 151 bicycle kits).

The direct costs of the bicycle kits include the cost of the bicycle and safety helmet. The administration cost includes the transportation of bicycles to the provinces, bicycle distribution days, road safety awareness training and monitoring visits to the homes of children in the programme as well as visits to check eligibility criteria of the children before they are given bicycle kits.

The project is funded by individual donors, corporate donors and institutional donors.

Our 2015 audits are currently pending and will be available for distribution in Quarter 4 of 2016.



It is only because of the generosity of all our sponsors and donors, that we are able to continue our work with some of Vietnam's most vulnerable children. Thank you for helping us to give children back their childhood.



Photo by Réhahn Photography

"Childhood is the foundation of life. Help us make it a good one." – Christina Noble

Each of us is only one person. But by joining all the ones together, we can accomplish greatness.

If you or your organisation are interested in supporting us in 2016/2017 please contact our Foundation. It is only through the kind generosity of others that we are able to continue our work with some of the world's most vulnerable children.

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