

# Our Approach

Save the Children operates under core working principles which include:

- **Child participation:** Children are rights holders and social actors who can effectively participate in programmes and contribute to decision making that concerns them.
- **Partnership:** Save the Children works through partnerships with Government and civil society organisations, including children's groups. We commit to long-term and mutual partnerships at all levels.
- **Strengthening Government's accountability:** Save the Children supports and constantly urges the Government at different levels on their role as the prime duty bearer in fulfilling the rights of the child.
- **Grassroots interventions combined with policy advocacy:** Save the Children develops and implements evidenced-based best practices and demonstrated working models at the grassroots level to bring positive impact to the lives of children. At the same time, we engage in policy advocacy to ensure that grassroots experiences are reflected in relevant policies and laws of the Government, which will bring long-term impact to more children in Vietnam.

# Our Staff

Save the Children in Vietnam is a team of more than 120 staff with high commitment to working with children, communities, and other partners towards the fulfillment of children's rights. Our team includes national and expatriate professionals who bring both local expertise and international experience to programmes in Vietnam.



**Save the Children**

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Save the Children is the world's largest independent organisation for children, making a difference in children's lives around the world.



**Save the Children**

# Our Mission

Save the Children fights for children's rights.  
We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

# Our Vision

Save the Children works for:  
a world which respects and values each child  
a world which listens to children and learns  
a world where all children have hope and opportunity



# What Sets Us Apart

From emergency relief to long-term development, Save the Children helps children to achieve a happy, healthy, and secure childhood and adolescence. Save the Children listens to children, involves children, and ensures their views are taken into account. Save the Children secures and protects children's rights - to food, shelter, health care, education, and freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation.



Since the 1990s, four Save the Children organisations established representative offices in Vietnam: Japan, Sweden, UK, and USA. While each organisation maintained separate operations during this period, the four collaborated together on strategic joint efforts, including education programming, child rights promotion, and emergency interventions.

In 2009, Save the Children organisations officially unified operations to achieve more

for children through greater leveraging of experience, technical expertise and resources. Save the Children currently works in over 20 provinces and at the national level, with a representative office in Hanoi and two regional offices in Quang Tri province and Ho Chi Minh City. Through strong partnerships, Save the Children mobilises communities, builds capacity, provides technical assistance, and engages in evidence-based advocacy.



## Health and Nutrition

Save the Children is supporting Government and local partners to improve the impact and quality of services for maternal and newborn care, child health, and nutrition. Our health and nutrition portfolio has expanded from small projects on pregnancy care and nutrition to a comprehensive health programme covering the lifespan of women and children. Moreover, Save the Children collaborates closely with central government and local partners to create supportive policies and guidance, as well as advocates for the scaling-up of effective models throughout Vietnam. Focus Areas:

- Maternal and newborn care
- Maternal and child nutrition
- Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV
- Policy advocacy

## HIV/AIDS and Youth Health

Save the Children is currently focusing HIV prevention efforts in major cities, such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and specific provinces due to the geographically localised nature of the HIV epidemic in Vietnam. Our HIV prevention projects help students and young men between 15-24 in vocational schools, universities, and out-of-school settings. The programme also supports care and support for migrant children, street children, and children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Save the Children is also collaborating with the Ministry of Education and Training to develop an HIV prevention education curriculum for secondary schools, which is intended for nationwide scale-up. Focus Areas:

- Community and home-based care and support for children infected and affected by HIV
- Prevention for young people through increasing access to quality information, services, and a more supportive environment
- Policy advocacy

## Education

Save the Children is collaborating with Government and local education systems to address the specific needs of the most disadvantaged children, including ethnic minority children and children with disabilities. Our education projects focus on early childhood development and quality inclusive education. In particular, our interventions support improvements in the quality of education services through piloting models on contextualised learning, bilingual education, and child friendly learning environments in ethnic areas - and through building the capacity of teachers and education managers to deliver these services. A strong advocacy component on child-friendly and inclusive education is aimed to influence key policy makers and implementers.

Focus Areas:

- Increased access to education for ethnic minority children and children with disabilities
- Improved quality of education in preschools and primary schools
- Policy advocacy

## Child Protection

Save the Children is piloting a model of a community-based child protection system which aims to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This is based on our work on issues such as violence against children, corporal punishment against children, child trafficking, sexual exploitation, juvenile justice, and child migration. The system protects all children at project areas and prioritises the most vulnerable children groups. It uses child rights programming as the main tool to design and implement activities. The pilot work at community and district level is combined with a well-prepared advocacy plan to ensure that the model will be adopted by provincial governments and recognised at national level through the development of the National Strategy of Child Protection of Vietnam 2010-2020. Focus Areas:

- Protecting children from violence, abuse exploitation and neglect
- Intervention and support to children who experience violence, abuse exploitation and neglect
- Policy advocacy



## Emergency

Save the Children is involving children through various participatory and active methodologies to contribute meaningfully to their communities' disaster preparedness and response. Children are active participants of community initiatives and play key roles in raising awareness, targeting vulnerable community members, and being able to self-protect when disasters occur. This work supports community preparedness and response issues in target at-risk communities in a sustainable way. In addition, we have become an increasingly important player in the area of emergency response through collaboration with Government authorities and other INGOs. Focus Areas:

- Community-based disaster risks reduction
- Emergency relief and recovery

## Child Rights Agenda

Save the Children is working to establish an enabling environment for child rights, where children can exercise their rights and reach their highest development potential. This sector addresses household economic issues, as well as decision making and implementation processes affecting children. Our diversified work includes improving household economic security through sustainable access to business development services and formal employment, promoting child rights through mainstreaming the Convention on the Right of the Child training into formal institutions and civil society organisations, and enhancing child-oriented policies through identifying and communicating the underlying causes of childhood poverty. Focus Areas:

- Livelihoods
- Governance and civil society
- Poverty alleviation research
- Multi-dimensional child development