



# Annual REPORT 2024

## Project Locations



Saigonchildren is a UK-registered charity that is committed to removing barriers to education for the most disadvantaged children and young people across Vietnam.



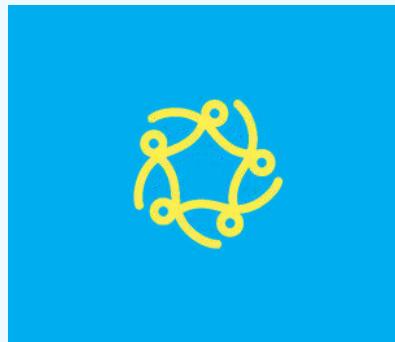


**47,308**  
Scholarships  
awarded



**27,006**  
Student enrolments on  
English, IT, other skills  
and vocational training

Since  
**1992**



**236**  
Schools built



**109**  
Projects in building in  
professional capacity in  
special needs education

**Dear friend**



As you read this report, I hope you feel proud and inspired. Every page is filled with the incredible impact you have made possible, yet these stories and achievements are just a glimpse of the thousands of lives transformed each year through your generosity.

2024 was a year of remarkable progress and resilience for Saigon Children's Charity. Together, we helped over 7,000 children through our education programmes and opened doors to brighter, more secure futures for Vietnam's most vulnerable young people.

Your support is a lifeline:

- For every child who graduates from our university scholarship programme, their average salary will be around four times their family's previous income.
- For every child with autism who receives expert early intervention, new worlds of play, communication and friendship become possible, ensuring they develop and thrive.
- For every child who studies in a school we have built, they will miss fewer days with sickness, and be safer, happier, and more motivated to learn.

Vietnam is developing rapidly, but not everyone has the same opportunities to succeed. While a rising tide may lift all boats, some boats need extra care to stay afloat.

Our education programmes, scholarships and community resilience projects ensure that no child is left behind simply because of the challenges they faced from birth. Every achievement in this report reflects our shared belief, that every child deserves the chance to dream, to learn, and to thrive.

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the determination of the children we serve and by your passion to stand with us against inequality and unfairness. Together, we are building a brighter, more hopeful future for Vietnam's children.

With sincere thanks,

**Damien Roberts**  
**Executive Director of saigonchildren**



# 7,000+ lives transformed through *education* in 2024

Saigonchildren supports underprivileged children across Vietnam through four key programmes: scholarships, school building, vocational training, and special needs education, all contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



# Learning spaces

## safe, inclusive, and local-responsive

Saigonchildren's School Building and Learning Environment Programme constructs and renovates schools in underserved communities, particularly where existing facilities are unsafe, inadequate or where children must travel long distances to attend class.

In addition, we provide hygienic toilets and wash areas, reading corners, playgrounds, and functional rooms, all contributing to a better, more holistic learning experience for the children who study in our schools.

16

classrooms  
built and renovated

4

computer rooms  
installed

791

students accessing  
clean toilet blocks

1,379

students benefiting  
from new book corners



I love how dazzling my school looks now. It sparkles by the canal, and the classrooms have new chairs, desks, and even a TV!

A student at Tân Long 2 Primary School



# Scholarships

*for another year in school*



Our Child Development Scholarship Programme supports disadvantaged students from primary to university/college, helping them continue their education without interruption.

Each scholarship covers essential educational expenses, and also provides life skills training and counselling. The programme extends care to families and communities as well, ensuring children grow up with both opportunity and support.

**1,864** scholarships awarded

**55** skill-building workshops organised

**97.7%** of scholarship recipients completing school year

**9** health support cases provided

In-kind support distributed:



19,000+ kg of rice



1,200+ notebooks



70+ bicycles



100+ laptops



30+ calculators



# Skills and vocational training

## *to get ready for work*

Through our Getting Ready For Work programme, disadvantaged young adults are well-prepared with skills and confidence, empowering them to grow, adapt to working life, and boost their employability.

They receive free vocational training at partner schools and build essential social skills through free classes at Thăng Long English and Vocational School.

**344**

students strengthening academic performance in English

**369**

students benefiting from psychosocial counselling and life skills development

**56**

students receiving hands-on IT training

**88%**

of vocational graduates finding jobs, earning an average of US\$200-300 per month



In 2024, we launched a three-year project to enhance the capacity of students aged 18-25 at Lý Tự Trọng College in Hồ Chí Minh City, aiming to support their journey to complete higher education and transform their futures.

From 2024 to 2028, **220** students will benefit from:

- Free tuition fees
- Free English classes with certification
- Free training workshops on communication, teamwork, time management, CV writing, job interviews, etc

## Highlight project



# Special needs education

## *every child, every way, every chance*

Our Special Needs Education Programme supports children with a range of learning and developmental needs, including autism, ADHD, intellectual difficulties, and other disabilities, so they can thrive in inclusive and supportive learning environments.

**1,286**

direct beneficiaries (children, parents, practitioners, and teachers)

**9**

projects across 5 provinces (Bình Dương, Cần Thơ, Đồng Nai, Hồ Chí Minh City, and Tiền Giang)

**2,656**

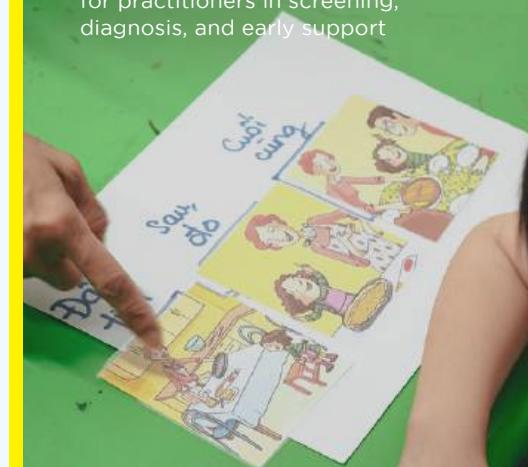
sessions on physiotherapy, speech language, and special education for children with mobility challenges

**100%**

of children with autism receiving developmental assessments and personalised intervention plans tailored to their unique developmental needs

**Early Intervention**  
for children with neurodevelopmental differences

**Capacity Building**  
for practitioners in screening, diagnosis, and early support



**Shelter Support**  
with funding, expertise, and social development activities

**Resource Development**  
on autism, neurodiversity, and play-based therapy



# More ways we made an impact

## Enhancing capacity in community-based climate-change adaptive livelihood

The **three-year project** in the Mekong Delta aims to help families adopt climate-resilient livelihoods, easing economic pressures so children can stay in school. Over the course of the project, **150 households** will receive support to implement adaptive models, **600 students** will be awarded scholarships, and **1,000+ students** will join environmental and climate education activities.

## Empowering children in the protection of mental health

The project in Trà Vinh Province aims to address gaps in mental and reproductive health education for adolescents, equipping teachers and students with essential knowledge and tools. Through this effort, **502 teachers** were trained on adolescent mental health, and **1,710 students** joined workshops on gender and reproductive health.

## Supporting children's return to school after Typhoon Yagi

In response to Typhoon Yagi in September 2024, saigonchildren supported the refurbishment of **four kindergartens** in Tuyên Quang, replacing damaged classroom facilities and deteriorated kitchen equipment. This effort helped restore a safe and nurturing learning environment for **over 250 children**.

[Read more](#)

## Continuing to stand by students orphaned by COVID-19

The holiday campaign No Kids Left Behind reached its **US\$14,000** target to support 41 children orphaned by COVID-19, originally identified through the You Are Not Alone campaign. Contributions covered their educational expenses for the 2023-2024 school year, ensuring support equivalent to our Scholarship Programme beneficiaries.

[Read more](#)



# Featured fundraising and engagement campaigns



## Charity Cycle Adventure

[Read more](#)

The event celebrated its [15th anniversary](#), marking a milestone for one of our signature fundraising initiatives. Blending the thrill of cycling through Vietnam's breathtaking landscapes with a meaningful cause, this annual ride raised [US\\$52,000](#) in 2024 to help children access brighter futures through education.



## U-GO Far 2024

[Read more](#)

The cross-border peer-to-peer cycling challenge aimed to raise funds through each rider's personal network, directly supporting girl students through saigonchildren and ISF Cambodia programmes. The debut event attracted 16 participants and raised [over US\\$100,000](#), including a generous matching contribution from U-GO.



## H.U.E Art Exhibition

[Read more](#)

The exhibition brought together works from professional artists, young talents, and most specially, beneficiaries from saigonchildren's three main programmes. It celebrated creativity and inclusion, while raising awareness and support for disadvantaged children to thrive through education. The event successfully raised [\\$5,000](#) in contributions toward our mission.



## PowHERful Gathering

As part of the wider PowHERful initiative, the gathering welcomed 150 girl students from our scholarship programme. Through hands-on activities, networking skill sessions, and stress management workshops, the event equipped participants with essential life skills and inspiration for their journeys ahead.



# How our students are *unlocking* their futures



**I am learning to shine in my own way**

- Trúc Mai

Raised in a family facing financial challenges in Cần Giờ, Mai has been supported by saigonchildren since Grade 5. She has consistently excelled in her studies and is now pursuing a degree in International Business. In 2024, she was awarded the Madrinha Trust scholarship in recognition of her achievements.

[Read more](#)

**I took my first step into school life**

- K.V., kid of the early intervention project



K.V. joined saigonchildren's early intervention project in late 2022, initially facing challenges in communication and emotional regulation. With dedicated specialist support and strong family involvement, he made remarkable progress within a year and proudly attended his first-ever school year opening ceremony in September 2024.

[Read more](#)



**Education helped me rise and find my place in the city**

- Uyên Nhi

From a low-income family in Tây Ninh, Nhi chose vocational training over higher education to support her household. With a full scholarship from saigonchildren, she completed a Western baking course in November 2024 and now works as a pastry assistant at a well-known restaurant in central Hồ Chí Minh City.

[Read more](#)



**I have been growing, learning, and now giving back**

- Công Khanh



Khanh received saigonchildren's scholarship for 16 years, starting from Grade 1. He maintained strong academic results, joined extracurricular activities, especially after entering university. He also volunteered at saigonchildren's annual events alongside fellow scholarship recipients. Now a graduate, he's part of our [Alumni Network](#), supporting younger students in their studies, careers, and personal growth.

[Read more](#)

# Thank you for your recognition



The Certificate of Merit for  
"significant contributions to social  
welfare in the region in 2024" by  
the Chairman of the People's  
Committee of Hồ Chí Minh City

A letter of appreciation from a parent in  
Đồng Nai, whose child received autism  
screening, local early intervention classes,  
and parent workshops that have helped  
her gradually understand her child and  
gently support her growth in line with her  
developmental needs.

Trần Huỳnh Minh Nghĩa  
Giáo Viên Tiếng Anh  
từng theo học lớp Tiếng Anh

Subject: Re: Quick & Last Update on Typhoon Yagi Aftermath

Dear Damien,

Thanks for your update. I'm thrilled to know the funds are going to support urgent need. Thank you again to Saigon Children team for all your efforts in doing these amazing things.

Regards,

Anna

Thanks for your email.

I should be happy to sponsor one more student in addition to the 2 I already have.

N's story is heartbreaking.

Please let me know what I have to do now.

Many thanks.

Very best wishes,

Numerous donor responses of  
support and commitment

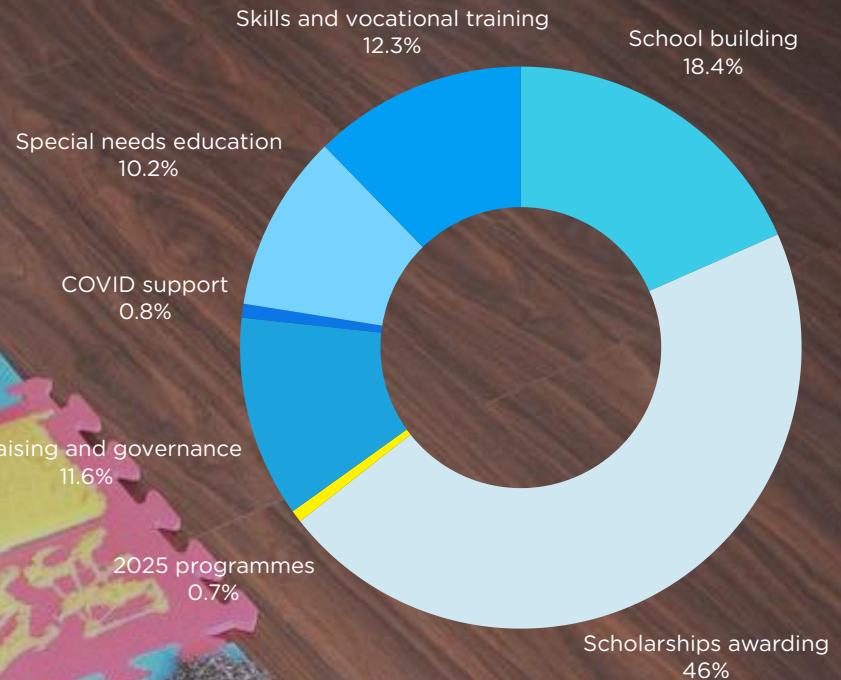


# Financials

IN 2024, WE RAISED

**\$1.8M** in total

[Read our full financial report here](#)



# TRƯỜNG DẠY TIẾNG ANH VÀ DẠY NGHỀ THĂNG LONG THANG LONG ENGLISH AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL

129F/63A Nguyễn Hữu Hào, P.9, Q.4, TP.HCM

ĐT: 38.262.713 - 39.431.137

Since 1994, saigonchildren has proudly supported Thăng Long English and Vocational Training School, creating a nurturing educational environment for thousands of disadvantaged children. Generations of students have flourished thanks to the knowledge and skills provided by the school.

Having journeyed together closely and long enough to feel confident that the children and young people can now stand on their own, [saigonchildren formally ceased its support at Thăng Long School](#) as of 1 January 2025, after 30 years of continuous and unwavering support for these young adolescents.

Over the years, Thăng Long School has been more than just a place to learn. It has been a lifeline for thousands of disadvantaged youth, a safe space where they could gain knowledge, build skills, and grow in confidence.

This marks not an end, but a new beginning. As a defining part of saigonchildren's 32-year journey, the story of Thăng Long reminds us how far compassion and education can go in changing lives.

We closed a chapter,  
but the story does **not end** here





On behalf of the students whose lives have been changed through access to education, and their families, communities, and all those touched by our work, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your support in 2024.

Together, we look ahead to a new year of progress and possibilities, where every child has the chance to thrive and reach their full potential.