



saigonchildren

removing barriers to education

Annual Report **2025**



In 2025, as Saigon Children's Charity marked 33 years of operation, we were reminded that lasting change comes through local expertise, international partnerships, and a shared commitment to giving every child the chance to learn and thrive. This report reflects the impact of your generosity, with every page filled with the people, communities, and projects supported by your donations. It is only a glimpse of the thousands of lives transformed each year through your support.

This year, our scholarship programme grew, supporting hundreds of students through university and significantly improving their long-term prospects. We expanded our Vietnamese-language online resources on neurodiversity, making vital information available to millions and reaching many thousands directly through training and psychoeducation.

When extreme weather caused widespread damage, we helped children return to learning quickly and safely. We also supported children in shelters with essential supplies and opportunities to play, rest, and enjoy time away from daily hardship.

The need for our work remains urgent. Children in Vietnam still face barriers to education because of poverty, disability, geography, or circumstance. As the country continues to develop, it is vital to ensure that inequality does not grow and that every child can benefit from, and contribute to, that progress.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners, friends, and supporters. Your kindness and confidence make this work possible, and your support changes lives.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to meeting the needs of children and communities with care, creativity, and determination. With your continued support, we can keep building a brighter and more prosperous future.

Damien Roberts
Executive Director, Saigon Children's Charity

Education at the heart of our work



“

Saigon Children's Charity ('saigonchildren') is a UK-registered charity organisation that is committed to removing barriers to education for the most disadvantaged children and young people across Vietnam.

”

Impact since 1992

625+

classrooms built

49,000+

scholarships awarded

27,000+

student enrolments in skills and vocational training

11,200+

direct beneficiaries of Special Needs Education projects

Where we work



13,000+ lives are changing through education in 2025

Throughout 2025, saigonchildren's work aligned with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a primary focus on expanding access to quality education while contributing to broader goals related to equality, wellbeing, and opportunity.



Programme highlights



A safer place to learn and play

In 2025, saigonchildren's School Building and Learning Environments programme focused on:

- Expanding access opportunities: New classrooms were constructed in underserved, remote areas to shorten travel distances and prevent students from dropping out.
- Enhancing learning quality: Based on each school's needs, existing spaces were renovated and facilities such as reading corners, computer rooms, and safe drinking water systems were introduced to support highly functional learning environments.

8,700+ students accessing purified drinking water

2,200+ students developing computer literacy

04

new computer
rooms equipped

09

classrooms built
and renovated

20

reading corners
provided





A new start for early learning in Vietnam's border areas

Ba Chúc Kindergarten, An Giang Province

Located in a border area near Cambodia, the kindergarten served around 200 children aged 3 to 5 but as facilities deteriorated and became unsafe, students were temporarily relocated. Through saigonchildren's School Building Programme, the site has now been fully rebuilt, delivering new classrooms and improved learning spaces. Today, it provides a safe and supportive environment for children to learn and grow.

[Read more](#)



Back to learning after storms

An emergency response initiative

In late 2025, severe flooding and tidal surges across several regions of Northern Vietnam left many early childhood education centres damaged and unusable, disrupting learning for thousands of young children.

In response, saigonchildren launched the [Back to Learning 2025 campaign](#), calling on supporters to help restore safe and welcoming learning environments so that children could return to school as soon as possible.

[Read more](#)

1,000+

kids aged 3-5 benefited

13

kindergartens supported



Huế City, Khánh Hòa and Tuyên Quang



Scholarship:

A crucial means to stay in school

1,900+ students supported yearly to continue their learning journey

For many students, continuing their education depends on consistent support over time. Saigonchildren's Child Development Scholarship Programme helps ease the financial pressures families face, enabling students to continue their education without interruption through sustained, long-term support.

In addition, each student's circumstances and needs are different, so scholarship support is tailored to help address practical barriers throughout their education journey. Alongside financial assistance, the programme provides additional support where needed, helping students access the conditions and resources necessary to continue learning.



18,600+
notebooks



215
desk lamps



85
laptops



85
bicycles



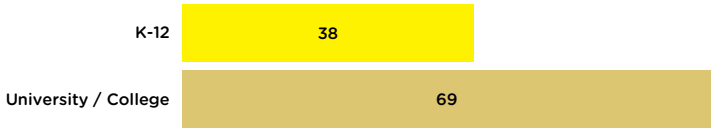
Building skills for the future

through training and practical exposure

A scholarship not only covers educational expenses, but also supports students’ overall well-being and development.

In 2025, training workshops continued to complement learning, with topics adapted to different age groups and evolving needs.

107 workshops and sessions
covered across different stages of education



18 different sharing topics
tailored to different student groups

- K-12: Mental health, career guidance, and protection against Dengue Fever
- Higher education: Skills development, career preparation, and personal growth topics

These activities help build confidence, strengthen communication, and develop practical skills, supporting students to engage more actively in their education and explore their next steps.





Stepping into a new chapter

Vy's story

When Vy was in Year 9, her education was nearly cut short due to severe financial hardship. Her mother was unable to work because of depression, while the family relied solely on her father's unstable factory work to support two children's schooling and daily expenses.

At this critical time, Vy was connected to saigonchildren's Scholarship Programme through her school. With financial and in-kind support from the programme, she was able to continue her education and proudly achieved 12 consecutive years as an excellent student.

When she later gained admission to Medical school, financial pressures forced her to reconsider her path. Yet, this time, she was not alone; knowing she had our continued support, she made the pragmatic choice to study Biotechnology at Cần Thơ University. This allowed her to pursue her dream of contributing to community healthcare while easing the burden on her family.

Today, as a second-year student, Vy remains an outstanding student. Her sights are set on a future career in IVF technology, where she hopes to become a fertility consultant, bringing the joy of parenthood to families in need.





Khởi đầu ước mơ của bạn tại đây!

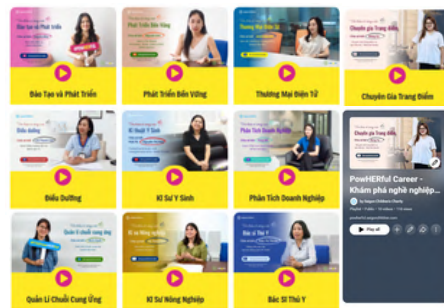
Để tiến đến mục tiêu xây dựng tương lai tươi sáng hơn, sẽ thật tốt nếu bạn có sự chuẩn bị trước, đặt mục tiêu trau dồi kiến thức và phát triển kỹ năng cần thiết từ sớm. Đó là một hành trình dài mà khó đảm bảo sẽ bằng phẳng, bạn biết rồi đấy. Nhưng vì bạn đã có mặt tại đây, PowHERful sẽ hết mình hỗ trợ, đồng hành cùng bạn trên chặng đường phía trước ấy thông qua các nguồn thông tin bổ ích bên dưới. Cùng bắt đầu nào!



Career pathway infographics covering in-demand professions



Career guidance handbooks designed for students, parents, and teachers



Video interviews with successful leaders working in these fields (now available on our [YouTube channel](#))

Career exploration for young adolescents

A project under the PowHERful initiative

In 2025, saigonchildren launched the [PowHERful Career Exploration](#) landing page (in Vietnamese), equipping students, particularly girls, with reliable career information to explore pathways, challenge gender stereotypes, and make informed decisions about their future.

Pathway to Employment

One of saigonchildren's key Getting Ready For Work programme projects offers free short-term vocational training at partner schools for disadvantaged young adults planning to study in Hồ Chí Minh City, alongside practical workshops that build skills and confidence to enter and thrive in the workplace.

Who do we support?

54%

migrant youth from other provinces moving to HCMC

43%

left school before completing Year 9

74

young adults supported
106% of annual target achieved

87%

graduates achieved good or excellent academic results

100%

target for graduates to secure employment in their chosen field upon completion

Vocational training trend

● Hairdressing ● Nails art ● Culinary & Barista ● Automotive technology
● Engineering & Technical Trades ● Others



Other support:



Lunch costs



Accommodation costs



Learning materials



Uniform costs



Travel costs



Life & social skills

Professional, long-term vocational support

Alongside short-term vocational training courses, saigonchildren also provides support for disadvantaged young people pursuing long-term vocational education. Through partnerships with vocational schools, donors, and other stakeholders, trainees receive support throughout programmes lasting from 1.5 to 3 years at partner institutions in Hồ Chí Minh City and Trà Vinh Province.

Lý Tự Trọng
College of HCMC



185 trainees supported

Starting monthly salary up to
10 mil.VND

Nam Sài Gòn
Polytechnic College



43 trainees supported

90% graduates achieved good or
excellent academic results

Trà Vinh
Vocational College



34 trainees supported

The project has been implemented
since school year 2025 - 2026.



Stepping into a new chapter

Sang's story

Having lost his father at a young age, Sang lives with his mother and older sister in a small rented room in Bình Thạnh District. His mother is the family's sole breadwinner, earning a modest income through her small vegetable stall at a nearby market. Due to their financial hardship, the children had to work late-night part-time jobs to help ease the burden on their mother.

In late 2023, through a project under saigonchildren's Getting Ready For Work Programme implemented at Sang's vocational school, he was encouraged to apply for financial support. After reviewing his circumstances, we supported the tuition fees for the final semester of his Mechanical Engineering course.

What stood out most about Sang was his determination to continue learning. After completing his Intermediate programme, he decided to pursue further studies at the college level to improve his technical skills and career opportunities.

However, during his final year, his internship required him to stop working part-time, cutting off an important source of income. Once again, Sang turned to saigonchildren for support, and we were able to continue accompanying him through his final year.

Today, Sang has graduated and secured a full-time job at a company in Củ Chi, a meaningful milestone in his persistent journey to pursue education.



A cup of milk a day keeps the joy of learning alive

Nourishing bodies, minds, and futures at at charity schools

70,000+

cartons of milk provided

1,200+

reading sessions delivered
till the end of the school year 25-26

500

age-appropriate books provided

273

health insurance cards issued

In 2025, we launched the 3.5-year project “Connecting and Providing Support Services for Groups of Vulnerable Children and Children at Risk”, supporting more than 400 students at two charity schools in Hồ Chí Minh City as part of the Getting Ready For Work programme.

[Read more](#)



Accessible learning for every child

Saigonchildren's Special Needs Education Programme supports children with a range of learning and developmental needs, including autism, ADHD, and intellectual difficulties, through early intervention and broader system support in Cần Thơ City, Đồng Nai City, Đồng Tháp, and Hồ Chí Minh City.

5,400+ free intervention sessions delivered
through child-centred, evidence-informed approaches

880+ children directly supported
through intervention sessions and LEGO Clubs
(play-based approach)

860+ kindergarten teachers trained
in autism identification

100+ teachers trained
to help support early intervention

In 2025, this included developing resources on neurodiversity and play-based learning, building a nationwide specialist network, promoting greater community awareness and understanding, and continuing targeted support to community-based centres.



Đa dạng thần kinh

Trang chia sẻ thông tin dành riêng cho lĩnh vực đa dạng thần kinh cho phụ huynh, nhà trị liệu, giáo viên, bác sĩ chuyên môn, cũng như bất cứ ai quan tâm, mong muốn tìm hiểu và cập nhật kiến thức trong việc chăm sóc, trị liệu, và giáo dục trẻ em thuộc nhóm thần kinh phát triển không điển hình tại Việt Nam.



[Dadangthankinh.com](https://dadangthankinh.com)

A Vietnamese-pioneering platform for neurodiversity

In 2025, saigonchildren launched dadangthankinh.com, a Vietnamese-language resource hub on neurodiversity, providing professionally translated, expert-informed content on conditions such as autism and ADHD, alongside guidance on identification and intervention.

By making reliable knowledge more accessible, the initiative helps strengthen national capacity, reduce misconceptions, and support neurodivergent children to reach their full potential.

[Find out more](#)

10 years of strengthening the professional network

Connecting specialists supporting neurodivergent children

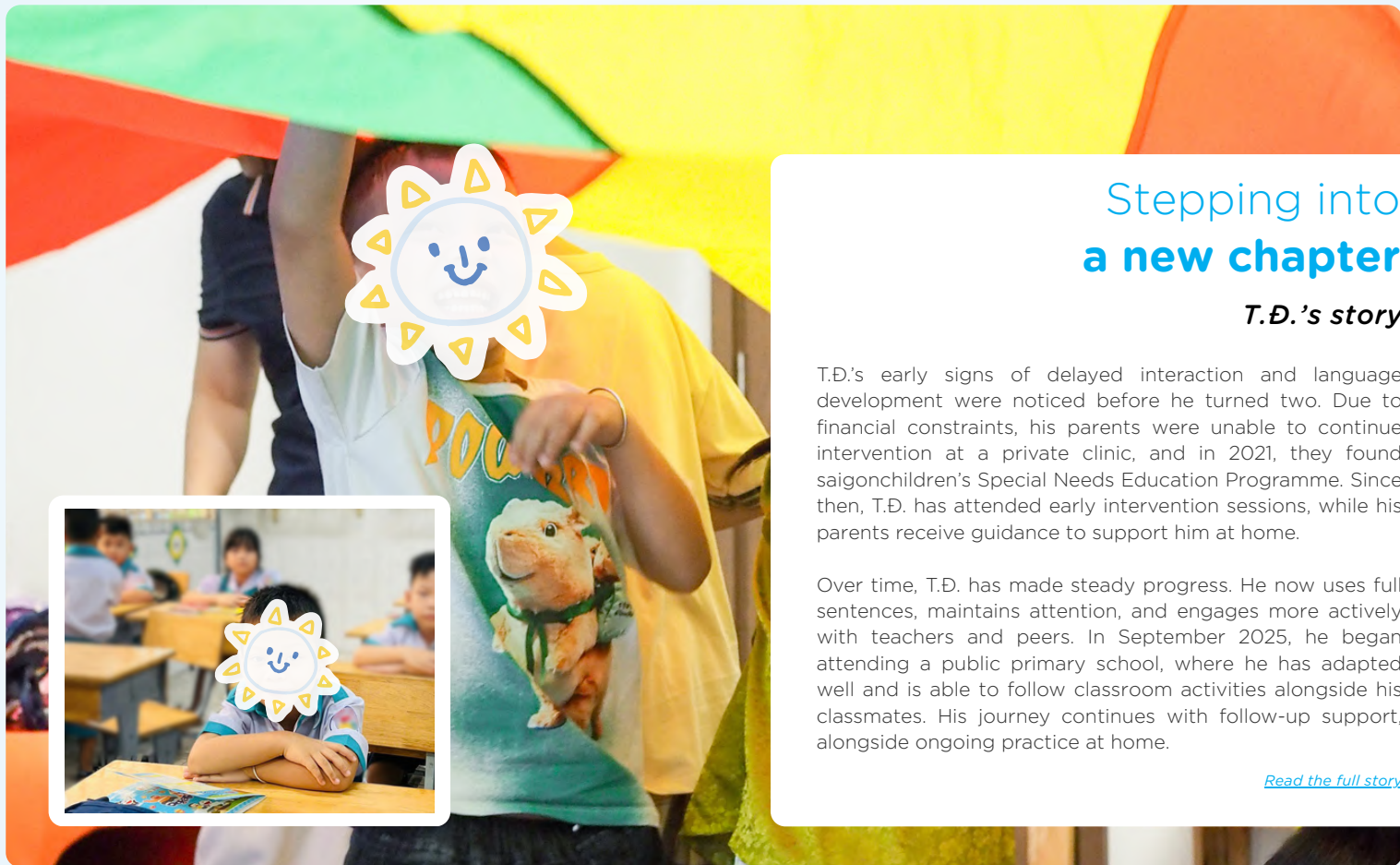
In 2025, the Network Gathering, themed “Applying Play-Based Learning for Children with Neurodiversity”, brought together 40+ special educational needs specialists from across Vietnam to exchange practical experience, strengthen professional connections, and support one another in their work.

A highlight of this year’s event was the participation of nearly 50 parents, who joined guided “Directed Play” activities to better understand their children’s perspectives and explore ways to support learning and development at home.

The gathering builds on nearly a decade of network development by saigonchildren, which began with the first advanced Training the Trainer course in early intervention in 2016.

[Read more](#)





Stepping into a new chapter

T.Đ.'s story

T.Đ.'s early signs of delayed interaction and language development were noticed before he turned two. Due to financial constraints, his parents were unable to continue intervention at a private clinic, and in 2021, they found saigonchildren's Special Needs Education Programme. Since then, T.Đ. has attended early intervention sessions, while his parents receive guidance to support him at home.

Over time, T.Đ. has made steady progress. He now uses full sentences, maintains attention, and engages more actively with teachers and peers. In September 2025, he began attending a public primary school, where he has adapted well and is able to follow classroom activities alongside his classmates. His journey continues with follow-up support, alongside ongoing practice at home.

[Read the full story](#)

Communities creating impact

Our work is strengthened by a community that shares our belief in education. Throughout 2025, fundraising and engagement initiatives brought people together to help create more opportunities for children and young people across Vietnam.



The 15th Charity Cycle Adventure brought together 27 riders, including long-standing participants and new enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds. The adventure covered the scenic route from Đà Lạt to Phan Rang and Mũi Né, raising more than US\$60,000 from over 500 generous supporters.



The "Inner Spiral" art exhibition, held in summer 2025, showcased remarkable works by professional artists and young talents. Proceeds from the exhibition helped contribute to our Scholarship Programme, supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds in the 2025 - 2026 academic year.



The second U-GO Far Cycling Challenge set off from Cần Thơ City, crossing the border to Kep and Kampot in Cambodia. More than two-thirds of the participants were women. Together with U-GO's 1:1 matching fund, the challenge helped support more than 20 girls in pursuing tertiary education in both countries.

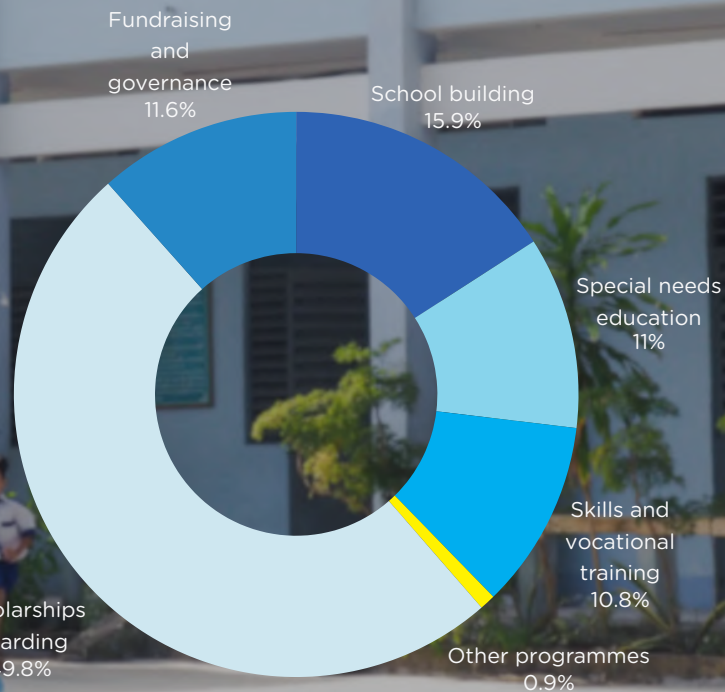
Financial stewardship

IN 2025, WE RAISED

\$2.03M in total

Visit our [audited financial statements here](#)

How funds were used





Thank you for enabling children in Vietnam to access education, develop their potential and move towards a brighter future with their families and communities.

We would love to hear from you. Share your experience with saigonchildren by leaving us a review on [Google](#).



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