

Our Work in Vietnam



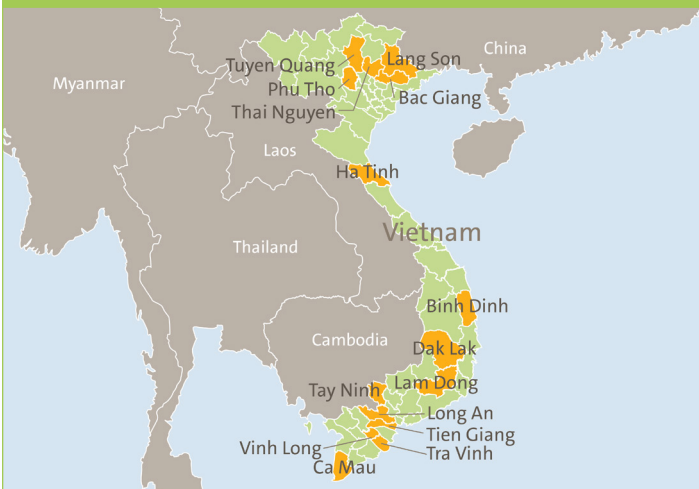
In Vietnam,

30%

of children under 16 are living in poverty.



Our Presence in Vietnam



Country Overview

Vietnam is one of the world's most populous and impoverished countries. A long history of foreign occupation and warfare was ended by the unification of the country in 1978. The following period brought its own challenges, however, including widespread poverty, economic isolation, and intense government control.

In more recent years, Vietnam has experienced impressive economic improvement and has become a lower middle income country. However, there exists a widening disparity between the ambitious and young middle class in the cities and two thirds of the population who continue to work as field laborers. Around 43 percent of the population, comprised mostly of ethnic minorities, still live in poverty on under \$2 a day.

Country Information

Population	91 million
Land area	331,600 km ²
Languages of instruction	Vietnamese
Launch of operations	2001
Room to Read offices	Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Tra Vinh & Can Tho

Educational Landscape

The school system in Vietnam faces a slew of challenges, many of them remnants of decades of war and economic hardship. The divide between the middle and lower classes has had a profound effect on access to quality education. With a third of Vietnam's population under the age of 15, schools are often overwhelmed and in need of crucial resources. Rural areas in particular lack sufficient facilities, teachers, textbooks, and other learning supplies. Although libraries are required in primary schools as of 2005, the

majority of schools have library rooms that go unused or serve other purposes.

Children living outside of cities are frequently deterred from attending school due to transportation challenges and war-damaged roads, which can make the journey to school long and dangerous. Education at the secondary and tertiary level is no longer free. Costs associated with textbooks, tuition, informal school fees, and strict exams have become a hardship for the lower classes.

Due to longstanding cultural norms, girls are often pressured to contribute to their family's income rather than remain in school. Fortunately, the government has recently made gender equality in education a priority and is implementing policies to try and change this way of thinking.

History and Results

Room to Read Vietnam was founded as Room to Read's second country of operation in 2001. Initially, we implemented our programs in areas along the Mekong Delta. We have since expanded to northern Vietnam and the central coast.

The Vietnamese government's recent educational policies closely align with our program areas, allowing us to collaborate with the government and amplify our impact. The country's national standards require libraries for all primary schools, providing us with a great opportunity to scale our Literacy Program. Our country team is working to develop a partnership with the government so that the Room to Read library model can be implemented across the country. With the government's focus on gender equality, provincial education departments and schools are also now responsible for providing life skills trainings for students, and mentoring and counseling for girls. Room to Read plans to help schools achieve this by expanding our Girls' Education Program in Vietnam.



2018 Vietnam Targets

Literacy Program	
Schools supported	365
Children benefited	90,160
New local language titles	10
Reprinted local language titles	5
Girls' Education Program	
New participants	350
Total participants	3,070



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