



24.04.28 Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children

INTERIM REPORT TO THE TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

April 2024

1. Please provide the following information:

a. **Organization Name:** CHILDREN OF VIETNAM (COV)

Federal Tax ID #: 31-1605964

b. **Project Title:** Empowering Foundations for Women and their Children

c. **Grant Amount:** \$50,000

d. **Contact & Executive Director:** Giang Wells-Dang

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YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ChildrenofVietnam1> (For a video about EFWC: [Link](#))

e. **Address:** PO Box 18039, Greensboro, NC 27419-8039

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2. Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve?

Empowering Foundations for Women & Their Children (EFWC) works to break the cycle of poverty by assisting head-of-household and single mothers in developing a plan to increase their economic status. Our approach is guided by the recognition that women face a myriad of interrelated barriers that trap them in poverty, and our goal is to eliminate the barriers. During the two-year program, each woman receives a health assessment and follow-up treatments and medications if necessary. Their housing is examined to determine the needs for improvement, such as roof repair and kitchen and sanitation facility upgrades. In addition to business training, each mother receives a microloan to help fulfill their business goals, using their individually prepared business plans. The two-year EFWC program aims to help single mothers build sustainable lives for themselves and their children by providing support for healthcare, education, suitable housing, business training, and microloans for their business start-ups.

In November 2023, COV received a grant from Together Women Rise (TWR). With this funding source, 60 single mothers who live in the wards of Hoa An, Hoa Tho Tay, and Khue Trung in Cam Le District, Da Nang City enrolled in the EFWC program.

Cam Le District	Hoa An Ward	Hoa Tho Tay Ward	Khue Trung Ward
Number of single mothers supported by TWR grant	20	21	19

Below are the results of expected interventions and outcomes of the project:

Each mother and their children will benefit from a number of interventions.

- Housing: Essential furnishings enhance family living conditions. A total of 02 fans, 07 beds, 10 mattresses, and 17 wardrobes will be delivered to households according to needs.

- Education: Study conditions will be improved for the children through the provision of basic study tools, including 18 sets of study tables and chairs, 60 lamps, and 12 bicycles. A total of 60 students will receive scholarships at the beginning of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years in order to purchase uniforms and books and pay for school fees.

- Capacity Building and events: The single mothers participate in livelihood training to help them manage capital (micro loans) and run their small businesses effectively. They also receive nutrition training and guidance on maintaining a clean living environment. They engage in networking opportunities through meetings and special occasions, such as International Women's Day, Vietnamese Women's Day, and the Lunar New Year.

Content	Livelihood	Household items	Education	Capacity Building and events	Total
Number of Interventions	60	36	150	120	366

The expected results of the interventions are as follows:

- All sixty mothers develop an individualized business plan.
- 49/60 single-mother households produce and sell sugarcane juice, fish, fish cakes, noodles, snacks, fruit, flowers, vegetables, bread, tapioca cake, and other refreshments. The mothers sell hygiene products, scrap metal, and other materials, conduct online sales, and take part in specialty sales from Binh Dinh.

- 04/60 single mother households benefit from COV-provided motorbikes/scooters for work and trade purposes and getting their children to school.
- 03/60 single-mother households utilize COV-provided sewing machines, work tables, and wardrobes for garment-related work, including sewing, repairing, and processing clothes.
- 02/60 single mother households started hair and nail salons.

- One single mother raises chickens for eggs and meat.
- One single mother creates a childcare center in her home.

3. Has funding changed for this project? For example, have you received unexpected financing from another source?

- In April 2024, COV received a grant from the Hinman Charitable Foundation for a health check program, targeting 205 single mothers enrolled in the EFWC program for 2021-2024 and 2023-2025. The program will run from April 2024 to November 2024. Health examinations include standard health checks, gynecological examinations, breast ultrasounds, transvaginal ultrasonography, and cervical cancer screenings (Thinprep). Therefore, the 60 single mothers receiving support from TWR will participate in these additional health check-ups and cancer screening activities.

4. Is your organization or project situation different from what is presented in the approved proposal? For example, a new executive director, significant project staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

There are no changes in the structure and operations of COV and the EFWC program.

5. Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refer to the original number in your grant proposal under “Number of women and girls Directly Impacted and population Indirectly Impacted”.

The number of beneficiaries has not changed. Under the TWR grant, 60 single women and their children will be supported in this project.

6. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?

Within six months of implementing the project, we have encountered no significant challenges, and everything is progressing smoothly on the right track. We have received significant support and cooperation from local authorities in Khue Trung Ward, Hoa Tho Tay, Hoa An Ward, and the Cam Le District Women’s Union. They are highly enthusiastic and deeply understand the situation of impoverished single mothers in their respective areas. This facilitates the surveying and planning of care for each single mother, which is conducted conveniently and successfully. 60 single moms eagerly anticipate the comprehensive support of the program from TWR.

7. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?

The EFWC program retains its original objectives with no modifications.

8. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.

- From December 2023 to March 2024, COV conducted a survey to identify and select

60 single mothers eligible for the EFWC program. Detailed profiles and individualized care plans for each beneficiary have been completed.

- In April and May 2024, business planning training was conducted for the selected 60 single mothers. During these sessions, single mothers will develop their own business plans. The training will cover various aspects of business knowledge, including market analysis, asset assessment, cost calculations, and profit and loss projections. The training methodology involves group discussions, knowledge sharing, and experiential learning. This approach aims to build confidence in public speaking, enhance calculation skills, foster mutual understanding among single mothers, and promote collaboration in their entrepreneurial endeavors.
- In May 2024, 60 women will receive capital to develop their livelihoods as part of the EFWC program. Micro loans are integral to EFWC's approach, promoting self-reliance to combat poverty. These loans offer women a pathway out of poverty by empowering them to take control of their futures. The program has a dual objective: a) empowering women to take ownership of their futures, and b) helping them increase their income to better support their children. To achieve this, EFWC conducts home visits to assess each woman's situation, helping them identify their strengths and weaknesses to select a suitable livelihood. The program provides business training, allowing women to practice skills and anticipate potential risks. It also facilitates networking opportunities for single mothers, fostering confidence and mutual support among participants.
- In August 2024, the EFWC program will provide essential household items such as wardrobes, beds, mattresses, and fans to meet the needs of single mothers and their children. This support aims to create safe living environments and improve overall living conditions. Additionally, the program will offer scholarships at the start of the school year for the children of single mothers, along with study tables, chairs, study lamps, and bicycles. These provisions address the immediate and pressing needs of single mothers' children, ensuring they have conducive living and learning spaces.

The program will conduct periodic evaluation visits every 6, 12, 18, and 24 months to monitor changes in single women's livelihoods, education, living environment, and capacity.

Surveys will be conducted to assess the training needs of single mothers. The program aims to equip women and children with skills for violence prevention, foster understanding and companionship among children, provide nutrition training, and establish a network of single women to support each other.

Tet (Lunar New Year) gifts will be provided for single mothers in 2025 and 2026 to ensure they have a positive start to the new year. The program will collaborate with local partners to involve single mothers in clubs, focusing on business and community activities, enabling them to expand their networks. This initiative also facilitates access to external sources of support in terms of capital and knowledge beyond the program's scope.

9. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?

COV is particularly invested in supporting single women to break the cycle of poverty by minimizing the risk of failure in their livelihood development endeavors. However, several concerns pose challenges to achieving project outcomes:

- Larger businesses in the area demonstrate greater adaptability and resilience to changing circumstances than our single mothers' businesses.
- Single mothers face critical illnesses, occupational diseases, and accidents, which hinder progress and increase healthcare expenses.
- Single mothers engaged in farming and animal husbandry activities are vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, climate change, environmental incidents, and epidemics, which can make outcomes unpredictable.
- Single mothers encounter various daily challenges, including caring for disabled children, enduring domestic violence, facing societal pressure, dealing with personal health issues, and sacrificing personal happiness for their children's well-being.

Recognizing these fundamental issues, the program acknowledges the importance of enhancing single mothers' ability to manage business pressures, address personal challenges, and improve childcare skills.

Please see the photos in the Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wqelo0ow8u0re16k4ek8m/ABEdFUqhH4RNpFJTmuccoqE?rlkey=Ipo88ff3vw3xuv3hc8rgcwssl&dl=0>