



VIFA REPORT OF 2018 COMMUNITY PROJECT “THE LIBRARY”

1. Project Outline

- Project Title: The Library
- Project Goal:
To meet Goal 4 (Quality Education) of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals:
 - To facilitate the study of students in remote areas (specifically at Ap 3 Huynh Lap Primary School), particularly by providing them a stable source of books
 - To nurture the love for books (the love of reading) among the students as a way for them to enrich their knowledge
 - To enhance teachers’ capability in teach and working with students through books
- Project Team:
 - Mr. Le Dinh Nghia, Vice President of VIFA, IATSS Participant, Batch 31
 - Ms. Pham Thuy Tien, IATSS Forum Participant, Batch 57
 - Mr. Le Quoc Thinh, IATSS Forum Participant, Batch 60
 - Other Vietnam IATSS Forum Alumni as volunteers
- Beneficiaries: 72 students and 13 teachers of Ap 3 Huynh Hon Primary School
- Duration of the Project: 4 months (January to April 2019)
- Project Location: Ap 3 Huynh Lap Primary School, Long An Province
- Project Partnership and Donors:
 - Project “Books for Primary School students” (Du an Sach Hay cho Hoc sinh Tieu hoc) - books donor and teachers trainer (400 books)
 - Nhat Nghe ICT Training Center – computers donor (2 computers)

2. Project Background

Nhon Hoa Lap Commune is a remote area of Long An Province and has 2 primary schools (Nhon Hoa Lap (A) and Nhon Hoa Lap (B)). The Nhon Hoa Lap (A) Primary School has 2 sub-schools (Ap 3 Huynh Hon and Ap 2 Huynh Tinh). The reason for splitting up the schools into sub-schools in different places is because of the poor traffic system that prevents children to travel far for attending schools. Ap 3 Huynh Hon Primary School does not have a library. Until now, the school’s teachers have had to borrow books from other schools and put into bags to bring back to the reading room for their students, which is why they name them “library bags”. Then they have to return the books after several days to exchange new books.

At the same time, by their huge efforts, the school leadership has managed to teach the students basic lessons about computer. The school, however, currently just has 4 computers to serve 72 students. They often have to wait for long to use the computers for about 15 minutes each week.



The reading room: before the renovation
(4 computers available)



The reading corner: before the renovation

3. Project Preparation

The project preparation took place in 3 months, from early January to end of March 2019. During that time, there was a break of 2 weeks due to the Lunar New Year Holidays in Vietnam. We encountered some difficulties due to the geographic distance between Ho Chi Minh City (where most of the VIFA members live) and Long An (where the school locates). The communication between the project team and the school's leadership was mostly conducted via telephone and email; hence, it faced unexpected postponement sometimes. The project teams had to rely on Mr. Le Quoc Thinh, IATSS Forum Participant Batch 60, as a liaison person, since he was working in Long An.

The preparation has been done as follows:

- Established a core team to manage and facilitate the project
- Contacted the primary school's leadership to learn more about their need and the situation back then. After discussing with the project team, the headmaster of the school decided to choose a bigger room for the new company.
- Organized a site-check trip to study more details about the school and estimated tasks needed
- Planned the project in detail with VIFA and proposed to IATSS Forum (Japan) for sponsorship
- Collaborated with Project "Books for Primary School students" for books supplies and training sections (an expert from the partner was the trainer)
- Worked with Nhat Nghe ICT Training Center about donating 2 computers for the school



- Worked with vendors for supplies of bookshelves, computers and other materials needed to renovate the library
- Worked with workmen to plan about how to renovate the library

4. Activities of the Project

There were 2 main activities conducted:

1. Before the event day

- Received 2 sponsored computers from the donor and buying 2 more computers. In total, VIFA donated 4 new computers for the school's library
- Received books from the donor: books were categorized by fields (science, fiction, folk tales, etc.) and ages. The books were selected based on previous research of the "Books for Primary School students" on children's interests when reading and recommendations from the publishing house.
- Transported the computers and books from HCMC to the school in Long An
- Renovated the library:
 - o Painted the walls and fixed the ceiling
 - o Set up bookshelves and reading tables
 - o Set up computers
 - o Paved the floor with interlocking carpet tiles
 - o Equipped 2 ceiling fans





2. During the event day (April 2nd, 2019)

- Engagement with the students:
 - Shared with them how importance reading was by organizing games and fun quizzes, by which encouraged them to go to the new library to read more books and learn how to use computers properly
 - Invited them to visit the library and read books, interacted with VIFA members
- Capability building for the teachers: Organized a training session for teachers of the school about the importance of books in children’s development, how to create and run activities for students to encourage them to read books (e.g. reading competitions, storytelling contests, etc.) and how to use the computers to search for useful information. The training was conducted by the trainer from the Project “Books for Primary School students”.



Engaging with students

Teachers Training





Students reading books in their new library

Special Note:

When doing the site-check, the project team realized that one of the school's toilets for students was old and deteriorated (the school had 2 toilets for students). After estimating the fees for upgrading it, the team decided to spend one part of the budget to improve the toilet's condition.



The toilet before and after renovation



5. Project Result

- Brought a new library to Ap 3 Huynh Hon Primary School, with 400 new books and 4 new computers. Therefore, the students would experience an easier access to books and would have a better condition to enrich their knowledge.
- Supported the teachers with helpful skills to connect with their students and encourage them to read more. By that, they would have more chance to bring their students more understandings and knowledge that textbooks might not provide. This will be a long-lasting impact of the project which benefits both teachers and students.
- Upgraded a student toilet to provide them a better environment for study at school.

6. Financial Report

The project has spent **VND 34,385,000** (equivalent to **USD 1,469**) within the budget sponsored by IATSS Forum (USD 2,000).

Cost details are as follows:

THE LIBRARY						
Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price (VND)	Sum (VND)	Sum (USD)	Notes
Book shelves	1	set	3,500,000	3,500,000	150	1 set = 6 shelves
Interlocking carpet tiles	18	item	155,000	2,790,000	119	
Floor-paving plastic	1	set	2,500,000	2,500,000	107	
Reading tables	3	item	100,000	300,000	13	
Painting room	1	room	2,000,000	2,000,000	85	
Computers	2	set	5,790,000	11,580,000	495	2 other computer sets are sponsored (4 sets in total)
Cookies and candies for students	1	pax	600,000	600,000	26	
Books	6	box	-	-	-	sponsored
Crayons	4	box	-	-	-	sponsored by a VIFA member
Transportation HCMC - LA - HCMC	1	round trip	1,600,000	1,600,000	68	
Transportation and accommodation for trainer	1	person	2,000,000	2,000,000	85	
Computers and crayons transportations	1	trip	200,000	200,000	9	
Breakfast and water for project team	8	person	50,000	400,000	17	
Ceiling fans	2	item	850,000	1,700,000	73	
Electrical wire	1	set	300,000	300,000	13	
			Total 1	29,470,000	1,259	
THE TOILET						
Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price (VND)	Sum (VND)	Sum (USD)	Notes
Floor tiles	28	item	100,000	2,800,000	120	
Cement	9	bag	85,000	765,000	33	
Sand	2	bag	200,000	400,000	17	
Paint	1	can	950,000	950,000	41	
			Total 2	4,915,000	210	
			TOTAL (1+2)	34,385,000	1,469	
			BUDGET ALLOWED	46,800,000	2,000	
			REMAINING BALANCE	12,415,000	531	

* Note: Exchange Rate: 1 USD = 23,400 issued by Vietcombank as of 28 January 2019



7. Conclusion

The Library Project was not conducted in a big scale, but it contributed to the development of local community's children. Through the books, the children will be able to learn more and nurture in them the curiosity about the world, which would motivate them to go beyond their small commune and grow bigger.

The project team does hope to bring more libraries to other places in need. At the same time, the team would come back to Ap 3 Huynh Lap Primary School after six months and a year, to check in and see if the library is being used as aimed.

Report Writer
On behalf of the Project Team
Pham Thuy Tien