



# PeaceTrees VietNam 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## 25 YEARS OF PEACEBUILDING AND PARTNERSHIP



**July 11, 2020 marked the 25th Anniversary of U.S.- Vietnam diplomatic normalization, as well as PeaceTrees Vietnam's 25th Anniversary.** 2020 was full of celebration, friendship, and renewed commitment to peacebuilding and partnership. In January we gathered with long-time friends and partners at 25th anniversary celebrations in Hanoi and Dong Ha and held a special tree planting ceremony along the Ben Hai river. In July, our team in Vietnam had the honor of welcoming representatives from the US Embassy, the Quảng Trị Women's Union, and the Quảng Trị Department of Foreign Affairs to the Danaan Parry Landmine Education Center for commemorative activities. In the U.S. we marked the occasion with an All-Time Citizen Diplomacy Reunion in which alumni representing delegations from 1996 to present gathered virtually to honor this important milestone. In October, our 25th Anniversary virtual celebration featured a keynote panel including the Honorable Daniel J. Kritenbrink, the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, the Honorable Nguyễn Phương Nga, President of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations, and the Honorable Hà Kim Ngọc, the Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S., moderated by Governor Gary Locke, the former U.S. Ambassador to China. Panelists emphasized that PeaceTrees' work and community have meaningfully shaped the strong partnership shared between the U.S. and Vietnam today. We are looking forward to the next 25 years of working alongside our friends and partners in efforts of peacebuilding and friendship.



*Tree planting ceremony alongside the Ben Hai river,  
January 2020*



*25th anniversary commemorative mural at the Danaan Parry  
Landmine Education Center, July 2020*

# REFLECTING ON 25 YEARS



Megan Bowman,  
Board President

Dear Friends,

On July 11, 1995 the United States and Vietnam normalized diplomatic relations and the story of PeaceTrees Vietnam began. For the past 25 years, we have worked alongside our Vietnamese counterparts to assist those whose lives and livelihoods continue to be threatened by the explosive remnants of the Vietnam War. This year, my colleagues on the board, the PeaceTrees staff and I had the honor of reflecting upon the historical legacy that PeaceTrees has contributed to in Vietnam, while also planning for our next 25 years of work. As the only U.S. demining organization working in Vietnam, our work over the past 25 years has contributed to the strong relationship now shared by the two countries. During our 25th anniversary virtual celebration this year, the Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S., the Honorable Hà Kim Ngọc said:

*"I think PeaceTrees Vietnam has served as a model of healing and reconciliation and has developed the new spirit of cooperation between our two countries. And they show the best image of the United States to Vietnam and to the world. So I join Ambassador Phương Nga and Ambassador Kritenbrink with the hope that PeaceTrees Vietnam will continue – not only continue – but will expand their activities in Vietnam and bring more joy, more happiness, more peace to the Vietnamese people, especially those, who are still suffering from the war's consequences."*

PeaceTrees' commitment to landmine removal, explosive ordnance risk education, survivor assistance, economic and educational development and citizen diplomacy has helped support communities throughout central Vietnam in their educational and economic goals. It has brought former adversaries together in the spirit of peace, friendship, and reconciliation and your dedication and support has made this work possible. Thank you.

Over the past 25 years our holistic approach to post-conflict recovery has achieved many milestones:

- Cleared over **3,265 acres** of more than **110,082 unexploded bombs and mines**, and returned land back to individuals and families in Vietnam, benefitting over **292,666 individuals**
- Assisted **215 individuals** and **62 families** to adjust to life after an UXO accident.
- Educated over **77,771+ individuals** on the risks associated with UXO.
- Built **19 kindergartens**, **12 libraries**, **2 community centers** and **100 family homes**, and provided the **4,775 children** who have attended a PeaceTrees kindergarten daily nutritious meals at school.
- Distributed **2,780 scholarships** to children impacted by mine accidents and ethnic minority children with financial need.
- Planted over **44,000 trees** through the volunteer efforts of more than **900 participants** in PeaceTrees' Citizen Diplomacy program.

While we have made meaningful progress in creating safe land for children and families, there is still much work to be done. In our 26th year, we are renewing our commitment to continued friendship and peacebuilding in Vietnam. As we expand our work throughout central Vietnam and as we join our Vietnamese partners in actions of reconciliation, friendship, and renewal, we hope that you will renew your commitment to our life-saving work.

With deepest gratitude,

Megan Bowman | Board President



Kindergarteners receiving holiday gifts,  
December 2020



Deminers responding to unearthed 500 lbs  
bomb in Quảng Trị, November 2020



Scholarship recipients at the Danaan Parry  
Landmine Education Center, October 22, 2020

# REFLECTING ON 2020



Claire Yunker,  
Executive Director



Ha Pham,  
In-Country Director

Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2020, we are humbled by your generosity and incredibly grateful for your sustained support of PeaceTrees' work in Vietnam! Despite numerous disasters in central Vietnam and global tragedy brought about by covid-19, PeaceTrees achieved an ambitious 25th Anniversary agenda, resulting in unprecedented growth in all areas of our work. Here are a few of the ways PeaceTrees Vietnam had an impact in 2020:

**Honoring 25 years of partnership in Vietnam:** In January, a citizen diplomacy delegation traveled to Hanoi and Quảng Trị Province to honor the 25th Anniversary of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic normalization and to attend celebrations, meet with our partners, visit PeaceTrees projects, and plant trees alongside Vietnamese counterparts at the former DMZ. To help recognize this milestone anniversary, the U.S. Department of State also funded a special project that enabled the safe clearance of 300,000 square meters of land to build schools, roads, and community projects.

**Covid-19 Response and Flood Relief:** Fortunately, PeaceTrees experienced only minor disruptions to our programs due to covid-19. Although kindergartens remained closed for much of the spring, PeaceTrees supported reopening plans by providing health and sanitation supplies to the schools. As we write this letter, covid-19 cases in Vietnam remain low - only 10,630 cases have been confirmed within Vietnam's population of 95 million.

October brought devastating and torrential rains to central Vietnam, resulting in flooding and landslides that impacted over one million people. PeaceTrees Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, experienced in providing emergency support in rural and difficult-to-reach areas, provided emergency aid during and immediately after the crisis. In addition to providing the safe clearance of unexploded ordnance exposed by the flood, PeaceTrees has worked to repair and rebuild schools and libraries damaged in the storms as well as to provide aid to impacted families.



Quảng Bình demining team, December 22, 2020

**Expansion to Quảng Bình:** We are also proud to have formally established a partnership with Quảng Bình Province this year. Quảng Bình neighbors Quảng Trị to the north and remains heavily affected by the presence of explosive remnants of war. In partnership with Mines Advisory Group and Norwegian People's Aid, PeaceTrees EOD Technicians now work every day to reduce the risk of UXO in Quảng Bình. As part of our holistic development model, we have also expanded post-clearance support in the province, including scholarship, kindergarten, and explosive ordnance risk education programs. As part of this initiative, a new kindergarten in Ooc Village, sponsored by citizen diplomacy alumni who traveled to Vietnam in March 2019, will open this fall.

We thank you for your investment in PeaceTrees Vietnam, and for your commitment to healing the wounds of war and building peace alongside the people of Vietnam. We look forward to another productive year in 2021 and promise to keep you up to date throughout the year ahead.

With gratitude,

Claire Yunker | Executive Director

Ha Pham | In-Country Director



Signing of the 25th anniversary clearance project memorandum, July 20, 2020



Children at the Jesse Griego Kindergarten, May 2020

# HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

PeaceTrees' humanitarian mine action program remained efficient and productive in 2020, despite setbacks due to COVID-19 and deadly flooding and landslides. **PeaceTrees is proud to have expanded our demining operations into Quảng Bình province, and to have executed a special 25th anniversary clearance project in Hương Hóa District, while continuing to operate our demining teams in Quảng Trị province.** We now have **150 deminers** working in the field every day to remove unexploded ordnance and release land back to communities.

## QUẢNG TRỊ PROVINCE:

In 2020 we released a total of **3,590,847 square meters of land** back to communities in Quảng Trị Province. Compared to 2019, this is a **13% increase** in square meters released.

We continued to emphasize Explosive Risk Ordnance Education (EORE). In 2020 alone **19,782 people** received EORE. Due to COVID-19 this year, PeaceTrees facilitated a virtual EORE artwork competition for four schools in Hương Hóa and Đa Krông Districts to promote knowledge on how to stay safe. **1,369 students** participated in a two-week competition that involved mural paintings, poster making, and the creation of educational videos on the risks of UXO. PeaceTrees' EORE activities have become one of the most interesting and meaningful extra-curricular activities offered to students in these districts.

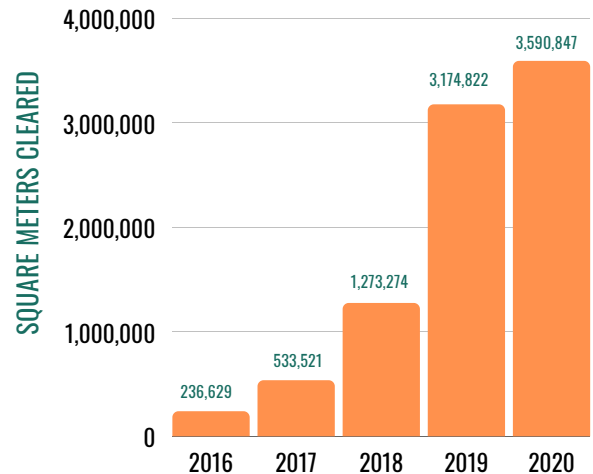


*Deminers sponsored by the 25th Anniversary Clearance Project cleared 10,560 m<sup>2</sup> in October 2020 to allow for the construction of roads to cultivated areas in A Doi commune, Hương Hoa District*

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY CLEARANCE PROJECT:

In recognition of all that both countries have accomplished together over the past 25 years the US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement funded a one-time 25th Anniversary Clearance Project grant.

## PEACETREES QUẢNG TRỊ DEMINING IMPACT 2016-2020



## QUẢNG BÌNH PROVINCE:

Together with Mines Advisory Group and Norwegian's People's Aid, PeaceTrees formed a consortium to deploy high quality survey and clearance operations in Quảng Bình. Funded by The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, this project aims to support effective mine action coordination and information management systems in Quảng Bình. **PeaceTrees aims to clear and release 3,240 acres of safe and productive land** back to Quảng Bình residents. It is estimated that the consortium will respond to **3,042 Explosive Ordnance Disposal spot tasks** reported through a hotline number, which will benefit over **8,160 people**. We will also deliver Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions to 8,095 people.

This special anniversary project resulted in the clearance of **300,000 square meters of land** in Hương Hóa district, Quảng Trị Province Vietnam, **benefiting 2,581 individuals**. This project helped to accelerate socio-economic development in the district and reinforced the strong ties of friendship and cooperation that exist between the United States and Vietnam.

# POST-CLEARANCE DEVELOPMENT

## KINDERGARTENS:

In January 2020, PeaceTrees **dedicated the Cheerful Children Kindergarten in Làng Vây Village, Quảng Trị Province**, alongside project sponsors and citizen diplomats. **Construction of three new schools also began in 2020.** The Prin Thanh Village Kindergarten and the Cua Village Kindergarten were both completed during the year and welcomed children in the 2020/21 school year. The Ooc Village Kindergarten in Quảng Bình province is expected to be completed in Summer 2021. Alongside project sponsors, PeaceTrees has funded the construction of **19 kindergarten classrooms** which help to facilitate the educational goals of youth across central Vietnam. To date, **3,589 children** have attended kindergarten in a classroom funded by PeaceTrees.



*Cheerful Children Kindergarten dedication, January 2020*

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

In 2020, PeaceTrees expanded our scholarship program into Quảng Bình province. This year **234 youth in Quảng Trị and an additional 43 youth in Quảng Bình** from primary school through university received PeaceTrees scholarships. The awards funded notebooks, supplies, uniforms, meals, and administrative fees that are often a barrier to education. Recipients all demonstrated a financial need, strong studying habits, were directly impacted by an unexploded ordnance accident, and/or are ethnic minority children and young adults. PeaceTrees' scholarship program includes multi-year and increased funding based on grade to more accurately reflect the cost of education and to provide more consistency for those who benefit from this program. **To date, 2,780 scholarships have been awarded to youth in central Vietnam.**



*Scholarship recipient Hồ Văn Đình and his mother Hồ Văn Thục at the PeaceTrees' scholarship award ceremony, November 22, 2020*

## FLOOD RELIEF:

October 2020 brought multiple disasters to communities across 11 provinces in central Vietnam where torrential rains and severe landslides impacted over one million people. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, our teams assembled and **delivered aid packets for nearly 1,000 families** containing 5kg of rice, instant noodles, fish sauce, salt, dry wares and canned food. Our EOD teams quickly returned to the field to focus on safely removing and destroying ordnance exposed by the recent flooding and landslides. **The teams responded to callouts for 7 large bombs (500 lbs.) and countless other unexploded cluster munitions, mortars, shells, and mines.** We are committed to providing sustained support for communities as they continue to recover from these disasters.

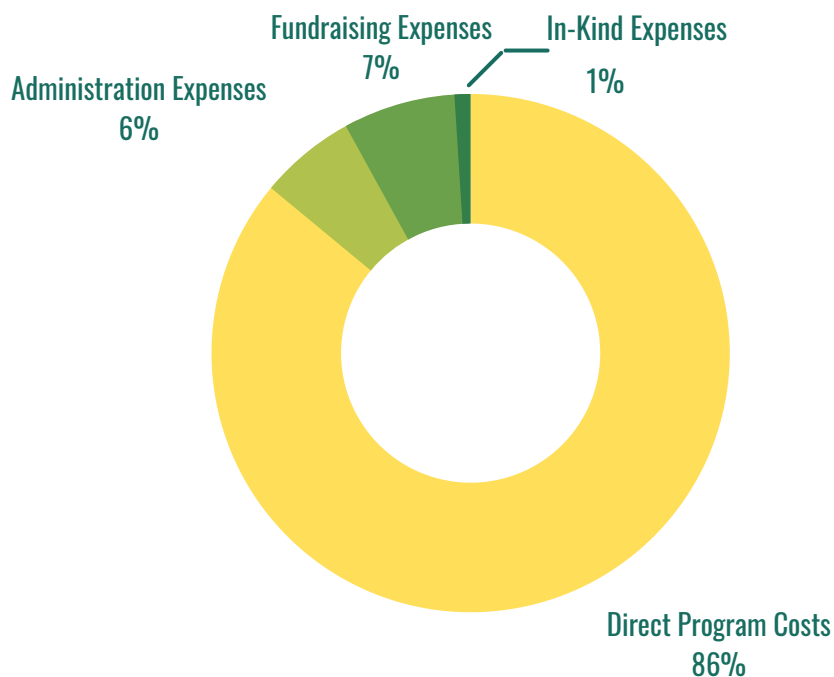


*In-Country Director, Ha Pham, delivering aid packets to a flood-impacted community, October 2020*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2020 FISCAL OVERVIEW

PeaceTrees is proud that our financial statements show our investment in providing meaningful, and direct support to those most impacted by the legacy of war in Vietnam. Our programs support individuals and families to meet their educational and economic goals on safe land.



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2020

### Revenue and Support

Unrestricted Contributions	562,753
Restricted Contributions	230,907
Government Grants	2,243,211
In-Kind Contributions	14,835
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$3,051,706</b>

### Operating Expenses

Administration	167,209
Fundraising	188,650
In-Kind Expenses	14,835
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$370,694</b>

### Direct Program Expenses

Mine Action Operations	1,919,432
Citizen Diplomacy	67,065
Economic Development	104,227
Survivor Assistance & Scholarships	33,644
Administration	121,940
<b>Total Direct Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,246,309</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,617,003</b>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

### 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Alexander  
Ron Beman  
Megan Bowman | Board President  
Jeryllyn Brusseau  
Stephen Chentow  
Cynthia Chiro  
Kevin Espirito  
Tracy Garland  
Dan Gilman  
Carolyn Harper | Treasurer  
Kem Hunter  
Lisa Kartiganer  
Brendan Murphy  
Lisa Nelson  
Daniel Nguyen  
Thoa Nguyen  
Kate Ruffing  
Mary Wagner | Secretary  
Sue Warner-Bean | Vice President

### Board Fellows

Nathan Becker  
Daniel Dang  
Dani Nguyen  
Rowena Clima

### 2020 STAFF

#### Seattle Office

Claire Yunker | Executive Director  
Crystal Oswald-Herold | Program Director  
Carlie Stowe | Project Manager  
Natalie Lawrence | Community Engagement Coordinator  
Trung Nguyen | Development Assistant  
Robert Stokes | Senior Advisor  
Jen West | Bookkeeper  
Jade Fisher | Intern  
Nikki Do | Intern

#### Vietnam Office

Pham Thi Hoang Ha | In-Country Director  
Vo Thi Kieu Oanh | Accountant & Administration  
Vu Thi Van Anh | Project Officer  
Doan Thi Bich Thao | Project Officer  
Le Viet Suu | Information Management Officer  
Hoang Tung | Project Assistant  
Pham Minh Phuong | Project Assistant  
Huong Tran | Administrative Assistant  
Vo Van Trung | Driver  
Duong Binh | Security Officer

### EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL RESPONSE TEAMS

PeaceTrees Vietnam's work would not be possible without our Explosive Ordnance Disposal Response Teams. We now have over 150 deminers working in the field every day.

### PEACETREES VIETNAM VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers who graciously gave their time and talents to support the work of PeaceTrees Vietnam in 2020.

## CONNECT WITH US!



@PEACETREESVIETNAM

PeaceTrees Vietnam hopes to resume our Citizen Diplomacy Trip program in 2022. If you are interested in traveling with us, please send us an email to let us know.

[www.peacetreesvietnam.org](http://www.peacetreesvietnam.org) // [info@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:info@peacetreesvietnam.org) // (206) 441-6136



**PeaceTrees  
VietNam**