



COUNTRY FACT SHEET VIETNAM

It was a young child in Vietnam in 1969 that inspired the medical philanthropy that became Children's HeartLink. Our first partnership in Vietnam using our modern model of health systems development began in 2008, and we now have one Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence and one partner hospital. What once was an effort by one American doctor to save one child, has grown to Vietnamese medical teams performing over 3,000 procedures (including open heart surgeries) in 2020. Our approach is built around sustainable health systems strengthening, with a focus on increasing clinical and administrative capacity, and supporting advanced medical education. Our investment in Vietnam, direct and in-kind, has surpassed US \$1 million. Children's HeartLink's commitment to Vietnam's developing pediatric cardiac care infrastructure is strong and will remain so until all children have the care they deserve.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to the cardiac care they need. In Vietnam, our goal is to develop four Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030. To achieve this, we are establishing long-lasting partnerships with local stakeholders – including providers, clinic administrators and government officials – to increase awareness of the need for pediatric cardiac care. Our focus is on building clinical and organizational skills, and increasing support for the inclusion of universal access to pediatric cardiac care into Vietnam's health care system.

CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

Every year around the world, 1 in 100 children is born with a birth defect within the structure of their heart. This condition is called congenital heart disease. It is the seventh leading cause of death under 1 year of age. Cardiac anomalies are the most common of all birth defects, and 70% of them are surgically correctable. These children can live full, productive lives if they get skilled care. Unfortunately, 90% of children with heart disease live in regions of the world without access to pediatric cardiac care; far too many of them will die preventable deaths.

THE NEED IN VIETNAM

- **1 in 100 babies** is born with congenital heart disease
- **11,000 babies** are born with congenital heart disease each year
- **2,829 children under the age of 5** died from congenital heart disease in 2016 – this amounts to 243,667 years of life lost prematurely
- In 2019, **3,000 children** with congenital heart disease were on the waiting list for cardiac surgery in Vietnam



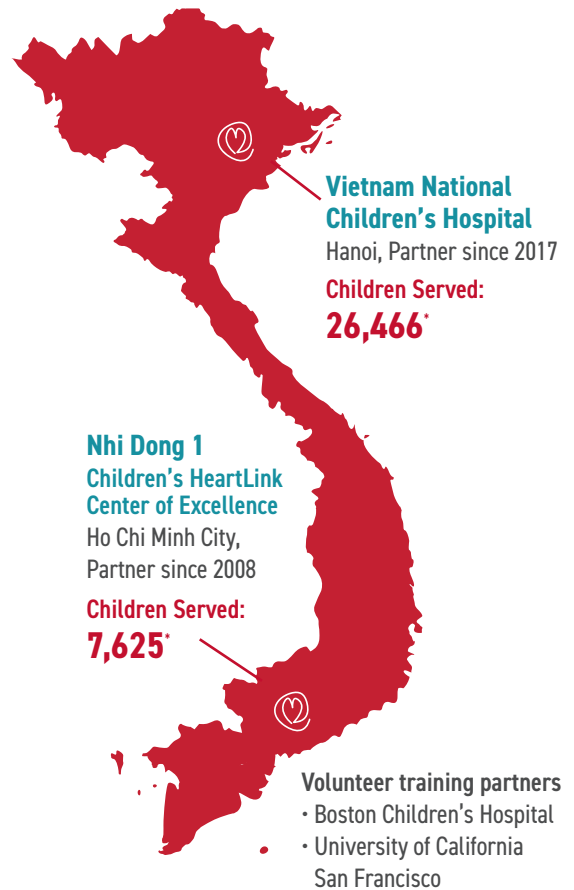
CHILDREN'S HEARTLINK PARTNER HOSPITALS IN VIETNAM

Nhi Dong 1

Children's HeartLink's 2008 partnership with Nhi Dong 1 brought our work back to the country where it all began almost 40 years prior. Nhi Dong 1 is a dedicated children's hospital providing services to children of Ho Chi Minh City and southern Vietnam, where two-thirds of the country's population lives. With their training partner, Boston Children's Hospital, Nhi Dong 1 focused on enhancing ICU care, nursing education, advanced surgical techniques, and expanding echocardiogram, imaging and advanced diagnostic capacities. In 2023, Nhi Dong 1 served 7,625 children and became the first Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence in the country.

Vietnam National Children's Hospital

Located in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital and second largest city, with a regional population of over 30 million, VNCH is a hub for a network of 14 provincial hospitals. It has the largest cardiac program in the country and provides most of the advanced care. In 2023, the hospital served 26,466 children. Since 2017, the University of California San Francisco has partnered with VNCH in a multi-year commitment to expand its capacity to serve even more children. Now in Phase 3 of our program model, the hospital is on track to become a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence.



Since 1969 Children's HeartLink has been dedicated to caring for children with heart disease. We invest in long-term, multi-phase partnerships to build centers of excellence in pediatric cardiac care. In 2023, more than 5,800 medical professionals in low- and middle-income countries benefited from training provided in conjunction with our medical volunteers. That same year our 20+ hospital partners in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Malaysia and Vietnam reached 196,000 children born with congenital heart disease.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Adriana Dobrzycka, Country Director
adriana@childrensheartlink.org