

2023 Platypus Scholarships Programme

Vietnam Scholarship Ceremonies- 24 – 29 August 2023

On behalf of the Platypus Foundation, representatives of the Vietnam Women's Union organised seven graduation ceremonies throughout Quan Nam and Ha Giang provinces. At these events, Platypus awarded 242 scholarships of VND 2,100,00 each – the largest number ever - to students drawn from a range of ethnic groups enrolled in Grades 6 through 12.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all Platypus donors. By choosing to support our scholarships programme, you are helping to create a sustainable future for remote rural vulnerable communities by providing long-term support. Together, we can make a lasting impact for people living in poverty and work towards creating a more just world where all may thrive.

The Platypus Scholarship Programme

Platypus was formed in 2011 by a group of friends in Perth, Western Australia after several years of research into the history of Vietnam, with particular reference to the enormous war damage caused in more recent times. Our main aim was to help children from poor families obtain an education: this was to help not only provide them with a better future but would enable them to better care for their parents and elderly relatives in a country that has no safety net for the old and infirm. Over time generous support has enabled us to expand our activities. Our scholarships programme is now in its 13th year.

Scholarship students must be from the two lowest levels of poverty and special attention is paid to family backgrounds with a view to helping make a difference. We are not focused on academic excellence as these folk usually compete at a massive disadvantage to their city cousins. Most of our students achieve average marks and we are proud of them for persevering, often under difficult conditions.

This year, the majority of our scholarship recipients (76%) are again female. Traditionally in rural Vietnam, responsibilities have been heavily weighted towards the woman of the house and, historically, women were educationally disadvantaged. On this occasion, students come from thirteen ethnic groups and are enrolled in Grades 6 to 12. For one student their 2023 scholarship represented a ninth year of continuous support but, equally, it is never too late to begin supporting a student with 54 students in Year 12 receiving a scholarship for the first time.

The ceremonies were conducted in the last week of the long school holidays before the start of the new school year with many students travelling significant distances to be present at their conferral. A special highlight of this year's programme was the awarding of 32 scholarships for the first time to students in the Quang Binh District of Ha Giang, made possible by the generosity of our new American benefactors and their *Education for Girls in Vietnam* programme.

Quang Nam Province

Three ceremonies were conducted in Quang Nam Province, in Nam Giang, Nông Sơn and Bắc Trà My. Quang Nam comprises flat land along the coast and increasingly high elevations to the west. More than

half of the province is covered by forests. Quang Nam has two famous traditional products: the world's highest essential oil content Tra My cinnamon and Ngoc Linh ginseng, prized in herbal medicine. Rural economies are particularly reliant upon agriculture, forestry and fishery with rice, corn, sugar cane and a variety of tropical fruits prominent. The drive from the industrial city of Da Nang to the site of the first ceremony in Nam Giang provided an illuminating introduction to rural Vietnam:

- thousands of small motorcycles, typically two-up but often ferrying more passengers, setting the rhythm of life for all road users as folk went about their business;
- local farmers drying corn spread on tarpaulins set on the roadside, and later fed to livestock, with corn husks dried and stored for household fuel; and
- foraging chickens darting in and out of the undergrowth with cattle chewing their cud while tethered to verge side trees.

Our driver proceeded at a moderate pace, relying on accelerator, brake and horn in equal measures: three short *parps* to alert other road users that we were approaching and / or about to overtake (or undertake – equally acceptable); one short *parp* of gratitude when another driver gave way. Remarkably, in seven days in Vietnam there were no accidents and no angry voices. Journeys are generally understood to be a respectful negotiation where the unexpected (to Western eyes) is common practice.

Ceremony 1- Nam Giang District

We reached Nam Giang shortly before 10.00am to discover parents, teachers, local dignitaries and VWU representatives gathered with our students, who sat very quietly, in the local municipal building awaiting our arrival. Thirty scholarships were awarded on this occasion to Co Tu and Kinh: 22 girls and 8 boys selected from seven schools in the province and enrolled in grades 6 through 12. The Co Tu are one of 54 officially recognised ethnic minorities with a language that belongs to the Mon-Khmer language family. And while many Co Tu are bi-lingual some, including one father who brought his daughter to the ceremony, do not speak Vietnamese. But a camaraderie and understanding was achieved through handshakes, gestures and many smiles.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, lollies were shared among the scholarship recipients while letters of appreciation were composed before the local VWU officials hosted lunch for invited guests. And then we were off.

Ceremony 2 Nong Son District

The Nong Son ceremony, in keeping with all others, followed a well-established formula. The students sat at desks quietly awaiting further instruction from their teachers and many parents sat or stood equally quietly at the rear of the hall. The local VWU official greeted the visiting Central and Provincial VWU representatives. Then all were told the disappointing news that Mr Robert of Platypus could not attend this year. Then there was a slight pause - to accommodate the murmurings of many as they expressed hope that they would again see the smiling, white bearded gentle man in future years – before Mr Jon was introduced as the Platypus representative and invited to give a speech. The assembly learned through simultaneous translation about the honour I felt joining them that day and my appreciation for all the work undertaken by the VWU in preparing for and conducting the ceremony. The students were told of my delight in learning that they had all worked hard and achieved good results and

that I was confident that they would work hard again in the coming school year. Finally, I told the students that the Platypus Foundation was honoured to support them with a scholarship. In exchange we asked three things of each student before wishing them every success. That they:

1. respect their teachers and their family;
2. do their very best in class every day; and
3. enjoy their school year.

Thirty scholarships were awarded to 25 girls and 5 boys in grades 6 through 11 drawn from eight schools throughout the district with all the recipients of the majority Kinh ethnic group. And while all students have learned at least a small amount of whispered English (*my name is ...*), a highlight of this ceremony was the vote of thanks delivered in English by a young lady on behalf of all the scholarship holders.

Ceremony 3 Bac Tra My

The final ceremony in Quang Nam province, for students of Bac Tra My district, was the most diverse: 32 girls and 8 boys from 15 schools and representative of potentially eight, but more likely six, ethnic groups: Our records list Cadong, Cor, Dao, Kadong, Kinh, Kor, Muong and Nung, but perhaps Kor is one of several alternative spellings for the Cor, and Kadong an alternative rendering of Cadong or, officially, the Xo Dan, an indigenous people.

Rural Xo Dan live together in villages, called 'ploi'. In each traditional village, there are many elongated houses where many generations of Xo Dang families live together.

The Cor, officially known as the Co, are another indigenous group and while most speak Vietnamese, many also speak the Hre language and know Mandarin. The Dao people have their origin in China and their migration to Vietnam began in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The Dao people live in different types of houses - ground-level houses, stilt houses and half-stilt half-ground houses – and speak Hmong-Mien languages.

The Muong are another indigenous people and the fourth largest ethnic group after the Vietnamese (Kinh), Tay and Thai. The Muong ethnic language belongs to the Viet-Muong language group of Southern Asia. The residential area of Muong people is known as a 'quel' (village). The village is the basic unit of Muong society, consisting of many patriarchal sub-families, in which authority belongs to the eldest child. The Nung are comparatively recent arrivals in Vietnam having migrated from Guangxi (China) about 200 – 300 years ago.

The Nung people speak a Tay-Thai language of the Tai-Kadai family. A typical Nung house is a three-floor stilt house roofed with tubular tiles. The ground floor houses livestock, poultry and farming tools, the second floor is the main living space, and the third floor is used to store food and other items.

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Our second day in Quang Nam concluded with lunch in Bac Tra My before the drive back to Da Nang and flight to the capital, Han Noi, in the north of the country.

Ha Giang Province

Hà Giang Province in the Northeast region of Vietnam is one of the poorest provinces of Vietnam. It shares a 270 km long border with Yunnan province of southern China, and thus is known as Vietnam's final frontier. Hà Giang has many high rocky mountains with impressive limestone and granite peaks and outcrops cut through by cascading streams, seepage streams from limestone formations, waterfalls, glides, and pools. Cultivated fields and livestock are generally found in elevations below 800 metres. Between 800 and 950 metres, grasses and woody shrubs are prevalent. Patches of forest are found above 1,000 metres with the canopy covering around 80% of the sky. The forest has dense undergrowth with large vines, tree ferns and rhododendrons. Banana, bamboo and secondary scrub grow on both sides of foot tracks in the forests. Above 2,000 metres, there is a mixed semideciduous and evergreen cloud forest with most tree trunks covered with bryophyte mosses.

Travelling around the province can be difficult and much of the region is too mountainous for agriculture. Traditionally, the vast majority of its economic activity revolved around agriculture and forestry in the lower reaches. However, in recent years, there have been attempts to establish manufacturing industries. While infrastructure in Hà Giang has seen improvement, it remains poor and roads, schools, and health services are underdeveloped compared to many other parts of Vietnam.

After a long drive from Ha Noi, we arrived in the illuminated market town of Meo Vac, 1,000 metres above sea level, after night fall and following a challenging final section of our journey. There was just time for dinner, rice spirit toasts and lots of handshaking with our local hosts before bed at the imposing Hoa Cuong Hotel. Across the street, a karaoke bar was in full voice late into the night.

Ceremony 4 – Meo Vac District

In the early morning, following a noodle soup breakfast, the Meo Vac scholarship ceremony commenced at 7.30 am. Scholarships were awarded to 28 girls and 11 boys from the Hmong (35), Dao (3) and Xuong (1) (also known as the Nung) people. The ceremony exhibited an incredible warmth and generous spirit and concluded with the now familiar letter writing to Mr Robert, distribution of lollies followed by student departures riding pillion before a day of labours.

The Hmong and Dao people originated in the San Miao region of China but suffered war and migrations lasting several thousand years before journeying into Southeast Asia in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. According to official statistics, the poverty rate in the Hmong community is greater than 50% with near-poor households accounting for another ~10%. Agricultural activities dominate (~95%) with the percentage of trained workers with certificates only 4.2% while the percentage of the labour force at management level or in high- and middle-level technical jobs is only 1.3%.

Official statistics record Hmong literacy at only 54.3% while the rate of junior secondary school attendance is only 77.3% and falls to 29.5% in the senior secondary years. The Meo Vac district scholarship students attend two secondary day schools and five boarding schools. A majority are enrolled in years 9 and 10 with far too many students leaving school at the end of year 10. There continues to be pressure exerted on many girls to marry at a young age.

Ceremony 5 – Yen Minh District

The journey from Meo Vac to Yen Minh navigates stunning perilous mountain passes constructed in the 1950's to link six mountain communities to the lowlands. In these mountains, soil is very sparse and local women will scrape soil from wherever they can and bring it to shallow holes in the rock scape where they will plant two, or at most, three corn. Life is very tough for these mountain people. Many will remain in the village of their birth their entire lives and marrying closely leads to a small genetic pool with attendant health issues.

In contrast to what we had just experienced in Meo Vac and the apparent standard of living in the district, the opulence of the Yen Minh municipal building with its modern electric lift to each floor and quality furnishings throughout including leather padded chairs, was stark.

As was the case at all ceremonies, the Yen Minh students, in this instance eight Dao, two Hmong and ten Tay from two boarding and one day school, were waiting quietly in their places for us to arrive with many finishing letters of appreciation to Platypus. The Tay have been in Vietnam from the end of the first millennium BC. Their traditional costumes are made of black, indigo fabric, with little decorative patterns.

Ceremony 6 – Quan Ba District

Our next ceremony in the mountains was in Quan Ba, reached after traversing the Heaven's Gate pass, a famous stop along the route of the Ha Giang loop. Fifty-one scholarships were awarded to Dao (8 students), Giay (1), Hmong (34) and Nung (8) students enrolled in in four ethnic boarding schools and one secondary day school.

The Giay originated in China, migrating to Vietnam about 300 years ago. Their traditional language belongs to the Thai-Thai language group. The houses of Ha Giang Giay are traditionally built on stilts with a tiled or dry straw thatch roof and usually comprise three compartments with the middle compartment the most important and sacred place used to worship ancestors and receive guests.

Ceremony 7 – Quang Binh District

Our final ceremony was conducted in the lowland and comparatively prosperous Quang Binh district. There was great excitement in the community. Despite all the children being on their school holidays, 28 of the 30 scholarship recipients attended the ceremony, with most, I am told, arriving several hours early such was their anticipation and excitement at this first ever ceremony in the district made possible by our new American benefactors. Scholarships were bestowed upon 31 girls and one boy from five ethnic groups comprising Dao (25 students), Hmong (3), Lai Chi (1), Phu La (1) and two Tay students.

The Phu La people belong to the Yi language family and migrated from the western provinces of China to Vietnam more than 300 years ago and constitute the smallest ethnic minority in Vietnam. The 2019 Census recorded just 12,471 Phu La with the percentage of people aged 15 and over who can read and write at 72.3% being well below the national average. The net attendance rate for children of junior secondary school age is 82.1%, and of senior secondary school age is only 29.5%.



The La Chi ethnic people have lived in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam for a long time and are generally considered to be indigenous. Official statistics classify the La Chi as the second smallest ethnic group with 15,126 people counted in the 2019 census. Many La chi have almost completely forgotten their mother language and now only speak Nung or Dao languages, which belong to the Kadai language group and have similarities to the La Chi ethnic language in terms of words and pronunciation. The La Chi family is patriarchal. The father controls everything, from production and marriage to relationships with neighbours. The family is a common economic unit under the management of the father or the eldest son when the father gets older. Literacy among the Lai Chi is even lower (64.8% in 2019) with the net attendance rate for children of junior secondary school age recorded at 82.1%, and of senior secondary school, 39.1%. The challenges facing the La Chi, and in particular their women, are very substantial.

Concluding Remarks

Platypus was warmly received in all the communities that it serves with the annual scholarships ceremony a significant highlight in the school year. Children, often accompanied by parents and other members of their family, attended wearing their very best clothes with many resplendent in traditional costume, having rehearsed their limited English and diligently written a letter of appreciation to Mr Robert. Ceremonies were dignified, respectful and joyous occasions.

The hospitality extended to me was generous to a fault with splendid meals shared at every opportunity followed by heartfelt invitations to return in future years. However, this hospitality also served to illustrate the great gulf between those people who have benefitted from political and economic market liberalisation reforms that started in 1986, and those who have been left behind.

In 2016, 5.8% of the population (some 5.6 million people) was still living below the national poverty line and in 2018, 13.8% of the population (approx. 13.5million people) were living in slum accommodation.

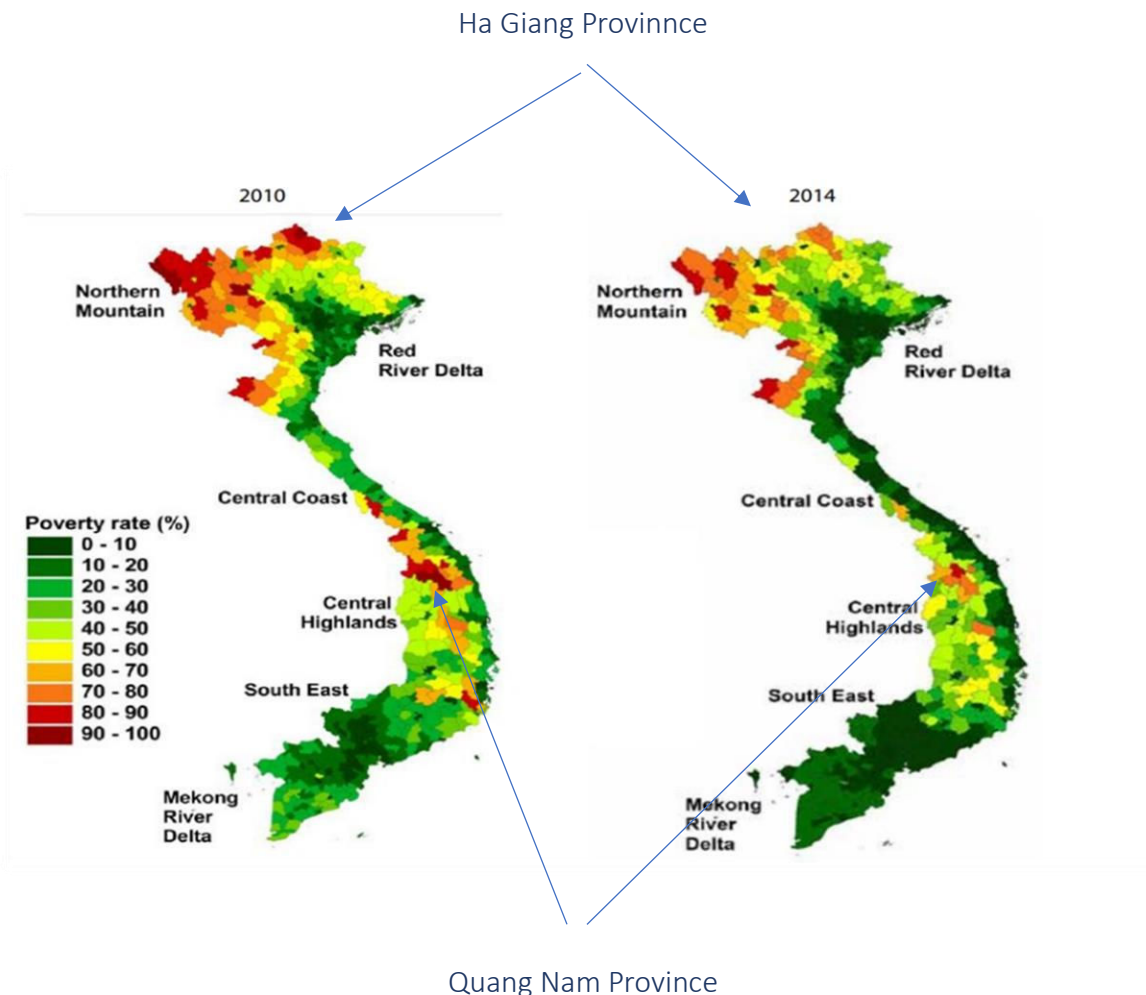
There are many causes of poverty, however poverty derives mostly from demographic elements:

- The majority of the poor are farmers. In rural and remote Quang Nam and Ha Giang farming is still the main way of living.
- The majority of the poor live in rural, isolated, mountainous or disaster-prone areas, where physical infrastructure and public service are relatively underdeveloped.
- The poor often lack production means and cultivated land.
- The poor have limited access to state credit and often can only access finance through unregulated lenders with very high interest rates.
- Poor households often have many children but few labourers.
- The poor are disproportionately likely to be from an ethnic minority. The percentage of households with heads coming from ethnic minorities increased from 17.8 percent in 1993 to 40.7 percent in 2008.
- The poor have limited education: people who have not completed primary education account for the highest rate of poverty.
- Rural households consisting of only women and children are particularly vulnerable to poverty because the number of dependents is relatively high compared with the available labor force.



- Slums are also very detrimental to people in general who live in falling apart or old and decrepit infrastructure due to lack of sanitation, proper electricity and water services, unregulated law enforcement, ugly conditions etc. Other factors include increased crime rates, overcrowded living in tiny spaces, as well as being caught in limbo in governmental development of particular areas.
- Caring for the elderly is seen in Vietnam as a family affair due to practices of filial piety. However, the resources and mental toll that is expended by the family to take care of their own elderly, can lead to poorer conditions for the whole family and in particular the young.
- Such instances of poverty as well as neglect of school can lead people to become more exposed and vulnerable to crime such as human trafficking, corruption, and drug trafficking etc.

Vietnam poverty rates in 2010 an 2014





Platypus 2023 Scholarships Programme - Analysis

Summary

- 242 scholarship awarded
 - Quan Nam - 100 students
 - Ha Giang – 142 students
 - 184 girls (76%)
 - 58 boys (24%)
- Ethnicity – 12 ethnic groups
 - Cadong – 2 students (0.8%) (officially known as Xo Dan)
 - Cor – 1 student (0.4%) (officially known as Co)
 - Co Tu – 24 students (9.9%)
 - Dao – 45 students (15.6%)
 - Giay – 1 student (0.4%)
 - Hmong – 61 students (25.2%)
 - Kadong – 12 students (5%) (Kadong is likely an alternative spelling of Cadong, an ethnic group officially described as Xo Dan)
 - Kinh – 13 students (5.4%)
 - Kor – 8 students (3.3%) (Kor is likely an alternative spelling of Cor)
 - Lai Chi – 1 student (0.4%)
 - Muong – 1 student (0.4%)
 - Nung – 8 students (3.3%)
 - Phu La – 1 student (0.4%)
 - Tay – 12 students (5%)
 - Xuong – 1 student (0.4%) (also known as the Nung)
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2015 – 1 student (0.4%)
 - 2016 – 3 students (1.2%)
 - 2017 – 8 students (3.3%)
 - 2018 – 37 students (15.3%)
 - 2019 – 13 students (5.4%)
 - 2020 – 41 students (16.9%)
 - 2021 – 34 students (14%)
 - 2022 – 29 students (12%)
 - 2023 – 54 students (22.3%)
- Grades
 - Grade 6 – 19 students (7.9%)
 - Grade 7 – 34 students (14%)
 - Grade 8 – 55 students (22.7%)
 - Grade 9 – 44 students (18.2%)
 - Grade 10 – 40 students (15.3%)
 - Grade 11 – 31 students (12.8%)



- Grade 12 – 19 students (7.6%)

Detailed

Quang Nam Province

Thursday 24 August 2023

Ceremony 1

Nam Giang District

- 30 students
 - 22 girls (73.3%)
 - 8 boys (26.7)
- Ethnicity
 - Co Tu - 26 students (86.7%%)
 - Kinh – 4 students (13.3%)
- School
 - To Huu High School – 12 students
 - Thanh My Secondary School – 7 students
 - Ta Bhing Boarding Secondary School – 5 students
 - TaPoo Primary and Secondary School – 3 students
 - Provincial Ethnic Boarding school – 1 student
 - Nam Giang Ethnic Boarding Sec School – 1 student
 - Nguyen Hue Secondary School – 1 student
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2017 – 1 student
 - 2018 – 4 students
 - 2019 – 2 students
 - 2020 – 5 students
 - 2021 – 7 students
 - 2022 – 4 students
 - 2023 – 7 students
- Grades
 - Grade 6 – 3 students
 - Grade 7 – 2 students
 - Grade 8 – 8 students
 - Grade 9 – 4 students
 - Grade 10 – 3 students
 - Grade 11 – 5 students
 - Grade 12 – 5 students

Ceremony 2

Nong Son District

- 30 students



- 25 girls (83%)
- 5 boys (17%)
- Ethnicity
 - Kinh – 30 students (100%)
- School
 - Huynh Thuc Khang Secondary School – 3 students
 - Nong Son High School – 6 students
 - Le Thanh Tong High School for Gifted Students – 1 student
 - Nguyen Duy Hieu Secondary School (Que Loc) – 7 students
 - Nguyen Van Troi Primary & Secondary School – 4 students
 - Phan Chau Trinh Secondary School – 4 students
 - Tran Quy Cap Primary & Secondary School – 2 students
 - Vo Chi Cong Primary & Secondary – 3 students
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2018 – 2 students
 - 2019 – 6 students
 - 2020 – 2 students
 - 2021 – 5 students
 - 2022 – 7 students
 - 2023 – 8 students
- Grades
 - Grade 6 – 4 students
 - Grade 7 – 5 students
 - Grade 8 – 8 students
 - Grade 9 – 5 students
 - Grade 10 – 3 students
 - Grade 11 – 5 students

Friday 25 August 2023

Ceremony 3

Bac Tra My district

40 students

- 32 girls (80%)
- 8 boys (20%)
- Ethnicity
 - Cadong – 2 students (5%)
 - Cor – 1 student (2.5%)
 - Dao – 1 student (2.5%)
 - Kadong – 12 students (30%)
 - Kinh – 13 students (32.5%)
 - Kor – 9 students (22.5%)
 - Muong – 1 student (2.5%)



- Nung – 1 student (2.5%)
- School
 - 19/8 Secondary School – 2 students
 - Bac Tra My High School – 5 students
 - Chu Huy Man Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 2 students
 - Hoi An Ethnic School – 1 student *NB student has moved to Hoi An and will be supported there*
 - Huynh Thuc Khang Secondary School – 2 students
 - Le Hong Phong Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 2 students
 - Tran Quy Cap Primary & Secondary School – 2 students
 - Nguyen Du Secondary School – 3 students
 - Nguyen Hue Secondary School – 2 students
 - Nguyen Van Troi Secondary School – 2 students
 - Nuoc Oa Ethnic Boarding High School – 11 students
 - Phuong Dong Secondary School - 1 student
 - Tra Ka Ethnic Boarding Prim & Secondary School – 1 student
 - Tra Nu Boarding Primary & Secondary School – 2 students
 - Tran Phu Ethnic Boarding Primary & Secondary - 4 students
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2018 – 8 students
 - 2019 – 5 students
 - 2020 – 5 students
 - 2021 – 8 students
 - 2022 – 7 students
 - 2023 – 7 students
- Grades
 - Grade 6 – 3 students
 - Grade 7 – 4 students
 - Grade 8 – 12 students
 - Grade 9 – 6 students
 - Grade 10 – 10 students
 - Grade 11 – 5 students

Ha Giang Province

Monday 28 August 2023

Ceremony 4

Meo Vac District

39 students

- 28 girls (72%)
- 11 boys (18%)
- Ethnicity



- Dao – 3 student (7.7%)
- Hmong – 35 student (89.7%)
- Xuong – 1 student (2.6%)
- School
 - Giang Chu Pin Secondary – 5 students
 - Khau Vai Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 9 students
 - Lung Chinh Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 8 students
 - Niem Son Ethnic Boarding Secondary – 4 students
 - Sung Tra Secondary School - 8 students
 - Ta Lung Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 4 students
 - Yen Minh Boarding School - 1 student
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2017 – 1 student
 - 2018 – 3 students
 - 2019 – 11 students
 - 2020 – 18 students
 - 2021 – 4 students
 - 2022 – 2 students
- Grades
 - Grade 7 – 1 student
 - Grade 8 – 7 students
 - Grade 9 – 15 students
 - Grade 10 – 13 students
 - Grade 11 – 2 students
 - Grade 12 – 1 student

Ceremony 5

Yen Ming District

20 students

- 12 girls (60%)
- 8 boys (40%)
- Ethnicity
 - Dao – 8 students (40%)
 - Hmong – 2 students (10%)
 - Tay – 10 students (50%)
- School
 - Mau Due High School – 4 students
 - Ngam La Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 10 students
 - Ngoc Long Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 6 students
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2017 – 3 students
 - 2018 – 7 students
 - 2019 – 2 students



- 2020 – 3 students
- 2021 – 2 students
- 2022 – 3 students
- Grades
 - Grade 7 – 2 students
 - Grade 8 – 4 students
 - Grade 9 – 3 students
 - Grade 10 – 1 student
 - Grade 11 – 3 students
 - Grade 12 – 7 students

Tuesday 29 August 2023

Ceremony 6

Quan Ba District

51 students

- 34 girls (66.7%)
- 17 boys (33.3%)
- Ethnicity
 - Dao – 8 students (15.7%)
 - Giay – 1 student (2%)
 - Hmong – 34 students (66.7%)
 - Nung – 8 students (15.7%)
- School
 - Bat Dai Son Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 10 students
 - Cao Ma Po Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 10 students
 - Lung Tam Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 17 students
 - Nghia Thuan Ethnic Boarding Secondary School – 13 students
 - Sung Tra Secondary School – 1 student
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2015 – 1 student
 - 2016 – 3 students
 - 2017 – 3 students
 - 2018 – 13 students
 - 2019 – 9 students
 - 2020 – 8 students
 - 2021 – 8 students
 - 2022 – 6 students
- Grades
 - Grade 7 – 9 students
 - Grade 8 – 7 students
 - Grade 9 – 9 students



- Grade 10 – 10 students
- Grade 11 – 10 students
- Grade 12 – 6 students

Ceremony 7

Quang Binh District

32 students

- 31 girls (96.9%)
- 1 boy (3.1%)
- Ethnicity
 - Dao – 25 students (78.1)
 - Hmong – 3 students (9.4%)
 - Lai Chi – 1 student (3.1%)
 - Phu La – 1 student (3.1%)
 - Tay – 2 students (6.3)
- School
 - Bac Me District– 2 students
 - Huong Son Ethnic Board Sec – 6 students
 - Tan Nam Ethnic Board Second – 14 students
 - Tien Nguyen Ethnic Boarding - 10 students
- Year scholarship first awarded
 - 2023 – 32 students
- Grades
 - Grade 6 – 9 students
 - Grade 7 – 11 students
 - Grade 8 – 9 students
 - Grade 9 – 2 students
 - Grade 11 – 1 student