K.i.D.S.

Yearplan

2026

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I. About Stichting K.I.D.S.

In 2025, Stichting K.I.D.S. (Kids in Distress) marked its 27th consecutive year of providing protection, care, and educational opportunities to children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Ho Chi Minh City. Over nearly three decades, the Foundation has continuously adapted its programmes to the evolving social, economic, and regulatory context in Vietnam, while remaining firmly anchored in its statutory mission: safeguarding the wellbeing of children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Ho Chi Minh City and supporting their long-term educational and social development.

The year 2025 was characterised by significant transition. Against the backdrop of administrative changes affecting residential child-care models in Vietnam, Stichting K.I.D.S. successfully navigated the controlled closure of two shelter programmes while ensuring continuity of care, educational support, and child protection for all children concerned. Through close cooperation with our long-standing partner WOCA (Women's Charity Association Ho Chi Minh City) and the community-based organisation SDRC (Center for Research and Consultancy in Social Work and Community Development), the Foundation further strengthened its shift toward complementary community-based and scholarship-focused interventions.

Throughout these changes, the safety, wellbeing, and educational continuity of the children remained the Foundation's highest priority. By maintaining intensive communication with local partners and ensuring strong management and oversight from the Netherlands, Stichting K.I.D.S. continued to provide children with access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and psychosocial support—offering them a realistic perspective on a more stable and meaningful future.

A. Objective

Stichting K.I.D.S. was founded in 1997 and aims to provide care, protection, and educational opportunities to vulnerable children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. In pursuit of this objective, the Foundation has focused on the establishment and operation of residential shelters, while more recently expanding into community-based educational support, scholarships, and family-strengthening interventions.

Stichting K.I.D.S. operates strictly as a non-profit organization and holds ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling) status in the Netherlands. The Foundation has no profit motive: 100% of all donated funds are used directly for the benefit of children. Board members and volunteers serve on an entirely unpaid basis and personally cover all travel and accommodation costs related to management and monitoring activities.

B. Organization

Stichting K.I.D.S. raises and manages funds in the Netherlands and organizes the implementation of its programmes in Ho Chi Minh City in cooperation with trusted local partners. At the beginning of 2025, the Foundation supported three residential shelters—Sunlight Kids House, Sunflower Kids House, and Lemongrass Kids House—alongside a community-based education project. By the end of the year, programme support has transitioned to one residential shelter – Sunlight Kids House and two community-based and scholarship-oriented projects, reflecting both policy developments and best practices in child welfare.

Sunlight Kids House and KIDS Community project are implemented locally under the supervision of WOCA (Women's Charity Association in HCMC), which oversees daily management, finances, staffing, and safeguarding standards. Two to three trained caregivers are assigned to each residential facility. In addition, Stichting K.I.D.S. collaborates with SDRC for the implementation of community-based life-skills education and family-engagement initiatives, particularly at Dinh Phu Dinh Community Learning Center.

Regular communication and mutual trust form the basis of these partnerships. Cultural differences are approached with care and respect, and programme decisions are made jointly, with the child's best interest as the guiding principle.

Management and monitoring are ensured through quarterly reporting, regular online consultations, and annual on-site visits by Board members and representatives. In 2025, Board members once again travelled to Vietnam to assess operations, consult with partners such as the Consul General of the Netherlands in HCMC, the HCMC Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO), WestCoast International Clinics. These consultation sessions provide invaluable ideas and support for our programmes in Vietnam. Board visits also gave a good chance to engage directly with children and staff in all projects, to have a better understanding of their daily life, their fun facts and also challenges and how we can support them better.

Following new regulatory requirements in Vietnam, the Educational Manager in Vietnam assumed the role of Managing Director in August 2025, strengthening local leadership and supporting the Foundation's process of obtaining a locally recognized operating license. We are expecting to have the operating license in Vietnam in 2026.

From the Netherlands, the Board provides strategic oversight, financial supervision, and policy guidance. Financial administration and annual accounts are handled independently and on a voluntary basis, ensuring transparency, accountability, and full compliance with ANBI regulations. All activities of Stichting K.I.D.S.—both in Vietnam and in the Netherlands—are carried out entirely on a voluntary basis, keeping overhead costs to an absolute minimum and maximizing the direct impact of donor contributions.

II. Plans for 2026

The Year Plan 2026 outlines the strategic priorities, programme focus, and operational framework of Stichting K.I.D.S. for the coming year. Building on the outcomes and lessons of 2025, the Foundation will continue its work at Sunlight Kids House and further consolidate its transition towards a complementary model combining residential care, community-based education support, and targeted life-skills development.

All activities in 2026 will remain firmly guided by the Foundation's statutory objective: safeguarding the wellbeing of children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Ho Chi Minh City and supporting their long-term educational and social development.

Strong communication and short decision-making lines remain central to our way of working. They enable effective management, timely coordination with local partners, and careful supervision of our programmes. This organizational strength allows the Foundation to respond flexibly to a changing child-welfare landscape while maintaining high standards of care and accountability.

A. Strategic Objectives for 2026

In 2026, Stichting K.I.D.S. will pursue the following overarching objectives:

1. Ensure the wellbeing for all children currently supported by the Foundation, making sure they are all living in safe environments with sufficient nutritious food and access to healthcare.
2. Strengthen community-based interventions to prevent school dropout and every child can continue their education aspirations.
3. Support sustainable transitions to adulthood for older youth through education, vocational orientation, and life skills.
4. Maintain strong managing, financial transparency, and safeguarding standards in line with Dutch ANBI and Vietnamese child-welfare regulations.

B. Programmes and Planned Activities

In 2026, Stichting K.I.D.S. will implement three complementary programme components:

- Sunlight Kids House (partner with WOCA) – targeted residential care for boys without safe family alternatives.
- K.I.D.S. Community Project (partner with WOCA) – scholarship and family-accompaniment support.
- Community-Based Education and Life Skills (partner with SDRC) – structured community interventions focusing on life skills, education, and parental engagement.

B.1. Sunlight Kids House

Sunlight Kids House will continue to operate as K.I.D.S.' core residential care programme in 2026, providing long-term, stable care for boys who cannot safely remain in family-based settings. The programme is reserved for cases where community- or family-based solutions are not feasible. Admissions of new child and exits are carefully assessed and coordinated with WOCA and relevant authorities to ensure child safety and continuity of care.

Key objectives in 2026:

- Provide stable residential care for approximately 25 boys aged 7–18
- Ensure 100% school attendance and educational progression
- Support exam years and graduation pathways (secondary school, high school and vocational education)
- Strengthen psychosocial wellbeing and positive behavior through structured activities

Planned actions for 2026 include:

- Residential care and daily supervision, including safe housing, structured routines, and continuous support by trained caregivers. Residential care includes appropriate housing conditions, consistent daily schedules (school, meals, study time, recreation, and rest), and continuous adult presence to respond to children's physical, emotional, and practical needs. Caregivers play a key role in monitoring wellbeing and behaviour, modelling positive social interaction, and reinforcing values such as respect, cooperation, and accountability. This stable environment enables children to focus on learning, personal development, and healthy social relationships.

- Education support, ensuring 100% school attendance, payment of tuition-related costs, provision of school materials, and academic follow-up. Beyond formal school attendance, the programme provides structured academic follow-up, including daily homework supervision, exam preparation, and individual learning support for boys who require additional assistance. Educational progress is closely monitored in cooperation with schools and teachers, allowing early identification of learning difficulties or risk of dropout. Where necessary, targeted tutoring is arranged to help children keep pace with their peers and build confidence in their academic abilities.
- Health and nutrition support, including three nutritious meals per day, public health insurance coverage, regular medical and dental check-ups, and monitoring physical development.
- Sports and physical development, with regular participation in martial arts, football, and school-based sports activities to promote health, discipline, and teamwork.
- Individual transition planning for boys aged 16+, focusing on graduation pathways, vocational orientation, employment readiness, and independent living skills.

Daily supervision and case oversight are provided by WOCA in accordance with agreed child-protection standards. All safeguarding policies are actively implemented, and concerns are escalated immediately when necessary.

Board members and local representatives conduct periodic site visits and maintain direct communication with local staff. Educational progress, health status, and wellbeing are monitored continuously and discussed in regular coordination meetings. At the end of every quarter, WOCA will send activity and financial reports to the Board of Stichting K.I.D.S.

B.2. K.I.D.S. Community Project

The K.I.D.S. Community Project is a preventive, community-based programme that ensures vulnerable children in Ho Chi Minh City can stay in school and continue their education within their family environments. Launched in July 2025 following the closure of Sunflower Kids House, the project responds directly to the risk of early school dropout among children from low-income, migrant, and otherwise disadvantaged households. From many research and global policy discussions, it is better for children to be within their own families whenever possible. It is recommended that organizations should focus on strengthening families by providing appropriate financial, social, and caregiving support. Empowering parents and relatives to care for their children is widely recognized as the most sustainable and child-centred alternative to residential care. We believe that the closing of the Sunflower Kids House prompted us to try out this way as we want to continue the help for the Sunflower girls. And we can see clearly that with this model, we can help even more children in the same situations, regardless of their age or gender.

In 2026, the project operates as a complementary intervention alongside residential care, with a focus on education continuity, family stability, and early prevention.

Planned actions for 2026 include:

- Education-related financial support for approximately 20 children, covering tuition fees, health and accident insurance, uniforms, books, and essential school supplies.
- Targeted living-cost and nutrition assistance for up to 8 children at highest risk of educational interruption, including monthly nutrition support and contributions toward rental or accommodation costs, provided on a case-by-case basis.
- Quarterly community connection activities to foster peer support, confidence, life skills, and age-appropriate career orientation through group discussions, interactive exercises, and inspirational sharing.
- Family accompaniment and case management, including quarterly home visits by social workers to monitor schooling, health, and wellbeing; ongoing guidance; and early identification of dropout or child-labour risks.
- Monitoring, reporting, and accountability, with quarterly activity and financial reports submitted to ensure transparency, track outcomes, and allow timely programme adjustments.

Preventing school dropout at an early stage has long-term impact. By supporting children within their families and communities, the K.I.D.S. Community Project reduces reliance on residential care, strengthens family responsibility, and helps children build realistic educational pathways toward a more stable future.

B.3. Community based life skills and family engagement (SDRC)

Building on the successful pilot implemented in 2025, Stichting K.I.D.S. will continue and significantly strengthen its collaboration with SDRC as a key implementing partner for community-based child and family support.

Under this collaboration, SDRC will implement an integrated programme aimed at improving the quality of life and holistic development of disadvantaged children and their families in An Hoi Dong, Binh Phu, and An Phu Dong wards in Ho Chi Minh City. In 2026, the programme is expected to directly reach 120 children through educational, life-skills, and health-related activities, while providing structured case-based support to 50 vulnerable households. In addition, approximately 100 parents and caregivers will participate in parenting and family-strengthening activities. The cooperation combines direct child-focused interventions with structured family accompaniment and case-based support, aligning with Vietnamese policy priorities and international good practice.

Planned actions for 2026 include:

- Structured life-skills education for 120 children from charity classes and the surrounding community, covering topics such as communication

skills, emotional regulation, self-protection, child rights, hygiene, online safety, and environmental awareness, delivered through age-appropriate, participatory sessions.

- English communication clubs for children and adolescents, strengthening basic language skills, confidence, and social interaction through interactive and activity-based teaching methods.
- Physical and mental health support for children in the programme, including health screenings, dental check-ups, outdoor physical-activity events, and referrals for specialised care where needed.
- Case-based scholarship and family accompaniment for 50 vulnerable households, covering education-related costs, nutrition, health insurance, documentation support, and linkage to relevant community resources.
- Parental capacity-building workshops reaching around 100 parents and caregivers, focusing on positive parenting, child development and psychology, children's rights, and practical household financial management.
- Pilot livelihood support for 3 selected families, aimed at strengthening household economic stability and reducing the risk of school dropout or child labour.

Through activity and financial quarterly reporting, on-site monitoring, and close coordination between SDRC and the Managing Director in Vietnam, the programme will ensure accountability, quality implementation, and measurable outcomes. The Board views this collaboration as a scalable, low-cost, and replicable community-based model that complements residential care and contributes to a sustainable child-protection ecosystem in Vietnam.

III. Finance

Stichting K.I.D.S. is a non-profit, charitable organisation. In line with its ANBI status, 100% of donated and sponsored funds are used directly for programme implementation benefiting children in Ho Chi Minh City. The Foundation is deeply grateful to its sponsors and donors, whose continued support makes the provision of care, education, and protection for vulnerable children possible.

Financial transparency and prudent financial management remain core principles of Stichting K.I.D.S. In 2026, the Board will continue to ensure effective oversight, clear reporting, and responsible allocation of resources across all programmes.

A. Operating cost

For residential and community-based programmes implemented in cooperation with WOCA and SDRC, annual budgets are prepared in close consultation with the Board of Stichting K.I.D.S. The budgeting approach focuses on programme-level planning rather than individual child or location budgets, allowing flexibility while ensuring that all core needs of the children are adequately covered.

Operating costs include, where applicable:

- Daily living expenses and nutrition
- Health insurance and basic healthcare
- Educational costs, including tuition fees and school supplies
- Staff salaries and volunteer supervision at programme level
- Operational support and coordination by local partners

For programmes implemented with WOCA, Stichting K.I.D.S. contributes 3% of total operating costs as management and oversight fee to support local coordination, safeguarding oversight, and financial administration. This fee structure reflects the Foundation's commitment to maintaining exceptionally low overhead costs.

The preliminary financial planning for 2026 is based on responsible budgeting and conservative assumptions. Below is the approved budget for 2026

APPROVED BUDGET 2026			Cost per child
	In VND	In USD	In USD
1. SDRC PROJECT	1,106,560,000 ₫	$42,098.54	$350.82
2. WOCA PROJECTS	1,168,975,400 ₫	$47,432.30	
2.1. Sunlight House	816,975,400 ₫	$34,040.63	$1,361.63
2.2. K.I.D.S. Community project	352,000,000 ₫	$13,391.67	$669.58
TOTAL	2,275,535,400 ₫	$89,530.84	

The total budget for 2026 is USD 89,530.84. Salaries in 2026 will remain virtually the same as in 2025.

Extra costs related to major maintenance, programme expansion, specialised tutoring, examination training, summer or recreational activities, and unforeseen child-specific needs are budgeted separately and need approval by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

Through conservative budgeting, quarterly financial reporting, and independent administration in the Netherlands, Stichting K.I.D.S. seeks in 2026 to balance financial sustainability with maximum direct impact for children.

B. Income

In 2026, K.I.D.S. will continue to depend entirely on contributions from sponsors and the proceeds from charity events for its income. Stichting K.I.D.S. strives for a sustainable relationship with its sponsors to achieve a degree of stability. Most sponsors have committed themselves to K.I.D.S. for a period of five years, and other activities are also carried out. This will also guarantee a significant part of the income in 2026. In addition, extra activities are organized.

Depending on the results of the political debate in Vietnam, the board will decide about the sponsorship activities, such as possibly a drink and a charity dinner, the proceeds of which will be entirely for the benefit of Stichting K.I.D.S.

Dental care

We are still happy and grateful for the dental care we receive from Westcoast International. For years, the owner Andrew, together with his employees and dentists from Dental Clinics from the Netherlands, has carried out dental check-ups and, if necessary, medical dental treatment in Ho Chi Minh City. Due to COVID-19, it was not possible for Dental Clinics to travel to Vietnam for several years. Since then, Westcoast International has independently provided all dental treatments and check-ups.

Quarter for K.I.D.S.

There is also the 'a quarter for K.I.D.S.', in which restaurant owners of the G6 ask their guests for a contribution of a quarter for the benefit of Stichting K.I.D.S. The G6 is a friendly alliance between renowned chefs Peter Lute, Gijs Numan, Michiel Deenik, Robbert Veuger, Stefan van Sprang, Ferry van Houten and Julius Jaspers, all renowned chefs.

We are grateful to our chefs for supporting us faithfully for so many years. Conversely, we can heartily recommend these restaurants to you, and in this way, you also contribute your quarter to our kids.

Stichting EDA

In 2024, the board of Stichting K.I.D.S. came into contact with EDA, Education Development Asia Foundation (website: Home - EDA Foundation eda-foundation.org). The objective of the EDA Foundation is to support educational projects in Asia. This objective fits well with the objective of Stichting K.I.D.S. After various discussions, the EDA Foundation has decided to sponsor the primary school tuition fee of the Sunlight House for a period of five years from 2024, whereby we evaluate the sponsorship annually. The EDA Foundation has also been contributing to the scholarship project since 2025. The chairman of the EDA Foundation, Wim Hink, visits the shelters once a year, which is a confirmation of the sponsorship.

Stichting K.I.D.S. is pleased with this collaboration with the EDA Foundation.

C. Monitoring and reporting

Every year, the finances of Stichting K.I.D.S. are audited by an independent accountant and published on the website of the Stichting K.I.D.S., see http://kidsinvietnam.org/over-ons/.

We also meet the requirements for a foundation with an ANBI status through our reporting on our website.