

# Highlight UNITED NATIONS IN VIET NAM CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS IN 2024



## (1) ACCELERATING VIET NAM'S JUST ENERGY TRANSITION: UN SUPPORT FOR JETP IMPLEMENTATION

Viet Nam's commitment to a sustainable energy future gained momentum with the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) launched in December 2022. Prioritizing swift implementation, JETP became a national agenda, aligning with the country's climate goals. In 2024, Viet Nam initiated JETP implementation with the UN as a key partner, providing technical support, policy guidance, and resource mobilization.

The UN, with UNDP as JETP Secretariat Support Agency, played a crucial role in supporting the operationalisation of Viet Nam's JETP. The UN supported the Government's implementation of the JETP Resource Mobilization Plan, helping identify 81 investment and technical support projects, eight of which attracted international funding interest. The UN also facilitated the submission of these eight priority projects for financing.

In addition, the UN assisted in developing a monitoring and evaluation system, a policy matrix, and a progress-tracking website, establishing a solid foundation for the country's energy transition. The UN further contributed to the creation of a Just Transition Framework and socio-economic assessments for the transition of coal-fired power plants while facilitating technical discussions to unlock public and private financing for priority energy projects, positioning Viet Nam for a sustainable energy future.



## (2) STRENGTHENED EVIDENCE-DRIVEN ANALYSIS AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR SDG ACCELERATION

### Macroeconomic Modelling - Simulating Investments in SDG Transitions

Key findings and policy recommendations of the UN's macroeconomic modelling on select SDG transitions – energy transition, social protection and poverty eradication and digital transformation – were accepted as inputs to the 2026 Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, which sets directions for the next five to ten year socio-economic development plans and strategies.

Building on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023, the findings and policy recommendations align with Viet Nam's SDG acceleration priorities, underscoring the importance of balanced financing strategies that leverage both public and private sector investments for long-term economic stability.

The macroeconomic modelling was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), the UN in Viet Nam, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to assess the economic, social, and environmental impacts of key policy investments to achieve high-income country status by 2045 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. It underscores the UN's commitment to evidence-driven analysis and policy options for SDG acceleration.

### Enhanced SDG monitoring and reporting - Revision of the Viet Nam SDG Indicator (VSDGI) Framework and implementation of the Mid-Term Review of the National SDG Action Plan

The UN contributed to key Government efforts in accelerating the implementation of SDGs, including reviewing the National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda, reshaping institutional arrangements, revising national SDG indicators, and strengthening SDG progress monitoring through improved data collection and analysis. This support, coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), was delivered in collaboration with the UN Country Team in Viet Nam and ESCAP.

In particular, the revision of the Viet Nam SDG Indicator (VSDGI) Framework, with UN support, ensured alignment with global standards and national priorities, expanding to 165 indicators for improved data accuracy and international comparability. Additionally, in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the UN provided financial and technical assistance to the MPI for the Mid-Term Review of the National Action Plan on SDG Implementation. The draft report, presented at a consultation workshop in November 2024, reflects Government efforts to enhance institutional arrangements, redefine ministerial responsibilities, and reform the governance setup to drive SDG progress.



The "Consultation Workshop on Proposed Revision of the Viet Nam Sustainable Development Indicators" was organized with 70 participants.  
Photo © UNFPA Viet Nam



## (3) IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING – DEVELOPMENT OF VIET NAM'S GREEN TAXONOMY

At the request of the General Statistics Office (GSO), the UN organized the "Knowledge Sharing on Green Taxonomy" workshop in June 2024. Through knowledge sharing, Viet Nam gained access to global and regional best practices in developing and implementing a green taxonomy—a crucial policy tool for directing public and private investments toward sustainable projects.

With over 100 participants from the National Assembly, Government ministries, UN agencies, international financial institutions, development partners, think tanks, and academia, a multi-stakeholder dialogue was held on green finance. International experiences from ASEAN, the European Union, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, Thailand, and Bhutan provided valuable insights into different approaches to taxonomy development, classification frameworks, and implementation strategies.

Through knowledge sharing facilitated by the UN, GSO was equipped to guide the development of Viet Nam's green taxonomy, which will support climate-aligned investments and SDG progress.



## (4) ENHANCED EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION - RAPID RESPONSE TO TYPHOON YAGI

The UN led a coordinated humanitarian effort in 2024, ensuring rapid relief and early recovery in response to Typhoon Yagi.

The UN Resident Coordinator activated the Inter-Sector Coordination mechanism, mobilizing efforts across nine key sectors, including: education; food security; health; nutrition; protection; shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); agriculture, employment and livelihoods; and early recovery. The Viet Nam Disaster Risk Reduction Partnership (DRRP) facilitated coordination among Government agencies and international partners, including UN agencies, ensuring aid reached those most in need. To guide the response, the UN and national partners developed a Joint Response Plan, backed by US\$8.5 million from UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UN Women, IOM, ILO, UNFPA, and UNOCHA) and US\$23.5 million from international donors and non-government agencies. Additionally, the Viet Nam Multi-Sector Assessment (VMSA), using the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), in coordination with UN agencies, national partners, the European Union, JICA, ADB and other development partners, provided critical data to inform targeted interventions. Initiated in late October 2024 and completed in December 2024, the VMSA was sought contributions by line ministries, local governments, and experts from UN agencies and development partners.

House damaged in Yen Bai province.  
Photo © UNDP in Viet Nam



The UN's support ensured timely provision of emergency relief food aid, hygiene kits, shelter materials, and medical supplies to the most vulnerable and remote communities, while damaged hospitals, clinics, and schools were quickly rehabilitated and public services restored. Smallholder farmers and cooperative members received seeds, tools, and cash assistance to recover lost crops, and infrastructure repairs reconnected isolated areas. The UN-led inter-agency collaboration facilitated emergency response and early recovery, as well as reinforced disaster resilience efforts.



## (5) FORGING PARTNERSHIPS AND CATALYZING FINANCING

### Establishment of the Viet Nam UN Pooled Fund – A unified and efficient funding mechanism

When Typhoon Yagi struck Viet Nam in September 2024, the response faced challenges due to the lack of a unified financing mechanism. Donors struggled to identify effective funding pathways, leading to delays and fragmented support.

To address this, the Viet Nam UN Pooled Fund was established, enabling rapid, coordinated resource allocation in emergencies. The Fund streamlines donor contributions, ensuring a unified, prioritized response while reinforcing confidence in the UN's ability to act as one.

With an initial contribution of US\$1,224,454 from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the UN launched two Joint Programmes to support Typhoon Yagi recovery efforts - restoring medical equipment in health facilities, facilitating water system restoration, emergency shelter, and psychosocial care for affected children. By eliminating duplication, aligning with national priorities, and strengthening partnerships, the Fund ensures aid reaches those who need it most. The Pooled Fund now serves as a clear, efficient mechanism for donors to channel contributions and address pressing humanitarian needs swiftly.

### Advancing sustainable development in Viet Nam: UN's joint initiatives in food systems and social protection

In Viet Nam, the UN initiated two pivotal joint programmes that are aimed at fostering sustainable development through food systems transformation and the enhancement of social protection mechanisms.

The first joint programme, "Incubation of Innovations in Partnerships and Financing for Agrifood Systems Transformation in Viet Nam", focuses on overhauling the nation's food systems to be more transparent, responsible, and sustainable. This initiative seeks to ensure food security, improve nutrition, and bolster resilience against climate change. By strengthening policies, building strategic partnership in food system transformation, mobilizing financial resources, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing capacity for relevant stakeholders, the programme contributed significantly to Viet Nam's progress towards achieving the SDGs. A notable outcome of this effort is the establishment of the Food Systems Transformation Partnership (FSTP) with different working groups, which brings together a diverse array of UN agencies and development partners to coordinate and build capacity among public officials, forstnering a foundation for lasting impacts.

The second programme, "Accelerating Viet Nam's Transition Towards Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection," is a collaborative effort involving UN agencies including (ILO), UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, in partnership with Viet Nam's Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). Launched in January 2020, the programme aims to expand social protection coverage to ensure that every individual - including children, mothers, the elderly, and workers - benefits from comprehensive social security. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme has made significant strides in advocating for a life-cycle, gender-sensitive, and shock-responsive approach to social protection, thereby enhancing the resilience and inclusivity of Viet Nam's socio-economic landscape.

Through these joint initiatives, the UN underscores its commitment to integrating Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) principles into Viet Nam's development strategies, ensuring that progress in food systems and social protection is both inclusive and sustainable.



## (6) LEVERAGING UN 2.0 TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATION

### Dialogue Labs on Curating a Care Economy for Older People in Viet Nam

In a collaborative effort to address the challenges of an ageing population, the UNCT led by the UNRCO and UNFPA, together with UNDP, UN Women, ILO, and WHO initiated a series of dialogue labs utilizing foresight and anticipatory governance. The dialogue labs aimed to envision and develop a sustainable care economy tailored to the needs of older persons. Insights gained are expected to contribute to the Viet Nam 2045 Report, as well as to inform the formulation of the new Cooperation Framework.



Roundtable discussions on aged care in Viet Nam. Photo © UNRCO

### Integrating foresight and horizon scanning in the formulation of the Country Analysis and the next Cooperation Framework 2027-2031

The UNCT is focused on delivering SDG transformations to support inclusive and development pathways for Viet Nam's targets of becoming a high-income country by 2045 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. To strengthen delivery with the agility and scale required for systems transformation, the UNCT is integrating innovation, foresight and horizon scanning tools in the formulation of the next Cooperation Framework. Foresight workshops are helping the UNCT better anticipate emerging changes and improve their ability to adapt to challenges and seize opportunities. A synthesis report on priority systems transformation in Viet Nam provides a starting point for articulating pathways for change to accelerate SDG progress.



## (7) MOBILIZING FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

Expanding on the UN support to the Government of Viet Nam in preparing its 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) and National Commitments for SDG Acceleration at the SDG Summit in 2023, the UN in Viet Nam contributed a Policy Note on "Policy Pathways for Advancing SDG Progress" to support the Government's preparation for the Summit of the Future 2024. With comprehensive and concrete recommendations on major policy pathways for Viet Nam in accelerating SDG progress, the policy note helped broaden the UN's engagement with the Government on key sustainable development policies.

In parallel, during the lead-up to the Summit of the Future, the UNCT through the UN Thematic Group on Adolescents and Youth (TGAY) conducted two foresight workshops, where 50 youth from startup community and minority groups brainstormed inclusive digitally transformed government services. The workshops were followed by a youth dialogue on inclusive digitalization on 20 September - the Summit of the Future Youth Action Day. These provided inputs to government delegation's preparations for the Summit of the Future. The UNCT has also set digital transformation as one of the priority areas for the next Cooperation Framework cycle, with a vision to increase meaningful youth engagement in digital transformation and facilitating youth capacity building in digital and green skills, including youth-led projects and initiatives.



Youth Dialogue for an Inclusive Digital Future in Viet Nam – Workshop in Ho Chi Minh city. Photo © UEH



## (8) UPHOLDING UN COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT (PSEAH)

Guided by the ONE UN approach, PSEAH efforts in 2024 focused on advancing joint accountability and fostering a culture of respect and safety.

A dedicated email channel was established to enhance the accessibility and confidentiality of reporting mechanisms. This was accompanied by a significant scale-up in capacity building, as more than 1,000 staff from UN and its implementing partners and service providers were trained on PSEAH standards and procedures. Participants emerged from these sessions with a strengthened understanding of what constitutes sexual misconduct and how to navigate the UN's reporting systems with confidence and clarity.

Efforts to raise awareness extended beyond internal stakeholders. Nearly 1,700 posters with PSEA IASC Six Core Principles were distributed across all 63 provinces, and an additional 20,000 informational leaflets were disseminated in areas affected by the Yagi typhoon. These materials were designed to ensure that information about rights, responsibilities, and reporting pathways reached both UN personnel and the communities they serve.