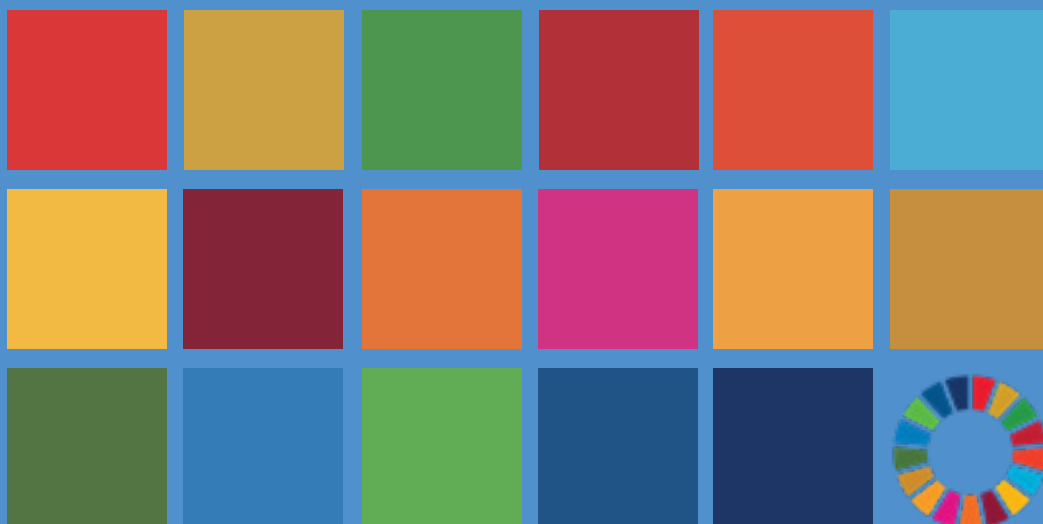




# VIET NAM ONE UN RESULTS REPORT 2017

Delivering as One  
to Implement the Third Generation  
One Strategic Plan 2017-2021



# ONE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021 PARTICIPATING UN AGENCIES



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

unicef 



IAEA  
International Atomic Energy Agency



Empowered lives  
Resilient nations.



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



International  
Labour  
Organization

UN   
environment



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UN  
VOLUNTEERS



International  
Trade  
Centre



UN   
WOMEN



UNAIDS

UN  HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



World Health  
Organization

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## ACRONYMS

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
<b>ARVs</b>	Antiretrovirals
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil society organizations
<b>DaO</b>	Delivering as One
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FSW</b>	Female sex workers
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GFDRR</b>	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GOUNH</b>	Green One UN House
<b>GOV</b>	Government of Viet Nam
<b>GSO</b>	General Statistics Office
<b>HACT</b>	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
<b>HCMC</b>	Ho Chi Minh City
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HPPMG</b>	Harmonized Programme and project Management Guidelines
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>JPGs</b>	Joint Programming Groups
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
<b>MARD</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MIC</b>	Middle-income country
<b>MOC</b>	Ministry of Construction
<b>MOET</b>	Ministry of Education and Training
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MOFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOHA</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>MOIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Trade
<b>MOJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MOLISA</b>	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
<b>MONRE</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
<b>MPI</b>	Ministry of Planning and Investment
<b>MPS</b>	Ministry of Public Security
<b>MPSAR</b>	Master Plan for Social Assistance till 2030
<b>MPTF</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
<b>MSM</b>	Men having sex with men

## ACRONYMS

<b>NAMAs</b>	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OPF</b>	One Plan Fund
<b>OSSs</b>	One-stop shops
<b>PAPI</b>	Public Administration Performance Index
<b>PSPMOs</b>	Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations
<b>PWID</b>	People who inject drugs
<b>QCPR</b>	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
<b>RBM</b>	Results-based management
<b>REDD+</b>	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEDP</b>	Socio-Economic Development Plan
<b>SEDS</b>	Socio-Economic Development Strategy
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>TOE</b>	Tonne of oil equivalent
<b>TPP</b>	Trans-Pacific Partnership
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCT</b>	UN Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>UNSDSN</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
<b>VCCI</b>	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
<b>VNW+</b>	Viet Nam Network of Women Living with HIV
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# CHAPTER 1

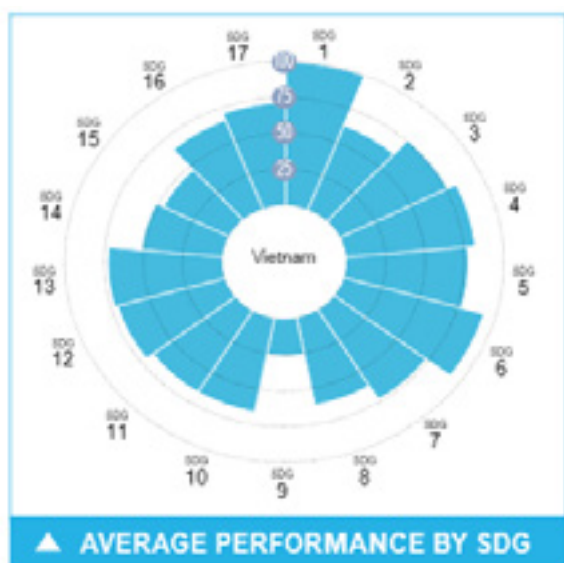
## GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT IN VIET NAM IN 2017

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## 2017 General Context and Achievements

In 2017, Viet Nam for the first time achieved and surpassed all 13 socio-economic targets set by the National Assembly. Viet Nam ensured macro-economic stability, containing inflation at 3.5 per cent while growing GDP at 6.8 per cent<sup>1</sup>. As one of the top MDG performing countries globally, Viet Nam furthered key achievements in 2017, particularly on poverty reduction, access to education, gender equality, as well as access to clean water and sanitation. Viet Nam was ranked 68 out of 157 countries globally on the SDG Index in 2017; is among the ten best performers in Asia and the Pacific; and among the ten best performers globally on SDG 5 on gender equality<sup>2</sup>. Viet Nam is firmly committed to the fulfillment of Agenda 2030, demonstrated through the Government’s 2017 National Action Plan for the Achievement of Agenda 2030, which introduces a full set of localized Viet Nam SDGs (VSDGs), targets, and associated actions and responsibilities. In addition, the country is preparing Viet Nam’s 2018 Voluntary National

**CHART 1 Viet Nam’s SDG Implementation**



Review on SDGs to be presented at the UN’s High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HPLF) in New York in July 2018.

In addition to the above-mentioned achievements, several economic and administrative reforms were initiated or implemented in 2017 to liberalize and digitize the business environment, particularly for the domestic private sector, including through support for innovation, start-ups, and wider business development. Reforms were further supported through the Prime Minister’s directive on opportunities arising from the Industrial Revolution 4.0 towards the digital economy and smart industry as core issues for economic restructuring and transformation of Viet Nam’s growth model.

**TABLE 1 Viet Nam’s Key Development Indicators**

	2012	2016	2017
Population (million people)	88.8	93.4	93.7
GDP Annual Growth (%)	5.2	6.2	6.8
Inflation (consumer prices, %)	9.2	2.7	3.5
GDP per capita (current US\$)	1,749	2,215	2,385
Public debt per GDP (%)	50.6	63.7	61.3

	SCORE/VALUE	GLOBAL RANK
SDG Index (2017)	67.9	68/157
Environment Performance Index (2018)	46.96	132/180
Human Development Index (2015)	68.3	115/188
Global Competitiveness Index (2017-2018)	4.36	55/137
Global Peace Index (2017)	1.919	59/163

## Development Challenges for 2017

Despite the notable results in the economic and social spheres, the SDG Index (see Chart 1) displays that Viet Nam lags behind in the achievement of specific SDGs, particularly SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, as well as SDGs related to environment and climate change.

Viet Nam also faces numerous development challenges in achieving its 5-year national Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2016-2020, the 10-year Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2011-2020.

Despite the MDG achievements at the national level, when disaggregating the MDG results by sub-national geographical areas and population groups, inequality is exposed as a pressing issue preventing the country from achieving the unfinished business of the MDGs. Illustratively, while the multi-dimensional poverty rate was

<sup>1</sup> GSO, 2017

<sup>2</sup> UNSDSN, 2017

9.2 per cent in 2016 for the whole country, it was higher at 11.8 per cent in rural areas, 18.5 per cent for the Central Highlands region, 23 per cent for the Northern Mountainous region, and 35.7 per cent for ethnic minority groups<sup>3</sup>. These regions and ethnic minority groups also display higher malnutrition which is a proxy for higher poverty, child and maternal mortality rates, as well as lower access to basic nutrition, health care, education, wealth creation and other social services. Poverty resurfaced as a top concern of citizens in 2017<sup>4</sup>.

Even though it is one of the 10 best performers on SDG 5 (on gender equality) globally, Viet Nam is still facing many challenges in achieving gender equality and women's advancement, particularly in the context of deeper global integration, climate change, and a non-comprehensive social security system. Its challenges include violence against women and girls, son preference, an imbalanced sex ratio at birth, as well as and persistent gender stereotypes.

Viet Nam has accomplished remarkable economic development with annual GDP growth rates of more than six per cent average between 2015-2017. Nevertheless, this growth is unsustainable and labor-intensive partly because of its heavy dependence on capital investment rather than productivity and innovation. In 2016, Viet Nam's labor productivity (GDP per hour worked) was USD 9,894, equivalent to only seven per cent of Singapore's, 17.6 per cent of Malaysia's, 36.5 per cent of Thailand's, 42.3 per cent of Indonesia's and 56.7 per cent of the Philippines's productivity<sup>5</sup>.

Viet Nam's transition to Lower Middle-Income Country status in 2010 has gradually changed its economic and partnership landscape. This has recently contributed to a rapid decline in grant Official Development Assistance (ODA), as several development partners have significantly reduced and/or ended their concessional grant-based development assistance. The grant ODA-GDP ratio was consistently decreased from 0.550 per cent in 2010 to 0.282 per cent in 2015<sup>6</sup>. This has contributed to an increase in domestic and overseas borrowing, while altering the country's loan conditions with International Financial Institutions. As part of this process, Viet Nam is transitioning from the World Bank's IDA which ended in mid-2017. It will also exit the ADB's Asian Development Fund in January 2019.

Viet Nam is one of 10 countries most affected by natural disasters and climate extreme events globally, according to the latest annual Climate Risk Index<sup>7</sup>. Over the last 50 years, the temperature has increased twice as fast as the global average, the sea level has risen by 20 centimeters, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (drought, flood, and salinization) has increased sharply. Natural disasters cost 0.8 per cent of GDP

(annual average between 1990 and 2016)<sup>8</sup>. 2017 was marked by extensive national efforts to respond to the devastating impacts of Typhoon Damrey, which, together with 15 additional storms, led to over 375 people dead or missing, over 4 million people affected and economic losses estimated at more than VND 51.6 trillion (about USD 2.3 billion).

Despite the Government's efforts in reforming the administrative and governance systems, overstuffed government organizations, under-efficient inter-sectoral coordination, corruption, burdensome administrative procedures and slow e-government progress have contributed to delay the achievement of planned development objectives.

Viet Nam's citizens are increasingly concerned by widening social disparities, environmental insecurities and conflict over land. The increased digitization of society has also facilitated the engagement through social media of the citizens on social and political issues. However, the country in 2017 saw shrinking space for civil society actors, increasing concerns about human rights, and increasing Government control of local and international social media operators as reported by development partners, CSOs and the UN.

At a regional level, Viet Nam continued to defend its claims with respect to South China (East) Sea issues, including through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations. While tensions around these issues will continue and possibly escalate in 2018, with potential political ramifications, the UN should continue to promote a multilaterally agreed resolution through global, regional and country level efforts and in line with the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).

## Delivering as One in Viet Nam

The 2017-2021 period represents the third-generation cycle of the Delivering as One (DaO) initiative in Viet Nam since the initiative was launched globally in 2006. Viet Nam continues to be a One UN / DaO flagship country, with all six complimentary and mutually reinforcing pillars of DaO, including One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Voice, One Set of Management Practices and One UN House driving the action of the UN system in Viet Nam.

2017 saw progress on many fronts, including the signing of the One Strategic Plan (OSP) 2017-2021 with the Government of Viet Nam, as well as UNCT's agreement on a new strategic delivery and coordination architecture. Significant progress was also made in ensuring the longer-term viability of the Green One UN House (GOUNH), providing a unique space for the UN family to deliver as one, including the agreed Memorandum of

<sup>3</sup> MOLISA, CEMA

<sup>4</sup> PAPI, 2017

<sup>5</sup> GSO

<sup>6</sup> MOF

<sup>7</sup> <https://germanwatch.org/en/12978>

<sup>8</sup> CRED EM-DAT database



Understanding which came into effect in May 2017 and the move into the GOUNH of additional UN agencies. This was complemented by the issuance of a UNCT joint Business Operations Strategy (BOS), serving to continually increase the UN's efficiency and effectiveness. The successful commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of UN – Viet Nam Cooperation held in October 2017 provides further testimony to the trust and legitimacy the UN holds in the country. This was reinforced by the leadership role which continues to be played by the UN in many important fora, including at the high-level Vietnam Development Forum, the 25th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) Summit in November 2017 in Viet Nam, as well as through the UN's leading role in the Development Partner's Group.

This was reinforced by the leadership role which continues to be played by the UN in many important fora, including at the high-level Vietnam Development Forum, the 25th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) Summit in November 2017 in Viet Nam and through the UN leading role in the Development Partner Group.

To support Viet Nam in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the UN system in Viet Nam continues to emphasize its role as an impartial and trusted partner in providing high-quality policy and technical advice. In 2017, the UN focused on:

- Providing objective and impartial development policy options drawing on collective global knowledge;
- Supporting the country in developing clear and practical approaches in support of the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Providing a robust UN normative voice on human rights, equity and citizen-centered reforms that leave no one behind; and
- Supporting Viet Nam in strengthening South-South cooperation, a global network, as well as offering opportunities for Viet Nam to share its experience in fulfilling its development commitments



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# CHAPTER 2

## ONE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

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## One Strategic Plan 2017-2021

The third generation DaO UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the One Strategic Plan (OSP), was signed in July 2017 for the period 2017-2021. The OSP 2017-2021 represents the programmatic and operational framework for delivering UN support to the Government and people of Viet Nam establishes how the UN will Deliver as One in support of national development priorities.

With the participation of 14 resident agencies, including FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UN Women and WHO and 4 non-resident agencies, including ITC, IAEA, UNCTAD and UNEP, the OSP 2017-2021 is built on the three principles of inclusion, equity and sustainability, and is well aligned with Viet Nam’s Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2011-2020, its Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as Viet Nam’s international human rights commitments.

The OSP 2017-2021 has four focus areas, shaped by the five central themes of Agenda 2030 (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership), with nine related outcomes and direct contributions to the 17 SDGs (see also Chart 2).

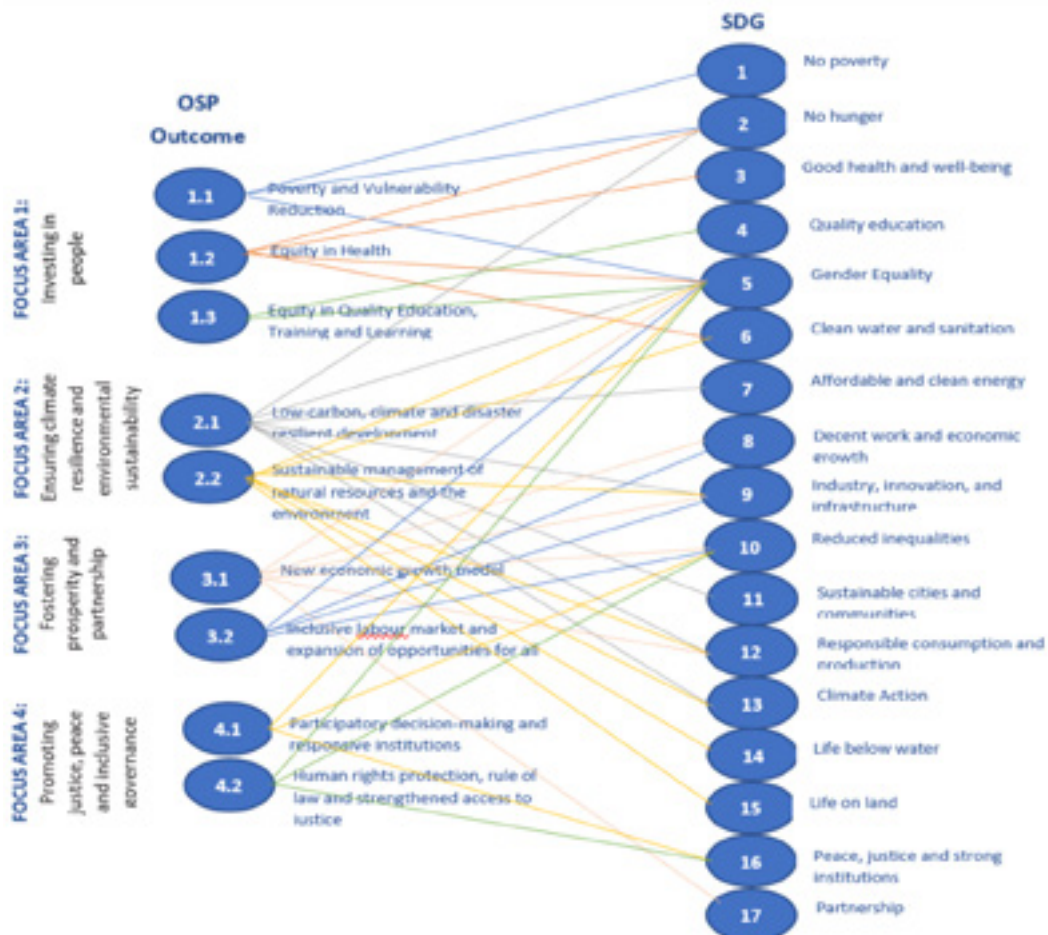
**FOCUS AREA 1** on “Investing in people” seeks to ensure more inclusive, effective and coherent systems for delivering basic social services, poverty reduction and social protection for all people, particularly the most vulnerable.

**FOCUS AREA 2** on “Ensuring climate resilience and environmental sustainability” aims to help Viet Nam accelerate its transition to sustainable development and green growth towards a low-carbon economy whilst enhancing adaptation and resilience to climate change and natural disasters. The UN also supports Viet Nam to be more effective in managing and protecting valuable natural resources and biodiversity, as well as to meet international environmental obligations.

**FOCUS AREA 3** on “Fostering prosperity and partnership” offers a pathway to prosperity that moves from capital-and labour-intensive growth to one based on productivity, innovation and inclusiveness with the potential to be both environmentally sustainable and generate more decent jobs.

**FOCUS AREA 4** on “Promoting justice, peace, and inclusive governance” seeks not only to improve the quality and responsiveness of all levels of governance, but also to promote the use of modern technology to capitalize on new forms of citizen participation.

**CHART 2** One Strategic Plan’s Contribution to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals



The UN is also guided by five critical cross-cutting themes in OSP implementation, including data for development, human rights, participation, gender equality, as well as partnership and innovation.

The OSP 2017-2021 is supported by a Common Budgetary Framework (CBF) (see Chapter 4) with an overall estimated budget of approximately USD 423 million, also including a detailed common results matrix with measurable indicators, targets and means of verification.

UN-supported programmes and projects within the OSP 2017-2021 framework have been designed and are being implemented by national implementing partners and participating UN agencies in line with the Government's regulations on management and utilization of ODA and concessional loans. The Government and the UN continually work on joint efforts to identify and mobilize additional non-core funding sources for the implementation of the OSP 2017-2021.

In 2017, the UNCT also agreed on a new UN delivery architecture for the OSP 2017-2021. This has given the UNCT stronger shared leadership for the achievement of joint results, with five Joint Results Groups (see Table 2) and five Thematic Groups (on Gender, Human Rights, Migration, Adolescence and Youth, and HIV/AIDS), all led by UN Heads of Agencies. Moreover, the role of the Programme Management Team (PMT) was strengthened, supported by the establishment of three technical working groups on (i) Monitoring for Strategic Results, (ii) Data for Development and (iii) SDG Technical Working Group. The overall architecture was designed in line with the global DaO Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to support the establishment of a UN system in Viet Nam that is "fit-for-purpose" to deliver on Agenda 2030. Notably, a Joint Government-UN Delivering as One Steering Committee has been established, providing policy and programme oversight on strategic matters pertaining to both DaO and OSP 2017-2021 implementation.

## Related links

- [http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc\\_details/542-one-strategic-plan-2017-2021.html](http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc_details/542-one-strategic-plan-2017-2021.html)
- [http://www.un.org.vn/images/170706\\_UN\\_Vietnam\\_OSP\\_booklet\\_EN\\_Final.pdf](http://www.un.org.vn/images/170706_UN_Vietnam_OSP_booklet_EN_Final.pdf)

**TABLE 2 Results Groups and Thematic Groups**

Results Groups/Thematic Groups	Chair	Vice Chair	OSP Outcomes in charge
Results Group 1: Inclusive Social Services	WHO	UNICEF	1.1, 1.2, 1.3
Results Group 2: Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience	UNICEF	UNDP	2.1
Results Group 3: Climate Change & Environment	FAO	UNDP	2.1, 2.2
Results Group 4: Inclusive Growth & Social Protection	ILO	UNDP	1.1, 3.1, 3.2
Results Group 5: Governance & Justice	UNDP	UNICEF	4.1, 4.2
Thematic Group on Adolescents and Youth	UNFPA		Cross cutting all OSP outcomes
Thematic Group on Gender	UN Women		
Thematic Group on HIV/AIDS	UNAIDS		
Thematic Group on Human Rights	UN RC		
Thematic Group on Migration	IOM		



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# CHAPTER 3

## 2017 RESULTS OF ONE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

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- 2017 UN Results on Gender 46

The 2017 annual results of the OSP 2017-2021 were delivered through the implementation of 2017-2018 joint workplans, individually developed by the five Results Groups, translating the outcomes in the OSP 2017-2021 into concrete, measurable and time-bound outputs along with concrete actions and activities for achieving OSP 2017-2021 outcomes.

2017 was the first year of the OSP 2017-2021 implementation cycle, and was hence marked by a significant amount of work on the establishment of an internal coordination architecture, the development of joint workplans, as well as for the mobilization of resources for joint workplan implementation. Moreover, 2017 also marked significant achievements of the UN system in delivering meaningful results through both joint activities and individual agency action.

## UN Support for Advancing Overall SDG Achievement in Viet Nam

In July 2017, the Government of Viet Nam issued a National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which marked an important milestone for Viet Nam's active partnership in the 2030 Agenda and the fulfilment of its SDG commitments. The action plan introduced a set of localized SDGs (VSDGs) and associated actions and responsibilities. Support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the guiding principle for the UN system's operations in Viet Nam, in line with national priorities. The UN in Viet Nam established the SDG Technical Working Group (SDGTWG) under the Programme Management Team (PMT) in response to the Government's increasing demands for UN support.

### System-Wide Support

Throughout the year 2017, the UN in Viet Nam, under the SDGTWG's coordination, provided extensive support to the Government of Viet Nam in preparing the 2018 Voluntary National Review (VNR) for presentation at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in a consultative and participative manner, including through the provision of data and technical input to VNR drafting, support to the development of the 2018 VNR roadmap and associated key messages and the facilitation of UN regional support to the VNR process in Viet Nam. In parallel, and throughout 2017, the UN in Viet Nam supported the mainstreaming of SDGs and VSDGs into national, provincial and sectoral Socio-Economic Development Plans (SEDPs). An associated decree will be issued in 2018, aiming to ensure the full implementation and allocation of sufficient financial resources for the implementation and fulfilment of the SDGs. At the same time, the UN in Viet Nam, together with the UN's global Statistics Division (UNSD) and various international development partners, supported the Government in the localization of SDG indicators and the development of a Viet Nam SDG implementation roadmap, to be finalized in 2018 and was actively engaged with the National Assembly and other high-level national Government bodies to promote the participation and a strengthened role of the Assembly and other elected bodies in overall SDG oversight and planning. Noticeably, the UN in Viet Nam launched a self-assessment toolkit for Parliaments and associated SDG work, supported by in-depth orientation workshops for National Assembly members to take place in early 2018.

### UN's Innovative Support for Specific SDG Areas

In 2017, UNDP further prioritized its support to enable emerging business start-ups to find new and innovative business solutions for achieving the SDGs by partnering with HATCH! VENTURES to deliver training workshops and launch the SDG Challenge 2017 innovation competition. The two initiatives were designed to build social innovation and strengthen youth leadership to accelerate the full achievement of the SDGs. As part of the SDG Challenge 2017 initiative, UNDP also partnered with the Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship from the National Economic University, HATCH! and the 2030 Youth Force in Viet Nam to organize SDG youth scholarships, dedicated for students with SDG ideas or projects who want to learn more about the SDGs, entrepreneurship and how to turn an idea into a real business. In addition, the MPI, UNDP and the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies released the SDG Youth Survey to collect data on SDG awareness by young people, whose results were used as inputs for the VNR process in Viet Nam. In addition, through the development of a national SDG E-platform initiative, developed by the MPI and UNDP, stakeholders were provided with a web-based portal that provides access to official and unofficial data, information and interactive dialogue on the progress of the SDGs/VSDGs in Viet Nam. The e-platform aims to promote SDG knowledge and transparency in the SDG progress, and strengthened stakeholder engagement. The final architecture is expected to be launched in mid-2018.

The UN Global Compact Network in Viet Nam (GCNV) and the VCCI, in close collaboration with UNIDO, established the brand "Meet to meet the SDGs" as a continuation of the more than 34 previous successful editions of the "CSR Calendar Forum", an open dialogue platform around sustainable and responsible business. In April 2017, the "Meet to meet the SDGs" idea was selected as the best innovation by the global UN Global Compact (UNGC) community and UNIDO received the global UNGC innovation award. In mid-2017, UNICEF and the VCCI jointly developed a project on Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRPB) that is scheduled to start implementation in early 2018.

The UN in Viet Nam, through joint efforts from UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO, also provided technical and programmatic support to the MOH and MOET in developing action plans to implement health- and education-related SDGs, as defined in the overarching SDG National Action Plan. The action plans identify a full set of statistical indicators for monitoring and evaluating relevant SDG targets. Provincial authorities are then

expected to develop their own action plans based on the ministries' action plans. The MOET Action Plan was completed within 2017, whereas the MOH Action Plan is expected to be approved in early 2018. In addition, the National Action Programme for SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, supported by FAO, focuses on five basic pillars (i) ensuring food and nutrition for people all year round; (ii) ensuring no malnutrition for children under two; (iii) developing a sustainable food system; (iv) increasing productivity and income for small-scale farmers; and (v) ensuring no wastefulness and loss of food. In 2018, funds for the programme will be mobilized from international donors and through state budget allocations.

In the wider regional context, ASEAN, the Government of the People's Republic of China and UNDP jointly supported the implementation of SDGs in ASEAN countries. In this context, UNDP developed a two-phased approach on development finance assessments, (i) assessing the scale and mix of financing in the region, as well as challenges and opportunities and (ii) undertaking individual national level studies. With phase 1 completed in 2017, and in close consultation with the MPI, an in-depth analysis and concrete recommendations for Viet Nam are currently being prepared with a focus on debt sustainability and the implications of declining access to concessional finance.

## Outcome 1.1 on Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction

By 2021, all people benefit from inclusive and equitable social protection systems and poverty reduction services, which will reduce multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerabilities

### Context

Viet Nam showed strong momentum on poverty reduction and social protection in 2017, as the country fostered poverty reduction through two National Targeted Programmes (NTPs) on Sustainable Poverty Reduction and New Rural Development for the period 2016-2020. The Government also took strong action on two of the most important pillars of the social protection system – social assistance and social insurance in the context of a country with a significant ageing population – demonstrated by the Prime Minister's issuance of the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development (2017-2025), Vision to 2030 (MPSAR) in April 2017, and the preparation of a Master Plan for Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR) by 2035. These efforts envisaged support for the expansion of the social protection system based on life-cycle and a rights-based approach to help not only the poorest but all vulnerable groups (including migrants, women, older persons, adolescents and children, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and people of different sexual orientation and gender identities) to protect them from social shocks and to ensure the necessary social security level.

As mentioned in the introduction of this report, the national multi-dimensional poverty rate in 2017 further decreased to about seven per cent, compared with 9.2 per cent in 2017. The overall number of people with national health insurance increased to 83.8 per cent (or 78.2 million people) in 2017 from 77 per cent in 2015. The estimated number of people with social insurance and unemployment insurance also increased to 26.8 per cent, and 22.4 per cent of the labor force respectively<sup>9</sup> in 2017

Despite strong efforts and achievements, Viet Nam is still coping with increasing inequality in living standards among different population groups and geographical areas. Income inequality has constantly increased, as shown in a rise in the GINI coefficient from 0.424 in 2012 to 0.436 in 2016<sup>10</sup>. In 2017, the national poverty rate was 3.5 times higher than the national average for ethnic minorities<sup>11</sup>, including exceptionally high percentages in the Northern Mountainous and Central Highlands regions where ethnic minority groups are highly concentrated. The multi-dimensional poverty rate (9.2 per cent) was much higher than the income poverty rate (5.8 per cent), showing a clear picture of multi-deprivation of poor groups and communities<sup>12</sup>, which requires more comprehensive and inclusive policy interventions. For instance, the coverage of social protection in national laws and policies is still limited; i.e. as the unemployment insurance scheme only covers formal workers and around 30 per cent of the eligible older persons are not covered by social pensions. The target of achieving universal health care coverage for all is still challenging, especially for workers in the informal sector in which insurance is currently voluntary. In 2015, total public spending on social protection was limited to 6.6 per cent of GDP, which is below the average level of low-middle income countries<sup>13</sup>. Also, there are remaining overlaps in poverty reduction and social protection policies. Although gender and vulnerable groups have been prioritized in plans and strategies, integration of those into concrete policies has not been sufficient. There is also the need to reform the other pillars of social protection including emergency assistance and social care services.

<sup>9</sup> MOLISA, 2017

<sup>10</sup> GSO, 2016

<sup>11</sup> CEMA, 2015

<sup>12</sup> GSO, MOLISA, 2016

<sup>13</sup> MOLISA

In order to support the Government of Viet Nam in addressing the above mentioned challenges, the UN in Viet Nam identified “Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction” as Outcome 1.1 among nine OSP 2017-2021 outcomes and has two joint Results Groups, namely the Results Group on Inclusive Social Services and the Results Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection, to coordinate UN joint activities to achieve this outcome, with the active participation of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO. This outcome directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 1 on No Poverty, SDG 2 on No Hunger and SDG 5 on Gender Equality.

## Outcome 1.1 Key Results in 2017

In 2017, UN agencies focused on supporting Viet Nam in (i) developing an expanded, more inclusive and equitable social protection system based on a life-cycle approach and universal floor coverage focused on vulnerable women, migrants, children, older persons, ethnic minorities and people in difficult-to-access rural areas; and (ii) enhancing capacities for the monitoring of National Targeted Programmes (NTPs), as well as national policies with a stronger focus on addressing multi-dimensional poverty, especially among ethnic minority women, men and children, older people and migrant workers.

Developed with extensive support from ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development 2017-2025 (MPSAR) and Vision to 2030 were approved by the Prime Minister in April 2017. The MPSAR seeks to expand inclusive and equitable social care and social assistance systems. Following its approval, and with active support

from the UN in Viet Nam, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs’ (MOLISA) Action Plan for the implementation of MPSAR was developed, calling for the UN’s support on various fronts, including raising awareness with decision-makers and the wider public on the benefits of the social protection system to create consensus for reforms and increasing the efficiency of existing and new social protection schemes. Further joint UN efforts took place under the coordination of five UN agencies, including ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, in developing and implementing a Common UN Package to Build Government Capacity in Social Protection. By the end of 2017, the package was finalized, after considering comments by the Government and all other relevant stakeholders. Two of the first activities implemented in 2017 were (i) a training course for technical staff from line ministries, provincial practitioners and potential trainers on social protection, as well as (ii) the UN facilitation of an informative discussion with the National Assembly on social protection and social insurance reform. These activities well underlined the Government’s and National Assembly’s efforts in this area, especially given their relevance and contribution to Viet Nam’s timely development of a Master Plan for Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR) by 2035.

The UN in Viet Nam also jointly supported the efforts of the National Network of Counter Human Trafficking Partners, led by UNDP and IOM, with active support from ILO and UNICEF. The network collectively supports the Government of Viet Nam in the prevention, protection, and prosecution of human trafficking cases, positioning the UN in Viet Nam as a key strategic partner of the Government in combatting human trafficking. In addition, ILO and UN Women jointly implemented a Gender Impact Assessment of the Labour Code

**TABLE 3** OSP Outcome 1.1 Key Indicators

Indicators	2016	2017
Proportion of population living below the national income poverty line (Source: GSO)	5.8%	
Proportion of population below the national multidimensional poverty line (Source: MOLISA)	9.2%	6.9% (est.)
Number of women and men benefiting from regular life-cycle social assistance cash transfers (Source: MOLISA)		2.78 mio
Men		1.34 mio
Women		1.44 mio
Share of labour force covered by social insurance (Source: MOLISA)	24.1%	26.8%
Share of labour force covered by unemployment social insurance (Source: MOLISA)	20.4%	22.4%
Proportion of population having health insurance (Source: MOH)	77.0% (2015)	83.8%



revision, identifying the gaps and needs for developing, revising or adopting implementation decrees to give full effect to the revised Labour Code in compliance with international conventions such as the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UNFPA, UNICEF, and other UN agencies advocated for youth participation and engagement and broadened youth rights through their active support of the Government's efforts, through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), in reviewing the current Youth Law and associated drafting of the revised Youth Law, which is planned for approval by the National Assembly in May 2019. UNFPA and other UN agencies jointly supported the government in strengthening national capacity on data for development, specifically providing technical support in the preparation of the 2019 Population Census and Housing, and the development of VSDG indicators.

Individual UN agencies, through their separate mandates and competitive technical strengths, provided additional single-agency support to the Government and other key stakeholders for a wide range of activities, including social protection, social work profession, child protection, multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerability, HIV service provision, women's empowerment and quality and value improvement in agro-processing. Noticeably, through active and

enhanced policy advocacy, facilitation of thematic dialogues and capacity building events and sharing of international experiences and good practices, the UN agencies successfully contributed to many significant institutionalized results in Viet Nam. These include the Master Plan for Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR) with technical support from the ILO through support for dialogues, policy options and institutional reforms for increasing social insurance coverage; Decrees 56 and 80 to guide the implementation of the 2016 Law on Children with UNICEF support in setting up clear procedures, processes and responsibility division in protecting children from violence, including creating a safe, non-violent and friendly school environment; the draft Action Plan for Zero Hunger in Viet Nam 2016-2025 with FAO's technical assistance was submitted to the National Steering Committee for further discussion and approval; the establishment of the Ho Chi Minh City Multi-dimensional Poverty Hub - the first poverty hub in Viet Nam - with UNDP's provision of advocacy, training, materials and coordination with international networks; and the issuance of the Party's Resolution 20 in October 2017 focusing on reviving health care services at grassroots level with WHO's facilitation of discussions on the health insurance benefit package, and technical inputs and advocacy for more cost-effective essential primary care services.



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> ACRONYMS

## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### The UN's promotion of a More Modern, Inclusive, and Comprehensive Institutional Framework for Social Assistance in Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, spending on social assistance (SA) has not yet been sufficiently recognized as an investment for development and ensuring social justice. The state spending on SA (e.g. 0.21 per cent of GDP in 2013 for the social assistance transfers pillar) is low compared to other low-middle-income countries (LMICs) with similar socio-economic conditions. Both coverage and value of SA transfers are low. Similarly, given the large number of people in Viet Nam in need of social care, the provision of basic social services is insufficient, and the national budget for emergency assistance is evaluated as inadequate, especially in light of significantly increasing demands resulting from natural disasters in 2016 and 2017. While the SA system has evolved as a life-cycle system that addresses risks related to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, children, women and ethnic minorities, the system and its associated policies are fragmented, not comprehensive, and lack coherence among and across different sectors as well as clear definitions and approaches for defining target groups<sup>14</sup>.

Several UN agencies, including ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, joined hands with key implementation partners to provide coordinated and timely support for the review of the SA system that should aim for a more comprehensive

system with clearer definitions, expansion of coverage, greater coherence among different SA pillars, a more consistent targeting approach and better benefits for all vulnerable groups.

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam also provided direct and significant support for the development of the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development 2017-2025 (MPSAR) and Vision to 2030 issued by the Prime Minister in April 2017. The master plan offers an extensive framework to refine Government policy responses to emerging issues and the changing nature of poverty, vulnerability and inequality amid the rapidly changing socio-economic context of Viet Nam. With the UN's provision of operational and technical support, MPSAR now successfully reflects four important reforms<sup>15</sup>, including (i) a change in perception of SA from "charity" to "assistance"; (ii) a closer link of SA to other components of social protection; (iii) the application of whole lifecycle, universal, and better targeted approaches; (iv) an improved SA beneficiary identification process; and (v) the expansion of basic health coverage for children under 36 months old, elderly living in difficult-to-reach areas, people with disabilities and pregnant women living in mountainous and remote areas or islands.

#### Related links

- <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quy-dinh-488-QD-TTg-duyet-De-an-Doi-moi-phat-trien-tro-giup-xa-hoi-2017-2025-den-2030-2017-346365.aspx>
- <http://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/poverty/social-assistance-in-viet-nam.html>

## HIGHLIGHT STORY 2

### More Effectively Combat Human Trafficking and Protect Victims through Strengthened Coordination among Key Counter Human Trafficking Agencies in Viet Nam

Trafficking of persons is a heinous crime affecting millions of people around the globe every year, as human traffickers enslave approximately 40 million victims worldwide, a quarter of whom are children. Trafficking of women and children within and from South-East Asia accounts for one third of global trafficking numbers. However, only tens of thousands of victims of trafficking are detected and reported every year, representing less than one per cent of the estimated overall number of victims. The actual numbers of people being trafficked or subjected to forced labour and slavery are likely to be much higher than reported estimates.

Between 2011 and 2014, over 900 cases of trafficking were identified across Viet Nam, with 2,861 subjects and 3,717 trafficked victims being discovered<sup>16</sup>. In 2015 alone, 407 cases, comprising 655 traffickers and 1,000 victims were discovered<sup>17</sup>. The Government of Viet Nam, together with UN agencies, development partners, NGOs and civil society act upon individual mandates and commitments to prevent and protect victims of human trafficking through programme responses ranging from awareness raising and capacity building activities

to the provision of legal advice and direct assistance to victims of trafficking. Yet despite these targeted interventions, a remaining gap exists in the coordination amongst these key players, which in turn results in a risk of missed opportunities to leverage shared expertise and knowledge to more effectively combat human trafficking through joint interventions.

To further strengthen the fight against human trafficking in and from Viet Nam, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNDP have jointly developed the regional project 'UN Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons' (UN-ACT), which is co-led by the revitalized national Counter Trafficking Network (CTN). The CTN is comprised of more than 20 government representatives, UN agencies, bilateral partners, NGOs, academia and other relevant partners in civil society from throughout Viet Nam.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the CTN provided partners with an open and reliable platform to share research and information on emerging trafficking trends and best practices, primarily through quarterly meetings, and through contributions to

<sup>14</sup> UNDP 2016: Social Assistance in Viet Nam: A review and proposals for reform

<sup>15</sup> Government's Decision No. 488/QD/TTg on 14 April 2017 approving the proposal on "Renovation and development of social assistance during 2017-2025 and vision till 2030" (MPSAR)

<sup>16</sup> NPA report, Ministry of Public Security (MPS), March 2015

<sup>17</sup> COMMIT report, Ministry of Public Security (MPS), December 2015

shared online platforms, including a CTN-developed activity mapping and an online hub for resources and publications. The CTN has also conducted joint advocacy activities, including a joint press conference with the Ministry of Public Security issuing a joint statement to mark the National Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July) that included agreed recommendations for the Government of Viet Nam's consideration.

The revitalization of the CTN is therefore an important and necessary first step for increasing cooperation and coordination

among relevant civil society organizations, UN agencies, the Government of Viet Nam and other key stakeholders on prevention, protection, prosecution policies and programme interventions to counter human trafficking. Based on its current trajectory, its ever-growing membership, and with increasing interest from the international donor community, it is hoped that the CTN will continue to grow into a formalized and results-driven national network that pursues joint interventions on counter trafficking activities to combat human trafficking on both a geographical and collaborative scale yet to be seen in Viet Nam.

## Related links

- <https://vietnam.iom.int/en/counter-trafficking-network-joint-statement-mark-viet-nam%E2%80%99s-national-day-against-trafficking-persons>

## HIGHLIGHT STORY 3

### National Dialogue to Promote Stronger Youth Participation in Development

With adolescents and children aged 10-24 years accounting for approximately 23 per cent of the total population<sup>18</sup>, Viet Nam is experiencing a period of demographic dividend, recording the highest proportion of young people in the country's history. This population transformation requires the Government of Viet Nam to have timely and adequate plans to engage the young generation as the key drivers of social and economic progress.

Over recent years, and despite considerable efforts in improving adolescent and youth participation in related policy discussions, adequate promotion of youth engagement has not been attained. The lack of adolescent and youth presence in decision making and the development of policies has resulted in growing gaps between the national policy framework and young people's existing needs, and in turn prevents them from reaching their full potential in contributing to the country's development.

The UN in Viet Nam, led by the UN Thematic Group on Adolescence and Youth (UNGAY) and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, jointly organized the 2017 International Youth Day on "Youth Empowerment for the Country's Development". Over 500 young people from different backgrounds, as well as numerous representatives from Government ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, UN and non-UN international agencies gathered at the event, which was a face-to-face

dialogue between adolescents and youth representatives and leading public officials from both the Government and the Parliament on the need for adolescent and youth participation and their roles in the overall policy development process.

Opening the ceremony, the UN Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam, Mr. Kamal Malhotra, highlighted the importance of addressing adolescent and youth needs and promoting their aspirations in providing meaningful participation and contribution to national socio-economic development, as well as on issues related to climate change and peace-building. Mr. Nguyen Trong Thua, Vice Minister of Home Affairs, emphasized the Government's constant appreciation and recognition of young people's roles and contribution to national development efforts, and committed to continue working with young people to ensure the realization of their full potential.

The event reemphasized the leading position of the UN on youth issues in Viet Nam, as its agencies help provide young people with a solid opportunity to engage and share opinions directly with high-level Government officials who play key roles in shaping public policy, including in the areas of LGBTIQ, environment, sexual and reproductive health and broader SDG implementation. The policy dialogue also allowed for continued open dialogues through social media channels months after the event took place.

## Related links

- <https://www.facebook.com/unfpa.vietnam/videos/997775600364189/>

<sup>18</sup> GSO's projection



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## Outcome 1.2 on Equity in Health

By 2021, all people, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive and equitable health systems, services and the promotion of healthy environments

### Context

Viet Nam's social and economic development in recent years has contributed to an overall improvement in the health sector, but progress has been uneven. Disparities in health service outcomes remain visible across different regions and are persistent among vulnerable population groups (e.g. the poor/near-poor households, the elderly, ethnic minorities, migrants, stigmatized and marginalized groups, those living in difficult-to-reach areas, women and children).

The country successfully reduced its maternal mortality rate by three quarters between 1990 and 2015, to 54 per 100,000 live births in 2015, which is much lower than the SDG identified global target of less than 70. Nevertheless, the rate is three to four times higher for ethnic minority groups. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel remains high at 93.8 per cent in 2014 for the whole country, but is at a much lower rate when disaggregated by the Northern Mountainous (77.5 per cent) and Central Highland (81 per cent) regions. Similarly, the rate of obstetrical check-up of three or more times was only 71.2 per cent in the Northern Mountainous region compared to the national average of 86.3 per cent in 2014<sup>19</sup>. Nation-wide, only about 64 per cent of births of ethnic minority women took place in health facilities. Similarly, the national child mortality rate is low compared to the globally identified associated SDG targets, and reached 21.8 and 14.5 per 1,000 live-births in 2015 for under-5 (U5MR) and under-1 mortality (U1MR) rates, respectively. However, the same rates remain high for ethnic minorities groups, as more than 75 per cent of ethnic minority groups display U5MR rates higher than 27 per 1,000 live births<sup>20</sup>.

The number of new HIV infections was estimated to decrease to 11,000 cases in 2016 country-wide. However, statistics display regional variations of the rate of new infections with increasing proportions of infections among some populations, such as men who have sex with men and partners of key populations at higher risk of HIV infections<sup>21</sup>.

Social and economic status, age, gender, ethnicity, geographical isolation, social and cultural norms and education are some of the key factors that contribute to these inequalities. In addition, various other factors also limit access to quality health services and ultimately health outcomes, including the lack of health insurance coverage, weak capacities of grassroots health facilities, reduced donor support, the additional burden of increased non-communicable diseases, threats of emerging and re-emerging diseases such as avian

influenza, Ebola, MERS, and vector-borne diseases, and underdeveloped regulatory frameworks to control quality of services and financial accountability.

The UN in Viet Nam further supports the Government of Viet Nam and other key stakeholders in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, which is essential to sustainable development and the achievement of Agenda 2030. In the OSP 2017-2021, "Equity in Health" is selected as Outcome 1.2. The joint Results Group on Inclusive Social Services, led by the WHO and actively supported by FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, and UNICEF, ensures the implementation of joint efforts and activities, hence directly contributing to the achievement of SDG 2 on No Hunger, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, SDG 5 on Gender Equality, and SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation in Viet Nam.

### Outcome 1.2 Key Results in 2017

Outcome 1.2 is the largest OSP 2017-2021 outcome in 2017 in terms of financial investments, accounting for about one quarter (or more than USD 17 million) of total UN investments in Viet Nam.

The UN in Viet Nam, led by the efforts of WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly provided technical and policy inputs to two important resolutions of the Central Party of Viet Nam, which were issued in 2017 to ensure that the priorities of vulnerable population groups and associated emerging issues were well addressed. These two resolutions are (i) Resolution 20 on a stronger primary health care and a stronger equity focus in resource allocation for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and to address stunting, and (ii) Resolution 21 on population and development.

With the UN's support, the Government's commitment to reduce stunting, coordinated by the Ministry of Health (MOH), was strengthened, amongst others through the finalization of the National Action Plan for Nutrition 2017-2020 issued in January 2018 and the Prime Minister's commitment to launch the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement. Consequently, the UN's involvement and recommendations helped establish a strong legal basis for the Government's future investments in stunting reduction. In addition, MOH and the UN in Viet Nam developed further recommendations on how to best include Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) prevention and associated treatment options, as well as strengthened breastfeeding protection efforts into the wider national health insurance scheme, making Viet Nam one of the first countries globally to standardize breastfeeding

<sup>19</sup> MICS 2014, GSO/UNICEF

<sup>20</sup> CEMA, UNDP and Irish Aid (2015), Overview on Socio-Economic Status of 53 Ethnic Minority Groups

<sup>21</sup> VACC

criteria into hospital accreditation systems. Based on these criteria and Viet Nam's experiences and best practices, a global set of Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) guidelines could be developed.

In addition, and with WHO and UNICEF's active advocacy and support, the National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) remained a national priority programme in 2017 and is included as a key project in the Target Health and Population Programme of the Ministry of Health throughout the 2016-2020 period. The action plan for EPI has been developed to smoothly transit from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) support to that of those UN agencies that have contributed to the successful procurement and supply of DTP-HepB-Hib vaccines for Viet Nam. As a result, the country was not only able to fulfill its obligation to co-finance the project, but also secured much needed combined pentavalent vaccines in 2017.

The UN in Viet Nam further advocated and provided technical support for the development and July 2017 launch of MOH's Circular 31 on the classification of goods and products that affect human beings, which

now includes contraceptive commodities. In addition, UN support was provided for the finalization of national guidelines on early screening of cervical cancer for women aged 35 and older and the development and finalization of the first-ever National Early Childhood Development Programme for children from 0 to 8 year(s) old.

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam, including FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO made substantive progress in supporting Viet Nam's health care system in many other areas, noticeably the areas of tackling antimicrobial resistance, surveillance and response to influenza and other pandemic viruses, care for NCDs, reducing maternal and child mortality (e.g. through review and response models and developing a National Skilled Birth Attendant Training Package), triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B in newborns, reporting to the Global AIDS Monitoring, and Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD). Several agencies of the UN in Viet Nam furthermore facilitated multi-sectoral policy dialogues and actions through the joint coordination of different multi-stakeholder networks such as the Food Safety Working Group and the Longitudinal Influenza Surveillance Network (LISN).

**TABLE 4** OSP Outcome 1.2 Key Indicators

Indicators	2016
Prevalence of stunting	24.6%
Maternal mortality ratio ( <i>per 100,000 live births</i> )	54 (2015)
Under-five mortality rate	21.8%
Under-one mortality rate	14.5%
Estimated number of new HIV infections	11,000



## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### Non-Communicable Diseases Demonstration Model

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) cause 73 per cent of annual mortalities in Viet Nam. In addition, the prevalence of hypertension and diabetes has increased rapidly in the past few years, with around one in five adults aged 18 and above having hypertension and one in 20 having diabetes, as reported in 2017<sup>22</sup>. At the same time, there remains a big gap in overall NCD management at primary care level, as about two-thirds of hypertension and diabetes cases are not identified nor appropriately managed.

To address the problem adequately, the WHO has provided extensive support to the Government of Viet Nam for the establishment of an NCD management demonstration project, piloted in Ha Nam province in 2017. Key interventions of the model include:

- (i) Establishment of a system for service delivery at community levels through the use and strengthening of the existing System of Preventive Medicine (SPM);
- (ii) Addressing regulatory obstacles for NCD management at Communal Health Station (CHS) level through WHO's support for the establishment of health insurance expenditure caps, the introduction of general practitioner licenses for diabetes, updated regulations for long-term prescription for hypertension and diabetes (30 days) and better availability of NCD medicine at CHS level;
- (iii) Building national and sub-national capacity, including through the development of simple manuals, communication materials and tools for NCD early detection and health

promotion activities at community level, training for doctors at CHS level and village health workers, as well as carrying out regular household monitoring visits for early detection assisted through mentoring efforts from higher levels to CHS; and

- (iv) Supporting the NCD reporting system through the development of a standardized reporting template and software for NCD management and reporting for CHS'.

The intervention produced significant results in 2017 as communication and early detection activities are now carried out at community level mainly by village health care workers rather than untrained staff. Hypertension and diabetes patients have started being managed at CHS level in the pilot provinces, and the overall cost of medicine and examination fees are now covered by health insurance. The percentage of patients having their blood pressure and blood glucose controlled has also been increased successfully, from a few patients to about 3000 hypertension patients and 300 diabetes patients after the intervention. Due to the reduction of travel and waiting time for patients, the overall number of patients has extensively increased, showing the actual need for medical support in the provinces. As a result, financial incomes have increased for the doctors and associated health staff. Due to its success, the model is being expanded to other provinces in Viet Nam and is expected to help reduce the number of NCD complications in the nation, such as through stroke and heart attacks, as well as save further lives and reduce the overall hospital overload and associated burden at a national level.

<sup>22</sup> MOH

## HIGHLIGHT STORY 2

### Protecting the Future: Greater Sustainability Secured for Viet Nam's HIV Response

2017 reports indicated that Viet Nam's HIV epidemic is still prevalent, but the Government has reaffirmed its ambitious commitment to ending AIDS by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, there were 11,000 individuals estimated to be newly infected by HIV, and about 8,000 AIDS-related deaths<sup>23</sup>. Despite years of extensive advocacy and awareness-raising efforts, as well as capacity training and workshops for staff and the achievement of important key milestones in 2017, major challenges remain. New infections are increasingly detected among men who have sex with men and women infected by their husbands or other intimate partners. In addition, it has become more challenging to reach out to the key vulnerable populations at high risk of being infected with HIV. The management of the national HIV epidemic and associated response activities remains uneven across the country, with more complex dynamics arising and stretched capacities for associated staff. These challenges are further intensified by a sharp decline in external ODA funding for HIV, which currently still accounts for most of the total investment on HIV in Viet Nam. More effective and innovative approaches for an expansion of HIV services as well as resource mobilization are urgently needed.

Nonetheless, the UN in Viet Nam's advocacy and technical assistance, coordinated through the UN Thematic Group on

HIV (led by UNAIDS with the participation of WHO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNWomen, UNFPA, ILO and UNESCO), resulted in concrete and long-term progress in several areas. In terms of sustainability, the Vietnamese Communist Party's Resolution on health care, reviewed and issued in late 2017, reconfirmed the Government's commitment to end AIDS by 2030 and to further increase domestic resources for AIDS. The five-year Targeted Programme on Health and Population puts HIV among the top five health programs in terms of domestic budget allocation and institutionalizes the overall 90-90-90 testing and treatment targets. The Government reiterated its determination to have 100 per cent PLHIV covered by social health insurance (SHI), and hence, barriers to SHI access were identified and progressively addressed. Provincial implementation of the Prime Minister's decision to mobilise local funds to support SHI premium and anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) through co-payments for PLHIV were reviewed to enable a smooth transition from donor-funded to SHI-financed ARV treatment programmes. The UN also supported the Government of Viet Nam to successfully translate the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria resources into action, successfully securing additional resources for 2018-2020 of USD 59 million.

To promote better access to more effective HIV services, with UN support and guidance, the MOH adopted a new policy on

“treating all”, allowing immediate ARV treatment initiations for all people diagnosed with HIV. It also developed a roadmap towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmissions of HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis and approved a new directive and technical guidelines to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination in health facilities. Additionally, the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS) set up new programmes to provide methadone treatment therapy (MMT) in prisons, and developed a plan to train prison health care staff to prepare for the further expansion of MMT in prisons in 2018. The UN also provided technical guidance to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to review community-based drug dependence treatment pilots, and promoted the expansion of voluntary and

community-based drug treatment in the entire country.

UN Viet Nam’s expertise and technical support also contributed new evidence to guide more targeted interventions to reach those left behind and optimize resource allocations. It also acted as a “bridge for dialogue” with all national and international stakeholders. Another essential partner in the national AIDS response - the communities of PLHIV, people who use drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgenders - grew much stronger in capacity and actively engaged in both policy development, stigma and discrimination reduction and innovative HIV service delivery.

## Related links

- Story on sustainable financing of ARV treatment by social health insurance  
[http://www.wpro.who.int/vietnam/mediacentre/features/hiv\\_health\\_insurance\\_vietnam/en/](http://www.wpro.who.int/vietnam/mediacentre/features/hiv_health_insurance_vietnam/en/)
- Story on reduction of HIV-related stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings  
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACab\\_M-aY7I;](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACab_M-aY7I;)  
- <http://vietnamnews.vn/society/418677/stigma-hurts-hiv-diagnosis-treatment.html#OlgB8LzhIEbtdCsi.97>

<sup>23</sup> VACC

<sup>24</sup> 90-90-90: refers to global and national targets of having 90 per cent of PLHIV knowing their HIV status, 90 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receiving HIV treatment and 90 per cent of people receiving HIV treatment having durable viral suppression.



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## Outcome 1.3 on Equity in Quality Education, Training and Learning

By 2021, all people, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive and equitable quality education systems, services and expanded life-long learning opportunities

### Context

The Government's strong commitment and long-standing cultural and social support for the improvement of the education sector has led to significant progress in recent years. The net enrolment rates for primary and lower-secondary education reached 97.9 per cent and 90.4 per cent in the school year of 2015-2016, respectively. In the same year, literacy reportedly reached 95 per cent<sup>25</sup>.

However, the country still faces challenges in mobilizing out-of-school children to join primary and lower secondary schools, ensuring equity and inclusion in education, as especially the most vulnerable groups of the population fell behind in terms of enrolment and learning outcomes, including ethnic minority children, children living in remote areas, migrant children and children with disabilities. For children with multiple disabilities, 91.4 per cent at lower secondary school level age, and 87.4 per cent at primary school level age do not attend regular school classes<sup>26</sup>. Furthermore, growing gender issues in the education sector, such as school-related Gender-based Violence (SRGBV) and gender inequality in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education need to be more strongly addressed. Limitations remain in cross-sectoral coordination, which constrains the holistic approach to early learning and development. Additional concerns have been raised on the overall low productivity of the Vietnamese workforce at the same time as there are clearly evident shortages of workers who are equipped with proper professional skills. The increasing pressure of both rapid economic growth and shrinking working-age population are additional big challenges. Furthermore, education management capacities will need to be improved to effectively and efficiently implement education policies. The quality of teacher training is uneven, with lower achievements for teachers working in remote ethnic minority areas. In addition, existing curricula have important gaps and encouragement is needed to shift to a competency-based general education curriculum. Last but not least, lack of systematically disaggregated data collection and analysis hinder better targeting for improved equity in access to education. A more evidence-based and comprehensive understanding of disparities is needed to ensure equality in education for all<sup>27</sup>.

To better support the Government of Viet Nam in addressing the above-mentioned challenges, the UN in Viet Nam has designed "Equality in Quality Education"

as Outcome 1.3 among the nine OSP 2017-2021 outcomes. The outcome is delivered through the joint Results Group on Inclusive Social Services with particular contribution from ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNICEF. Results under the outcome contribute directly to the achievement of SDG 4 on Equality in Education, and SDG 5 on Gender Equality.

### Outcome 1.3 Key Results in 2017

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam aimed to support the Government of Viet Nam in (i) improving the national policy framework for inclusive and equitable quality education for all, with special focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women and children, accompanied by the improved public finance management process to address inequalities in education, (ii) enhancing the capacity of government officials in charge of education and training as well as teachers to deliver inclusive and transformative education services for all, reaching vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women and girls, in conformity with international norms and standards, and (iii) improving data/information and monitoring for evidence-based, inclusive, relevant and learner-friendly education policies, plans and programmes.

The joint work of UNESCO and UNICEF delivered significant support to the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) in formulating MOET's Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goal for Education by 2025 and Orientation to 2030, which was the first sectoral SDG action plan launched in 2017 following the issuance of the National Action Plan on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 (see *Outcome 1.3 Highlight Story 1*). The UN in Viet Nam made further joint contributions to the development of the Prime Minister's Decree 80/2017/NĐ-CP on a safe, healthy, friendly, non-violent learning environment, which came into effect from September 2018 to enforce the Child Law's implementation, as well as the approval of MOET guidance on the operationalization of an information portal on disaster management.

Associated UN agencies, including ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNICEF, made substantive progress in their joint advocacy efforts on tuition removal for pre-primary and lower secondary education, child labour issues in the context of natural disasters, as well as on improving vocational skills for disadvantaged adolescents, early childhood development (ECD), safe schools for Disaster

<sup>25</sup> MOET

<sup>26</sup> MOET, 2013

<sup>27</sup> UN Common Country Assessment in Viet Nam 2015



Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience building through various dialogues, national forums, policy briefs, studies and reviews.

In the effort to strengthen the capacities of Government education officials and teachers to deliver inclusive and transformative education services for all, in 2017, the UN in Viet Nam enhanced Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) capacities for 90 core national curriculum developers, provincial education managers and commune preschool teachers. Furthermore, 150 education officials and teachers developed a solid capacity to administer a field trial in early 2018 as part of a wider regional learning assessment called "South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics". The assessment will contribute to a review of key learning outcomes in different sectors, and further strengthen national curriculum and teaching practices. Thanks to the support of the UN in Viet Nam, 200 education planners and managers, as well as 200 members of the Committee for the Advancement

of Women, were able to enhance their capacity and awareness in gender mainstreaming in educational planning and management, and an additional 170 secondary teachers and educational administrators at district level enhanced their capacities on gender mainstreaming in teaching practices and other educational activities. Approximately 130 teachers, students and members of community learning centers (CLCs) participated in training workshops to learn how to use an activity booklet to support their schools in promoting gender equality and girls' education.

In 2017, UN agencies also conducted further research to effectively help the development and implementation of associated activities, such as through the updated Out-of-School Children (OOSC) analysis based on the 2014 Inter-censal Population Survey, and the survey report on reviewing the impact of current policies for teachers in primary and lower secondary education, working in mountainous and economically disadvantaged areas.

**TABLE 5** OSP Outcome 1.3 Key Indicators

Indicators	2016
Proportion of children 3-5 years old going to kindergarten	92.0% (2016-2017)
Proportion of children 5 years old going to kindergarten	98.0% (2016-2017)
Primary net enrolment rate	97.9% (2015-2016)
Lower-secondary net enrolment rate	90.4% (2015-2016)
Literacy rate	95.0%
Male	96.6%
Female	93.5%
Laborers >=15 years old with vocational training	20.6%
Male	23.0%
Female	18.0%



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## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### Towards Improving Quality Education and Learning and Closing Education Gaps in Viet Nam: Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) Action Plan to Implement Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education

As mentioned throughout the report, the National Action Plan for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is the key document for the Government's work in Viet Nam and was issued in 2017 to designated Government ministries to develop sectoral action plans for SDG implementation.

In 2017, UNESCO and UNICEF jointly supported MOET in formulating MOET's Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goal on Education by 2025 and Orientation to 2030. The support included stocktaking policy analysis, contextualizing the global SDGs into national commitments, exposing MOET to regional capacity development opportunities and providing substantive joint comments on the draft action plan. The broad engagement between UN agencies and development partners with MOET and national partners has enriched dialogues and reflections, allowing the MOET action plan to benefit from high quality technical expertise and policy advice and to align with international standards. Most importantly, it has also helped open up the

SDG platform to non-state actors which is critical for improved transparency and accountability in Viet Nam.

This was the first sectoral SDG action plan launched in 2017 following the issuance of the National Action Plan. The MOET action plan demonstrates strong institutional commitment to equity and inclusion in education, substantiated by systematic indicators well aligned with the targets for SDG 4, which are critical to support monitoring of system performance on early childhood development and school readiness, quality education at primary, secondary and post-secondary levels, acquisition of relevant knowledge and skills, and an inclusive, safe and non-violent learning environment. The action plan has triggered significant momentum in the entire education sector with policy dialogues on tuition removal for pre-school and lower secondary education and strengthened guidance in education sector planning, budgeting and management to ensure mobilization of resources for the education targets. The MOET has also developed concrete work plans to build system capacity at all levels for monitoring progress towards SDG 4 achievement.

#### Related links

- Promotional video on the 10 targets of SDG 4 in Vietnamese [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YGCwLJPFHQ&index=3&t=0s&list=PLWuYED1WVJINmdZNDH\\_1mrKSX6MhFIFZL](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YGCwLJPFHQ&index=3&t=0s&list=PLWuYED1WVJINmdZNDH_1mrKSX6MhFIFZL)

## HIGHLIGHT STORY 2

### Alliance for Education and Protection of Children in Natural Disasters

In Viet Nam, natural disasters and climate change have had a negative impact on the lives of many people, especially vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, households without incomes and poor and near-poor households living in circumstances of extreme difficulty or in disaster-prone areas. Family economic difficulties threaten to force children out of school to participate in economic activities to help their families overcome challenges in life.

On the World Day Against Child Labour (WDAKL) on 13 June 2017, ILO, UNESCO, and UNICEF collaborated to organize a national forum to discuss the prevention of child labour in natural disasters. The forum was honored to receive MOLISA, MOET, UN, and US Embassy leaders, together with around 110 participants from government line ministries/agencies, the National Assembly, CSOs and the eight provinces of An Giang, Ha Noi, HCMC, Lao Cai, Hue, Yen Bai, Ninh Thuan and Thanh Hoa.

The national forum was an opportunity to bring different

stakeholders together on the issue of education and child protection, including child labour in natural disasters. The forum was also a step forward in promoting a national alliance for achieving SDG Target 8.7 in Viet Nam. The Vice Minister for Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs concluded that Viet Nam would like to build upon their existing policy framework and programmes to cope with child labour and the consequences of natural disasters. The conclusion induced further research carried out by the ILO in early 2018, aiming to provide more in-depth recommendations for developing disaster-responsive social protection policies and regulations with a particular focus on children, including protection from child labour.

Following the forum, detailed advocacy material, including a video documentary, a short video clip and a radio clip were produced to raise the wider public's awareness on child labour in natural disasters. Those products were repeatedly aired on national and provincial television and radio stations, and shared through different social media channels, reaching more than 3 million citizens.

#### Related links

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=bq5MdEJBr1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=bq5MdEJBr1s)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4m4rzAqCAk>
- [http://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS\\_553170/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Eventsandmeetings/WCMS_553170/lang--en/index.htm)

## Outcome 2.1 on Low-carbon, Climate and Disaster Resilient Development

By 2021, Viet Nam has accelerated its transition to sustainable development and green growth towards a low-carbon economy and enhanced its adaptation and resilience to climate change and natural disasters, with a focus on empowering the poor and vulnerable groups

### Context

One of the key challenges Viet Nam faces, having the potential to jeopardize the country's recent development gains, is the increased exposure to more intense and unpredictable natural hazards and weather events that have significant human impacts, especially on vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ persons and ethnic minorities. Globally, Viet Nam is ranked as one of the 10 countries most affected by natural disasters and experiences multiple disasters every year, ranging from extended droughts and salt water intrusions to typhoons, floods and landslides. In particular, the central coastal regions of the country are chronically and acutely susceptible to climate extremes, as most storms make landfall in the region. In 2016 and 2017, Viet Nam struggled with large-scale impacts from both slow- and sudden-onset natural hazards of historical magnitude. At the same time, its national vulnerabilities are exacerbated by the lack of investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and insufficiently risk-informed spatial planning, as Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), disaster preparedness and risk management have not yet been sufficiently integrated in associated national policy frameworks. There is a strong need for additional capacity building and awareness raising of all Government counterparts for better mainstreaming of CCA and DRR into national, sectoral and local planning and budgeting processes, especially as existing gender inequalities and current social structures contribute to the growing vulnerabilities and limited capacities of affected communities and households in dealing with the impacts of climate change and weather extreme events.

The emergence of several important climate-focused international agreements in recent years, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and Agenda 2030 and the associated SDGs 13-15, has created an opportunity for the Government of Viet Nam to deliver a more coherent and integrated response to managing growing climate change-related impacts within its sphere of sustainable development work. In its contribution to the Paris Agreement, the Government of Viet Nam committed to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions by eight per cent by 2030 with its own resources. The Government has said that the reduction could reach up to 25 per cent with international support<sup>28</sup>. The forest agenda is a key pillar of the national commitment to the international community not only on climate mitigation, but also on

resilience. In addition, the Government of Viet Nam has re-confirmed its commitment to integrate the contents of the national Green Growth Strategy into the SEDP 2021-2025 as well as SEDS 2021-2030, and to prioritize additional public investment resources, including ODA, to implement the Green Growth Strategy. Major gaps, such as the lack of an inclusive and legal regulatory framework, and clearly defined associated norms and standards, remain, hindering the overall successful implementation of the strategy and causing bottlenecks in the overall coordination system.

To support the Government of Viet Nam in addressing the above mentioned challenges, the UN in Viet Nam designed "Low-carbon, climate and disaster resilient development" as Outcome 2.1 among the nine OSP 2017-2021 outcomes. Two joint Results Groups on (i) Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and (ii) Climate Change and Environment coordinate joint activities to achieve this outcome with active participation of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UN Women and WHO. The UN in Viet Nam is furthermore supported by an ad-hoc inter-agency Disaster Response Management Team (DRMT) under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator during times of crisis, which manages the UN's joint disaster response, if requested by the Government of Viet Nam. The results of the outcome directly contribute to the achievement of SDGs 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

### Outcome 2.1 Key Results in 2017

#### UN Supporting Viet Nam's Transition to Sustainable Development and Green Growth Towards a Low-carbon Economy

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam supported the preparation, update and implementation of the Nationally-Determined Contribution (NDC) roadmap through a close partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), the Ministry of Construction (MOC), the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), as well as provincial authorities to catalyze new legal incentives, emerging technologies and robust decision-making processes in undertaking NDC tasks and achieving associated targets. Line ministries are taking necessary stock by regularly monitoring and reviewing their commitments for the ambitious but also

<sup>28</sup> <http://vietnam-redd.org/Upload/CMS/Content/Library-GovernmentDocuments/419%20NRAP%202030%20En.pdf>

achievable implementation of actions. The UN in Viet Nam, especially UNDP, helped introduce an integrated modelling approach to evaluate the potential impacts of implementing NDC targets on the whole economy and social welfare system in the NDC review process, to be completed in 2018. Outcomes of the review will further support Government line ministries to better integrate NDC targets into existing development planning processes towards a climate resilient and low carbon development future.

Active support for the implementation of the NDC and the national Green Growth Strategy (GGS) was provided by the UN through the definition of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) transparent mechanisms (Article 13 of the Paris Agreement) and tracking of public climate finance. In addition, a climate public expenditure review was carried out in 13 provinces of the Mekong Delta region for the period 2010-2015, as well as a Private Climate Expenditure and Investments for Viet Nam (PCEIR) review of investments of energy efficiency in the sectors of cement, steel, sugar, paper production and renewable energy. The reviews resulted in recommendations on how to best increase the mobilization of private investment in climate change mitigation in Viet Nam. With the UN's support, the feed-in-tariff for solar photovoltaic (PV) was issued by the Government in 2017 as a breakthrough to promote investment in solar PV in Viet Nam.

The UN in Viet Nam also actively promoted energy efficiency and the use of low-carbon building material and products in construction, housing and the lighting sector. In 2017, the energy saving of 1,589 tons of oil equivalent (TOE) and direct GHG emission reductions of 6,944.61 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> were key results achieved through active support for the establishment and operation of non-fired brick (NFB) production lines with quality products in three NFB factories (i.e. Luu Xa, Hong Hoang Hong and Thanh Phuc). NFB production in Viet Nam has been increased to 28 per cent in 2016 from 13 per cent in 2011. In 2017, an amended circular mandating the use of NFB in all public funded construction work and buildings of nine floors or above was approved with the UN's support. For LED development, sales of locally-produced LED lamps by two big national local lamp producers increased and represented almost 50 per cent of the total companies' revenue in 2017, thanks to the UN's support to enhance capacities of testing and assessment of input material, components and LED lamp products, quality control as per international standards (CIE and US standards) and enhanced capacities of designing LED components such as driver and heat sink.

Through technical assistance and policy advice provided by the UN in Viet Nam, particularly UNIDO, the initiative to retrofit industrial parks to ensure a more sustainable pathway has been implemented in various pilot locations, with significant positive results. Specially, at national policy level, the project has helped provided inputs to four Eco-Industrial Park (EIP)-specified chapters in the new draft decree on industrial zone management, which has since been submitted to the Government for approval. In parallel, detailed technical guidelines on EIPs' environmental aspects for Viet Nam, have been developed. At industrial zone level, three centralized waste water treatment plants were assessed, and

recommendations for performance improvement were identified. In addition, a solid waste inventory in three pilot industrial zones was conducted, whose findings serve as a good foundation for industrial symbiosis options to be implemented in the coming years. At company level, activities in 2017 mostly focused on increasing the productivity and competitiveness of enterprises through the application of a more resource-efficient and cleaner production (RECP) approach in 25 additional enterprises. Furthermore, promoting application of energy and resource efficiency in industry in a holistic approach continued to be UNIDO's core technical assistance to various industrial sectors in Viet Nam such as industrial boiler, coffee and rice. An overall reduction of 27,006.7 tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent has been estimated as a result.

### **UN Supporting Viet Nam's Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Disasters Enhanced**

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are key long-term strategies for sustainable and resilient development for current and future generations to cope with the impacts of climate change, implying better preparation for vulnerable groups, such as women, children, poor households and ethnic minorities, for shocks and disasters, and facilitating quick recovery through a stronger focus on vulnerabilities rather than stresses. In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam therefore worked closely together with all stakeholders, including MARD, as well as line ministries such as MOH, MOLISA, MOET, sub-national authorities, academic institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and CSOs on CCA and DRR for resilience under the umbrella of the Sendai Framework, associated SDGs and the national SEDP 2016-2020.

Recognizing the strong need for more detailed and disaggregated baseline and SDG-associated data, the UN in Viet Nam invested in the collection of data and evidence related to existing vulnerabilities in disaster-prone regions, developing disaster-related data collection tools and models to better inform national and sectoral planning, as well as strengthening national resilience capacity based on joint UN/GoV findings and policy recommendations. A number of highlighted outputs include (i) an independent real-time evaluation of UNICEF's emergency response to drought and salt water intrusion, (ii) a joint assessment conducted by UNDP, CARE International and World Vision International (WVI) on drought impacts and associated recovery strategies employed in affected communities in Binh Thuan province, (iii) FAO's survey for developing an Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS) for drought scenarios, (iv) a UNICEF-supported situation analysis on communications on DRR, resulting in a policy recommendation on the development of a national DRR communication strategy, (v) a WHO-supported data collection tool for risk analysis in the provinces vulnerable to disasters, (vi) UNDP-supported innovative climate risk platform using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and creative data collection tools which includes a climate and disaster risk dashboard for 15 disaster-prone provinces in the Northern Mountainous region of Viet Nam (<http://undp.gis.wru.vn/>) (vii) a draft capacity development plan for the Central Committee on Natural Disaster

Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) and related training materials on DRR and CCA for the VDMA supported by UNDP, (viii) IOM-supported research, workshop, and training manual regarding planned relocation in the context of environmental change and climate change in coordination with the Institute of Sociology, Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences and (viii) MARD capacity building for agricultural extension workers and livestock/crops farmers in seven provinces affected by droughts and other disasters supported by FAO. The gender lens was adopted in these undertakings to identify issues of gender equality during disaster preparedness and response efforts, and to recommend measures on gender equality improvement during resilience building and future programming.

The UN in Viet Nam also continued its provision of coherent support to national partners and strengthened partnerships for risk-informed development programming and DRR. High-level engagement and policy advocacy has been coordinated by the UN in Viet Nam through (i) the Annual Review of Disaster Response and Preparedness chaired by the Minister of MARD as the CCNDPC Chair and the UN Resident Coordinator, (ii) the International Day of Disasters chaired by representatives of the CCNDPC and UN agencies, and (iii) the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum in Vinh City, which was co-chaired by MARD and local representatives from Nghe An province. The key principles enshrined in the Sendai Framework and the SDGs, as well as the specific role of the UN in Viet Nam in this sector were further highlighted through UNICEF's contribution to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Emergency Preparedness Working Group Meeting, a preparatory meeting for the APEC leader's week in November 2017.

### Humanitarian Efforts

The inter-agency UN Disaster Response Management Team (DRMT), comprised of technical experts from FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO, and led by the Resident Coordinator supports the UN in Viet Nam with analysis as well as disaster prevention, preparedness and response planning. In 2017, this included the DRMT's support for the development of a joint 2017/2018 Flooding Response Plan together with the Government, as well as kickstarting UN life-saving support for more than 150,000 people in direct need of humanitarian aid.

Together with the Government, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) and the NGO Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG), the UN in Viet Nam established a "fit-for-purpose" disaster response architecture with a newly-formed joint Disaster Management Group (DMG) at Heads of Agency/Senior Representative level at its

core as a strategic and operational information-sharing platform co-chaired by the Chair of the DMWG and the UN Resident Coordinator responsible for agreeing on common strategic issues related to humanitarian action in Viet Nam at the request of the Government.

In the 2017 work plan, the UN in Viet Nam was furthermore tasked to update the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP). Together with efforts from all DRMT-affiliated UN agencies as well as the Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), two key documents were developed to further strengthen capacities and systems for preparedness, response, recovery and coordination with the Government of Viet Nam and other humanitarian actors moving forward, including a Contingency Plan for a sudden-onset scenario and an Early Action and Preparedness Plan for a slow-onset scenario. The documents will be finalized in 2018, also considering and incorporating findings, as appropriate, from the UN in Viet Nam Simulation Exercise which took place in June 2018.

For the second consecutive year in 2017, and for the first time for a sudden-onset emergency, the Government of Viet Nam requested the UN in Viet Nam's support in mobilizing international assistance to respond to the impacts of Typhoon Damrey when it made landfall in November 2017 in the central coastal provinces of Viet Nam, causing more than 120 fatalities and damages to over 300,000 houses, also heavily impacting the agricultural and aquacultural sector, livelihoods, as well as the wider economic sector and infrastructure. An overall economic loss of approximately USD 996.92 million was estimated. The DRMT worked in strong partnership with Government and humanitarian partners, including the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) and INGOs, and coordinated a joint multi-stakeholder needs assessment in November 2017 for six of the most affected provinces in Central Viet Nam, identifying emergency response activities in the sectors of food security and the restoration of livelihoods, as well as emergency shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Together with findings from the VNRC, and based on these assessments, the Government, associated UN agencies and other humanitarian partners launched the 2017/2018 Flooding Response Plan with an estimated cost of USD 54 million to support 1.1 million of the most vulnerable people. By the end of the year, the response plan had attracted 30 per cent of the overall needed funding, including a total of USD 4.2 million mobilized jointly by FAO, IOM, UNDP and UNICEF through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to deliver life-saving support. CERF drew further attention to the crisis, and allowed for the mobilization of additional resources, energized the Government and improved national level coordination.



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## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### UN Joint Advocacy Effort Leading to an Enhanced Institutional and Policy Focus on Disaster Risk Reduction

After the Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control was issued in 2013, Viet Nam took important steps towards enhancing disaster risk reduction at all administrative levels. However, the current focus of existing institutional mechanisms and policies is largely on immediate emergency response, rather than on long-term system building which should be the strategic direction for Viet Nam as a low middle-income country.

The UN Joint Results Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (DRR4R JRG) worked closely with the Central Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) to leverage opportunities for joint advocacy which was built upon the UN's continued support to the Government to enable institutional and legislative reform in Viet Nam over the past three years. These included the UN's participation in the Annual Review of Disaster Response and Preparedness and the International Day of Disasters chaired by CCNDPC. Representing the UN in Viet Nam, the UN Resident Coordinator in his speech called on the Government of Viet Nam to put disaster risk reduction and climate resilience at the heart of the national development agenda as a long-term and sustainable approach to addressing existing vulnerabilities and to use vital but limited financial resources to strengthen public services. Most importantly, UN joint advocacy focused on integrating disaster risk reduction in national and sub-national socio-economic planning to enhance community capacities to prepare for and cope with disasters. The UN was invited to contribute to the partnership segment of the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (co-chaired by MARD, MOF, and Nghe An Province), to reiterate the focus of disaster risk reduction efforts on the most vulnerable groups such as women and children to ensure no one is left behind and to demonstrate the UN's coherent work and approach through the DRR4R JRG. The "Conference on the celebration of the National Day of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Control" and the real-time evaluation of emergency response on drought and salt water intrusion supported by UNICEF, also strategically drew on the evaluation, reaffirming the need to strengthen Viet Nam's vulnerability-related policy, planning, data and analysis systems for disaster risk reduction. Moving forward, it is crucial to improve cross-sectoral coordination, communication for disaster preparedness as well as capacities on disaster risk reduction at all levels through enhanced partnership among all associated stakeholders.

Because of the UN's joint long-term advocacy efforts, the Government of Viet Nam has taken major steps towards strengthening the overall orientation towards better disaster risk reduction and climate resilience. These included the elevation in status of a newly-formed Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority under MARD in August 2017, which now serves as the official technical Secretariat of the CCNDPC, with a mandate to coordinate international humanitarian assistance, propose national strategies and plans on natural disaster management and raise public awareness on preparedness, response and recovery of natural disasters.

## HIGHLIGHT STORY 2

### Promoting Gender Equality in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resilience in Viet Nam

Despite Viet Nam's impressive achievements in gender equity, no major progress has been made to better address existing gender-inequality issues that are directly related to the vulnerabilities and limited capacities of people affected by climate change and disasters.

In 2017, through the joint efforts of UNDP, UN Women and key members of the NGO Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) including Care International, Oxfam and Smart Development Works (SNV) in Viet Nam Policy Brief on gender equality in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) was updated. The policy brief highlighted key issues of gender inequality in CCA and DRR including (i) no reference or specific actions to support gender equity in provincial disaster prevention and control plans, (ii) limited sex-disaggregated data relevant for CCA/DRR, (iii) lack of practical solutions and specific criteria to mainstream gender into policies, strategies and plans, (iv) limited understanding of gender roles in the context of CCA and DRR among policy makers and programme managers, (v) persisting gender stereotypes, (vi) not recognizing women's leadership role; and (vii) unequal access to and control over land and productive assets, training, information, technology, extension services and finance.

The Policy Brief provided forward-looking and action-oriented recommendations and synthesizes concrete good practices on how to empower vulnerable women in the context of DRR and CCA. Specific solutions were provided on how to enhance the

participation and leadership of women and further mainstream gender issues in disaster preparedness and response policies and plans for resilience building. The paper specifically suggested a stronger emphasis on mainstreaming gender issues in budgeting and planning processes, particularly those of Government agencies such as MPI, MARD and MONRE. It is recommended that the existing revision of the Law on Gender Equality consider the disproportional impacts of disaster and climate changes on women and men, provide necessary implementation mechanisms across sectors and specify clearer roles and responsibilities of stakeholders to address gender issues in a climate change context. The updated Policy Brief has been used in various events at both the policy and technical level and was disseminated widely during the year to target audience groups and was highly appreciated by national partners, especially DRR/CCA policy makers.

The recent national and sectoral resilience-based recovery planning framework developed by VDMA with technical support from the UN has benefited from the updated Policy Brief on gender equality in climate change adaptation and disaster resilience in Viet Nam. The framework has since been included in the inter-ministerial Circular 43/2015/TTLT-BNNPTNT-BKHĐT (on disaster-based loss assessment and statistical reporting) with gender integration prominent in all planning stages.

**HIGHLIGHT STORY 3****Waste to Energy: a Climate Smart Technology Transfer for Improved Coffee Quality in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam**

Viet Nam is the world's second largest coffee producer, as well as the top producer of Robusta coffee, with a 2016 total export value of USD 3.2 billion, hence accounting for 10.5% of total world coffee export (<http://www.worldstopexports.com>).

In Viet Nam, coffee farmers and associated processing enterprises are faced with many challenges to ensure consistent coffee quality that is in line with national and international regulations and standards, and which will sustainably maintain their incomes. In the wider context of climate change, unpredictable rains and extended periods of extreme weather conditions cause many difficulties for the traditional coffee drying process that heavily depends on the process of sun drying. While coffee farmers and processors try to address the challenges of climate change by using low-efficient drying technologies such as the bed-drier approach, this emits smoke, affecting human health and increasing pollution of the environment. In addition, this technology creates conflicts between different stakeholders in the sector, as it uses coffee husk as a fuel and fertilizer, causing increased soil degradation for agricultural production in the area.

Under the project framework of "Industrial waste minimization for low carbon production", funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) through UNIDO, and implemented by the Vietnam Cleaner Production Center (VNCPC), Viet Nam has now fully adapted a new and Swiss-developed technology called Pyrolysis, an approach that uses coffee husk as fuel and at the same time generates heat for drying coffee and generates biochar as a by-product. The technology is also able to make use of biomass and agricultural waste such as wood and saw dust, which have not been effectively utilized in Viet Nam to date. Thanks to the invaluable and continued support and effort of all involved stakeholders, the Pyrolysis technology can now be widely applied in the domestic coffee sector, and has great potential to be applied in other areas of the wider agricultural sector.



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## Outcome 2.2 on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

By 2021, Viet Nam has enhanced sustainable management of natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystem services and improved the quality of the environment, while contributing to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

### Context

Rapid industrialization, urbanization, and unsustainable exploitation, including illegal trade in wildlife, have been continuously draining domestic natural resources upon which Viet Nam's economic development heavily depends. Although Viet Nam has adopted several key laws, strategies and national programmes on natural resource and environmental protection and management, biodiversity, forestry, wetlands, chemicals and persistent organic pollutants over the past years, additional strong efforts need to be made to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and effective enforcement of these laws.

In 2017, the Government of Viet Nam re-confirmed its commitment to associated key international conventions and agreements on the environment, such as the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Treaty for Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Wetlands (the RAMSAR Convention) and the Convention concerning the Protection and Promotion of World Natural and Cultural Heritage.

Compliance with these agreements should be ensured at all management levels. The national implementation plan for the revised Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants has been approved and provides the strategic framework to mobilize resources to reduce environmental pollution. The Convention on Mercury (the Minamata Convention) was ratified by the Government of Viet Nam in June 2017. A decree guiding its implementation in Viet Nam has been drafted and it is expected to be approved by the Government in 2018.

The UN in Viet Nam designed "Sustainable management of natural resources and the environment" as Outcome 2.2 among nine OSP 2017-2021 outcomes, coordinated by the joint Results Group on Climate Change and Environment, with active participation of FAO, IOM, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UN Women and WHO. The outcome directly contributes to the achievements of SDGs 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

### Outcome 2.2 Key Results in 2017

In 2017, the UN system in Viet Nam jointly worked to support the Government of Viet Nam in improving the national policy framework for more effective and efficient natural resource management (NRM), as well as to strengthen its overall compliance with multilateral environmental instruments.

2017 saw a massive acceleration in the UN-REDD programme with technical support mobilized by FAO, UNDP and UN Environment that enhances radically the policy and legal framework for REDD+ and institutionalizes the national REDD+ process. On 12 January 2017, the first ever directive on the forestry agenda, namely Directive 13-CT/TW, was issued to strengthen the Party's leadership in forest management through its protection and development with a major focus on retaining natural forest, and enhancing the coordination and accountability of related ministries with leadership roles. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in forest protection and development have been raised, as a way to proactively engage in regional and international cooperation. The follow-up National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP) was approved in April 2017, and The Target Programme on Sustainable Forest Development (TPSFD) for 2016-2020 was approved in July 2017. The Programme continues to support the implementation of 31 site plans (SiRAPs) improving livelihoods and incomes for 447,826 forest-dependent people, of whom approximately 51 per cent are women.

The UN in Viet Nam also strengthened its efforts aimed at the conservation of national wetland regions through the provision of support for the development of the draft Government Decree on Wetland Conservation, which was submitted for approval in late 2017 and is expected to be approved by the National Assembly in mid-2018. At sub-national level, provincial action plans for the establishment of two Wetland Conservation Areas in the two provinces of Thai Binh and Thua Thien-Hue have been issued, followed by the establishment of local technical working groups. These two conservation areas will be beneficial for about 60,000 people at the community level, especially for those working in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Furthermore, a draft Decree on the operation and maintenance of rural water supply systems and their associated Water Safety Plan (WSP) was developed by MARD, with active support from UN agencies such as UNICEF and WHO. Models of the WSP in the WASH



sector have been developed, tested, and reviewed in several pilot provinces in Viet Nam, and will be selected for replication throughout the country in 2018 to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

UN efforts in this area, including by UNDP and other agencies, successfully advocated for strengthened biodiversity conservation monitoring and planning efforts in 2017. As a result of such efforts, the Government's Decree 59 on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources was approved by the Prime Minister in May 2017. The decree is expected to ensure fair and gender-equitable access to all steps of the natural resources management cycle. Following the issuance of the decree in 2017, the UN in Viet Nam will continue its support to MARD in developing technical guidelines and circulars for the decree's implementation, especially regarding the increased use of traditional knowledge (TK) protection systems, prior informed consent (PIC)/mutually agreed terms (MAT) and procedures, community protocols and associated financial mechanisms.

As a result of the joint efforts of UNDP and UNIDO, continued support could be extended to the implementation of international conventions that Viet Nam is part of, aiming to improve its overall management of toxic chemical waste, including through the management of solid waste open burning (Stockholm Convention) and mercury (the Minamata Convention). UNDP assisted the Government of Viet Nam in the adoption of a National Implementation Plan for the revised Stockholm Convention on Persistent

Organic Pollutants providing a strategic framework to mobilize resources that will help fund additional efforts to further reduce environmental pollution in the country. A pilot contaminated site clean-up plan was developed and implemented in the commune of Lam Hoa in Quang Binh province. By the end of 2017, 48 tonnes of pesticides and soil contaminated with pesticides had been collected and packed, of which 35 tonnes were further processed and destroyed. The remaining 13 tonnes will be processed in early 2018. With additional support from UNIDO, the Government of Viet Nam ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury in June 2017 for the country becoming the 69th Member State of the Convention.

Further support from UNIDO was extended to develop a set of technical guidance for environmental protection schemes at village level, also enhancing the national legislation for waste management as well as national institutional capacity on waste management, identifying Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) for implementation in open burning processes of biomass and waste, standardizing analytical procedures, data collection, monitoring and reporting, and demonstrating activities on BAT/BEP in open burnings.

**TABLE 6** OSP Outcome 2.2 Key Indicators

Indicators*	2016	2017
Number of international multilateral environmental agreements that Viet Nam joins, and country reports submitted to all agreements as required	12 (2015)	13 (Ratification of Minamata Convention)
Forest area as a proportion of total land area	40.7% (2015)	41.45% (2017 estimate)



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## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### Targeting Conservation of Wetlands in Viet Nam

Almost 30 per cent of Viet Nam's mainland is made up of inland and coastal wetlands, representing some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems in Viet Nam, thus playing a crucial role in supporting local livelihoods, especially through services in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors. Wetlands also act as a natural buffer against the impact of typhoons and storm surges, protecting people and development investments. However, natural wetlands in Viet Nam are under critical threat, as they have been continuously and seriously affected by economic development and overexploitation. It is critical to further improve national and local awareness of the importance of existing and healthy wetland ecosystems, as well as the institutional arrangements and capacity for wetlands management, particularly that of MONRE and local governments in handling threats to wetlands due to economic development and associated activities. While the Government of Viet Nam has started to develop a system of protected biodiversity and Protected Areas (PAs), wetland areas are still under-represented in the wider national protection system.

In 2017, UNDP's support strengthened national progress in the conservation of wetlands by supporting the Government's efforts in the development of a draft Decree on Wetland Conservation, which has been submitted for approval by the Prime Minister. At local government level, provincial action plans for the establishment of two Wetland Conservation Areas (WCAs) in the district of Thai Thuy (Thai Binh province), and the district of Tam Giang Cau Hai (Thua Thien – Hue province) were developed and are planned for implementation in 2018. As an example, the district of Thai Thuy currently has to manage the conflicting interests of industrial development with successful conservation of the wetlands ecosystem as well as its associated biodiversity. Rather than seeing this as a constraint, the ongoing dialogue presents an opportunity to raise further awareness of the importance of maintaining such ecosystems, while mainstreaming mangrove and wetlands protection into wider industrial development projects so as to help reduce the impact of extreme weather events and associated costs, and protect not only communities, but also industrial facilities.

## Outcome 3.1 on New Economic Growth Model

By 2021, Viet Nam's growth policies and institutions support a new economic model, which is inclusive, sustainable and more productivity-led, reaping gains from trade liberalization, international integration and migration

### Context

2017 concluded with encouraging figures on national economic achievements including a GDP growth rate of 6.8 per cent, and an increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by 44.4 per cent over the previous year, resulting in the highest reported level of economic growth in the country in the last 10 years. However, the quality of the growth confirms the need for a national transition to a new economic growth model that revolves around high productivity, a strong dependence on high-quality human capital, as well as the implementation of new technical and financial innovations.

The current economic model is based on cheap labour and resource-intensive sectors that show low productivity and high capital accumulation. Investments largely focus on the above, with a lesser focus being placed on the agricultural sector and rural development. In addition, while international trade agreements have led to more trade liberalization and capital flows, rapid and poorly managed trade liberalization remains a challenge, causing the loss of international competitiveness and increasing greater inequality and vulnerability to potential economic shocks. Additionally, these agreements necessitate several compliance requirements as diverse as technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), labour standards

and intellectual property rights, which will have to be met in a limited time frame. Equally, while FDI plays an important and crucial role in Viet Nam's overall economic development, it has not led to the expected backward linkages and value-added benefits in the domestic industrial sector. Effective linkages between foreign investment and domestic companies remain poor, and Viet Nam's participation in global value chains has remained limited.

To provide policy advice and capacity building for an inclusive and sustainable transformation process, the UN system in Viet Nam designed "New Economic Growth Model" as Outcome 3.1 among the nine OSP 2017-2021 outcomes, with the joint Results Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection coordinating the UN's activities to achieve this outcome, including through active participation of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, and WHO. Results under this outcome directly contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities, SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption, and SDG 17 on Partnerships.

## Outcome 3.1 Key Results in 2017

Within the scope of this outcome, the support of the UN in Viet Nam improved the data collection and dissemination of SDG indicators associated with informal employment, population, civil registration and vital statistics, in addition to establishing a stronger focus on the collection of age/sex disaggregated data. The next Population and Housing Census in 2019, with UN support led by UNFPA, will incorporate more than 20 SDG indicators, and give more importance to the need for disaggregated data. The continued advocacy efforts in this regard, led by UNFPA and UN ESCAP, have shown their first success, as the first Vital Statistics Report analyzing birth and death registration in Viet Nam now using available age- and sex-disaggregated data was produced. Through active coordination of the UN Data for Development Technical Working Group, participating UN agencies successfully contributed to the localization of national SDG indicators, the integration of SDGs into socio-economic development plans at sectoral and local levels, as well as support for the Government of Viet Nam's development of the first SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR), which will be presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July 2018.

The UN in Viet Nam, furthermore, conducted a wide range of related policy research for better identification of bottlenecks and opportunities for inclusive growth and inclusive labour markets, particularly for the most vulnerable groups. Such examples include (i) ILO studies on informal employment, discrimination in the workplace, labour and social trends 2012-2016, and drivers of change for Viet Nam's labour market; (ii) a UNDP-led study on Vietnamese enterprise productivity and competitiveness, whose key findings were then used as the UN's common advocacy messages at the 2017 Viet Nam Development Forum on enhancing productivity; (iii) UNFPA-led research on internal migration and ageing, revealing recommendations for rights-based and gender-based policies; and (iv) a UNDP-led Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and ODA studies to assist the Government of Viet Nam in updating its public debt management programme and wider ODA mobilization and utilization strategy, as well as to provide concrete recommendations on how best to

expand the finance base and fiscal space for achieving the ambitiously set localized VSDGs.

Additional joint UN efforts to further strengthen national capacities, institutions and policies to better promote a more favorable, transparent and fair business environment for sustainable enterprise development, include the (i) UNIDO-led development and issuance of MPI Circular 02/2017/TT-BKHDT, guiding the cooperating mechanism for handling procedures for investment and business registration applicable to foreign-invested enterprises, (ii) dissemination of the Circular to 296 Government officials (of whom 50 per cent are female), and (iii) UNCTAD-supported development of guidelines and tools that contribute to programmes for ethnic minorities, and an upgrade of the UNCTAD eRegulations System in Viet Nam.

The UN in Viet Nam through UNIDO's leading role furthermore supported the MOH in its efforts to develop a Pharmaceutical Market Information System that incorporates international standard classification, and supported the MPI in setting up and implementing an Enterprise Service Bus platform that allows other agencies/organizations to directly connect and share data with the National Business Registration System via a communication gateway (with data disaggregated by sex of enterprise owners). Additional support was extended to the ongoing development of a Master Plan on the development of the steel industry by 2025, with a wider focus of activities to be finalized by 2035.

New policies to promote sustainable enterprise development were approved in 2017, including Circular 02/2017/TT-BKHDT guiding the cooperation mechanism for handling the investment registration and business registration applicable to foreign-invested enterprises, the Government's Resolution 19 on improving business environments and competitiveness capacity, Prime Minister Directive 20 adjusting the inspection and monitoring of enterprise operation, and the first-ever Law on Supporting SMEs

The UN in Viet Nam also helped the Government of Viet Nam improve its competitiveness and the overall productivity of informal and formal sector businesses to ensure better compliance with recognized standards

**TABLE 7** OSP Outcome 3.1 Key Indicators

Indicators	2016	2017
Average monthly earnings of wage workers by sex (Source: GSO)	Male: 5,245 m VND Female: 4,855 m VND	Male: 5,632 m VND Female: 4,999 m VND
Viet Nam's share of global exports (Source: ICT Trademap)	0.998% (2015) 1% (2016)	1.44%
Number of newly established enterprises in the National Business Registration System (Source: NBRS)	110,100	126,800
Number of improved value chains towards more competitiveness and productivity supported by UN	0	4 (mango, vegetable, rice, coffee value chains)
Number of new policies to promote sustainable enterprise development	0	03 (Resolution 19, Directive 20, Law on supporting SMEs)

and trade agreements, including the FAO-supported development of GI Certificates to Shan Tuyet Tea in Moc Chau district (Son La province) and Cinnamon in Van Yen district (Yen Bai province). In the same vein, joint efforts by FAO, ILO, UNESCO, and UNIDO helped deliver promising results and progress regarding (i) vocational training (e.g. MARD's manual on vocational training for rural laborers), (ii) better linkages between production and consumption through new value chain approaches for livestock commodities, as well as (iii) a more effective transfer of post-harvest technologies on harvesting, packing operations, storage and transportation for fruit and vegetables, and (iv) awareness-raising for corporate social responsibility (CSR).

### Related links

- National Business Registration Portal at <https://congthongtin.dkkd.gov.vn/>
- <https://vietnam.eregulations.org>



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## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### Supporting the Vegetable and Fruit Production Value Chain in Viet Nam

The main obstacles that prevent Viet Nam's agricultural production from becoming more competitive on a global stage are heavy post-harvest losses, as well as the fact that currently most agricultural products grown for export are sold as low-priced raw materials. The volume of processed agricultural products remains low in comparison to other countries in the region, largely due to underdeveloped existing processing technologies.

The UN Joint Programme on "Supporting the National Target Programme on New Rural Development" aims to support the Government of Viet Nam's vision to improve and modernize the country's agro-based value chain at all stages, including during basic production, processing, and marketing.

As an example, and located in the Phuc Tho district near Hanoi, a "Center of Excellence" model was developed and implemented at the An Viet Agro-product Joint Stock Company. The company was equipped with a set of necessary tools and facilities for harvesting and post-harvest activities, including net-houses to reduce pesticides, improved seedling and irrigation systems that help increase productivity, and preliminary washing and ozone bubbling washing equipment. In addition, built-in solar-powered cooling pads for temporary storage, a cooling house and a packaging house were built, as well as devices for various packaging operations, including ones that help eliminate bacteria, were included in the overall production process. In parallel, training courses on production skills and good practices were provided to around 300 stakeholders involved in the wider value chain, including heads of vegetable production cooperatives, farmers, and collectors, ensuring that all partners have the same background.

Mr. Nguyen, the Director of An Viet Company, noted that "these techniques and equipment have not only increased the quality and value of the products, but also greatly reduced post-harvest losses. The post-harvest losses of vegetables have been reduced from 30 to 10 per cent, while the selling prices have increased by over 20 per cent, on average. The linkages and partnerships between farmers and production partners have increased to currently over 1,000 smallholders, with capacities of the company tripling to 1,500 kg/day, 80 per cent of which are packed and supplied to around 40 supermarkets and shops in the wider Hanoi area".

The UN's joint intervention has provided small agro-businesses not only with technical assistance, but also helped them to advance pre-processing and packaging, and properly preserve produce, thereby improving its quality and reducing post-harvest losses. This, in return, has also increased the income of involved farmers.

The success of Mr. Nguyen and his company is one of many positive examples supported by the UN Joint Programme and the Government of Viet Nam, and his local small-scale farm has now grown into a successful company, and his "excellence business model" has become an inspiration for fellow small business and farmers in the country. The model has successfully highlighted that by applying appropriate harvest and post-harvest technologies and techniques in all steps of the value chain, it can significantly improve the overall supply capacity of Viet Nam's agro-products, with the opportunity to easily replicate the implementation of the model in other farming areas and adapt to other sectors.

#### Related links

● <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhFMJwAmS44>

## Outcome 3.2 on Inclusive Labour Market and Expansion of Opportunities for All

By 2021, a fairer, inclusive labour market ensures decent work and opportunities for all, particularly for excluded groups and disadvantaged geographic areas

### Context

As noted already, the currently existing economic model, heavily relies on underutilized factors of production, unskilled to semi-skilled labour and the unjudicious use of natural resources. It has reached its limit, revealing a strong need for a more effective and sustainable model going forward. While more integration into the global market will open new opportunities for the Government, it is also likely to push the country's economy towards higher inequality. The most recent statistics show more than 55.7 per cent of employed labor answered "not trained" for their current main jobs. If key bottlenecks

and challenges are left unaddressed, there is a danger that existing disparities will become entrenched and weaken the overall gains the Government of Viet Nam has successfully made over the past years. These bottlenecks currently include a too-large informal sector, a poorly regulated labour market, barriers to labour migration, insufficient social protection and geographical disparities, and unequal opportunities for different vulnerable population groups. Hence, it is recommended that a reform of labour market institutions and policies should be done to address skill shortages and human capital development, whilst strengthening economic and social rights and ensuring improved social protection

coverage. Better regional policies and frameworks are also required to broaden the footprint of economic activity ensuring geographical equity and closing disparities between communities.

Under this outcome, the UN in Viet Nam combines the comparative advantages of agencies such as FAO, IOM, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Environment, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women and WHO through the work of the joint Results Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection, directly contributing to achievements in SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 10 on Reduced Inequality.

### Outcome 3.2 Key Results in 2017

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam focused on strengthening private sector partnerships in the workplace in the manufacturing and services sectors, and enhancing social responsibility and responsible business conduct, amongst others through joint work on promoting Social Responsibility (SR) and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) among national and international businesses at VCCI's 2017 Viet Nam Sustainability Forum. It also supported the development of a Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI).

Individual agency efforts furthermore focused on (i) the ILO-supported establishment of Trade Union Champion Networks in the North and South of the country, supporting MOIT in its development of a clear work plan to facilitate sharing and dissemination of innovative practices and lessons learnt on collective bargaining

developing and/or revising associated decrees to give full effect to the revised Labour Code in compliance with international conventions such as the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In addition, various meetings and workshops with development partners, NGOs, private sector and civil society organizations were organized to share and discuss key UN policy advocacy messages to better promote gender equality in the Labor Code revision.

As the result of the UN's advocacy, in December 2017, MOLISA uploaded the dossier proposal for the Labour Code revision on the Government's websites to collect public feedback. The dossier includes four main documents including the official explanation statement, the impact assessment, the implementation report and the draft law's outline. The UN (led by ILO) prepared technical comments including on gender equality and discrimination issues as part of the dossier; the comments were shared with MOLISA, social partners, and other relevant partner agencies. As the leading technical development partner of the Government on the Labor Code revision, ILO has committed to share relevant information and to facilitate stakeholder engagement in the revision process.

In 2017, the UN through the leading role of UNICEF together with VCCI launched the "Children's Rights in the Workplace Programme for Apparel and Footwear Manufacturers" or the Factory Programme in short. The Programme is being implemented in 11 pilot factories with the potential to reach out to 115,000 workers of whom the majority are women and migrants by the end of the programme in 2018.

**TABLE 8** OSP Outcome 3.2 Key Indicators

Indicators	2016	2017 (estimated)
Participation in <u>labour</u> force by people >=15 years old (Source: GSO)	Overall: 76.2% Male: 80.8% Female: 71.8%	Overall: 76.2% Male: 81.1% Female: 71.5%
Employment rate in the <u>labour</u> force (Source: GSO)	Overall: 97.9% Male: 97.8% Female: 98.0%	Overall: 98.0% Male: 97.9% Female: 98.1%

across the regions and economic sectors, (ii) the UNICEF-supported VCCI launch of the "Children's Rights in the Workspace programme for apparel and footwear manufacturers" in 11 pilot factories and (iii) an ILO and UN Women collaborative project supporting MOLISA to conduct a gender impact assessment of the draft revised Labor Code, which is planned for endorsement by the National Assembly in 2019. The 2017 initial findings of the latter assessment identified gaps and needs for

The UN, particularly UNIDO, also worked toward promoting Social Responsibility (SR) and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) among businesses through UN agencies' active engagement in VCCI activities such as the Vietnam Sustainability Forum 2017, the development of the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI), and by participating in the VCCI National CSR Expert Groups operations.

## Outcome 4.1 on Participatory Decision-Making and Responsive Institutions

By 2021, participatory and transparent decision-making processes and accountable institutions are strengthened, with policies and implementation mechanisms that are responsive to all people, particularly vulnerable groups, women, youth and children

### Context

Despite Viet Nam's impressive achievements in economic development, inequalities in wider society remain, with some groups lagging behind without equal opportunity to participate in and contribute to the domains of economic, social, cultural and political life. Furthermore, people's expectations for more responsive, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels have increased since Viet Nam's transition to a LMIC in 2010. Stronger priority must therefore be placed on ensuring inclusive, representative and participatory decision-making at all levels of governance and society for a more effective people-centered development. This will require specific institutional mechanisms for substantive and meaningful participation by all people regardless of their gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, disability, or other status in policy-making as well as more effective implementation and accountability, in addition to strengthened institutions that deliver services effectively and are responsive to people. Modern innovative technologies and the media play a crucial role in supporting full participation and access to public information.

Inclusive and participatory decision-making processes in non-state institutions are equally important. However,

in 2017, development partners, CSOs and UN agencies reported restrictions on civil society space. Priority was, therefore, placed on CSO activities related to human rights, governance and corruption. Partners highlighted legislative and policy reforms which are urgently needed including in the draft Decree on Sanctions of Administrative Violations in the Organization of International Conferences and Workshops in Viet Nam, the Penal Code, and the Cyber Security Law since they include provisions which limit civil society space and other clauses inconsistent with Viet Nam's human rights obligations. These clauses have also contributed to constraints on UN activities in supporting civil society partners and/or UN capacity in delivering certain joint activities with civil society partners on issues considered more sensitive, such as governance, justice and corruption.

This implementation of activities related to this outcome are coordinated by the joint Results Groups on Governance and Justice, with active participation of FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO. The results of this outcome directly contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 on Gender Equality in Viet Nam, SDG 10 on Reduced Inequality, and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



## Outcome 4.1 Key Results in 2017

2017 highlighted the UN in Viet Nam's efforts to continuously support evidence-based and participatory policy making. The Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index Survey (PAPI) has had an increasing impact on local governance and public administration reforms in Viet Nam. To date, 61 out of 63 provinces have hosted or convened a PAPI diagnostic workshop, supported by UNDP and its co-implementers. Since 2011, 51 provinces have issued action plans, directives, official letters and/or resolutions to request that local government agencies respond to citizen feedback through PAPI. In 2017 alone, 16 of these 51 provinces issued new or renewed provincial responses with a one-year or three-year perspective, aimed at attaining higher citizen satisfaction with their performance. PAPI is expected to serve as a means of verification for better governance and public administration at the local level, thus informing the policy cycle for the central level in Viet Nam.

The UN in Viet Nam also promoted participatory decision making through ensuring greater participation of stakeholders in the development of UN agencies' activities. In addition, improving the capacity of CSOs to better engage in advocacy, implementation and monitoring of development policies, including effective engagement in international monitoring mechanisms, remained a key focus of the UN in Viet Nam in 2017. Amongst others, UN agencies were extensively involved

in improving an enabling environment for the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities. Under the joint UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN PRPD) project, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Viet Nam Federation on Disability in an international conference on the implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which resulted in improved knowledge and skills of CSOs in monitoring CRPD implementation. Associated UN agencies also joined MOLISA and the Ha Noi Association of People with Disabilities to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 2 December 2017, which helped strengthen the Government's commitment to "leave no one behind".

The UN in Viet Nam supported the development of a youth-initiated CEDAW mid-term report in collaboration with the CSO network, led by the Center for Education, Promotion and Empowerment of Women (CEPEW). The UN agencies, particularly UNDP, provided support and inputs to the "Detailed Report on Implementation of the 2nd Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations" and feedback on Viet Nam's implementation of UPR recommendations. UNICEF supported an inclusive process to formulate the CRC State Party Report, which resulted in participation of a range of stakeholders including ministries, CSOs and international organizations. UNICEF and UN Women also provided various trainings for CSO communities including on gender-responsive budgeting,





measurement of child disability and CRPD monitoring; these led to subsequent initiatives by CSOs such as monitoring public services in agricultural extension and health care to ethnic minority groups in Lao Cai and Thanh Hoa.

The Prime Minister's decision in 2017 to establish a High-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee for Children to coordinate cross-sectoral implementation of children's rights in line with international standards, the completion of a web-based U-Report programme for children and adolescent voices, the potential establishment of an effective reporting mechanism on child abuse and exploitation, among others, can be highlighted as the significant results of UNICEF and other related agencies in promoting children rights. The UN continued to strengthen the partnership with government ministries, development partners, CSOs and other stakeholders. to work jointly on gender-responsive budgeting, public finance for children and the Population Law drafting process.

The UN in Viet Nam, led by the efforts of UNDP and UNODC, has been assisting the Government of

Viet Nam in improving its ability to better prevent and combat corruption in compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The associated UN agencies, through the organization of policy dialogues, conducting and sharing research through background papers and the facilitation of consultation workshops, provided substantive comments and recommendations to the ongoing revision of the Anti-Corruption Law. The inputs, focusing on, inter alia, asset declaration and control and the roles of civil society in anti-corruption efforts were shared with and well received by the legislative drafting team, the Party Secretariat, the Central Steering Committee on Anti-Corruption, as well as sent to the National Assembly delegates. In addition, and with drafting support from UNODC, the Government launched a new anti-money laundering offence, which was incorporated into the revised Penal Code issued in 2017. The UN also provided technical support to the development of the Country Self-Assessment of the second Review Cycle of UNCAC implementation. Through UNODC training, 222 police investigators representing 63 provinces of Viet Nam strengthened their knowledge of anti-corruption and their capacity for implementing the revised Penal Code offence for money laundering.

### Related links

- <http://papi.org.vn/eng/>



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## Outcome 4.2 on Human Rights Protection, Rule of Law and Strengthened Access to Justice

By 2021, the protection of human rights is strengthened with improvements to the justice system, greater adherence to the rule of law, more equitable access to justice, increased gender equality and effective prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence

### Context

Generally, respect for the rule of law is fundamental to protecting human rights, sustaining economic and human development and maintaining a harmonious and inclusive society. Ensuring that laws are fully implemented and enforced impartially builds people's confidence in the State as the primary duty bearer to protect human rights. In parallel, ensuring that people, as rights holders, are aware of and capable of claiming their rights is essential.

Further scrutiny of the legal framework from a rights and gender lens is needed to better ensure that the rule of law supports the human rights of all people in Viet Nam. Implementation of human rights treaties, laws and policies requires robust monitoring measures to ensure that human rights are protected, respected and fulfilled at all societal levels, especially among marginalized groups. Equal access to justice and support services, particularly for women, children and young people and vulnerable groups, is a priority in a fair, just and inclusive society, including the expansion of accessible and effective legal services. Capable and accountable justice institutions are essential for creating favorable conditions for national and regional peace and security.

In 2017, the Government of Viet Nam prepared the first national report to the UN Committee against Torture on the implementation of the Convention against Torture (CAT) and the first State Party report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The country also accepted an invitation for a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, which marked the first visit of a Special Procedures mandate holder to Viet Nam since 2014. Viet Nam also endorsed the revised Penal Code (2015) and fostered the revision of the Labor Code, which is expected to be approved by the National Assembly in 2019.

In the OSP 2017-2021 cycle, the UN in Viet Nam has formed a joint Results Group on Governance and Justice to coordinate the UN's activities to achieve this outcome, with active participation of FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UN Women and WHO. The Results Group closely coordinates with the inter-agency UN Human Rights Thematic Group (HRTG) chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. The HRTG coordinates specific

overarching human rights activities and supports the mainstreaming of human rights in all five joint Results Groups' work plans. These activities under this outcome directly contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 10 on Reduced Inequality and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

### Outcome 4.2 Key Results in 2017

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam continued its support for the country's engagement with international human rights mechanisms. Under the joint UNPRPD project, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF conducted a review and provided substantive inputs to Viet Nam's first national report to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Further support was provided to MOLISA to coordinate the development of Viet Nam's first State Party Report on the implementation of the CRPD. Capacity building support was provided to civil society and Disabled Person's Organizations (DPOs) on implementing, monitoring and reporting on the CRPD and connecting stakeholders in Viet Nam with international experts, including members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam further supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in developing indicators for the monitoring and implementation of the CAT and the CRPD.

Furthermore, the UN in Viet Nam provided technical support and input to the "Detailed Report on Implementation of the 2nd Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations" developed by MOFA. Consultations between relevant Government agencies, civil society organizations, academia and other stakeholders on the mid-term report was facilitated by the UN Human Rights Thematic Group to provide further feedback on Viet Nam's implementation of UPR recommendations, as well as inputs to Viet Nam's 3rd cycle Review, scheduled for early 2019. Support on implementing key recommendations and concluding observations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was continuously provided by the UN in Viet Nam throughout the year.

In 2017, UN agencies, particularly ILO, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women also provided substantive human rights inputs for assessments related to the review of key

legislation and policy. Specifically, support was provided to the committee drafting an Amended Labour Code to incorporate international human rights standards in the areas of non-discrimination against persons based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), children's rights, the establishment of independent workers organizations and ensuring all provisions uphold gender equality. Capacity building and technical assistance was also provided to civil society organizations and business representative bodies to prepare recommendations on the updated draft of the Labour Code. Further support to the Government and civil society partners on the Law on Legal Aid, with added focus on vulnerable populations benefitting from legal aid, was also provided. The UN in Viet Nam also facilitated constructive dialogues between the MOH, international experts and LGBTIQ civil society partners to revise the draft Gender Affirmation Law in line with international human rights law and best practices.

The UN in Viet Nam, led by UNDP and UNODC with substantive inputs provided by OHCHR, UNICEF and UNWOMEN, also conducted a human rights assessment of the Penal Code and submitted a 'Joint UN Recommendations' by the Resident Coordinator to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), focusing on crimes against national security and the administrative order, the definition and criminalization of torture and offences punishable by death and incommunicado pre-trial detention. Further recommendations were submitted by the Resident Coordinator to the Government on

behalf of the UNCT on the draft Decree on the sanctions of administrative violations in the organization of international conferences and workshops in Viet Nam, in light of its threats to the freedom of expression and the freedoms of assembly and association and inconsistency with Viet Nam's obligations to the ICCPR.

In November and December 2017, the UN in Viet Nam provided technical and logistical support for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Ms. Hilal Elver, including by connecting the Special Rapporteur to Government, civil society and community partners and providing her with support to visit remote areas. The Special Rapporteur reported on how Viet Nam's impressive achievements with respect to social and economic rights had resulted in dramatic reductions in poverty and food insecurity over the last three decades but must be balanced against growing concerns about adverse environmental impacts affecting people's livelihoods.

With support from the HRTG, the UN Resident Coordinator issued a statement in March 2017 on concerns regarding the magnitude of child sexual abuse in Viet Nam. The UN Resident Coordinator also issued letters and statements to the Chairwoman of the National Assembly and senior Government leaders on critical emerging issues, consistently advocating for the incorporation of inclusive policy approaches, such as amending the Law on Legal Aid, the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code and the draft law on Population and Development Issues in Viet Nam.

## Related links

- <http://www.un.org.vn/en/feature-articles-press-centre-submenu-252/4377-the-un-is-seriously-concerned-about-the-magnitude-of-child-sexual-abuse-in-viet-nam.html>
- [http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc\\_details/538-un-recommendations-on-the-2015-penal-code-and-criminal-procedural-code-of-viet-nam.html](http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc_details/538-un-recommendations-on-the-2015-penal-code-and-criminal-procedural-code-of-viet-nam.html)



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## HIGHLIGHT STORY 1

### Uniting to End Child and Early Marriage

Ending child and early marriage remains a challenge in Viet Nam, as greater understanding is required regarding the wider cultural context, as well as existing norms and practices, which prevent the development of more holistic and multi-sectoral responses. It is also crucial to have better knowledge of the connections between child and early marriage and broader issues such as gender equality, empowerment of girls and women, violence against children and inequalities across ethnic minority communities.

In June 2017, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and international NGOs, assisted the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) to organize an International Conference on Preventing and Ending Child and Early Marriage, with more than 140 national and international participants and experts in gender, child protection and human rights. The conference provided a platform for exchange of international and national experiences and effective strategies to prevent and address child and early marriage.

The participants and experts suggested several important recommendations for forthcoming interventions, including legal reform and inter-sectoral prevention and response. Responding to the recommendations, CEMA and line ministries agreed on having a joint approach to ending child and early marriage in Viet Nam. To better contribute to the UN advocacy efforts aimed at ending child and early marriage, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly developed a discussion paper to provide clear recommendations to the Government to better address the issue.

#### Related links

- <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2017/07/empowering-girls-identified-as-the-key-to-ending-viet-nams-child-marriages>



## HIGHLIGHT STORY 2

### Ensuring an Identity for Transgender Persons in Law

On 24 November 2015, the National Assembly of Viet Nam passed the amended Civil Code, recognizing the rights to change one's sex and gender marker on legal identifications under Article 37, with this coming into effect on 1 January 2017. For the realization of the Civil Code's provisions, the MOH was appointed to develop a law on transgender, namely the Gender Affirmation Law, which is expected to provide detailed procedures and conditions for legal recognition of transgender people as well as the gender reassignment process. In 2017, MOH invited input and technical assistance from UN agencies, civil society organizations, international organizations and experts to further support development of the Law.

To build better understanding and galvanize actions to advance transgender peoples' health and rights, the UN in Viet Nam, through efforts led by UNAIDS and UNDP, jointly supported several dialogues between policy makers, the transgender community, CSOs and development partners on the draft Gender Affirmation Law, as well as shared best practices and guidance from the wider Asia-Pacific region. These include an international conference hosted by MOH, which mobilized international best practices and experiences to inform the work of the legislative drafting committee. UNDP supported

the participation of international experts from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) and UNDP's Regional and Thailand Country Offices at the conference to further discuss associated concerns at different conferences, including setting a minimum age for undergoing gender reassignment surgery at 18 years of age, limiting the process to single persons only, establishing the panel for evaluating suitable candidates and making hormone therapy for candidates obligatory for a certain period before undergoing procedure.

In addition to the UN in Viet Nam's advocacy efforts, this led to constructive dialogues between MOH and the transgender community on the draft Gender Affirmation Law resulting in MOH's commitment to develop new guidelines for HIV services for transgender people and to mobilize and allocate resources for HIV-related interventions for transgender people.



### 2017 UN Results on Gender

2017 witnessed important initiatives to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in Viet Nam, which were delivered through coordinated efforts by the UN inter-agency Gender Thematic Group, which is chaired by UN Women. A new UN Gender Equality Action Plan was also developed and approved to enhance gender mainstreaming at country level, as well as gender markers for better tracking of results and resources for gender equality in the implementation of the OSP 2017-2021.

As mentioned in the report above, the Government approved its first National Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the period 2017-2021, hence responding to the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee) in July 2015. This Action Plan defines roles and responsibilities of ministries, sectors as well as central and local agencies in the implementation of the CEDAW. To further support the Government’s efforts, policy advocacy and technical assistance efforts were jointly supported by UN agencies, including ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, and WHO.

For the second time, in November/December 2017, the Government took the lead in the campaign for the National Month of Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response, with technical support from UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNODC and UN Women. Over the course of 30 days, more than 1,000 diversified activities touching on different forms of

violence against women, including sexual harassment in public spaces, school related gender-based violence and sexual abuse against girls, were carried out throughout the country with more than 400,000 participants, doubling the number of people reached last year.

2017 also marked the UN’s first-ever advocacy campaign as “Delivering as One” for UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, which is further highlighted below. In addition, and as a part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign from 25 November to 10 December, UNDP, UNODC and UN Women jointly released a study on “the Trial of Rape”, identifying key factors that hinder women from achieving justice in Thailand and Viet Nam, marking the first time a study of this kind was published in the Asia-Pacific region and hence providing important new insights into where and why attrition occurs in the course of seeking justice for women survivors of sexual violence and how it can be reduced. It also provided constructive recommendations to address the challenges in the criminal justice sector and social norms.

Furthermore, Viet Nam was selected as one of 10 pilot countries to implement an essential service package programme for women and girls who have survived acts of violence, under the wider framework of the UN Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. The framework is a partnership of UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women and WHO that aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence.



## HIGHLIGHT STORY ON GENDER

### “Delivering as One” – UN Viet Nam UNiTEs to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Globally, one in every three women is subjected to violence. In Viet Nam, according to the National Survey on Domestic Violence conducted in 2010, 58 per cent of ever-married women have experienced at least one form of physical, sexual and emotional violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. 87 per cent of those victims did not seek help due to the lack of available services or out of fear of stigma, discrimination, information disclosure and further harassment they might receive from service providers.

In 2017, under the “leaving no one behind” theme, the first-ever “Delivering as One” UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls was organized by the UN in Viet Nam. The UNiTE campaign highlighted the commitment of the UN in Viet Nam to ending all forms of violence against women and girls. The UN Resident Coordinator and heads of UN agencies participated in a social media campaign and delivered clear

messages addressing the different dimensions of violence against women and girls from the angle of each agency’s mandate.

The messages confirmed the UN’s strong commitment to supporting Viet Nam to protect and secure the safety of migrant women or the girl child, ensuring adequate health and HIV responses to victims of violence, promoting survivor-centered services and access to justice for survivors and building workplaces and public places free from gender-based violence. Ultimately, these messages advocated for the need to accelerate actions to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls as central to the efforts of the United Nations in Viet Nam to end poverty and achieve Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

#### Related links

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uv1X4uqnlyhvWq6k\\_BZIUadijiWAF3x3](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uv1X4uqnlyhvWq6k_BZIUadijiWAF3x3)



UN staff join advocacy efforts to end violence against women and girls.  
Photo: UN Women/Nguyen Duc Hieu



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# CHAPTER 4

## 2017 OPERATING AS ONE RESULTS

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## Green One UN House

Viet Nam was one of the first countries globally in which most UN agencies operating in the country moved into a single Green One UN House (GOUNH), co-locating staff based on functions, rather than by agency. Viet Nam is the first UN Country Team to introduce such an approach in the programme area and with this, the UN can better horizontally pool capacity and expertise from across the UN system to deliver integrated support. By August 2017, the UN smoothly completed this reshuffle of the seating plan of UN staff in the GOUNH building to be in line with the new OSP 2017-2021 coordination architecture for both programmes and operations/functional staff. The GOUNH is the catalyst for three key changes to the way the UN works globally:

- with common operations enabling efficiencies and cost savings;
- the co-location of programme and operations staff improving collaboration across agencies; and
- the UN's adoption of green behaviour and green operations allowing it to heed the Secretary-General's call to be climate neutral by 2020.

2017 saw the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the occupation of the GOUNH and the use of Common Services by 14 GOUNH-associated

UN agencies, coming into effect in May 2017. The MOU represents the first of its kind globally and serves as a best practice example to other UN Country Teams around the world in taking forward UN Development System (UNDS) Reform.

The GOUNH's occupancy increased in 2017 to 12 agencies, with UNESCO and UN-Habitat joining in late June. At the time of publishing this report, UNODC had also joined the GOUNH during Q1 2018, with discussions at an advanced stage for ILO to join in the near future, bringing occupancy to 100 per cent with medium- to long-term financial sustainability for GOUNH in future years largely achieved. Currently, the GOUNH is a common office for 13 out of 15 resident agencies in Viet Nam.

In addition, a Central Business Continuity and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Recovery Plan for the GOUNH was developed and approved in 2017, as well as the GOUNH Business Contingency Plan (BCP) and Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP).

In May 2017, the GOUNH was also awarded the LOTUS Certification at Platinum level by the Viet Nam Green Building Council, the highest award for non-residential buildings in the country. The certificate is in recognition of the GOUNH as a high-performance green building, enhancing efficient use of resources through smart



ecological design and management. The building, which was innovatively rebuilt on an existing residential structure recycling most of its construction materials from the original building, has since become a role model for sustainable green buildings in Viet Nam, signifying the UN's strong commitment to environmental sustainability.

## Common Services

The GOUNH offers the first-ever integration of a Common Services Unit, providing harmonized IT, facility management, protocol and premises security services to all GOUNH-based UN agencies. This has led to reduced transaction costs for the UN through reduced travel between UN offices across Hanoi, better inter-agency coordination and enhanced synergies, as well as reduced energy and water consumption and waste, amongst other benefits.

The GOUNH Management Board (GMB) Executive Committee, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, is the main governance mechanism responsible for the overall management of the GOUNH and Common Services. The UNCT restructured the GOUNH Management Board's Executive Committee based on more detailed Terms of Reference in 2017 for more effective management.

Regarding the service delivery of the Common Services Unit, the culture of business operations has gained maturity and is now anchored in a risk-informed structure, with further clarity provided on

the governance structure of the GOUNH. In 2017, the Common Services received and responded effectively to 25,564 job requests (tickets) with a client satisfaction rate above 4.5 out of 5.

## One Leader

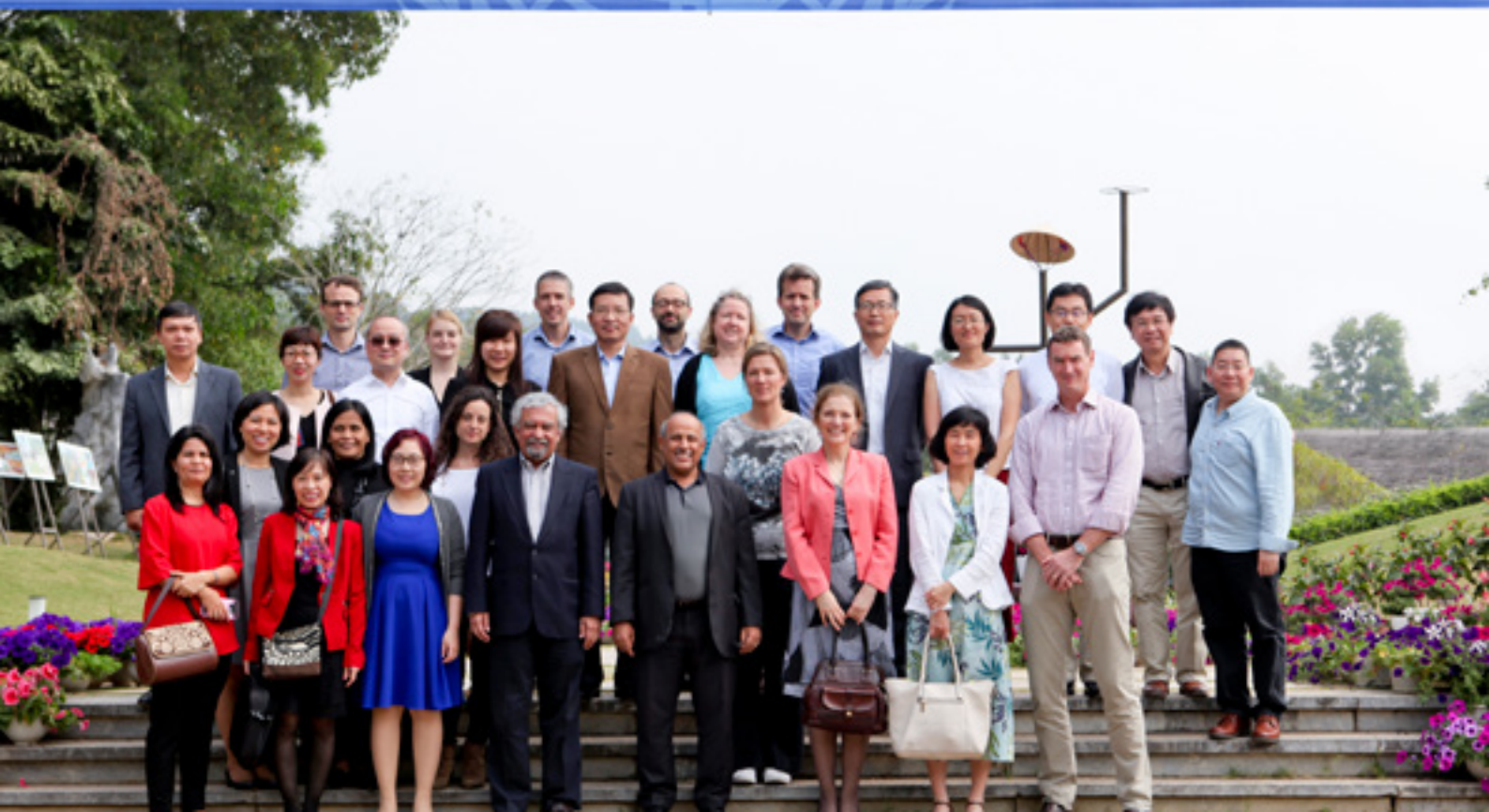
The One UN / DaO initiative in Viet Nam is implemented under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator leading the work of the UNCT.

In 2017, the UNCT comprised representatives/heads of 14 UN resident agencies and 1 non-resident agency (OHCHR). The UNCT Code of Conduct (CoC) and Terms of Reference, revised and approved in June 2017, clearly define that all UNCT members are accountable to the RC and the UNCT for delivering on the OSP shared results and the UNCT work plan particularly for those members that take on leadership roles in Results Groups, Thematic Groups and other inter-agency groups. Agency representatives retain a direct accountability line to their own organizations reporting mechanism on agency-specific results and a horizontal accountability to the RC on shared results of the OSP.

The UN Resident Coordinator takes the lead on common issues that require the UNCT to speak with one voice and present a common position. The UN Resident Coordinator's role, functions, authority and responsibilities are defined in the Memorandum of

# UN COUNTRY TEAM RETREAT

22-23 February 2017



Understanding (MoU) on the One Leader. The UNCT is awaiting the details of the Implementation Plan of the UNDS reform at global level before it updates this MoU. The UN Resident Coordinator is also directly leading the Human Rights Thematic Group and the Disaster Response Management Team.

For the OSP 2017-2021, the UNCT is assisted by a Programme Management Team (PMT) and an Operations Management Team (OMT). UNCT members also chair Results Groups and Thematic Groups to ensure close connections between the strategic decision-making level and the actual coordination and implementation of the OSP joint work plans.

The UNCT meets monthly to engage in strategic dialogue and decision-making to support the achievement of Agenda 2030 through One UN / DaO efforts and by ensuring a meaningful impact through programmatic and operational effectiveness.

### One Set of Management Practices

The Viet Nam Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2018-2021 was approved by the UNCT in November 2017, combining the collaborative efforts of UN Agencies in Viet Nam to implement the recommendations of the

Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and to further act on and implement the DaO initiative to reduce costs and increase quality and efficiency in common business operations at the country level. The BOS aligns with the OSP 2017-2021 and aims to bring operational solutions to the programming needs of the UN system. In addition, the Operations Management Team has developed an annual work plan for 2018 to implement key areas identified in the BOS results framework.

In 2017, the UN system continued to strengthen application and/or improvement of three core DaO initiatives which are the Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines (HPPMG), Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), and UN-EU Guidelines for Financing of Local Costs in Development Cooperation with Viet Nam (UN-EU Cost Norms) for more harmonized delivery of services across the UN system. Noticeably, the 2017 UN-EU Costs Norms were updated and approved by the UN, EU and the Government and became effective in December 2017. The HACT micro-assessments of agency-specific and shared Implementing Partners (IPs) with an initial assessment of nine IPs started in November 2017 with the first micro-assessments planned to be completed in the first quarter of 2018.



## Communicating as One

Toward achieving the DaO pillar on Communicating as One, the UN in Viet Nam revamped its One UN Communications Team which is chaired by the UNESCO Representative with the participation of communications officers from UN agencies. The TOR and the strategic framework of the Team were endorsed by the UNCT in December 2017.

In 2017, the One UN Communications Team supported the UN in producing joint advocacy statements and messages, conducting advocacy on various thematic areas and the SDGs, as well as successfully organizing many important events.

On the occasion of the 40-year anniversary of Viet Nam as a UN Member State, the One UN Communications Team worked closely with MOFA to successfully organize the commemoration event on 17 October with the participation of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, senior Government officials, 40 member-state ambassadors, development partners, representatives of NGOs and INGOs, civil society, media organizations, UN senior officials and selected veterans. The joint event reinforced the partnership between Viet Nam and the UN which is viewed as a top foreign policy priority by the Government. Key communications materials were produced to convey key important messages on different UN priorities in the

OSP 2017-2021, including a photo exhibition, screening of a documentary film "Desire for Peace", and media interviews and talk shows with the participation of the UN Resident Coordinator on national broadcasting systems and social media.

The One UN Communications Team also supported UN agencies and inter-agency working groups and worked closely with government ministries/agencies and other stakeholders to commemorate important campaigns, such as the International Youth Day celebration and the UNiTE against Violence against Women campaign.

### Creation of UN Emergency Communications Team

To support technical response efforts of all humanitarian stakeholders, as well as help reach out to interested partners and potential donors, a coordinated UN inter-agency Emergency Communications Team (ECT) was established. The ECT is comprised of communications and advocacy-related staff of associated UN agencies involved in disaster response planning and chaired by the Head of the UNCT's One UN Communications Group. At the onset of a disaster, the role of the ECT is to ensure consistency in messaging from the UN to increase awareness of overall humanitarian needs, response activities and remaining gaps, as well as to support the DRMT's strategic advocacy for resource mobilization.



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# CHAPTER 5

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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## OSP 2017 Budget and Spending

Table 9 displays the total budget for implementing the OSP 2017-2021 in 2017. The total budget available in 2017 was approximately USD 112 million, accounting for 26.5 per cent of the total five-year OSP 2017-2021 estimated budget (of USD 423.3 million). Of the total budget, the UN's regular/core budget accounted for 18.5 per cent. The rest was mobilized from donors. The highest proportion of the UN investment in 2017 went to Outcome 1.2 on Equity in Health and Outcome 2.2 on Sustainable Management of National Resources.

During 2017, the UN system did relatively well in mobilizing additional resources for OSP implementation (as shown in Table 9) with USD 34.7 million being newly mobilized during the year, significantly higher than the target of 11.2 million USD. In the context of declining grant ODA, this achievement on resource mobilization

is particularly impressive. However, this first-year mobilization only reached 15 per cent of the 5-year mobilization target of 258.9 million USD, suggesting further and stronger efforts are needed in order to sufficiently finance the OSP 2017-2021. Of the USD 34.7 million mobilized budget, most was collected during the last quarter of 2017, resulting in a large proportion of the newly mobilized resources being carried over to 2018 for spending.

2017 actual expenditure is presented in Table 10. By the end of 2017, UN agencies delivered 67.6 million USD, resulting in a disbursement of 60.4 per cent against the total available budget of USD 112 million. This moderate disbursement was partly because of the above-mentioned fact that most of the additionally mobilized fund came during Q4. This can also be explained by the delay in the OSP signing (till July 2017) and the time-consuming procedures for project approval by

**TABLE 9** OSP 2017 Budget (in USD)

Focus Areas	Outcomes	2017 BUDGET			
		Total	Regular	Other Secured	Newly Mobilized
FA1	1.1. Poverty Reduction	10,141,128	2,906,833	6,781,845	452,450
	1.2. Health	28,012,843	3,888,405	12,651,974	11,472,465
	1.3. Education	5,642,131	494,417	2,123,548	3,024,166
FA2	2.1. Climate and DR	15,703,177	1,460,173	4,831,037	9,411,966
	2.2. Environment	20,878,496	2,680,378	15,468,980	2,729,138
FA3	3.1. Economic Growth	7,263,468	1,503,617	4,679,851	1,080,000
	3.2. Inclusive labor market	3,562,508	483,946	2,867,492	211,070
FA4	4.1. Decision making, Institutions	11,373,497	4,768,070	4,980,179	1,625,248
	4.2. Human rights, justice	9,456,014	2,505,446	2,281,450	4,669,118
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>112,033,263</b>	<b>20,691,284</b>	<b>56,666,357</b>	<b>34,675,621</b>

**TABLE 10** OSP 2017 Expenditure (in USD)

Focus Areas	Outcomes	2017 EXPENDITURE			
		Total	Regular	Other Secured	Newly Mobilized
FA1	1.1. Poverty Reduction	4,973,639	2,438,637	2,535,003	0
	1.2. Health	17,552,890	4,353,801	11,029,855	2,169,235
	1.3. Education	2,564,041	490,585	2,073,456	0
FA2	2.1. Climate and DR	9,913,607	1,813,826	4,971,695	3,128,085
	2.2. Environment	12,551,791	2,222,172	10,213,935	115,685
FA3	3.1. Economic Growth	5,198,846	1,389,564	3,609,282	200,000
	3.2. Inclusive labor market	2,829,173	627,071	2,202,102	0
FA4	4.1. Decision making, Institutions	6,539,158	3,209,910	3,132,042	197,206
	4.2. Human rights, justice	5,498,126	2,456,068	2,500,813	541,245
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>67,621,273</b>	<b>19,001,634</b>	<b>42,268,183</b>	<b>6,351,456</b>

the Government required by Decree 16/2016 (on ODA utilization and management).

The UN system in Viet Nam has estimated a total budget of 98.1 million USD for 2018, of which 21 million USD (21 per cent) needs to be mobilized during the year.

## Joint Resource Mobilization

In 2017, the UN in Viet Nam, through joint efforts by FAO, IOM, UNDP and UNICEF led by the UN Resident Coordinator, successfully applied for the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to respond to the impacts of Typhoon Damrey. At USD 4.2 million, this marked one of the largest CERF country level allocations in the Asia-Pacific region in 2017, with 100 per cent of the request approved. Implementation, monitoring and reporting was done jointly by the UN DRMT and coordinated by the Office of the Resident Coordinator. Joint technical efforts in developing a 2017/2018 Flooding Response Plan, and hence building on the experience of both the 2016 and 2017 CERF interventions, have presented a valuable way forward and provide a solid basis for additional resource mobilization efforts by the associated UN agencies, the Government and international and national partners.

In addition, UNDP, UNICEF and UNODC, jointly signed an umbrella budget of Euro 6.7 million through the EU JULE Programme aimed at strengthening the rule of law in Viet Nam through a more reliable, trusted and better accessed justice system. The programme was co-

signed by the EU and the UN in Viet Nam in December 2015 with an addendum signed in October 2017. The initiation in earnest of this programme will, however, require further engagement between the EU, National Partners and the United Nations.

The UN in Viet Nam is currently working on a number of joint proposals, such as for the UN Development Group Delivering Together Fund, the Joint Fund for Agenda 2030 and the UN Development Group Asian Pacific Fund for SDG Integrated Platforms. The UN has been broadening its partnership with the private and business sectors and development partners for funding and financing opportunities. At the same time, the UN has been in continuous discussion with the Government of Viet Nam regarding joint efforts for fund mobilization and government cost-sharing.

## One Plan Fund II

The One Plan Fund (OPF) mechanism was designed to promote pooled funding, reduce transaction costs and attract non-earmarked funding for the implementation of One Plans (OPs). Since the DaO Initiative was launched in 2006, two associated generations of OPFs have been established to support the implementation of the joint strategic programme frameworks in Viet Nam. The latest one, OPFII for 2012-2016 was designed to support the implementation of activities of the OP 2012-2016 cycle.

OPFII consisted of both funding made available by OPF donors at country level and funding from the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRTF) at global level.

**TABLE 11 Donor contributions to One Plan Fund II (in USD) between 2012-2017<sup>30</sup>**

Donor	Contribution
<b>At country level</b>	
Australian Agency for International Development	2,411,180
Department for International Development (DFID)	4,686,729
Government of Belgium	3,899,700
Government of Finland	2,656,500
Government of Ireland	6,084,102
Government of Luxembourg	3,830,705
Government of Norway	6,444,874
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	3,509,965
Accumulated interest from previous OPF donations <sup>31</sup>	68,356
Expanded <u>DaO</u> Funding Window	2,225,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,817,110</b>
<b>At global level</b>	
Delivering Results Together Fund	3,680,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>39,497,110</b>

<sup>30</sup> Source: Multi Partner Trust Fund Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org>, as accessed on 28 May 2018

<sup>31</sup> Include contributions from Canadian International Development Agency; Government of France; Government of New Zealand; Government of Spain

In 2016, the One Plan Fund Mobilization and Allocation Committee (OPFMAC) decided to extend the OPFII for 2017, ensuring full implementation of an additional contribution of USD 1,118,932, made by the Irish Government in late 2016. All activities of projects/ programmes funded through OPFII were completed by the end of 2017, with operational and financial closure of the fund underway in 2018.

2017 was considered as a transition year between two programmatic frameworks, from the One Plan 2012-2016 to the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (OSP). The report of OPFII in 2017 therefore aims to provide the complete picture of the OPFII period of 2012-2016, including the extension into 2017. Table 11 below provides an overview of all donor contributions to the OPFII, from 2012 to 2017. Meanwhile, table 12 presents the allocation of donor funding versus disbursement at country level by One Plan 2012-2016 outcomes, including 2017.

## One Plan Fund Allocations at Global Level

Between 2014-2017, the UN in Viet Nam successfully implemented two joint programmes as a result of funding received by the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F), which supports Delivering as One countries to achieve transformative and sustainable development results by funding integrated policy interventions in alignment with national development goals and priorities.

The two joint initiatives were: (i) "Accelerated MDG achievement in Ethnic Minority Areas" which received US\$ 1,480,000 to implement joint activities of FAO, ILO, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO and WHO; and (ii) "A Strengthened Legal Framework for Civil Society Participation in Viet Nam", which received US\$ 1,500,000, with support from UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNODC and UN Women. The DRT-F used the OPF II for allocations to UN agencies and for management of the fund.

**TABLE 12** OPF II allocations vs. disbursement under One Plan 2012-2016 outcomes (in USD) in 2012-2017<sup>32</sup>

One Plan 2012-2016 Outcomes	Allocation	Disbursement
<b>Focus Area 1: OP 2012-2016 Inclusive Growth</b>		
Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based development policies/Socio-Economic Development	5,781,504	5,767,146
Outcome 1.2: Opportunities for Decent Work	947,504	915,085
Outcome 1.3: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	3,184,181	3,456,630
Outcome 1.4: Natural Resources and Environmental Management	103,000	103,000
<b>Total Focus Area 1</b>	<b>10,016,189</b>	<b>10,241,862</b>
<b>Focus Area 2: OP 2012-2016 Services &amp; Social Protection</b>		
Outcome 2.1: Social Protection	3,130,625	3,123,122
Outcome 2.2: Health	6,233,546	6,250,034
Outcome 2.3: Education and Training	1,361,386	1,338,059
Outcome 2.4: Gender Equality and HIV	4,644,256	4,423,633
<b>Total Focus Area 2</b>	<b>15,369,813</b>	<b>15,134,848</b>
<b>Focus Area 3: OP 2012-2016 Governance and Participation</b>		
Outcome 3.1: Elected Bodies	1,866,207	1,866,659
Outcome 3.2: Legal System	2,625,516	2,598,042
Outcome 3.3: Public sector performance	4,801,236	4,610,973
Outcome 3.4: Participation	1,058,957	916,510
<b>Total Focus Area 3</b>	<b>10,351,916</b>	<b>9,992,184</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,737,917</b>	<b>35,368,893</b>

<sup>32</sup> Source: Multi Partner Trust Fund Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org>, as accessed on 28 May 2018



## Rebranding OPFII to the Viet Nam 2030 Agenda Fund

There is an agreement by Government, the UN and Development Partners to further extend the fund into 2018. Although all programme related activities were completed in 2017, the objective of this extension is to allow for the rebranding of OPFII to become the UN Viet Nam SDG Fund, mirroring global developments of the UNDS reform and continuing to provide a platform for joint programmes and funding in Viet Nam.

**TABLE 13** OPF II allocations from the DRT-F Fund (in USD)\*

Joint Programme	DRT-F Disbursements in 2017**	DRT-F Total contributions from 2014-2017
Accelerated MDG Achievement in Ethnic Minority Areas	n/a (all disbursements done before 2017)	1,480,000
A Strengthened Legal Framework for Civil Society Participation in Viet Nam	46,581	1,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,680,000</b>	<b>3,680,000</b>

\* Expenditure figures are produced by the UN agencies in Viet Nam

\*\* The amount is after the Administrative Agent fee and direct cost



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# CHAPTER 6

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND WAY FORWARD

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## Challenges and Lessons Learnt

During the first year of implementation of the OSP 2017-2021, the UN in Viet Nam was faced with several challenges. Notably, the OSP 2017-2021 was not signed till July 2017, due to a prolonged negotiation process between the UN in Viet Nam and associated Government counterparts on language related to human rights, civil society and the issue of whether the OSP was a Treaty which required a more elaborate process.

Moreover, due to the reduced availability of ODA grants for the Government in Viet Nam, in part due to the country's transition to LMIC status, the UN in Viet Nam has had to cope with a decline in the core/regular budget in 2017, also causing declines in agency staff numbers. In 2017, the core/regular budget accounted for 23 per cent of the total planned budget. Furthermore, in recent years, donors have increasingly used soft-earmarked contributions instead of investing in the OPF with non-earmarked funding, resulting in the limited availability of funds for potential future joint activities for maximizing One UN/DaO efforts.

In addition, the Government's Decree 16/2016 on ODA utilization and management, which is used for across-the-board application for all UN supported projects (of modest grants) requires a burdensome and multi-step approval procedure causing an additional delay in the overall approval and implementation process of many new UN projects.

The UN in Viet Nam also faced a number of challenges at the sectoral level, which further hindered the delivery of OSP 2017-2021 results, especially regarding (i) limited sectoral capacity and cross-sectoral coordination for disaster management, (ii) increasing tensions between industrial development and environmental degradation resulting in important aspects of sustainable development being compromised, (iii) lack of partnerships with public and private sector key players, (iv) shrinking civil society space as reported by development partners, CSOs, and UN agencies, particularly on CSO activities relating to human rights, governance and corruption and (v) weak and inadequate institutional frameworks for human rights and an associated lack of effective inter-ministerial mechanisms for coordinating human rights related work. The use of more innovative methods to increase national ownership of UN-supported results by engaging national partners, particularly at sectoral level, will also be essential for the successful delivery of results and joint resource mobilization efforts.

## The UN in Viet Nam's Strategic Innovations

Going forward, the UN in Viet Nam will need to further strategize to ensure that it continues to maintain a strong position as a key partner of the Government of Viet Nam, including on the increasingly complex development issues, such as, vulnerability to climate change, the quality of economic growth, as well as the changing partnership landscape that the Government of Viet Nam will face going forward.

### Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Given new challenges and concerns in ensuring human rights of citizens in social, economic and political life, in 2018, the UN in Viet Nam will continue strengthening its role and profile on human rights issues. Noticeably, it will continue to support Viet Nam's implementation of UPR recommendations and facilitate the provision of inputs for Viet Nam's 3rd cycle Review, scheduled for early 2019. The UN in Viet Nam will also support Viet Nam's efforts in the development of its State Party reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and will provide additional support to the Government to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Partnerships with development partners will be further enhanced, particularly in supporting Viet Nam's engagement with international human rights mechanisms, legislation reform, and response to emerging issues with respect to human rights.

### The UN's Further Engagement and Strengthened Role in Development Fora

The UN has an undeniable role in supporting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. In the changing financial landscape, the UN in Viet Nam will continue to offer its technical support and seek to enhance its role as a development partner of the Government of Viet Nam, including through the planned establishment of an SDG Platform targeted to leverage expertise and resources from multi-stakeholders.

While Viet Nam achieved impressive economic growth of 6.8 per cent in 2017, the Government is struggling to find a qualitatively superior, sustainable and effective growth model with higher value-added productivity and competitiveness, particularly in the context of climate change, growing environmental and land related conflicts and concerns and increasing natural disasters. Viet Nam is thirsty for innovative ideas and solutions, which can directly address the country's challenges. 2018 and 2019 will be key important preparatory years for the next 10-year Socio-Economic Development Strategy in which the Government will lay out such a growth model.

The UN in Viet Nam will have the opportunity to further demonstrate its added value by strengthening its role in major development forums whilst supporting the integration and balance between the three dimensions (i.e. social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development in the Government's long-term planning and implementation efforts.

### Technological Innovations

With increased access to new technology, the use of social and digital media has grown exponentially in the past couple of years, which opens a new market for the UN to successfully communicate with the wider public. It also calls for improved mechanisms and tools on how the UN produces and packages information to effectively reach out to new audiences and maintain an

open dialogue with the public, including the continued use of online tools for youth, as was the case for a Youth Survey supported by UNDP, the launch of the U-report, a social media-based platform supported by UNICEF and the UNAIDS supported innovative surveys using social apps networking to collect data to estimate the size of groups at risk of HIV. Although the UN's digital reach continues to increase, there is considerable potential for an improved digital strategy to maximize and benefit from the growing potential of this low-cost but influential form of outreach. With a digital One UN Communications Strategy, the UN in Viet Nam can carry out inspiring social initiatives through which audiences are called upon to help advance the SDGs as well as UN Agency mandates in the country. This again would imply stronger outreach and communication between the UN and key stakeholders.



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#### > ACRONYMS

## The Mission of the United Nations in Viet Nam

The United Nations, in partnership with the Government and people of Viet Nam, works to ensure that all Vietnamese people enjoy an increasingly healthy and prosperous life with greater human dignity and expanded choices. Collectively and through its individual agencies, the United Nations cares and creates opportunities for the poor and most vulnerable, and for children and young people, to whom the future belongs.

In accordance with the **United Nations Charter** and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, the United Nations advances the principles of equality and social justice, while providing impartial advice, technical expertise, access to global knowledge and local experience to meet Viet Nam's development challenges.



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