



DELIVERING AS ONE

2012-2016 RESULTS REPORT





From the UN Resident Coordinator

The One Plan 2012-2016 was designed to support and guide the transformation which the UN system in Viet Nam had been engaged in for the last decade, changing the overall role of the UN as well as how it delivers results in a more coherent and effective manner. To best help Viet Nam respond to the particular challenges faced by a lower middle-income country, the UN placed great emphasis on transforming the nature of its support to focus on upstream policy dialogue and advice to foster more inclusive and green growth, ensure access to quality essential services for all citizens, improve public sector performance and accountability as well as expand citizens' participation for better governance.

During this period, with Viet Nam reaching or even exceeding the majority of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the UN's support, the UN helped the country prepare for the transition from the MDGs to the 2030 Agenda embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, the UN system continued to focus on the unfinished MDG agenda with particular attention to the sub-national level, seeking to address both the growing concerns regarding inequalities at different levels in society and ensuring an equal distribution of the economic gains that have been made. Vulnerabilities remain widespread due to chronic deprivation prevalent amongst ethnic minorities and in certain geographic regions. Large parts of the population also continue to be engaged in the informal sector and live just above the poverty line, which makes them especially vulnerable to economic or other shocks. At the same time, natural disasters and extreme climate events as well as the occasional inappropriate use and exploitation of natural resources have been derailing hard-won development gains.

Viet Nam's elevation to lower middle-income status in 2010 has resulted in changes in the way development is and will be financed in the country in the future with a notable decline in grant-based official development assistance (ODA). During the implementation of the UN's One Plan 2012-2016, several key donors in Viet Nam scaled-down engagement and financial support in the country. This has forced the UN to carefully analyze potential future funding sources on a continuous basis. At the same time, the UN has also sought to highlight its role as a provider of development advice to the Government. The UN has demonstrated its value not merely as a donor but more importantly in terms of its provision of programmatic substance as well as a facilitator of networks and a major source of global best practice.

The 2012-2016 period also represented the '2nd Generation' of the Delivering as One (DaO) initiative in Viet Nam. The Government of Viet Nam continued to show exceptional leadership regarding DaO, supported by a strong tripartite partnership between the Government, the UN system and international development partners. The UN in Viet Nam also continued to serve as a global leader of UN reform at country level, seeking innovative approaches to achieving results with UN agencies working closely together under the six DaO pillars (One Leader, One Plan, One Fund, One Voice, Green One UN House and Operating as One). Two of the many DaO highlights during this period were the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's inauguration of the new Green One UN House in May 2015 together with H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Viet Nam, and the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the UN in October 2015. Importantly, the UN in Viet Nam also actively contributed to the development of the global standard operating procedures (SOPs) for countries considering adopting a DaO approach released by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in August 2014.

Moving forward, the UN System will build on Viet Nam's significant progress to foster a deeper, more integrated and system-wide approach to achieving the 2030 Agenda's ambitious vision through the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (OSP). The design of the OSP has been guided by a nuanced understanding of vulnerability within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, building on lessons learned from the successes and remaining challenges of the unfinished MDG agenda.

The purpose of this report is to present the programmatic and operational results achieved by the UN system in Viet Nam during the 2012-2016 period. Chapter 1 of this report presents the development context in which the DaO initiative and the One Plan 2012-2016 were implemented. Chapter 2 focuses on the programmatic results achieved, primarily through illustrative stories. Chapter 3 provides detailed information on the financial situation of the UN system in Viet Nam while Chapter 4 reports on the results achieved under the remaining four pillars of DaO. Chapter 5 takes a forward-looking view on how the UN system in Viet Nam will use its expertise and experience to support the Government of Viet Nam during the next One Strategic Plan (2017-2021) programming cycle.



Kamal Malhotra
UN Resident Coordinator

The UN Country Team in Viet Nam



Empowered lives.
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Acronyms

AIDs	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ARVs	Anti retrovirals
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DaO	Delivering as One
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSW	Female sex workers
GBV	Gender-based violence
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GOUNH	Green One UN House
GoV	Government of Viet Nam
GSO	General Statistics Office
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HPPMG	Harmonized Programme and project Management Guidelines
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
JPGs	Joint Programming Groups
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIC	Middle-income country
MoET	Ministry of Education and Training
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
MPSAR	Master Plan for Social Assistance till 2030
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSM	Men having sex with men

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Acronyms

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



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CHAPTER 1

Viet Nam Development Context 2012-2016

General Development Context in Viet Nam 2012-2016

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Key Development Challenges for 2012-2016

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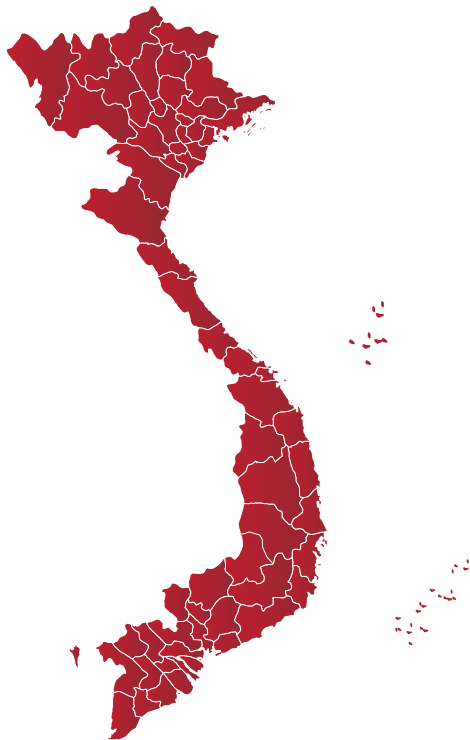
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Viet Nam has made remarkable socio-economic progress in the past three decades and achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The role of the UN and the way it has supported Viet Nam during the last two decades has changed, evolving from global reintegration of the country to a focus on service provision in the 1990s and 2000s that emphasized capacity development, coordination and resource mobilization to a more recent focus on technical support and strengthening of public service delivery. This shift has been undertaken with an emphasis on rights and international norms-based policy advisory services anchored in evidence-based policy-making that incorporates international standards and best practices.



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General Development Context in Viet Nam 2012-2016

Viet Nam attained lower middle-income status in 2010 as a result of rapid economic growth and poverty reduction achieved during the past two decades. During 2012-2016, when the '2nd generation' of Delivering as One (DaO) was implemented in Viet Nam, the country's macroeconomy stabilized after a period of instability characterized by high inflation and rising public and external deficits to enjoy a period of growth against the global economic downturn. This was achieved through the Government of Viet Nam's tight monetary and fiscal policy (Resolution No. 11/NQ-CP of 24/2/2011) that drove inflation down from 18 percent in 2011 to approximately 9 percent in 2012, with a further fall to less than 1 percent in 2015 and 4 percent in 2016. With regards to economic growth, Viet Nam encountered a slow-down to hit its lowest level in a decade (5.2 percent in 2012), before rebounding in 2013 and climbing to 6.2 percent in 2016. These localized economic headwinds also resulted in numerous enterprises driven into hardship and forced to downsize or cease operations, particularly those in the real estate, stock market and banking sectors. In response, significant restructuring was made to public investment, state-owned enterprises and the banking sector.



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On the political front, Viet Nam evolved and underwent several important processes during 2012-2016, including wide-ranging public consultations on draft amendments to the 1992 Constitution. The Government also carried out its mid-term review of the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2011-2015, to which the UN's One Plan 2012-2016 was aligned. In addition, significant progress was made towards enhancing international integration to broaden economic opportunities and implement a foreign policy defined by independence and self-reliance. In November 2013, Viet Nam was elected to the Human Rights Council for the 2014-2016 period and since its entry, the National Assembly increasingly engaged in following up on human rights-related recommendations with the Government (through the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of February 2014).

With regards its priority to widen and diversify markets, Viet Nam inked various trade agreements such as free trade agreements (FTAs) with Chile (2012), the Customs Union of Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan (2014), South Korea (2015) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) (2015). Viet Nam also entered into an FTA with the European Union (EU) (EFTA), as well as a formation of the ASEAN Economic Community in December 2015. The year 2015 also witnessed Viet Nam's election to the 54-member United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2016-2018.



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Key Development Challenges for 2012-2016

Despite these impressive achievements in Viet Nam, the development context faced significant challenges. One of the key challenges was to design an inclusive growth model that would include the “remaining” poor, primarily ethnic minorities, who have not benefitted from economic growth and are harder to reach due to geographic isolation with subsequent limited access to quality education, decent job opportunities and health care. Viet Nam also experienced new forms of multi-dimensional poverty. The domestic economic slowdown in the aftermath of the global financial crisis together with rapid demographic changes have contributed to greater numbers of urban poor, particularly amongst migrants and informal workers. The emergence of a “missing middle” as a result of a fragmented social protection system also requires further attention. While social protection systems support formal sector workers, limited social assistance is provided to the poorest or those outside this sector. As a consequence, they struggle to access contributory social insurance as they are insufficiently poor for State-funded social assistance.

Due to its geographical location, Viet Nam is highly vulnerable to climate-related hazards and natural disasters - especially along its long coastline and in mountainous regions. During 2012-2016, it continued to experience severe typhoons, floods, droughts and saltwater intrusions. Consequently, Government’s attention was given to the continued increases in natural and climatic stresses as well as rapid rises in energy demand, greenhouse gas emissions and associated pollution. Greater government focus emerged



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on efforts to reduce environmental degradation, together with scaled-up green production and promotion of energy efficient, sustainable business models to ensure sustainable development and an effective response to climate change.

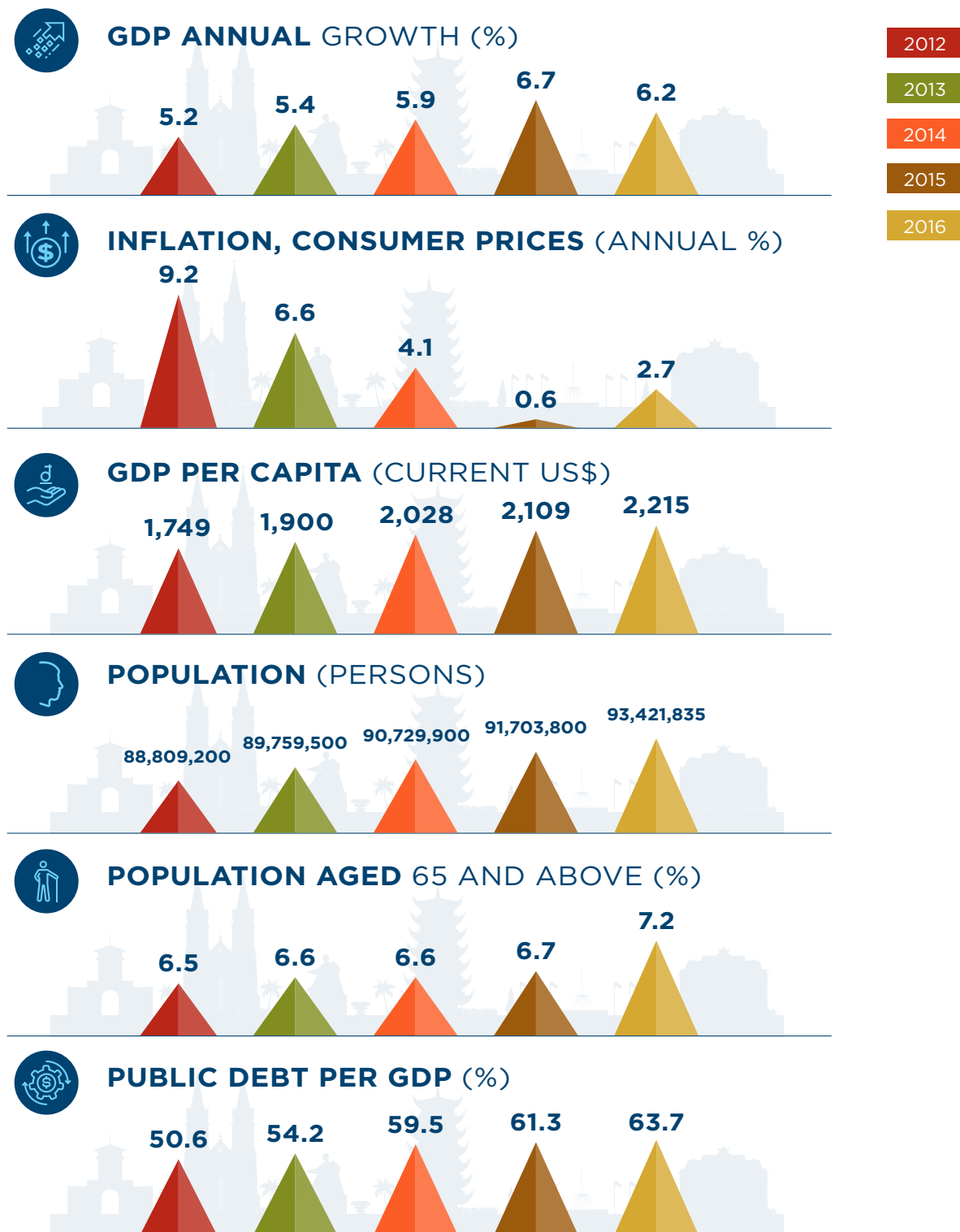
During the period under review, greater openness to consult civil society organizations (CSOs) was noted. However, opportunities for public participation in policy decisions remains low as freedom of speech and association remain key challenges, and while CSOs are increasing in number, they operate in a restricted environment without an enabling legal framework. As such, ensuring citizens' voices are adequately heard and space is created for civil society remains a challenge for Viet Nam.

Despite significant progress towards gender equality, gender inequality persists specifically in access to higher education, labour market and job opportunities, and domestic violence against women. Similarly, discrimination against people living with HIV and most-at-risk people hampers access to prevention, treatment, care and support services has also been noted.

Fresh momentum is needed to achieve the MDGs and the succeeding SDGs for all Vietnamese, including migrants, ethnic minorities, and the poor as well as reach health, HIV and environmental targets the country lags behind in.

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Figure 1. General socio-economic indicators over 2012-2016



Source: General Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance



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Figure 2. MDG Achievements and Remaining Challenges

ACHIEVEMENTS		CHALLENGES
 <p>1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p>	 <p>2002 - INCOME POVERTY REDUCED BY 50% (FROM 58.1% IN 1993 TO 28.9% IN 2002) 2014 - POVERTY RATE WAS 8.4% MORE THAN 7.5 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE ESCAPED HUNGER</p>	<p>MORE THAN HALF OF ETHNIC MINORITY AND RURAL RESIDENTS IN REMOTE AREAS ARE STILL POOR AND BENEFIT LESS FROM THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS</p> <p>NEW POVERTY CHALLENGES EMERGE DUE TO URBANIZATION AND MIGRATION</p>
 <p>2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</p>	 <p>2014 - 99% CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AT THEIR RIGHT AGE</p>	<p>DISPARITY IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN, KINH AND ETHNIC MINORITIES</p> <p>QUALITY OF EDUCATION CREATES A GAP BETWEEN TRAINING AND LABOUR DEMAND IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS</p>
 <p>3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</p>	 <p>2014 - NO DISCERNIBLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE LITERACY RATES AND EDUCATION ATTAINMENT ACROSS ALL EDUCATIONAL LEVELS WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN NON-FARM ACTIVITIES INCREASED, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS. WAGE GAP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN HAS BEEN NARROWED TO 106.7% IN 2014 FROM 114.8% IN 2009 WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT IS 24.4%</p>	<p>WOMEN ARE STILL FACING MORE DISADVANTAGES IN EMPLOYMENT WITH LOWER WAGES THAN MAN</p> <p>SON PREFERENCE STILL COMMON</p> <p>GENDER BASED VIOLENCE REMAINS</p>
 <p>4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</p>	 <p>UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE FROM 45.8% (2002) TO 23.2% (2012) - ONE OF THE LOWEST UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA</p>	<p>CHILD MORTALITY AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE RELATED TO PREGNANCY OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IS ALMOST 3 TIMES HIGHER THAN FOR KINH MAJORITY, AND MUCH HIGHER IN RURAL AREAS</p> <p>EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL SERVICES STILL NEED IMPROVING</p>

ACHIEVEMENTS

CHALLENGES



MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE DECREASED FROM 233 (1990) TO 58.3 (2015) PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS

95.8% OF EXPECTING MOTHERS RECEIVED PREGNANCY CHECKS IN 2014



MALARIA CONTROLLED IN 2011 AND TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL SURPASSED THE GLOBAL GOAL

HIV NEW INFECTIONS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY AND COVERAGE OF QUALITY HIV TREATMENT REACHED 47% OF ALL PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (END 2016)

THE RATE OF HIV INFECTION THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT AND AMONG SOME KEY POPULATION GROUPS IS INCREASING. COVERAGE OF SERVICES REMAINS LIMITED WITH MANY PEOPLE STILL COME FOR HIV TREATMENT LATE. THE NATIONAL AIDS RESPONSE REMAINS VERY DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL FUNDING POSING RISK FOR ITS SUSTAINABILITY.



FOREST COVERAGE INCREASED FROM 33% (2001) TO 41% (2013)

SHARE OF RURAL POPULATION HAVING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER INCREASED FROM 30% IN 1990 TO 82.5% IN 2013

QUALITY OF FORESTS CONTINUES TO DECLINE

THE TREND OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS HAS NOT BEEN REVERSED

LEVEL OF TEMPORARY HOUSES FELL FROM 22.7% IN 1999 TO 5% IN 2012



SIGNED AND PARTICIPATED IN 9 REGIONAL AND BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

FLOW OF ODA AND FDI CONTINUES TO INCREASE AND FDI ACCOUNTED FOR 24% OF TOTAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN 2012

GREAT EFFORTS NEEDED FOR GOVERNANCE REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT OF TAXATION AND CUSTOM PROCEDURE

PRESSURE FOR MANY DOMESTIC FIRMS DUE TO THEIR INSUFFICIENT COMPETITIVE CAPACITY AND LACK OF DOMESTIC NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AGAINST LOW-QUALITY IMPORTS.

Source: Country Report - 15 years Achieving the Viet Nam Millennium Development Goals, The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, September 2015



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Introduction

As Viet Nam continues to experience rapid socio-economic and demographic changes, the role of the UN and how it supports the country has also evolved. For the period of 2012-2016, the UN Country Team (UNCT) identified that the UN system should focus on high-quality policy advice on how best to respond to challenges associated with the new middle-income status, including widening inequalities and disparities, and persistent poverty among specific regions and population groups.

Through greater harmonization of its work and alignment with Viet Nam's development priorities as identified in the SEDP 2016-2020, the UNCT works from the principle that it would be more impactful if results are delivered in a more cohesive and coordinated manner bringing together the expertise, experience, capacities and comparative advantages of UN agencies in Viet Nam.

Designing UN's priorities and approach was guided by lessons learnt from implementing DaO in Viet Nam since 2007 combined with the ambition of further transform the 15 resident and 2 non-resident UN agencies to work closer together to make the UN system more relevant, effective and efficient.

From the outset, the DaO in Viet Nam focused not only on 'what' UN cooperation achieves through One Plan 2012-2016 results, but also process-related changes - or 'how' the UN delivers results - through implementation of the six complementary and mutually reinforcing pillars established under the '1st generation' of DaO: One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Voice, One Set of Management Practices and One UN House.

UN system results achieved in a more cohesive and coordinated manner through the DaO approach are outlined in detail throughout the report. The Independent Review of the One Plan (2012-2016) concluded that despite challenges in joint implementation, monitoring and particularly sustainable funding for the UN system for 2012-2016, 'the Delivering as One' modality has shown its potential to strengthen the UN's standing by improving internal coherence when providing evidence-based advice and strengthening its ability to respond in a comprehensive multi-sectoral manner. This helps highlight the complex nature of underlying challenges and promotes a more effective response that benefits from the wide range of expertise the UN has to offer.

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UN strategic prioritization: One Plan 2012-2016

As stated above, the One Plan 2012-2016 was designed in the immediate aftermath of Viet Nam's attainment of lower middle-income status in 2010 as a result of rapid economic growth and poverty reduction achieved during the past two decades. In 2011, when the One Plan 2012-2016 was designed, the country was on track to meet, or had already met, a majority of the MDGs.

The One Plan 2012-2016 was signed in March 2012 between the Government of Viet Nam and 15 UN resident agencies (FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UN Women and WHO) and 2 non-resident agencies (ITC and UNEP).

The One Plan 2012-2016 was supported by a One Budgetary Framework (see Chapter 3) and included a detailed common results matrix with measurable indicators, targets and means of verification.

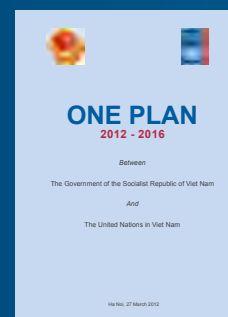
[Read about the signing of the OP 2012-2016](#)



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Structure of One Plan 2012-2016

The programmatic prioritization of the One Plan 2012-2016 was clustered under the following three 'Focus Areas', each of which had 4 sub-outcomes:



One Plan 2012-2016



FOCUS AREA 1

Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth

Balances economic goals and social, human and environmental development, so the most vulnerable and disadvantaged also benefit from economic growth. Efforts to reduce environmental degradation, scale-up green production and promote energy-efficient, sustainable, green business models and economics are also supported. In addition, the UN assists disaster risk management and reduction efforts, with a focus on building resilience to environmental stresses and hazards at all levels.



FOCUS AREA 2

Access to quality essential services and social protection

Assists Viet Nam to improve the quality of essential services, such as education and health, at all levels and to develop a gender-sensitive and inclusive social protection system in order to ensure access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. A more effective national social protection system that provides increased coverage, quality and equitable access is also a key focus.



FOCUS AREA 3

Governance and participation

Supports enhanced governance and participation, in particular by and for the benefit of the most vulnerable members of society.

The implementation of the One Plan 2012-2016 results was planned, monitored and reported on effectively through an internal UN joint working mechanism of eight UN Joint Programming Groups, and jointly reviewed with the Government on an annual basis in high level Delivering as One (DaO) and One Plan Steering Committee meetings. With a strong focus on joint programming, the JPGs were seen as a key vehicle for the DaO approach in terms of fostering more effective and efficient collaboration across agencies and better inter-agency understanding of mandates and modus operandi. Apart from joint programming principles, the UN agencies also worked together in different joint programmes on common areas to implement the One Plan.



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Box 1 - UN Joint Programmes implemented during the period 2012-2016



SDG Achievement Fund Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Securities (2015-2017)

US\$ 3,330,000 (mostly funded by the Spanish SDG Achievement Fund)

Participating UN agencies: UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and FAO

Implementing partners: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Provincial Departments for Health in Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan, Provincial Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan

UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme: Operationalising REDD+ in Viet Nam (2013-2018)

US\$ 30,229,806 (funded by the Norwegian government)

Participating UN agencies: FAO, UNDP and the non-resident agency - UNEP

Implementing partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFFOREST)

Joint Programme on New Rural Development (2014-2017)

US\$ 1,390,000 (funded from the Viet Nam One Plan Fund)

Participating UN agencies: FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, IOM and UNV

Implementing partner: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Joint initiative for Ethnic Minorities (2015-2017)

US\$ 1,480,000 (funded from the Delivering Results Together Fund)

Participating UN agencies: UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women, UNIDO for Round 1 and additional UN agencies including UNCTAD, ILO, WHO, UNFPA for Round 2

Implementing partners: Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Education

Joint initiative to support a Strengthened Legal Framework For Civil Society Participation In Viet Nam (2015-2016)

US\$ 1,500,000 (funded from the Delivering Results Together Fund)

Participating UN agencies: UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNAIDS

Implementing partners: Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF), Ho Chi Minh Political Academy, Institute of Legislative Studies, MoLISA, MPS, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), VUSTA

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Reporting on Results

Throughout implementation of the One Plan 2012-2016, the UN system prioritized and allocated considerable resources to ensure updated and comprehensive information on achievement of results was made available to all stakeholders. Each year, a DaO Results Report was prepared with detailed information on programmatic results and financial updates largely focused at output and activity levels. In addition, the One Plan Database (OPD) provided more detailed information on each of the planned activities and results.

The Independent Review of the One Plan 2012-2016 concluded: 'As of the time of exercise (October 2015), 83 percent of planned activities/outputs were reported as achieved. Given that much of the data provided is from the end of 2014 with two years left of implementation remaining, there is every reason to assume the UN will be able to deliver most of the activities/outputs of the One Plan within the expected timeframe'.

The following UN stories on results are presented for each of the 3 Focus Areas and 12 One Plan 2012-2016 outcomes. These stories were selected to illustrate how UN system results have contributed towards achievement of planned outcomes and demonstrated the value-added of the UN system delivering as one.

For more detailed information on results achieved during 2012-2016, reference is made to the 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 DaO Results Reports, the One Plan Database and the Independent Review of the One Plan 2012-2016.

[Read more on Making-a-difference stories](#)



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Focus Area 1 - Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Growth



Introduction

The One Plan 2012-2016 was designed with a strong focus on inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth to support Viet Nam's efforts to stabilize its macroeconomy, maintain growth during economic restructuring and develop innovative growth models to enhance efficiency and competitiveness, without neglecting equity concerns.

To further reduce poverty, especially for ethnic minorities, the UN is delivering highly-tailored and multi-sectoral approaches, where poverty is viewed as a multidimensional phenomenon - not just in monetary terms.

The joint UN position was based on a fundamental principle that sustainable socio-economic development must not come at a cost to the environment. During 2012-2016, the UN in Viet Nam made concerted efforts to address environmental degradation, scale-up green production and promote energy efficient, sustainable, green business models and economics in alignment with the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015 goal to protect the environment.

Finally, as a natural disaster-prone country, the UN Country Team prioritized support of Viet Nam's efforts to effectively respond to natural disasters and climate change threats. As such, the UN is bolstering disaster risk management and reduction efforts to build resilience to environmental stresses and hazards.

UN work in People-Centred Economic Growth and Decent Work (Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2) involve FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV and UN Women

UN work in Climate Change and Environment (Outcomes 1.3 and 1.4) involve UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UN Women and WHO.



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Outcome 1.1. Evidence-based development policies

The need for clear people-centered, green and evidence-based development policies has been identified as a critical area by the Government of Viet Nam, as well as the UN and development partners in the Joint Country Analysis and UN analytical work. Over the One Plan 2012-2016 period, the UN provided policy advice and technical assistance to ensure that policy-makers have access to accurate data and evidence, policy options and international good practices for developing key development policies and national/sub-national institutional frameworks for economic restructuring dynamism as a middle-income country and monitoring the implementation of development plans and MDG progress.

Outcome indicators' data	2008	2011	2014	2015	2016
Proportion of people living below the national poverty line*		14.2%		6.2%	
Gap between average monthly income per capita of the richest quintile and poorest quintile**	8.9%		9.7%		
Viet Nam's position in the Global Competitiveness Index***		59/139 countries (2010-2011)			60/138 (2016-2017)

Sources: *GSO/MoLISA.

**GSO.

***World Economic Forum.

[Read more about ethnic minorities and the development gap.](#)



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UN stories

Design of National Target Programmes for the poor and most vulnerable people



UN Viet Nam has a long-standing cooperation with the Government in poverty reduction, particularly through the design and implementation of the National Targeted Programmes (NTPs). Over the last years, coordinated support and advocacy from several UN agencies had significantly contributed to the reshaping and improvement of the Government's NTP system. As results, in 2015, the Government decided to reduce number of NTPs from sixteen to two for the development period of 2016-2020 for a better coordinated and cost-effective implementation. Accordingly, the two new NTPs, including the NTP on New Rural Development (NRD) and the NTP on Sustainable Poverty Reduction (SPR), were approved in 2016 which embedded many improved features to promote real empowerment of the poor people and their communities, mobilize their strengths, promote self-help for sustainable poverty eradication, enhance decentralization, and enable people's participation in program implementation and management.

The UN's role in convening the Ethnic Minority Poverty Reduction Working Group as well as other working groups together with other development partners has been valuable in helping the Government issue the Government's Decision No. 1557/QĐ-TTg on MDGs Action Plan for Ethnic Minorities and shape the two NTPs to also support the implementation this decision. As the results, the NTPs pay a great deal of focus on ethnic minorities communities where chronic poverty is still popular.

UN Agencies also succeeded in advocating for the development and institutionalization of the multidimensional poverty approach through the Prime Minister's Decision No. 59/2015/QĐ-TTg which is eventually applied in the two NTPs to address both income and non-income needs of wider vulnerable groups. It's estimated that around 5.7 million multidimensional poor and 5 million multidimensional near poor are eligible for support in addition to the traditionally defined 4.2 million income poor.

Through many projects and technical support activities which were complementary to one another, the UN had introduced several new tools and mechanisms into the design and implementation of the NTPs' policies such as people's participation and empowerment via community-based projects, financing via "block grants" and "special investment mechanisms" empowering localities to commission basic infrastructures, ethnic minority and gender sensitivity, and "public works" schemes in the infrastructure and production components.

(UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO)

Read more on National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2016-2020

Read more on the consultation for the National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2016-2020



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UN stories

Improved Data for Development



In Viet Nam, data has been identified as an essential element to support the Government taking right development decisions as well as to form transparent monitoring systems which allow all stakeholders, and especially citizens, to track development progress. This remark is further emphasized in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its broad range of policy aims. Over the past decades, the UN has been a trusted and prestige partner in supporting the Viet Nam Statistics System (VSS) in its systematic and structural development as well as a wide range of its thematic areas.

In the One Plan 2012-2016 period, the UN paid tremendous efforts to the issuance of the 2015 Statistics Law which embeds new features emphasizing the importance of informal statistics, data dissemination and transparency, administrative records, international cooperation. UN Agencies were proud to contribute to the inclusion of SDG indicators into the National Statistics Indicator System within the new Law. The UN was the key technical provider to the Government in promulgating the first national policy for data dissemination in 2013, which set a clearer legal foundation facilitating a timely and transparent dissemination of official statistics. The UN, together with the General Statistics Office (GSO), initiated the GSO – Development Partners Partnership involving participation of multilateral and bilateral organizations. The UN promoted a strong leadership of GSO which led to mutual information sharing and development partners' coordinated and coherent support to VSS/GSO. UN coordinated support also helps GSO create a better connection with data users through various mechanisms such as online/offline user-feedback surveys and user forums.

Thematic wise, the UN has a wide range of support to GSO, ministries and other stakeholders in VSS, such as in population, migration, ethnic minority, industry, environment, gender, health, education, national account, labor and employment statistics. Some typical surveys/studies which can be named with the UN supports in the 2012-2016 period consist of the Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014, Inter-Censal Population and Housing Survey 2014, National Internal Migration Survey 2015, Agricultural and Rural Census 2016, 2013 Real Time Database on Enterprise Registration, National Ethnic Minority Survey 2015, Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) project, various labour surveys, and routine report systems on gender, health, education, etc.



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The UN accumulated technical assistance in the 5-year period of the One Plan continued to contribute to better evidence-based policies and monitoring as reflected in the Socio-Economic Development Plan period 2016-2020 and other policies, strategies and plans at national and sub-national levels. Consequently, it helps improve life of vulnerable groups including older persons, migrants, ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, children, adolescents and youth in many aspects. The Statistical Capacity Indicator of Viet Nam was increased from 71.1 in 2012 to 82.2 in 2016 (Source: World Bank).

(UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO)

[Read more on Launch of 2015 Statistics Law](#)

[Read more on Statistics Partnership meeting](#)

[Read more on Harnessing the power of data for decision-making](#)



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Outcome 1.2. Opportunities for decent work

Providing people with decent work opportunities is a key priority for Viet Nam, as recognized by the Government, UN and development partners. Many people currently have jobs in the informal economy, with often poor working conditions and low wages. The transition to LMIC status, as well as the demographic bonus and migration, put additional pressure on the labour market. The UN provided key support for incorporating international labour standards into national laws and policies, strengthening tripartite dialogue mechanisms, and assistance in enhancing employment opportunities for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups through enterprise development. Provision of technical, vocational and specialized skills training, in line with market demand, would be critical to support improved productivity and enable the most disadvantaged to access income-generation opportunities.

Outcome indicators' data	2012	2016
Share of vulnerable employment in the labour force*	62.6%	56%
Female to Male Average Monthly Wage Income Ratio*	0.89 for both 2012 and 2016	
Percentage of the labour force with professional/vocational training*	16.8%	20.9%
Underemployment rate*	2.7%	1.7%

Source: *GSO



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UN stories

Business-enabling environment for private sector development



Improving the business and investment environment to unlock resources for the business community, especially the private sector, has been a government priority to drive economic development in Viet Nam.

In particular, the ease of business start-ups has been found to have a significant impact on investment. That is why the UN has worked to provide joint technical support and policy advice to create a business-enabling environment. Specifically, in 2013-14, the UN supported the first-ever inter-ministerial e-government cooperation between the MPI, MoF and MPS to simplify business registration legislation, policies and procedures to create a computerized nationwide online business registration system to provide legally binding information to government, businesses and the public. The single unique ID code for enterprises will pave the way for other reforms and reduce transaction costs for businesses and government. As a result, business registration times have sharply reduced from 15 days in 2008 to less than three days in 2016, enabling a substantial increase in newly-created enterprises with a record high of 110,100 in 2016, of which 14 percent were through online registration.

In addition, policy advice and advocacy was provided to the Government during revision of the landmark Enterprise and Investment laws 2014. The UN successfully advocated for removal of making corporate seals a mandatory administrative procedure. Businesses now have an absolute right to decide on their seals' form, content, number and just need to send seal notification to business registration offices.

These reform achievements have been recognized and highly appreciated by the business community, evidenced by Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) reports, showing that market entry had seen significant improvements with an 11-year PCI high score of 8.47/10 points.

"The real-time database provided by the National Business Registration Portal enables State management agencies to synthesize and analyze the business situation to issue timely policies, contributing to improvements in State management efficiency and making government policies closer to market movements," Ms Tran Thi Hong Minh, Director General, Agency for Business Registration, MPI.

(UNIDO, ILO)

Read more on Facilitating Business Registration



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UN stories

Labour code reform towards better working conditions and increased productivity



Over the 2012-2016 period, and upon the promulgation of the 2012 Labour Code, the UN in Viet Nam continued its active support to Vietnam's efforts in revising the labour code towards better working conditions and increased productivity through promoting compliance with international labour standards and best practices, and enhancing social dialogue as well as improving industrial relations.

The UN supported the Government and cooperated closely with workers' and employers' organizations in revising the 2012 Labor Code's relevant chapters and articles towards making regularly-held employer-worker dialogues compulsory. The UN also advocated for and supported the engagement in the Labour Code revisions of civil society organizations, business associations and local federations of unions, who played a significant role in making voices of both the employers and workers heard in the national legislative agenda, and enriching the quality of draft law proposals. Effective systems for workplace dialogue introduced by the UN provided additional positive results which served as evidences for the 2012 Labour Code's revision.

Regarding further international compliance with international standards and industrial relations, the UN has paid great focus in supporting the on-going Labour Code's revision (which is expected to be approved by the National Assembly sometime in 2019) in (i) enhancing institutional capacity of constituents, (ii) developing good industrial relations services for trade union registration and dispute settlement and workplace cooperation mechanisms, and (iii) enhancing the capacity of labour inspectors. Thanks to the UN's support, the productivity in garment factories was increased by 22% as results of women empowerment and line-supervisor training activities (Source: Better Work Viet Nam's 2013 impact assessment). The establishments of the Tripartite National Wage Council in 2013 and the Department on Industrial Relations and Wage under MoLISA, with technical advices from the UN, are significant milestones in the field of industrial relations and social dialogue.

The UN's support to actively promote industrial relations is seen as an important part of a larger effort to set up effective institutions that support Viet Nam's entry and more active participation into the world trading system.

(ILO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNWOMEN)

See more on UN's work on industrial relations reform

"We can easily reach the management now, making workers like me feel that our voice is always heard, and we no longer need to go on strike", said Dong Ngoc Tram Anh, working for Mabuchi Motor, a pilot company of UN-supported model on workplace dialogue.



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Outcome 1.3. Climate Change and disaster risk management

Climate change is a critical development challenge for Viet Nam. Natural disasters and other climatic stresses are increasing, and Viet Nam is facing a rapid increase in energy demand, greenhouse gas emissions and associated pollution and costs. Climate change and natural disaster risks are not equivalent, but relate closely, and both are priorities in the Government’s SEDP for 2011-2015. These are global priorities as they relate to UN support for the implementation of key conventions including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) on building resilience to disasters. Over the past years, the UN has provided critical support in multi-sectoral coordination for preparedness and emergency response among various stakeholders, and it is a leading partner of the Government in addressing the climate challenge. Specifically, in the One Plan period of 2012-2016, the UN provided continuous policy advice and technical assistance to national and sub-national institutions, including support with the design and implementation of evidence-based climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, policy advice on accessing global climate change funding opportunities, support with developing enhanced mechanisms to promote energy efficient, greener production, and strengthening capacity in terms of disaster preparedness, particularly at the community level response and recovery.

Outcome indicators' data	2006	2011	2013
CO2 emissions (CO2e)*		161.9 MtCO2	152.6 MtCO2
Percentage of GDP loss due to weather-related disasters**	0.75% on average over 2006-2016		

Sources: *MoNRE
** World Bank



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UN stories

From response to resilience



Viet Nam is ranked as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts and extreme weather events. This was evidenced in 2016 with the country suffering its worst drought and saltwater intrusion emergency in more than 60 years. In response, UN agencies worked side-by-side with government institutions, international bilateral/multilateral partners and NGOs to address the crisis.

Funded through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), transparent targeting of those most vulnerable to the crisis, including poor and women-headed households and ethnic minorities, were targeted. The intervention, together with development and publication of the joint UN-Government Drought and Salt Water Intrusion Emergency Response Plan 2016-2017, drew national and international attention to the crisis, mobilized additional resources, energized government efforts and motivation, and improved national level coordination.

Building on multi-sectoral needs assessments in six provinces representing the most affected regions, more than two million people suffering from acute water shortages, loss of crops, reduced food availability and unhygienic practices were targeted. UN agencies and partners provided life-saving WASH, food security, nutrition, health and early recovery relief assistance to 412,343 beneficiaries, including 167,683 men and 244,660 women and 113,238 children, in 11 out of 18 most severely affected provinces in the Central Highlands, Mekong Delta and South Central coastal region. This assistance enabled increased access to safe drinking water, food availability and consumption and a restoration of agricultural production, improved hygiene and sanitation conditions and behaviors. An expedited recovery of first-line commune health services, adequate disease prevention, monitoring, detection and treatment of malnutrition were achieved.

By combining the unique strengths of each agency, the UN was able to ensure a holistic approach to the emergency. The UN also advocated for strengthening climate and disaster resilience, as disasters caused by the El Nino weather pattern could worsen in the future. As such, a number of key lessons were identified from the response, including the importance of quality data, coordination within UN and with implementing partners, post-distribution monitoring and evaluation, community feedback mechanisms and communication-for-behavioral change approaches. The UN will ensure future efforts are combined with strengthening disaster preparedness capacity at national and local levels.

(UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UN Women, UNDP)

Read more on
Situation Reports

Read more on The Government, UN and partners
discuss response to the flood emergency



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UN stories

Putting down roots from better forests



While forest cover in Viet Nam has increased from 27 to nearly 41 percent during the last 20 years, natural forest has been depleted by 20 percent during the same period. Traditionally, Viet Nam, like other developing countries, views forest mainly through its direct values consisting of timber or non-timber products. Other contributions by forests in nurturing agriculture, water sources and climate change mitigation have been neglected in national accounting and decision-making processes for forest land use. Meanwhile, thousands of hectares of forests may have been sacrificed for other economic priorities without adequate consideration of costs and benefits. Figures consolidated by the Forest Protection Department (VNFOREST, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) reveal that Viet Nam converted 288,755 ha of forests during the last decade for 2,500 socio-economic development projects.

In response, in the UN-REDD Programme Viet Nam Phase II (REDD+), the UN supported the Government and stakeholders to form a new REDD+ vision, in which a radical transformation is required in the way the country values and organizes protection of its forests. Full forest values must be factored into planning processes. With a new vision focused on improving forest quality, REDD+ is a unique opportunity to better integrate forests into the national development agenda and priorities.

Three UN agencies including FAO, UNDP and UNEP, took the lead in providing important technical advice to realize REDD+ vision. The Forest Reference Emission Level report supported by FAO provides a sound foundation to understand the full picture of deforestation and forest degradation in Viet Nam. UN Environment made a key contribution on spatial analysis and safeguards, while UNDP played a critical role to facilitate all strategic reviews of REDD+ progress in Viet Nam and bring policy-makers and related stakeholders together for an integrated approach that goes beyond the forestry sector to address identified issues.

(FAO, UNDP and UNEP)

Watch more on a video on Moving from More Forests to Better Forests

Read more on Setting REDD+ up for success



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Outcome 1.4. Natural resources and environmental management

The 2011-2020 SEDS notes as one of the first viewpoints that “sustainable development serves as the foundation for rapid development.” Environment is among the three pillars of sustainable development, and the 2011-2015 SEDP emphasizes “the link between environmental protection tasks and objectives with social economic development. Renovate natural resources and environmental protection mechanism. Incorporate environmental protection into sectoral and regional development strategy, master plans, plants, programs and projects. Pay special attention to developing green and environmentally friendly economy.” Viet Nam is signatory to the Convention on Biodiversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). By the end of 2015, Viet Nam was not able to meet MDG 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability – and related indicators. The UN has assisted Viet Nam to address related challenges, such as to provide key support to formulate and enhance implementation of policies, including on green growth. The UN also provided policy advice on and support for developing enhanced mechanisms to promote biodiversity and greener production, technical advice on pilot technology for sound management of hazardous chemicals and treatment of POPs/contaminated soils, and support for enhancing capacity in water management. It aimed in particular for strengthening capacities in MPI, MONRE, MARD and MOIT, as well as other ministries in the use of market prices to provide incentives for environmentally sustainable investment and growth, sustainable management of ecosystems, establishing a sustainable financing mechanism for protected areas, and to raise the profile of sustainable development in national policies and sector strategies and plans. The UN-REDD programme is one example of how the UN has been already assisting Viet Nam in addressing some of the country’s environmental challenges.



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Outcome indicators' data	2011	2012	2014	2016
Proportion of land area covered by forest*	39.7%			41.2%
Proportion of population living in non-permanent and temporary dwellings*	13.4%		14.3%	

Source: *GSO



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UN stories

Greening growth in Viet Nam



Viet Nam's impressive economic achievements have come with serious costs to its environment and its sustainable development trajectory. With its current growth, the country will become a major GHG emitter with a projected four-fold increase in total net emissions between 2010-2030. In response to the Government's call for support to address this threat, the UN has played a leading role in policy advocacy and technical support in shaping the landmark National Green Growth Strategy 2011-2020, which sets concrete targets to reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption for the first time.

UN's technical support in modeling GHG mitigation options helped Viet Nam define national GHG emission targets piloted at provincial and sectoral levels. To date, five government ministries and nearly 30 provinces/cities have developed and implemented Green Growth Action Plans (GGAPs). The UN also played a key role in setting up GHG emission and adaptation targets for Viet Nam's nationally determined contribution to ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement and adoption of an implementation action plan. This action framework and GGAPs will leverage international climate finance for implementation of National Climate Change and Green Growth strategies for emission reductions and adaptation.

With the UN's assistance, Viet Nam became one of the first countries in Asia issuing the national ISO 50001 energy management standard to implement the Law on Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency on energy management in industry. This contributed to creating an enabling environment for the widespread adoption of energy management and system optimization practices in the business community, addressing the needs of Viet Nam in its efforts to promote sustainable economic development while reducing its carbon footprint.

In tandem with policy advice, the UN provided technical assistance, capacity building and technology transfer to implement green growth strategies and action plans. Technical interventions in energy efficiency in industry, household appliances and construction sectors with support by UN has led to reduction of approximately one million tonnes of CO₂ emissions during 2012 – 2016.



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By directly engaging stakeholders in awareness raising campaigns (through various means such as workshops, website, articles, video clips, TV programs, leaflet, success stories) at local and national levels as well as through targeted training during capacity building workshops, the UN laid a strong foundation for energy efficiency improvements in industry. Fifty-five (55) trained national experts and four hundred and thirty-four (434) individuals from industrial enterprises and 28 equipment suppliers have received the required knowledge and skills on energy management standards and system optimization and are ready to provide services for industries.

(FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO, UN Women)

Read more on Viet Nam makes progress
in promoting green growth



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UN stories

Bringing community voices to the environmental debate



Viet Nam has demonstrated strong political commitment and determination to protect its natural resources and environment, developing a strong legal framework on sustainable development and green growth.

However, key challenges remain as the country was not able to fully achieve MDG7 on environmental sustainability. The 2014 Global Environmental Performance Index ranked Viet Nam 136th out of 178 countries across 20 indicators looking at ecosystems and human health, with declining trends in fisheries, forests and air quality.

To address these pressing challenges, work on amending the Law on Environmental Protection to meet the realities of a rapidly developing Viet Nam accelerated in 2014 with the UN advocating to include the voices from diverse members of the society in the amended law. Aside from technical inputs and consultation support, a number of policy papers and reports articulated UN views and evidenced-based suggestions to improve the draft law, shared with the National Assembly.

A key feature of the UN-initiated participatory approach to the law-making process was extensive consultations with children on climate change issues to build their resilience capacity and inform the law's amendment. More than 300 children, rural and urban communities, ethnic minorities and migrants in Dien Bien and Ninh Thuan provinces and HCMC were consulted and motivated to share their perceptions and experiences of climate challenges and their views on policy responses to these challenges. Direct consultations with children were undertaken by young UN-trained facilitators. Through this participatory process, children were empowered to become effective partners and agents of change in addressing climate change issues with the findings welcomed by authorities and resulted in their commitment to foster the implementation of climate change plans in each province. Importantly, the findings were also shared with National Assembly members and informed the review and adoption of the new law.

The law's adoption in 2014, incorporating key UN recommendations, is a testament to the effectiveness of its participatory and evidenced-based approach with direct dialogue with the Government.

(UNDP, UNICEF)

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Focus Area 2 - Access to Quality Essential Services and Social Protection



Introduction

Amid rapid socio-economic and demographic change, it is more important than ever that Viet Nam effectively responds to persistent forms of poverty and emerging inequality.

This is especially so for many vulnerable members of society, as disparities and discrimination still prevent many ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, remote rural families, people living with HIV, and those living in poverty from accessing quality essential education and health services. In particular, the inefficient allocation of public resources and investment continues to impact on delivery of public services.

To build a more progressive and inclusive social protection system, the UN is working with the Government to adopt a universal approach to replace its current complex and inefficient system of programmes. This is important work as education and health programmes are characterized by significant disparities between urban and rural areas, majority Kinh and ethnic minority groups and other disadvantaged citizens that restrict access to essential services. In response, the UN is working to realize closer cross-sector coordination in planning, monitoring and implementation for effective service delivery.

An active role is also being played to support development and implementation of laws, policies and national programmes that promote gender equality and women's empowerment as well as create a sustainable response to HIV, reducing stigma and discrimination.



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While Viet Nam has made strong progress towards universal access to HIV prevention knowledge, treatment and care, there are still gaps in coverage in rural and remote areas and for vulnerable members of society.

Similarly, gender inequalities are still commonplace in Viet Nam and are a focus of UN work to enhance women's participation in the labour market and in decision-making, especially in households where unequal gender relations are reinforced by domestic violence and a strong preference for males at birth.

UN work in Social Protection (**Outcome 2.1**) involves UNICEF, ILO, FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNODC and UN Women.

UN work in Health (**Outcome 2.2**) involves WHO, UNFPA, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNODC.

UN work in Education and Training (**Outcome 2.3**) involves UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO and UNFPA.

UN work in HIV and Gender (**Outcome 2.4**) involves UNAIDS, UNODC, ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, UN Women and WHO.



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Outcome 2.1. Social Protection

As Viet Nam settles into lower middle-income status, it is confronted with many associated risks and vulnerabilities. In response, the Government during the 2012-2016 period prioritized social protection by focusing on limited coverage, major gaps in provision and imbalances in funding and benefit levels. However, not everyone is benefiting, with the ‘near poor’ at particular risk. That is why the UN backed the Government on a number of reforms and improved delivery to better ensure the most vulnerable benefit from the social protection system.

Outcome Indicators' Figures	2012	2015
Number of beneficiaries receiving benefits from social assistance under Decree 67 and 13 on policy support for social assistance beneficiaries*	2.2 million	2.6 million
Share of people covered by social insurance**	11.9%	13.4%

Sources *MoLISA
**GSO



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UN stories

A modern social assistance system for all



With impressive economic development and associated changes in social structures in formal and informal sectors, increased urbanization and changes in country demographics, the government identified the need to design a new social assistance system for Viet Nam. The Master Plan for Social Assistance till 2030 (MPSAR), which was approved by the Prime Minister in April 2017, offers a framework to refine government policy responses to poverty, vulnerability and inequality amid the rapidly changing socio-economic context of Viet Nam.

Several UN agencies joined hands with key development partners and provided coordinated support to the review the social assistance system and development of the draft MPSAR. Support included capacity building on social protection for National Assembly deputies, policy-makers and government technical staff.

MPSAR suggests concrete options, backed up with proposed financing scenarios and implementation steps for expansion in coverage and benefit levels in the coming 10-15 years. This is based on rights and lifecycle-based social assistance schemes, for the elderly, children and pregnant women and people with disabilities. As such, the MPSAR, reflects UN-supported research and has the potential to transform the lives of millions of Vietnamese.

(UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO)

Toward modernizing social
assistance system in Viet Nam

or

Ensuring coherence for
more inclusive policies



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UN stories

A timely response to rapid ageing



Viet Nam is one of the fastest ageing countries in Asia, with a longer life expectancy and declining fertility and mortality rates underlining the country's dramatic recent progress. This profound demographic change presents significant socio-economic and cultural challenges and Viet Nam has entered an official "ageing" phase by 2011 according to the Government, meaning the percentage of people more than 60 years old is higher than at any other point in the nation's history. In less than 20 years, there will be one older person in every five people in Viet Nam.

This accelerated ageing phase is further exacerbated by older people's vulnerable position in society, with more than 70 percent of the predominantly rural-dwelling older persons still working to earn a living but only 20 percent accessing pensions, according to the 2011 Viet Nam National Ageing Survey.

To address this demographic shift, several UN agencies helped Viet Nam develop policy responses in the context of a lower middle-income country to support an increasing elderly population and reap the benefits of this "longevity dividend". A UN-organized international workshop on responding to ageing was held in September 2013, providing Vietnamese policy-makers and legislators with a unique opportunity to learn from the employment, healthcare and social protection successes of countries with similar demographic trends. In particular, the workshop underlined the need for Viet Nam to roll out a comprehensive social safety net for older people, with extensive community and healthcare networks, and use the experience and knowledge of older people to further the country's development and benefit future generations.

Following UN capacity-building support, MOLISA initiated research and discussions on social pensions in 2014 and with UN support, a review of the 2009 Law on the Elderly.

(UNFPA, ILO)

Watch more on Viet Nam's ageing population



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Outcome 2.2. Health

In recent years, Viet Nam has made important progress in providing healthcare for its people. While access has significantly improved during the One Plan 2012-2016 lifecycle and is broadly available, it still remains challenging for those living in remote areas, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups, including migrant women and children. The UN prioritized support for Viet Nam to build a comprehensive health system that delivers equity, efficiency, access and affordability for all.

Outcome Indicators' Figures	2012	2014	2016
Out-of-pocket health expenditure*	50%		43%
Proportion of children under age 1 who are fully immunized*	95%		98%
Proportion of deliveries attended by trained health personnel*	97.7%	97.5%	
Percentage of rural households with access to hygienic latrines**	70.0%	77.8%	

Sources: *MOH
**VHLSS/GSO



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UN stories

Zoonoses and other public health threats at animal-human Interface



It is estimated that 70 percent of emerging diseases have a 'zoonotic' origin, such as avian influenza, Ebola and MERS, with 'zoonoses' transmitted between animals and humans potentially causing enormous negative impacts on human health including deaths, people's livelihoods and economy. Viet Nam's enhanced foreign engagement and globalization has led to increasing volumes of international and domestic travel and trade, further compounding risks of zoonotic infectious diseases in Viet Nam. In response, UN agencies have jointly worked to strengthen preparedness and address diseases at the animal-human health interface.

In particular, FAO has provided extensive technical assistance to MARD to strengthen animal influenza surveillance field and laboratory capacity, while WHO has supported MoH and other ministries to build capacities required by the International Health Regulations (IHR2005) to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health events. UNDP has supported policy dialogue among ministries and establishment of the One Health Partnership, which serves as forum for enhanced information exchanges and planning for risk reduction on Avian Influenza and other zoonotic diseases. A key result of the UN's support was reflected through the approval and roll-out of Inter-Ministerial Circular 16 for coordinated prevention and control of zoonotic diseases jointly issued by MARD and MoH in 2013. Joint Circular 16 facilitates coordinated action between animal and human health authorities at national and local levels for enhanced information exchanges, joint outbreak investigations and coordinated responses to zoonotic diseases.

Collaboration between the UN and government also resulted in the endorsement of the second national plan to control rabies. Implementation of the first plan during 2011-2015 resulted in a reduction of human rabies cases to less than 70 in 2014 from 98 in 2012, with increased post-exposure prophylaxis uptake and sustained increases in animal vaccinations.

(FAO, WHO, UNDP)

Watch more on Healthier animals, healthier people



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UN stories

Development of Tobacco Control Law



The UN supported the development of the Tobacco Control Law in Viet Nam, which was in line with WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Law has potential to prevent thousands of premature deaths from tobacco use in the future when it is fully implemented. The Law also promulgated the establishment of the Tobacco Control Fund making available sustainable funding source amounted to more than 10 million US\$ each year, from a surcharge tax on tobacco products, being used for communication, capacity building, research and community actions on tobacco control.

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) in 2015 showed that smoking has reduced from 47.2% to 42.2% among adult males in urban area and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke have reduced in all settings including home, indoor public and workplaces.

(WHO)

[See more on GATS results](#)



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UN stories

Stunting reduction at national and sub-national levels through the UN joint programme on nutrition and food security



Decreasing childhood stunting remains a challenge for Viet Nam. As Viet Nam continues on its development path, the height of its people becomes symbolic of progress made. As stated in the National Nutrition Strategy for 2011-2020 "Nutrition indicators, particularly the rate of stunting, should be considered a socioeconomic development indicator for the nation, as well as each locality.

To improve child nutrition and increase the food security of vulnerable populations in Viet Nam, the United Nations designed the Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Security through 2 phases starting from 2009, and will conclude in 2017 with the focus on poor, disadvantaged areas and ethnic minority groups, as well as mothers and small children. This was further supplemented with the promotion of open defecation free communities and drinking water safety.



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Through the implementation of the Joint Programme, evidence-based stunting reduction and food security interventions have been scaled-up and enforced in line with the 2011-2020 National Nutrition Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on nutrition, food security and Zero Hunger. The programme has provided policy, advocacy and system strengthening interventions at national level, community-based model development and implementation as well as behavior change communication at grassroots level.

At national level, the UN has jointly worked to promote food fortification, Integrated Management of Child Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), Early Essential New Born Care (EENC) and the Food Pyramid. With the significant contributions of UN Agencies, the central Government approved the national Decree on Mandatory Food Fortification in 2016 and the national guideline on integrated management of child severe acute malnutrition. These approvals have opened a window to save the lives of more than 250,000 under-5 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition as well as to provide prevention and care for women and lactating ones from micronutrient deficiencies. Through the Joint Programme, the UN also advocated for the issuance of the national Decree 100/NĐCP-2014 which was effective in 2015 to ban in all forms of marketing of breastmilk substitutes for children below 24 months and of complementary foods for children below 6, with a mechanism developed for wider application and implementation. The UN also provided capacity strengthening for Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) health facilities through trainings of trainers in 12 provinces as well as supported to the adaptation of WHO's EENC annual implementation planning guidelines to the Vietnamese context. Noticeably, the Food Pyramid Guides were developed to strengthen nutritional behavior change communication for pregnant, lactating women and under-5 children.

At Grassroots level, the community-based model on nutrition and food security was developed and implemented in Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces. Within the model, essential health care, nutrition, water and sanitation and household crops, livestock and aquaculture production were mainstreamed to provide comprehensive intervention to ensure nutrition and food security at household and community levels. Parents, care givers and farmers' education on nutrition and food security were strengthened through nutritional parent clubs and farmer's field schools. The further dissemination of the model for wider application was also achieved. Importantly, the stunting rate of local children significantly reduced in some project communes.

(FAO, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WHO)

[Read more on the Joint Programme on Nutrition and Food Security](#)



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Outcome 2.3. Education and Training

Viet Nam is known internationally as an education sector success story, having achieved universal primary education in 2000 and universal secondary education in 2010. Yet despite these achievements, disparities in educational attainment persist among several vulnerable groups of children, including ethnic minorities, those with disabilities, migrants and ones living in remote and hard-to-reach areas. As a result, the UN targeted these vulnerable groups for support and focused on reducing disparities and achieving equity and quality learning for population groups.

Outcome Indicators' Data	2011	2012	2015
Pre-primary net attendance ratio*	71.9%		
Primary school completion rates**		92.1%	95%

Sources: *MICS/GSO
**MOET



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UN stories

Bilingual education translates into active learning



Vietnamese as language of instruction in school poses significant communication barrier for most ethnic minority children who express themselves in their own mother tongue. Ethnic minority children ultimately face difficulties to understand their teachers and to participate actively in class. Such situations lead to low educational performance and learning outcomes ensuing in greater likelihood of dropping out of school prematurely in ethnic minority areas.

Addressing this trend, the UN supported MOET to conduct an Action Research on the Mother Tongue based Bilingual Education (MTBBE) in the provinces of Lao Cai, Gia Lai and Tra Vinh on three mother languages of three important ethnic groups in Viet Nam (H'Mong, J'rai and Khmer). Starting in 2007, this programme included the design and production of new curriculum and school textbooks for all the primary education levels for three languages, teacher training, field trial and adoption of the approach. It targeted children who started their pre-primary schooling until completion of their primary education in 2015. Taking advantage of the approach and rolling out of the MTBBE programme, a Child Labour project, introduced with UN's support, was conducted by the DOET of Lao Cai in 2011-2013 with H'mong children in two communes in Sapa, Lao Cai, in order to help them remain children in school.

The MTBBE was evaluated in 2015 and recognized as a relevant and sustainable programme by the evaluators and by the Government which disseminated the findings in September 2016. It has since contributed to the development of policies and practices, including legal frameworks namely the publication of school textbooks in mother tongue and in Vietnamese in the context of the Education Renovation. In 2016, the design and production of new curriculum and school textbooks for all primary education levels in three languages, in addition to teacher training, field trials and adoption of the approach were achieved as a result of strong advocacy from the UN on the importance of mother-tongue and culturally sensitive teaching programmes. The MTBBE was adopted by four provinces along with the promotion of ethnic minority languages. The MTBBE has also helped raise awareness of the decision makers and education managers on the language barrier faced by ethnic minority children.

(UNICEF and ILO)

Read more on UN highlights importance of education in mother-tongue-language



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UN stories

Inclusive education for children with disabilities



Viet Nam has 6.7 million people living with disabilities, of which 1.3 million are children. Despite a strong legal framework ensuring access to inclusive education, particularly in mainstream schools guided by the Law for Persons with Disabilities and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, challenges remain with persistent gaps in equitable access to inclusive quality education. Children with disabilities who are not in school account for a large proportion of 83.1 percent compared to 11.8 percent among those with no disabilities.

A significant momentum was generated in 2014 by the UN to improve education opportunities for children with disabilities. In May, the Education for All Global Action Week was launched in Viet Nam with the theme 'Persons with disabilities have the right to a quality, friendly and equal education'. Coordinated by the UN with support from 20 organizations, including local/international NGOs and networks for people with disabilities, the event created a strong resonance for the implementation of policies, programmes and measures to support equal rights and opportunities in education and life for all.

To allow all children to attend and learn in school, the UN worked closely with MoET and other partners to advocate for the realization of the rights of children with disabilities to education. This advocacy was designed not only to influence the formulation of policy, but also ensure its effective enforcement.

While two key policies came into effect in 2014 and in 2016 respectively, the inter-ministerial Circulars 42/2013 and 19/2016, the UN also monitored implementation of specific supportive education policies for persons with disabilities, in selected provinces, through teacher training in inclusive education, community awareness-raising for stigma reduction and monitoring and documentation for national dissemination. Key changes observed through policy monitoring included the establishment of inclusive education resource centres at provincial level, a more systematic tracking of children with disabilities, the timely certification of disabilities required for enrolment into mainstream schools, more positive parental attitudes, and trained teachers demonstrating improved skills in working with children with learning difficulties. All of these significantly contributed to enhancing the inclusive education through mainstreaming of children with disabilities in schools.

(UNESCO, UNICEF)



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Outcome 2.4. HIV and Gender

HIV and AIDS remains a major public health problem, and AIDS is responsible for a significant proportion of premature deaths in Viet Nam. Furthermore, people living with HIV continue to face significant stigma and discrimination. While HIV prevalence is amongst the lowest in the region at 0.4 percent for people aged 15-49, the absolute number of affected individuals is significant with an estimated 250,000 people living with HIV by the end of 2016. The UN continued, coordinated by UNAIDS, to support Viet Nam to improve access and quality of services for people living with HIV, reduce stigma and discrimination as well as develop strategic information. Access to HIV treatment significantly expanded during the period reaching 47% of all people living with HIV by end 2016.

Gender equality in Viet Nam has improved over time, with women's representation at the National Assembly (24.4 percent) above averages for legislative bodies in Asia (19 percent) and globally (21 percent). Yet, the overall proportion of women in decision-making positions is low. Meanwhile, a preference for sons is manifested in the imbalanced sex-ratio of newborns, while acceptance of male dominance is suggested by the high prevalence of domestic violence. Barriers exist to women's access to resources, productive assets and technical and vocational education and training. During 2012-2016, the UN provided policy advice, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy as well as supported civil society to achieve gender equality and empowerment for women.



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Outcome Indicators' Data:	2012	2014	2016
Sex ratio at birth (boys/100 girls)*	112.3		112.2
HIV prevalence rate among groups at higher risk of HIV infection**	PWID=12.0% SW=2.7% MSM=16.7%		PWID=11.0% SW=2.7% MSM=8.2%
Accepting attitudes towards PLHIV***	28.9%	30.0%	

Sources: *GSO
**MOH
***MICS



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UN stories

Legal and policy frameworks strengthened to effectively address gender inequality, gender discrimination and gender based violence



During the 2012-2016 period, the UN jointly advocated for and assisted Viet Nam in promoting gender equality during law and policy reforms through upholding relevant international normative standards, particularly those of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The UN's support was delivered through a tremendous amount of advocacy, technical expertise provision, multi-stakeholder knowledge exchanges and dialogues, and capacity development activities.

The UN's efforts have led to tangible changes in many revised laws. These include the prohibition of sexual harassment at workplace, provision of protection for domestic workers and establishment of minimum employer responsibilities in the amended Labor Code (2012); the highlights on equality among family members, the removal of the prohibition on same sex marriage, and the recognition of family care as income generating work in the context of separation of property in the amended Marriage and Family Law (2014); the inclusion of a quota of a minimum of 35% women candidates to be included in the final ballot for elections at all levels in the Law on Elections of Deputies to the National Assembly and to the People Council (2015); the integration of the principle of gender equality in budget planning and expenditure in the amended Law on State Budget (2015); and the expansion of the definition of rate and explicitly criminalized repeated physical and psychological violence against a family member in the amended Penal Code (2015). Other important legal documents were issued with the UN support, noticeably including the National Assembly's guidelines on CEDAW application in law formulation process and the Ministry of Justice's Gender Impact Assessment Tool to assist legal drafters in mainstreaming gender equality in the legal frameworks.

Under the One Plan 2012-2016 period, the UN played a responsible role of an impartial convener to connect and engage multiple partners including government agencies, civil society groups, academic organizations and development partners etc. into the law and policy making process at all levels. The UN worked closely with women's rights advocacy and community-based organizations (CBOs) to ensure that voices and concerns of women and girls were raised and addressed in the law and policy reforms. A number of institutional documents highlighting the UN contribution in this regard includes the National Action Programme on Gender Equality for the 2016-2020 period, the National Project on Controlling Sex-Ratio at Birth for the 2016-2020 period, and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Education Sector for the 2016-2020 period.

(UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO)



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UN stories

Facing up to gender-based violence



Viet Nam has a high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), yet many survivors do not seek support from public services. This is due to gaps in laws, limited availability of support services and adequate sanctions, compounded by gender stereotyping from service providers and public which continue to discriminate against women survivors.

During 2012-2016, the UN provided joint policy advice aligned with international norms, standards and good practices, and backed by research evidence, to support integration of these into national GBV legislation and policy frameworks. Noticeably, the UN support contributed to the Government's approval of a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism in 2015 to address domestic violence along with an M&E framework to monitor its implementation.

UN's advocacy and support to the Government, in partnership with CSOs that played a strong role in bring voices of the most affected women to the policy table, also contributed to the approval of the National Thematic Project on GBV Prevention and Response for the period 2016-2020 with the vision to 2030. This is the first national project to address GBV in different forms beyond DV, embodying CEDAW Committee's recommendation to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women. The National Thematic Project commits to improving essential support services for GBV survivors, prevention and response to sexual harassment in workplaces, introducing safe-cities models to address violence and harassment in public spaces, and school and community-based violence prevention models.

The UN also piloted innovative interventions and responses for scaling-up. They include UN Women's school- and community-based GBV prevention models, UNFPA's minimum intervention package for service providers to respond to GBV, UNICEF's community-based child protection systems to prevent and respond to violence against girls and boys, as well as UN Women, UNFPA and UNV's pilots to work with men and boys as allies to prevent and respond to GBV.

(UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNV)

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UN stories

Changing social norms to tackle gender inequality



The root causes of gender inequality in Viet Nam are the prevailing patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes. Women's low political representation, unequal access to education and economic opportunities, high prevalence and impunity towards violence against women are manifestations of such discriminatory attitudes and social norms. It is UN's working principle that all efforts to increase women's leadership opportunities or promote compliance with landmark laws, such as on domestic violence, will not be successful without addressing such underlying causes. Therefore, challenging and transforming attitudes and gender stereotypes through supporting campaigns, piloting community- and school-based behavior change interventions and advocating with MoET to integrate programmes that promote gender equality, respectful relationships and non-violent communication skills in schools have been key strategies for the UN's joint work to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Since 2012, multiple innovative UN advocacy campaigns, often firsts for Viet Nam, have reached millions of people directly and through media, promoting respect for women, calling for action to breakdown gender stereotypes, speaking up against GBV and encouraging men and boys to be part of the gender equality movement. These campaigns include the "[16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women](#)", "[HeForShe](#)", "[#HowAbnormal](#)", "[STOP Gender Discrimination, STOP Gender-Biased Sex Selection](#)". The youth-targeted peer education movement "[Change-Makers](#)", trained 146 student peer-educators from 24 universities nationwide and such student groups initiated their own communication campaigns, reaching a further 300,000 people. The #HowAbnormal campaign was catalyzed by thought-provoking gender-flip videos and university festivals that reached 30,000 students directly and one million people on social media with messaging to think critically about gender stereotypes.

(UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC)

Read more on Youth shapes gender norms



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UN stories

Making strategic investment in HIV response



Although Viet Nam has made real progress in the past 25 years preventing new infections, reducing AIDS-related deaths and scaling-up harm reduction interventions, treatment and care in high-burden provinces, the country faces formidable challenges in sustaining a national response to HIV.

In 2014, the MOH developed a comprehensive investment case to underpin the HIV response. UNAIDS spearheaded the UN's strategic advice to the process, including guidance on an "investment approach" that promotes targeted investment and better priority-setting based on a nuanced understanding of epidemics, combined with interventions proven to work. UNAIDS and WHO provided comprehensive technical support estimating the cost and impact of policy options and programme coverage levels. The investment case ultimately identified six priority actions to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the national response to HIV and put the country on course to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Since the investment case was finalized in August 2014, the Government has taken a number of concrete steps. During UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe's visit to Ha Noi in October 2014, Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam committed the Government to ending AIDS by 2030. Viet Nam became the first country in the region to adopt the ambitious new "90-90-90" HIV testing and treatment targets. UNAIDS, WHO, UNODC, UNFPA and ILO

supported stakeholders to translate the investment case priorities into action by prioritizing high impact interventions, focusing resources on key populations and establishing sustainable financing mechanisms. The investment case also informed the Global Fund proposal approved in November 2014, allowing Viet Nam to receive US\$107 million to respond to HIV and tuberculosis during 2014-2017.

(UNAIDS, WHO, UNODC, UNFPA and ILO)

90 percent of HIV infected people knowing their HIV status; 90 percent of the people diagnosed with HIV infection are provided with continuous ARV treatment; 90 percent of infected people receiving ARV treatment have sustained viral suppression in 2020.

Read more on Viet Nam is the first country in Asia to commit to new HIV Treatment targets



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UN stories

No one left behind: Protection of sex workers' human rights



The current legislation makes the buying and selling of sex and accompanied activities illegal in Viet Nam. As a result, "prevention and control" has been a key approach to dealing with sex work in the country - incompatible with a human rights-based approach.

In the wake of the Ordinance on Prevention and Control of Sex Work, approved by the National Assembly's Standing Committee in 2003, the UNCT had specific concerns about the compulsory detention and human rights situation of sex workers in Viet Nam. In response, the UN joined hands with development partners and CSOs to conduct evidence and human rights-based advocacy activities. These activities were designed to influence policy-makers of Party, National Assembly and key line ministries including MoJ, MPS, MoLISA and MoH for adoption of evidence- and human rights-based approaches in development and implementation of sex work laws and policies. The focus shifted to creating an enabling environment for sex workers to enjoy their human rights and be free from discrimination, abuse or violence.

These UN advocacy efforts substantially contributed to approval of the Law on Administrative Sanctions on 20 June 2012, which eliminated regulations sending sex workers to 05 detention centres as an administrative sanction. Removal of this sanction also broke down a major barrier to HIV service delivery. Moreover, with UN technical support, harm reduction interventions were officially included in national sex work action plans for 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. The action plans facilitate implementation of interventions and activities that improve access and utilization of sexual reproductive health, HIV and GBV prevention as well as protection of rights at work for venue-based entertainment workers. Based on experiences from pilot interventions supported by the UN, a national guideline on harm reduction interventions was developed by MoLISA to guide the design and implementation of an intervention model to improve sexual reproductive health service provision, HIV and GBV prevention and promote safe working conditions. By the end of 2016, at least 10 provinces and cities planned to implement the harm reduction guideline using national and sub-national budgets.

"I think the strong advantages of the UN compared to bilateral partners in legislation development cooperation are that it always respects government ownership and leadership in legislation development. It takes Viet Nam as an equal partner, attaches importance to the flexible adjustment of priorities to provide support most needed in the context of Viet Nam and combines the strengths and expertise of different UN organizations and provides a rich source of experts from across the world.", Mr. Hoang The Lien, Vice Minister of Justice said.

(UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UN Women)



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Focus Area 3 - Enhanced Governance and Participation Introduction



Viet Nam is a country in transition, engaged in an ongoing process of institutional reform. Sophisticated, modern institutions are needed to respond and manage the complex challenges the country will face during the next five to 10 years. The Government has expressed commitment to ensuring more effective, accountable and transparent governance to allow all Vietnamese people a voice in decisions that affect them.

During 2012-2016, the UN continued supporting government to create opportunities for wider participation in decision-making on policy priorities and spending. In particular, the UN focused its efforts on enhancing access to justice, efficient law enforcement and judicial support for all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged to strengthen the rule of law. Efforts were also made to better enable people to share opinions and feedback on decisions that affect them and create effective mechanisms to enhance oversight of work by the Party and State, in particular on socio-economic policies and plans.

Through implementation of the One Plan 2012-2016, the UN system in Viet Nam also worked to ensure, protect and promote human rights, including implementation of UPR recommendations and a review of the human rights records of all UN member states.

UN work in Elected Bodies and the Legislative Process (**Outcome 3.1**), Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice (**Outcome 3.2**), Public Administrative Reform (**Outcome 3.3**) and Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations (**Outcome 3.4**) involves the work of UNDP, UNODC, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNV and UN Women.



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Outcome 3.1. Elected bodies

Strengthening democratic governance and addressing the complex challenges that Viet Nam will be facing as a middle-income country calls for a further reinforcement of the role of the National Assembly and elected bodies at local level. To perform their key functions, elected bodies will require increased capacity for analysis of policies and laws, enhanced knowledge of international conventions and norms, strengthened mechanisms and a professionalized staffing. The UN supported the strengthening of law making and oversight functions performed by elected officials and committees through capacity development and policy work. The UN also assisted the National Assembly and People's Councils in support of increased participation and representation of citizens, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.



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Outcome Indicators' Data	2012	2016
Proportion of National Assembly members and Chairs or Vice-Chairs of National Assembly Committees who are women*	23.0%	26.5%
Proportion of People's Council members and Chairs or Vice-Chairs of People's Council who are women or from an ethnic minority group*	25.2% for provincial level; 24.6% for district level and 21.7% for commune level	26.5% for provincial level; 27.6% for district level and 26.8% for commune level
Number of new/ revised institutionalized mechanisms and processes for citizens and organizations to comment on and influence pending policies and legislation**	3 significant regulations and laws	

Sources: *National Assembly
** UN



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UN stories

Reinforcing the National Assembly to protect and promote human rights



Viet Nam is increasingly focusing on human rights. The country was elected to the UN Human Rights Council in November 2013 and later that month the National Assembly approved the 2013 Constitution, featuring a number of new and progressive provisions on human rights. In a further sign of commitment, Viet Nam participated in the 2nd cycle of the UPR in February 2014 and received 227 recommendations to further promote human rights, of which 182 were accepted.

The UN has played a key role supporting Viet Nam to continue taking meaningful steps to protect human rights. Further ground was covered in 2014 with the first legal review of new provisions in the 2013 Constitution and seven international conventions on human rights Viet Nam is a party to, to strengthen the National Assembly's role to protect, promote and fulfill human rights.

(UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women)

Read more on UN commentary on human rights provisions in draft amendments to 1992 Constitution



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Outcome 3.2. Legal systems

Increasing access to justice and the protection of rights is of critical importance to ensure that all Vietnamese people are able to realize their capacities and aspirations. The overlaps and inconsistencies in the legal system, along with further challenges in the implementation of laws, are viewed by the Government as one of the main obstacles to the further development of society. Full accountability under law also requires strengthening access to justice, particularly for the vulnerable and disadvantaged who depend on the law to protect them. The UN provided policy advice and technical support in implementing legal and judicial reform to increase access to justice, enhanced the capacity of legal and judicial professionals to provide high quality services, and strengthened the national legal framework for human rights in line with the human rights conventions ratified by Viet Nam.

Outcome Indicators' Data	2012
Percentage of people satisfied with the performance of legal and judicial personnel*	44.7%
Number of citizens receiving free legal assistance, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups**	114,651

Sources: *UNDP Access to Justice survey
**MOJ



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UN stories

Joint UN support to Law on Legal Aid in Viet Nam



To protect Vietnamese people's rights to equal and non-discriminatory access to legal advice and representation, a joint UN initiative to support a new law on Legal Aid was launched in 2015. UN joint advocacy efforts as a result of the programme established under the Global Delivering Results Together Fund were made to ensure a range of important issues that were addressed under the law. In particular, they included revision of the eligibility for legal aid, quality of legal aid services, needs of vulnerable groups, resource allocation for legal aid services - including those provided by CSOs, and independence of the legal aid system in Viet Nam.

UN agencies used their collective convening roles to host policy dialogues and consultation workshops on the draft law, bringing together a variety of CSOs, policy-makers, international experts and other affected stakeholders. These consultations were held in parallel to advocacy support for marginalized and vulnerable groups, and to empower and inform individuals and organizations so they could influence policy themselves. The UN also supported CSOs in working together to develop networks and identify issues for joint advocacy. Five UN agencies came together to coordinate a comprehensive legal gap analysis of the draft, paying particular attention to rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including children, survivors of GBV, people living with HIV and those facing deprivation of liberty. Based on this analysis, participating agencies jointly submitted comments on strengthening access to justice for such disadvantaged groups in the draft law to the National Legal Aid Agency under the MoJ, which led the revision process.

As a result of these collective efforts, the perspectives of marginalized and directly-affected groups in society were heard by policy-makers. The unique insights from a wide variety of individuals and groups on how access to justice made a difference to their lives helped shape the law's development. Vulnerable groups who have suffered disproportionately from lack of access to legal assistance, were provided an invaluable platform to advocate for legal aid eligibility. Many CSOs, not previously afforded an opportunity to engage government on policy development, highlighted the benefits of a multi-agency approach to accessing decision-makers:

"Through the Network of Women Living with HIV with support from UN WOMEN and UNAIDS, we were able to speak for women with HIV, participating in consultations to give comments on the bill, sharing legal issues we need legal assistance on from the State. Our capacities were strengthened through training courses. We see the need of legal assistance from the State for women living with HIV and women of marginalized groups", said a representative from the Women Living with HIV in Viet Nam network.

(UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNAIDS)



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UN stories

Implementation of international human rights obligations



Under the UN's global normative mandate, Viet Nam made important progress towards protecting human rights in line with international human rights standards. The UN played a key role in taking these steps forward with contributions to the ratification of two important international human rights conventions, the Convention against Torture and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UN also played a major role in assisting the Government to prepare for the review and implement concluding observations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women ([CEDAW](#)), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and accepted recommendations made under the UPR. The UN's capacity to translate international human rights obligations into practical measures was invaluable in assisting the Government to respond to a variety of issues highlighted under these mechanisms. They included ones under the UPR ranging from children in detention, freedom of the media and health insurance coverage and development of a national human rights institution. The joint agency approach adopted by the UN in analysing the recommendations, developing strategies for implementation and coordinating activities between agencies was essential to identify practical steps for Viet Nam to fulfill its human rights obligations. The UN provided technical assistance and capacity building training to government ministries to prepare for review under different treaties and in development of national action plans for implement any recommendations made following review.

UN agencies also worked together to incorporate international human rights standards into the national legislative system, with UN footprints on the Constitution 2013, Law on Handling of Administrative Violations, Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, Labour Code, Child Law, Law on Legal Aid, Law on Anti-Corruption and Anti-Human Trafficking Law. Particular focus was placed on rights of the most vulnerable groups, including children in contact with the criminal justice system, survivors of violence against women, victims of human trafficking, migrants smuggled across borders, people affected by HIV and LGBTI people. ([UNDP](#), [UNODC](#), [UNICEF](#), [UN Women](#), [ILO](#), [IOM](#), [UNAIDS](#))

Watch more on Progress on Gender Equality in Viet Nam through CEDAW lens

Read more on Taking stock of the 10-year progress on gender equality through CEDAW in Viet Nam



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Outcome 3.3. Public sector performance

As part of the Doi Moi (renovation), Viet Nam has engaged in the modernization of its policy-making process and its public sector institutions. Accountability, transparency and coordination are key factors for public sector institutions at central and local levels to operate efficiently and meet the needs and expectations of citizens, including in their local context and culture. To meet this objective, the UN supported the further modernization of the public sector through targeted interventions that would enhance cross-sectoral coordination for the formulation and implementation of policies and plans. The UN also supported the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Furthermore, support was provided for the enhancement of the performance of public sector institutions through increased accountability and transparency and the development of user feedback mechanisms.

Outcome Indicators' Data

**Percentage of citizens reporting satisfied with public services:
In 2016: Public Administrative Services (by percentage of users satisfied with the services)**

Public certification services	81.0%
Public service for construction permits	71.0%
Public service for LURCs	61.0%
Public service for personal papers	81.0%

Source: Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index



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UN stories

Enhanced social accountability through different citizen feedback mechanisms



The development and introduction of citizen feedback mechanisms is an important way to enhance social accountability of public institutions in Viet Nam in terms of governance, access to justice, protection of rights and service delivery.

To meet this need, the UN helped introduce ground-breaking tools and mechanisms for the country during 2012-2016, headlined by PAPI (Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Index), the Viet Nam Justice Index (VJI) and social audits.

PAPI and VJI are external monitoring tools complementary to social audits as an integral mechanism to keep government and public service delivery institutions more accountable to citizens. With these performance-monitoring tools, central and provincial governments have become more accountable for their services. For instance, in 2016, 36 provinces issued action plans to respond to citizen feedback and expectations as indicated by PAPI. Provinces like An Giang, Dien Bien, Dong Thap, Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan have set up social audit mechanisms for the education and healthcare sectors to follow up initial PAPI results to improve such public services. PAPI findings on corruption were used by the Government Inspectorate and National Assembly Judicial Committee in reports to National Assembly sessions in 2016.

"The VJI has put forward citizens' demand for a more responsive justice system. These processes have also engaged with various NGOs and mass organizations [Viet Nam Fatherland Front] to facilitate citizens' feedback. Such tools, pioneered or implemented in Viet Nam, have significantly contributed to government efforts and priorities to develop a more accountable, transparent and responsive State apparatus", said Dr Le Dang Doanh, independent senior economist, former president of the Central Institute for Economic Management. (UNDP and UNICEF)

Snapshot of PAPI 2009-2016

or

PAPI 2016 report launch



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UN stories

Improved public services performance to reduce poverty and inequality



Recognizing the importance of improving public services by local administrative agencies, the UN extended its support in strengthening the public services' infrastructure and citizen feedback mechanism. Specifically, the UN supported the provincial people's committees of Bac Giang, Can Tho and Ha Tinh developed software applications for operation of one-stop shops (OSSs) and inter-agency OSSs at commune, district and provincial levels.

As a result, internal work-flow and operation of OSSs in these three localities were carried out in a more efficient and transparent manner. This helped citizens monitor the status of their applications.

In addition, in Da Nang an online users' feedback mechanism was developed with support from the UN to collect approximately 30,000 responses from public administrative services' users. This direct, simple and cost-effective mechanism provided useful information for local authorities to review and improve their public administrative services qualities. At the same time a social audit tool, the Citizen Report Card, was conducted in An Giang and Kon Tum provinces to capture the feedback of more than 600 service users, especially disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minorities and the poor, across commune and district maternal and child health services respectively. The findings and recommendations of these surveys will inform the health sector to remove bottlenecks for delivery of better health outcomes to disadvantaged women and children.

The issue of police accountability, transparency and internal oversight were discussed among MPS senior management, representatives of the National Assembly, Government Inspectorate, Supreme People's Procuracy, Supreme People's Court and the MPI during the first police integrity workshop in Viet Nam, co-hosted by UNODC and MPS. Experts from different agencies engaged in open dialogue on the concept of police integrity with a number of international law enforcement experts as well as UNODC experts from headquarters.

(UNDP, UNODC)



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Outcome 3.4. Participation

Citizens and PSPMOs have been playing an active part in Viet Nam's socio-economic development process under a revamped national regulatory framework, including the Grassroots Democracy decree. Together with the National Assembly and People's Councils, citizens as well as PSPMOs have the potential to contribute further to national development. The UN assisted Viet Nam in further strengthening the policy and legal framework and in supporting the effective participation of citizens and PSPMOs in policy discussions and decision-making processes at both national and sub-national level.

Outcome Indicators' Data	2012
Percentage of provinces rated as good performers in engaging citizens in participating in the development, implementation and monitoring of public services.*	20%

Source: *PAPI



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UN stories

Increased women's participation in public life



Gender stereotypes remain a significant barrier that affect people's attitudes to women's participation and leadership in politics.

Different UN agencies have worked to advocate for gender equality, women's empowerment and political leadership to improve the ratio of female representation in elected bodies. The UN has systematically run trainings and online courses along with advocacy campaigns to break gender stereotypes to demystify the perception that leadership is a male-only domain. The UN also worked to improve provisions relating to women's rights, candidacy quotas and empowerment with joint recommendations on the Law on Election submitted to the National Assembly. As a result, a quota of at least 35 percent of women representatives in elected bodies was stipulated in the law that has resulted in decreases in women's National Assembly representation reversed in recent years.

"It is recognized that the training and workshop on gender equality in elections for potential female women and community-based organizations funded by UNDP had significant impacts on increasing female representation in commune People's Councils in Tan Lac district. In this regard, local leaders and Women's Unions convey their warm regards and gratitude to you for your valuable support and assistance in advancing women's participation in politics", said a representative from CEPEW (Centre for Education Promotion and Empowerment of Women) (UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC)

Read more on Promoting Increased Women's Participation in National Assembly and People Council Elections



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UN stories

Supporting the national conversation on the “World We Want”



In 2013, Viet Nam was one of more than 80 countries to actively take part in a global conversation to shape the “World We Want”, and help define a new development framework for the post-2015 when the MDGs expire. In support of this, the UN initiated a unique consultation process asking all people in Vietnam what kind of future they would like to see in 2015 and beyond.

Over the course of three months, more than 1,300 people from across the country had the opportunity to talk about the challenges they face in their daily lives and to express their hopes and aspirations for the future. Many of these people came from vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people living with HIV. Overall, more than half of those who took part in the discussions were women. A national workshop was organized by the Government and UN to discuss the findings from the consultations and to hear directly from some of those who took part in the conversations. Following the workshop, the final report was shared with the UN Secretary-General and the high-level panel advising on the post-2015 development agenda.

The post-2015 consultation process clearly demonstrates how the UN can use its broad, multi-sectoral mandate and outreach to facilitate for inclusive participation and ensuring that the voices of marginalized and disadvantaged people are included in policy debates.

(All UN Agencies)



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Implementing One Plan 2012-2016 - Lessons learnt

The One Plan 2012-2016's implementation generated valuable lessons for the UN system in Viet Nam. These lessons will guide the UN in Viet Nam as it moves towards its next One Strategic Plan cycle, the '3rd Generation' of DaO, as a firm commitment to support the Government of Viet Nam in delivering the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The following paragraphs shed light on these lessons and provide an outlook to the future.

UN role

The UN has played an important convening role helping to ensure widespread participation in a broad range of issues at both technical and high policy level, in this manner helping strengthen the Government's ability to address complex issues in an effective manner while promoting a culturally sensitive inclusive human rights-based approach. The role of the UN as a bridge in support of greater participation of civil society is seen as particularly relevant in the context of Viet Nam. The next One Strategic Plan would benefit from a more structural approach to the inclusion of civil society in the UN's work.

The 'UN brand' as a neutral and qualified broker is a key factor for the UN to be able to play this convening role, and an important added value not many other development actors in Viet Nam are able to offer. This brand derives from a long-term relationship developed between the UN and its national partners, both the government and civil society. Its perceived neutrality stems from its non-political agenda but rather seen as following a mandate which corresponds with UN's common values and principles, in addition to its technical expertise. The DaO modality strengthens this standing by improving internal coherence and the UN's ability to respond in a comprehensive cross-sectoral manner.



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Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

As the UN's role in a lower middle-income country has transformed towards engaging more in upstream policy support and advocacy, a more robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework to value the UN's efforts as well as to produce clearer and more tangible evidences of its advisory and advocacy impacts. It's also noted that ability to deliver activities of the One Plan did not immediately translate into the achievement of its goals and outcomes. In order to reflect the UN's cumulative progress against outcomes, for the next One Strategic Plan cycle, the framework will need to incorporate an underlying theory of change to facilitate the UN's ability to show progress towards outcomes to government and donors, to assess quality and adequacy of its actions, and to learn from its own efforts. Identification of better indicators, including qualitative indicators and narratives, is also crucial to capture quality and underlying factors. A more robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting system also applies to the DaO process which the UN system in Viet Nam will continue to lead. As such, it is critical for the success of the DaO Initiative that evidence is generated for efficiency, effectiveness, and reduced transaction costs with the UN agencies working together in a more coherent and coordinated manner.



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Governance

There is a need to identify an adequate fit-for-purpose and participatory governance structure that is able to provide oversight, guidance and quality assurance, as well as a means for coordination and substantive exchange with key stakeholders such as the Government of Viet Nam and One Plan Fund donors, to better reflect the tripartite (UN, government and donors) nature of the Delivering as One Initiative. This structure will require a clearer accountability as well as incentive towards the One Strategic Plan.

While the One Plan and the joint UN-Government Delivering as One Steering Committee for 2012-2016 were designed at the outset of the programming cycle, it was a challenge to ensure adequate, high-level monitoring of implementation in an effective way. Consequently, the envisaged strategic oversight and guidance was mostly conducted UN-internal.

While significant progress was observed regarding internal UN coordination mechanisms in the form of Joint Programming Groups (JPGs), which are seen as having promoted coordinated planning and increased coherence within the UN, their impact seemed to have remained mostly at technical level. To increase coherence and effectiveness of these internal coordination mechanisms, the UN should continue to strengthen the role of joint results groups as an effective mechanism to promote the DaO Initiative, adequately incentivize and recognize staff coordination efforts and seek ways to elate high-level management engagement. Joint results groups have the potential to be the drivers of policy coherence and prioritization as well as knowledge exchange between agencies.

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Budget and resource mobilization

The UN implemented many fund-raising initiatives during the One Plan 2012-2016's implementation. Nevertheless, it was unable to ensure full funding for One Plan 2012-2016. The total mobilized fund accounted for 75 percent of the original estimated budget for the One Plan 2012-2016 by the end of the implementation period. In addition to the reducing trend of ODA due to the MIC status of Viet Nam, donors' interest in One Plan Fund decreased due to the lack of incentives for donors or UN agencies to promote the One Plan Fund over bilateral funding.

Going into the next Delivering as One cycle, the UN will need to further improve its monitoring and reporting system to be able to show the UN accountability to donor funds and increase the UN's ability to report to the Government and donors. Increased participation of donors to thematic and strategic One Plan dialogue in the areas of investment is also important. The UN also needs to identify clear incentives for the UN agencies and donors to prioritize the One Strategic Plan budget over bilateral funding, or mechanisms for bilateral funding to be accountable to the One Strategic Plan.



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CHAPTER 3

One Plan 2012-2016 Financing

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One Plan Budget 2012-2016

The overall budget for One Plan 2012-2016 was US\$480,232,770, the estimated amount to achieve agreed outcomes and outputs as specified at the time of signing in March, 2012. The overall resource requirements are summarized in Table 1.



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**Table 1: Overview of One Plan 2012-2016
Resource Requirements**

One Plan Outcomes and Focus Areas	Indicative Budget (US\$)				Total
	Regular Resources (Secured)	Other Resources (Secured)	Resources to be mobilized		
			One Plan Fund (OPF)	Non-OPF	
Outcome 1.1	18,055,000	2,520,000	20,504,105	17,050,935	58,130,040
Outcome 1.2	1,892,500	10,696,000	8,970,000	16,197,500	37,756,000
Outcome 1.3	5,897,500	7,660,000	13,234,405	29,973,095	56,765,000
Outcome 1.4	3,766,000	20,860,000	8,975,559	11,764,441	45,366,000
Focus Area 1	29,611,000	41,736,000	51,684,069	74,985,971	198,017,040
Outcome 2.1	7,962,500	3,300,000	11,152,854	14,249,646	36,665,000
Outcome 2.2	22,621,000	12,856,700	29,760,500	39,853,500	105,091,700
Outcome 2.3	3,400,000	2,000,000	5,761,520	7,360,480	18,522,000
Outcome 2.4	9,780,000	692,000	9,521,100	6,598,900	26,592,000
Focus Area 2	43,763,500	18,848,700	56,195,974	68,062,526	186,870,700
Outcome 3.1	3,480,000	650,000	2,410,426	2,164,574	8,705,000
Outcome 3.2	12,445,000	3,260,000	11,770,522	13,009,478	40,485,000
Outcome 3.3	17,680,000	1,350,000	9,035,649	7,649,381	35,715,030
Outcome 3.4	570,000	110,000	4,290,661	5,469,339	10,440,000
Focus Area 3	34,175,000	5,370,000	27,507,258	28,292,772	95,345,030
Total One Plan	107,549,500	65,954,700	135,387,301	171,341,269	480,232,770



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Figures in the 'Resources to be mobilized' section of Table 1 represent the funding UN agencies anticipated they would need to raise during the One Plan programming cycle, either through or in addition to the One Plan Fund (OPF). As such, resources to be mobilized represented a funding gap that at the time of signing the One Plan 2012-2016 amounted to around US\$300 million or 64 percent of the overall budget assessed to be a realistic resource mobilization target over a five-year period.

With Viet Nam having graduated into a lower middle-income country in 2010, there were changes to the nature of financing, particularly a significant decline in grant-based Official Development Assistance (ODA). Traditional UN key donors scaled-down, prioritized or ceased assistance to Viet Nam. These trends combined with ongoing global economic and financial turmoil presented the UN system with unforeseen challenges and mobilizing resources remained a priority throughout One Plan 2012-2016 implementation.

In 2012 the UNCT prepared the One Plan Resource Mobilization Strategy, which included a comprehensive mapping of all potential donors in Viet Nam and how their priorities aligned with the strategic orientation of One Plan 2012-16. It adopted a flexible approach to ensure the resource gap was continuously monitored and available resources channeled to areas where UN impacts were most needed. In parallel and as a modality to direct resource mobilization efforts to underfunded strategic priorities, the UNCT prepared joint breakthrough proposals building on UN comparative advantages to address development challenges in a cross-sectoral way. Ten joint proposals were prepared by JPGs for resource mobilization, with three successfully selected for funding by global-pooled funding mechanisms. The UNCT also explored alternative, longer-term funding sources such as examining government cost-sharing in UN projects and programmes. Despite these fund-raising initiatives, the UN system in Viet Nam was unable to ensure full funding for One Plan 2012-2016. Table 2 illustrates UN system expenditure from different sources, including the OPF,

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by all participating UN agencies for results achieved during the period. Total expenditure for the five-year period was US\$358 million, approximately 75 percent of the planned budget.



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Table 2: Total disbursement of UN agencies by funding sources during One Plan 2012-2016 (US\$)

UN Agency	Disbursement from Regular Resources (Core)	Disbursement from Other Resources (non-OPF)	Disbursement from OPF resources*	Total Disbursement (2012-2016)
FAO	2,045,823	24,862,225	2,807,713	29,715,761
IFAD	0	2,180,000	0	2,180,000
ILO	2,881,415	18,580,571	3,079,145	24,541,131
IOM	1,349,575	3,567,059	327,400	5,244,033
ITC	0	360,450	0	360,450
UN Women	3,211,931	5,204,748	1,638,754	10,055,433
UNAIDS	366,121	2,638,336	1,347,953	4,352,410
UNDP	42,637,256	48,907,502	19,099,600	110,644,358
UNEP	1,759,227	918,500	64,434	2,742,161



UN Agency	Disbursement from Regular Resources (Core)	Disbursement from Other Resources (non-OPF)	Disbursement from OPF resources*	Total Disbursement (2012-2016)
UNESCO	1,035,406	3,504,007	1,549,990	6,089,403
UNFPA	18,135,807	34,949	2,733,504	20,904,260
UN-Habitat	1,459,153	703,295	1,000,034	3,162,482
UNICEF	22,863,972	34,761,091	7,694,202	65,319,265
UNIDO	77,725	14,422,685	1,482,599	15,983,009
UNODC	473,458	5,336,807	2,073,995	7,884,260
UNV	298,775	2,087,659	194,268	2,580,702
WHO	10,497,028	31,478,063	4,727,036	46,702,127
Total	84,002,209	199,547,946	49,820,626	358,461,245

Source: One Plan participating UN organizations at country level in Viet Nam

Note: *Total OPF expenditure for 2012-2016 included US\$16,834,586, partly funded from One Plan Fund II (2008-2011) and only implemented in 2012. Please refer to the DaO Annual Results Report 2012 for further details. Also as for 2016, at the time of reporting, there have not yet been certified figures by UN agencies HQs so there might be small deviation with figures published on MPTF Office once ready.



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One Plan Fund II (2012-2016)

The One Plan Fund was designed to promote pooled funding, reduce transaction costs and attract non-earmarked funding for implementation of One Plans and was first launched in 2007. For 2012-2016, the OPF II (2012-2016) was a critical component to drive forward the DaO process in Viet Nam, acting as a facilitator and an incentive for joint implementation of the One Plan 2012-2016.

At the outset in 2012, funds to be mobilized through the OPF amounted to approximately 30 percent (US\$135 million) of the total budget required to implement the One Plan 2012-2016. However, OPF contributions at country and global levels (Expanded Funding Window and later the Delivering Results Together Fund) totaled US\$39.5 million during 2012-2016. This figure represents a dramatic decline in donor contributions through the OPF mechanism compared to the US\$95.4 million allocated during 2007-2011.

Since the DaO initiative was launched in 2006, three OPFs have been established to support the implementation of One Plans:

One Plan Fund I 2007-2008 (operationally closed)

One Plan Fund II 2008-2011 (operationally closed)

One Plan Fund II 2012-2016 (for One Plan 2012-2016)

Table 3 summarizes donor contributions to the OPF from 2012-2016. Accompanying the decrease in funding, the UN system in Viet Nam experienced a reduction in country-level donors from 15 to eight compared to the last OPF period. Whereas previous OPF contributions averaged US\$6.8 million per donor, they only averaged US\$4.2 million during 2012-2016 with most made during the first half of the period. Donors at country level contributing to the current OPF are mostly those from the previous one, with the Government of Belgium the only newcomer.



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Table 3: Donor contributions* to One Plan Fund II during implementation of One Plan 2012-2016 (US\$)

Donor	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total (2012-2016)
At country level						
Australian Agency for International Development	-	2,411,180	-			2,411,180
Department for International Development (DfID)	1,588,878	2,295,684	781,861			4,666,423
Government of Belgium	1,289,000	1,316,900	1,293,800			3,899,700
Government of Finland	-	2,656,500	-			2,656,500
Government of Ireland	1,492,490	1,305,100	1,305,100	862,480	1,118,932	6,084,102
Government of Luxembourg	810,197	750,000	1,050,000	1,200,000		3,810,197
Government of Norway	3,619,313	273,304	1,243,588	1,283,283		6,419,488
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	2,003,309	1,200,000	300,000			3,503,309
Accumulated interest from previous OPF donations	22,701	-	-		118,513	141,214
Expanded DaO Funding Window	2,225,000	-	-			2,225,000
Total	13,050,886	12,208,668	5,974,349	3,345,763	1,237,445	35,817,113
At global level						
Delivering Results Together Fund	-	-	1,480,000	1,500,000	700,000	3,680,000
Total	-	-	1,480,000	1,500,000	700,000	3,680,000
Grand Total	13,050,886	12,208,668	7,454,349	4,845,763	1,937,445	39,497,113

Source: Multi Partner Trust Fund Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org>

*Contributions are full amounts received from donors and subject to AA fee (1 percent) from 2012 and direct cost (2.5 percent) from 2013 before allocations made to UN agencies.

Over time, donors moved to increase soft earmarking of funds at One Plan 2012-2016 outcome level. Whereas most funding allocated to the previous OPF was non-earmarked, more than half of funds provided were soft earmarked contributions during 2012-2016. Some donors also moved away from the OPF as an exclusive mechanism to provide financial support to the UN in Viet Nam and provided direct funding to individual agencies.



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One Plan Fund 2012-2016 allocations to UN agencies

The OPF is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office, on behalf of the UN system. OPF donor contributions were used to allocate funding to Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) for implementation of projects and programmes under the One Plan 2012-2016. Administrative Agent fees are applied by the MPTF Office, while the OPF also supports the cost of coordination functions for the DaO initiative. Table 4 shows the allocation of donor funding at country level by One Plan outcome and Table 5 highlights the allocation of global-level funding. Allocation of OPF donor contributions to Participating UN Organizations was undertaken on a competitive basis subject to the quality of agency-submitted proposals.

In 2014, for the first time and following a One Plan Steering Committee decision in November 2013, the allocation of OPF funds was jointly executed by government and the UN. This new approach included a joint review of criteria for allocation of OPF funds against PUNO-submitted proposals assessed by an Independent Review Panel. The UN and government jointly reviewed the ratings of UN Organizations' proposals assessed by the panel and provided final decisions on OPF allocation to agencies.

In addition to criteria on promoting joint programming, proposals were assessed against programme priorities, cross-cutting issues and past performances. Numerous sub-criteria, including alignment to national development priorities, contributions to national policy dialogues, policy and national capacity development were also taken into consideration. The five cross-cutting issues in the One Plan (environmental sustainability, gender equality, a rights-based approach, culturally appropriate programming and HIV) were assessed separately as were agencies' past OPF allocations.

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Table 4: OPF allocations from funding received at country level by One Plan 2012-2016 outcomes (US\$)

One Plan Outcomes	2012	2013*	2014**	2015	2016	Total allocation
Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies	355,175	1,983,462	965,941	210,915	162,756	3,678,249
Outcome 1.2: Opportunities for Decent Work	123,930	704,710	52,800	47,758	18,492	947,690
Outcome 1.3: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	756,360	1,870,000	140,000	369,000	48,821	3,184,181
Outcome 1.4: Natural Resources and Environmental Management	62,500	40,500				103,000
Total Focus Area 1	1,297,965	4,598,672	1,158,741	627,673	230,069	7,913,120
Outcome 2.1: Social Protection	691,514	1,269,077	783,400	342,000	46,380	3,132,371
Outcome 2.2: Health	928,650	2,869,111	1,206,908	983,505	245,372	6,233,546
Outcome 2.3: Education and Training	90,660	670,792	284,000	240,417	75,517	1,361,386
Outcome 2.4: Gender Equality and HIV	901,437	2,303,366	676,446	547,156	217,394	4,645,799
Total Focus Area 2	2,612,261	7,112,346	2,950,753	2,113,078	584,663	15,373,101



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One Plan Outcomes	2012	2013*	2014**	2015	2016	Total allocation
Outcome 3.1: Elected Bodies		1,209,898	441,152	156,000	60,387	1,867,437
Outcome 3.2: Legal System	590,160	805,635	170,000	306,415	111,629	1,983,839
Outcome 3.3: Public Sector Performance	446,836	3,226,131	716,036	323,035	89,198	4,801,236
Outcome 3.4: Participation	286,000					286,000
Total Focus Area 3	1,322,996	5,241,664	1,327,188	785,450	261,214	8,938,512
TOTAL**	5,233,222	16,952,682	5,436,682	3,526,201	1,075,946	32,224,733

Source: Multi Partner Trust Fund Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org>

*An amount of US\$745,941 was agreed for allocation in 2013, but only transferred to UN agencies in 2014.

**Apart from the allocations made from OPF donors at country level (displayed in Table 4), there was also funding from the Delivering Results Together Fund at global level allocated through the One Plan Fund II (2012-2016). Therefore, the figures in this table will not match official GATEWAY ones. Allocations for the DRT-F are reported in Table 5.



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Table 5: OPF allocations from DRT-F funding by One Plan 2012-2016 outcomes (US\$)

One Plan Outcomes	2014*	2015	2016	Total allocation for DRT-F**
Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies in a MIC Viet Nam	1,428,200		675,000	2,103,200
Total Focus Area 1	1,428,200		675,000	2,103,200
Outcome 3.2: Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice		643,636.42		643,636.42
Outcome 3.4: Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations (PSPMOs)		804,197.58		804,197.58
Total Focus Area 3		1,447,834		1,447,834
TOTAL	1,428,200	1,447,834	675,000	3,551,034

Sources: *Multi Partner Trust Fund Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org>

**The amount is after the administrative agent fee and direct cost.



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CHAPTER 4

Delivering as One Results

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At the end of 2006, Viet Nam volunteered to be a pilot country for the DaO initiative to implement recommendations of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence. For more than a decade since, the UN system in Viet Nam has transformed the way its entities work together to achieve development results to make the UN system in country more relevant, effective and efficient. Viet Nam has remained at the forefront of the DaO initiative since its inception and is widely seen as a role model for UN reform at country level. As such, it has actively shared its DaO experiences at regional and global levels as well as made significant contributions to shape global Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines.

The DaO initiative brings together the expertise, experience and capacities of 15 resident and two non-resident UN agencies in Viet Nam to provide more coordinated and effective assistance. Through greater harmonization of its work and alignment with Viet Nam's development priorities, the DaO approach is designed to ensure the UN is achieving more coherence, better results and answering unique, country-specific development questions.

The implementation and further development of the scope and impact of the DaO initiative was enhanced with the '2nd generation' of DaO for 2012-2016. As a fast-evolving middle-income country, Viet Nam's need for services is changing and the UN must change as well. This entailed a stronger focus on providing upstream policy advice to government, speaking with 'One Voice' on key policy issues and sharpening the focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of Vietnamese society.

[Read more about the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021](#)



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Box 2. Did you know that....?



The UN System in Viet Nam was the first country globally to produce Annual Delivering as One results reports capture results achieved under different pillars of the Delivering as One process

The Green One UN House as a co-location for 11 UN agencies and was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh and the then UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

The Green One UN House is awarded LOTUS Platinum status by the Vietnam Green Building Council (VGBC), the highest "green" certification for a non-residential building in Viet Nam.

In the Green One UN House, all UN staff **sit together by functions** with UN colleagues from other agencies working in the same area

A co-located Communication Team consists of co-located communication staff from different UN agencies and managed by a single manager

An **integrated Common Service Unit** was established to provide operational support to all UN agencies under common location, including ICT

The **One Plan Database** as a single database on the One Plan's Output and Outcome indicators, was later replicated by other countries adopting DaO approach

A **harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines** regulates a single approach to programme and project management of both the Government and of the UN



During this period, the UN system in Viet Nam continued its original holistic approach to DaO by not only focusing on 'what' enhanced UN cooperation and coordination could achieve through the One Plan and One UN Budget, but also identifying process-related changes - or 'how' the UN delivers results - through implementation of the six complementary and mutually reinforcing pillars established under the '1st generation' of DaO: One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Voice, One Set of Management Practices and One UN House.

Whereas One Plan and One Budget implementation results are described in Chapters 2 and 3 of this report, this chapter focuses on results achieved under the four other pillars of DaO in Viet Nam during 2012-2016.



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Co-located Green One UN House

In May 2015, the Green One UN House (GOUNH) in the capital Ha Noi was inaugurated by the UN Secretary-General to house 12 UN agencies and more than 300 staff. UN Viet Nam is the first country to move into a 'Green One UN House' (GOUNH). This is a key milestone in the UN Reform process in Viet Nam and the Delivering as One initiative, marking the culmination of almost a decade of joint efforts by the Government of Viet Nam, development partners and UN system. The GOUNH helped and continued to advance Goal 7 of the SDGs, promoting the transition to "affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy which is well in line with the UN's commitment to support Viet Nam in its progression towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The House is the catalyst for three key changes to the way the UN works (i) with common operations enabling efficiencies and cost savings, (ii) the co-location of staff improving collaboration across agencies and (iii) the UN's adoption of green behaviors and green operations allowing it to heed the Secretary-General's call to be climate neutral by 2020.

The GOUNH is notable for a UN global first, its integrated Common Services Unit, that provides harmonized IT, facility management, protocol and premises security services to all GOUNH-based staff. This has led to reduced transaction costs for the UN through less need for travel between UN offices across Hanoi, better inter-agency coordination, enhanced synergies, and reduced energy and water consumption and waste, amongst others. The estimated saving cost for internal phone call among UN agencies inside building is about \$19,000 per year.

[Read more about GOUNH](#)



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Another innovative GOUNH feature is its ability to make the UN in Viet Nam “fit for purpose” through its “functional clustering”, whereby staff are located in different parts of the building based on functions, rather than by agency. Viet Nam is the first UN office to introduce such an approach and with this, UN agencies are able to horizontally pool staff capacity and expertise across agencies to deliver cross-sectoral support. For the new programmatic cycle of 2017-2021, staff are seated by the five Results Areas and five Thematic Areas, through which the One Strategic Plan is being implemented.

Advocating climate change mitigation and adaptation, the GOUNH is constructed of ecologically friendly materials such as lead-free paint and furniture low in harmful Volatile Organic Compounds. Efficiency of heating, cooling and energy systems is maximized through photovoltaic panels harnessing solar energy and generating at least 10 per cent of the building’s annual electricity consumption. Additionally, through application of an innovative Green Office Guide, UN staff have adopted green behaviors such as the reduction of paper, plastic and energy use as well as carbon-free transportation.

In 2016, rating scores by GOUNH staff through user-feedback surveys were at “good” or “very good” levels for all months.

In May 2017, the building was 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 has become a role model for sustainable green buildings in Viet Nam, signifying the importance and urgency of environmental sustainability and climate change.

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One Set of Management Practices

As part of the DaO initiative, the UN invested considerable resources to establishing procedures that would facilitate for more harmonized delivery of services across the UN system. Three specific areas of intervention were: 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).

During 2012-2016, the UN system expanded these three core initiatives to ensure effective and cost-efficient delivery of UN services as well as support national partners to engage with UN agencies.

Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines

The HPPMG was a globally unique effort undertaken jointly by the Government of Viet Nam and three UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF) to simplify and harmonize programme and project management procedures with those of government systems. The HPPMG was designed to ensure effective management and implementation of UN-supported programmes and guides their preparation, management and implementation. Through harmonized guidelines, national implementing partners encounter fewer burdens working with different UN agencies simultaneously and are better positioned to achieve consistent project management, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness.

The guidelines underwent a thorough review in 2015, with users' feedback feeding revisions by government and the three agencies implemented in the second half of 2016.

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Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers

In 2007, the HACT initiative was rolled out in Viet Nam as a harmonized process to manage cash transfers from UN system agencies to national implementing partners. Based on a risk management approach, HACT streamlines agency practices and reduces burdens on implementing partners and agencies, enhances use of national systems and strengthens national capacity for programme management and accountability. The HACT initiative continued under the One Plan 2012-2016 with a macro assessment in 2011 before the new programme cycle and a comprehensive micro assessment of all implementing partners conducted in 2013. Following the assessments, joint assurance activities (audits, programme visits and spot-checks) of shared national implementing partners were enhanced. Trainings and capacity development events were also held for shared implementing partners on assessment-identified issues of concern.

UN-EU Guidelines for Financing of Local Costs in development cooperation with Viet Nam

The guidelines are a joint endeavor between the Government of Viet Nam, UN and EU to provide a unified set of cost norms related to management of ODA in the country. The guidelines were reviewed and updated to be reflective of market conditions in 2012, 2013 and 2015.



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LỄ KỶ NIỆM
 70 NĂM THÀNH LẬP LIÊN HỢP QUỐC
 CELEBRATION
 OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS



One Leader

The DaO initiative in Viet Nam is implemented under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNCT. The former's role is defined in the 'Memorandum of Understanding on the One Leader', which clearly specifies his/her role, functions, authority and responsibilities in line with the UN Development Group Management and Accountability Framework for the Resident Coordinator System. The UNCT, consisting of heads of agencies, is accountable for agency results, funds received and disbursed, and to comply with the UNCT's Code of Conduct and terms of reference. Staff report to respective agency heads, but are also accountable to co-conveners of Joint Programming Groups (JPGs) and inter-agency teams.

During 2012-2016 the UNCT met on a regular basis, in principle every two weeks, to engage in strategic dialogue and decision-making to promote the DaO initiative and ensure meaningful impacts through programmatic and operational effectiveness.

In addition to regular meetings, issue-based UNCT retreats created a forum for in-depth discussions on strategic decisions and issues, such as fundraising and resource mobilization. Heads of agencies convened JPG meetings and based on needs, small working groups led by UNCT members were established to follow up on UNCT core decisions.

Prime Minister leads the UN's 70th Anniversary Celebrations

Communicating as One

In response to calls for a stronger and more coherent UN voice on key development challenges in Viet Nam, the One UN communications team was established in late 2006. In another global first for the UN in Viet Nam, co-located communication specialists from UN agencies work under one UN communications manager and operated under a Joint Communication Strategy 2012-2016 approved by the UNCT and implemented through common annual joint workplans. Specifically, it focused on the UN-wide advocacy and communication agenda, internal and external communication needs of the DaO initiative and agency-specific needs of participating UN agencies.

During 2012-2016, the team shifted from agency- to issue-based communication and supported the UNCT to place key UN advocacy issues high on the public agenda, enhanced by creation of a clear and coherent UN voice. By promoting a common UN position on issues that multiple agencies address, such as climate change, human rights, gender, health, poverty reduction and social equity, policies and recommendations were solidified to bring coherence to UN advocacy messages and significantly advance the positioning of the UN on these key themes.



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The Communicating as One approach also led to greater harmonization and better use of media with less competition among the UN agencies for the same media space. Messaging by the UN in Viet Nam was more unified and comprehensive during 2012-2016 in communicating prioritized advocacy themes for the UNCT as a whole, the Millennium Declaration and MDGs. In practical terms, the communications team coordinated and integrated the positions of various UN agencies when appropriate into one media release, press conference or article to avoid duplication and incoherent messaging.

The communications team also served a strong internal role as a “one-stop shop” for communication resources and expertise with virtually all UN internal communication now handled by one team, providing quality and professional services.



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CHAPTER 5

Looking to the Future

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The global 2030 Development Agenda and need for Partnerships

Viet Nam is fully committed to the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with its formal adoption of the agenda in 2016. The SDGs with the 17 new goals and 169 targets will set a new development agenda over the next 15 years for Viet Nam at a time when the country's own development context is rapidly changing. The SDGs have a broader scope and an extremely high price tag, far exceeding all parameters of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that Viet Nam so successfully steered towards at the beginning of the millennium.

The nature and scale of the SDGs make it unfeasible for any development actor or government to achieve them individually. Instead, the new global development agenda puts significant emphasis on the need for a fundamental shift in development thinking that require partnerships - cutting across countries on global agendas - no longer primarily defined by the allocation of ODA, but instead increasingly issues-based that reflect national, regional and global priorities. Increasingly, Viet Nam is aligning its national targets for aggregation at global level in multilateral negotiations and at country level. As such, it is welcoming a much broader range of partnerships involving different stakeholders to guarantee a successful localization and implementation of the SDG agenda.



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UN development support to Viet Nam

A stronger focus on partnerships and recognition of the inter-connectedness of the SDGs will guide the UN's future work in Viet Nam and underscore the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration between all UN agencies active in the country. To remain relevant and effective, the UN has up-scaled its focus on coherence across programming to make sure human rights-based approaches are taken to develop support services in all areas of work and more cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and issues-based ways of working. As such, the UN in Viet Nam will place great emphasis on fostering stakeholder partnerships, particularly with civil society and the private sector to usher in new approaches and development solutions to scale.

Moving forward, the UN will play a key role as a neutral and trusted broker to promote greater coherence in development cooperation across sectors and stakeholders and support the Government to engage in effective dialogues that contribute to consensus-building on the national SDG agenda. Importantly, it will also ensure multi-sectoral expertise and know-how available in UN agencies will be leveraged and provide holistic solutions to complex situations. As emphasized in 2030 Agenda documents, data management and access to reliable data to facilitate evidence-based decision-making will be prioritized in implementation of the SDG agenda. The UN has already initiated joint initiatives in this area and will continue to allocate adequate resources and funding as well as support collective national progress in monitoring achievement of government development goals.

The co-location of UN agencies in the GOUNH in Ha Noi offers a unique platform for multi-disciplinary technical assistance and advice to national partners in Viet Nam, with a one-stop shop for partnership building, knowledge networks and expertise of resident and non-resident UN agencies.

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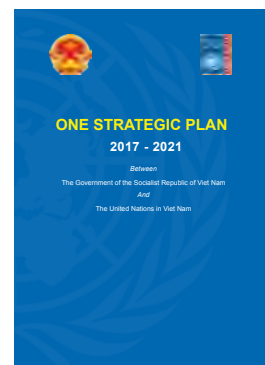
LỄ KỶ KẾT KẾ HOẠCH CHIẾN LƯỢC CHUNG 2017-2021 ONE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2021 (OSP) SIGNING CEREMONY



One Strategic Plan 2017-2021

The UN will build on upon Viet Nam’s significant progress for a deeper, more integrated and system-wide approach to achieve the Agenda 2030’s ambitious vision through the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021. The plan represents a new way for the UN to support the Government of Viet Nam shaped by the SDG agenda and emerging development objectives. As such, it is designed to allow the UN to support the Government in an effective and coordinated manner to respond to a rapidly changing development context.

In implementing the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021, the UN will be guided by a nuanced understanding of vulnerability, building on lessons learned from the successes and remaining challenges of the unfinished MDG agenda. This includes addressing the needs of people who have not fully benefited from Viet Nam’s significant economic progress and of certain groups of women and children experiencing vulnerabilities across multiple goals. Programmatically, the One Strategic Plan is structured into four focus areas, shaped by the central themes of the SDGs with nine related outcomes.



One strategic plan
2017-2021



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Funding the UN Viet Nam 2017-2021

Traditionally, UN financing focused on mobilization and disbursement of grant funding. Funding was provided by UN member states based on an agreed form for assessed contributions and later supplemented by voluntary contributions to support specific development activities. During the 1990s, there was a shift in contributions made to the UN from core, voluntary non-assigned ones to more earmarked sums to project or programme-assigned funds.

Global ODA grew by 1.7 percent in 2015 with allocations focused on the poorest countries with the largest needs. The share of operational funds to humanitarian aid has grown from 33 percent in 2012 to 41 percent in 2014. ODA is expected to grow slightly towards 2019, but largely plateau from its current level. Growth in core resources has, however, been minimal compared to increases in non-core resources for development-related and humanitarian assistance activities. As such, the core share of total funding for development operational activities dropped from 44 to 24 percent and the core share of funding for development-related activities in particular fell from 51 to 30 percent during this 15-year period from 2000 to 2015.

This shift towards less core funding and more targeted non-core contributions has been challenging for the UN system in a number of ways. It has increased the UN's dependency of donor prioritization and driven it towards more reactive or response-driven contexts. To secure adequate funding, UN agencies have been forced to prioritize in areas not fully aligned with the comparative advantages of the organization and led to increased competition for funds at country level. In addition, most donors do not necessarily have a



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long-term overarching strategy in place on allocation of resources to any particular multilateral agency or between core and non-core resources, resulting in an aggregation of many single-point decision-making processes.

Recent UN development funding trends point towards a majority of middle-income countries becoming fully cognizant of entering a post-ODA phase where volumes related to foreign development investment, trade and domestic resource mobilization far exceed grant assistance. This is of particular relevance for Viet Nam with graduation to MIC status that has already resulted in substantial changes in the nature of aid flows from traditional concessional financing to a mix of non-concessional and concessional funds and export credit facilities.

In the next programming cycle, the UN in Viet Nam will explore options for mixing traditional and non-traditional sources of financing and place emphasis on building opportunities to transition from the UN as a provider of ODA towards partnership financing modalities, including incremental Government-UN cost sharing. This transition also entails a shift towards raising UN resources as a joint Government-UN responsibility not left in the hands of the UN. Furthermore, the UN and Government should jointly examine opportunities for domestic and international resource mobilization that fall within respective agency mandates to identify priority modalities for exploration.

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3rd Generation of Delivering as One

For the '3rd generation' of DaO, the UN in Viet Nam will strive to remain at the forefront of implementing and inspiring the UN reform processes at country level. The design of DaO implementation mechanisms will be guided by 2014's SOPs for countries adopting the "DaO" approach, prepared by the UN Development Group responding to requests from UN member states and articulated in the 2012 QCPR, to deepen DaO reforms and ensure all countries can pursue and benefit from this approach if desired. The SOPs are a set of criteria for each of the DaO pillars designed to enhance work across the UN system by removing institutional bottlenecks that prevent coherence, improving standards and common operating systems as well as driving the use of shared data, policy analytics and advocacy to support integrated solutions. As such, the SOPs ensure a more complete system-wide alignment of UN contributions in country with national development priorities and plans, while making the UN development system more transparent, common results-oriented and accountable.

While advancing DaO on all fronts in Viet Nam will include cost effectiveness through development of a Joint One UN Business Operation Strategy, particular focus will centre on the design of a mechanism for effective implementation of the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021. In this context, an inclusive governance structure has been identified to enable provision of guidance and quality assurance during the plan's implementation. Another key feature is the design of strong internal coordination mechanisms to increase coherence and effectiveness among UN agencies to support the Government of Viet Nam as well as ensure adequate and up-to-date monitoring and reporting accountability frameworks for implementation of the One Strategic Plan are in place.

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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.



UNITED NATIONS VIET NAM

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