



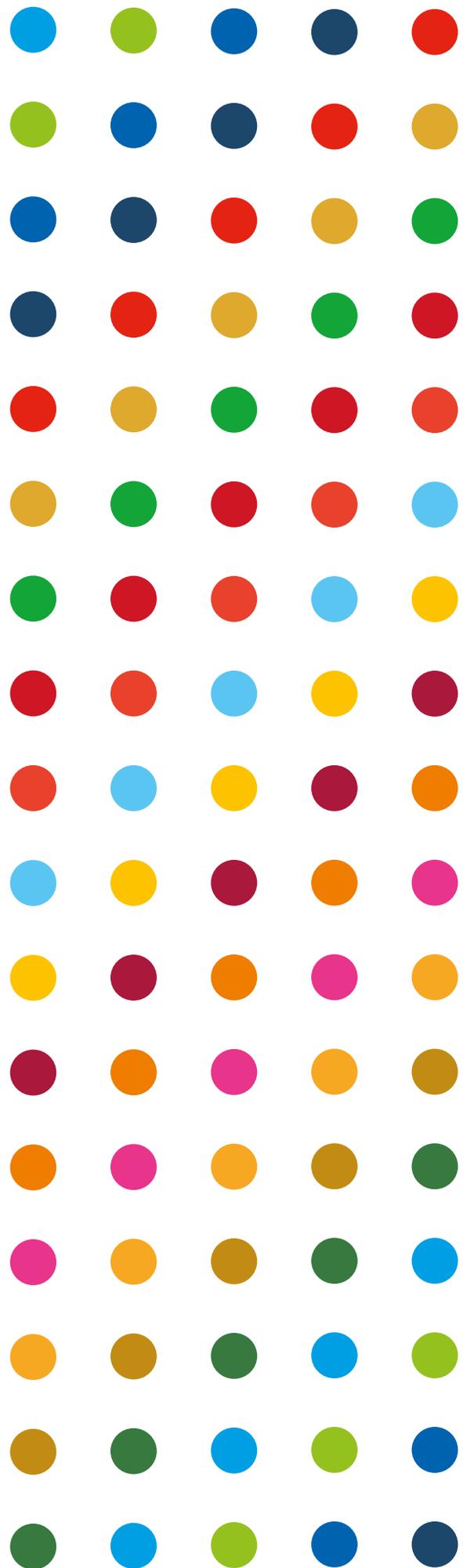
UNITED NATIONS  
VIET NAM



# 2018 ONE UN RESULTS REPORT



# FOREWORD



The UN has been working in close collaboration with the Government of Viet Nam for over 40 years, seeking to contribute to a Vietnamese society which is greener, healthier, better educated, and more inclusive and empowered to reach its full potential within the overall framework of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With these objectives in mind, the work of 18 UN entities operating in Viet Nam is brought together through the common partnership framework between the UN in Viet Nam and the Government of Viet Nam, the "One Strategic Plan" for 2017-2021.

Together we have made remarkable efforts to support the most appropriate policies and strategies prioritizing gender sensitive poverty reduction, social development and inclusive social services, good governance, justice and human rights, inclusive economic growth and social protection, as well as climate change, environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction. The UN has played an active role in policy advocacy for sustaining reforms across all three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, as well as in addressing the gaps between different regions and population groups, consistent with the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

This report presents the programmatic and operational results achieved by the UN system in Viet Nam in 2018. Chapter 1 of this report presents the general development context in which the Delivering as One initiative and the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 were implemented. Chapter 2 focuses on the programmatic results achieved, including through illustrative stories. Chapter 3 reports on the results achieved under the Operating as One pillar, while Chapter 4 provides detailed information on finances and resource mobilization. Chapter 5 examines the challenges and lessons learned in implementing the One Strategic Plan (2017-2021) in 2018 and outlines how the UN system in Viet Nam will use its expertise and experience to strengthen its support and partnership to the Government of Viet Nam in 2019 and beyond.

Going forward, new additional tools and approaches will be made available to achieve Agenda 2030, especially through the benefits expected from the new and ongoing UN Development System (UNDS) Reform, the most significant in decades. This reform, which went into effect on 1 January 2019, aims for a much more effective, coordinated, transparent and accountable UN development system dedicated to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Accordingly, and being a flagship Delivering as One country, the UN in Viet Nam continued to make efforts in 2018 to strengthen One UN results and ensure that Viet Nam remains at the forefront of the new UNDS reform, with increased joined up work, resulting in a suite of new joint UN programmes and advocacy initiatives.

It is therefore with pleasure that we publish this report. The successes and lessons learned highlighted in it represent the collective efforts of many colleagues and partners. I particularly wish to underline and acknowledge the tireless efforts of all UN staff and agencies supporting Viet Nam. On behalf of the UN in Viet Nam, I would also like to thank the Government of Viet Nam for our excellent continuing partnership. With the support of the people of Viet Nam, and in collaboration with all partners whom I also wish to thank, we will continue to strive for a United Nations which works for all, tirelessly striving to Leave No One Behind.



**Kamal Malhotra**  
UN Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam

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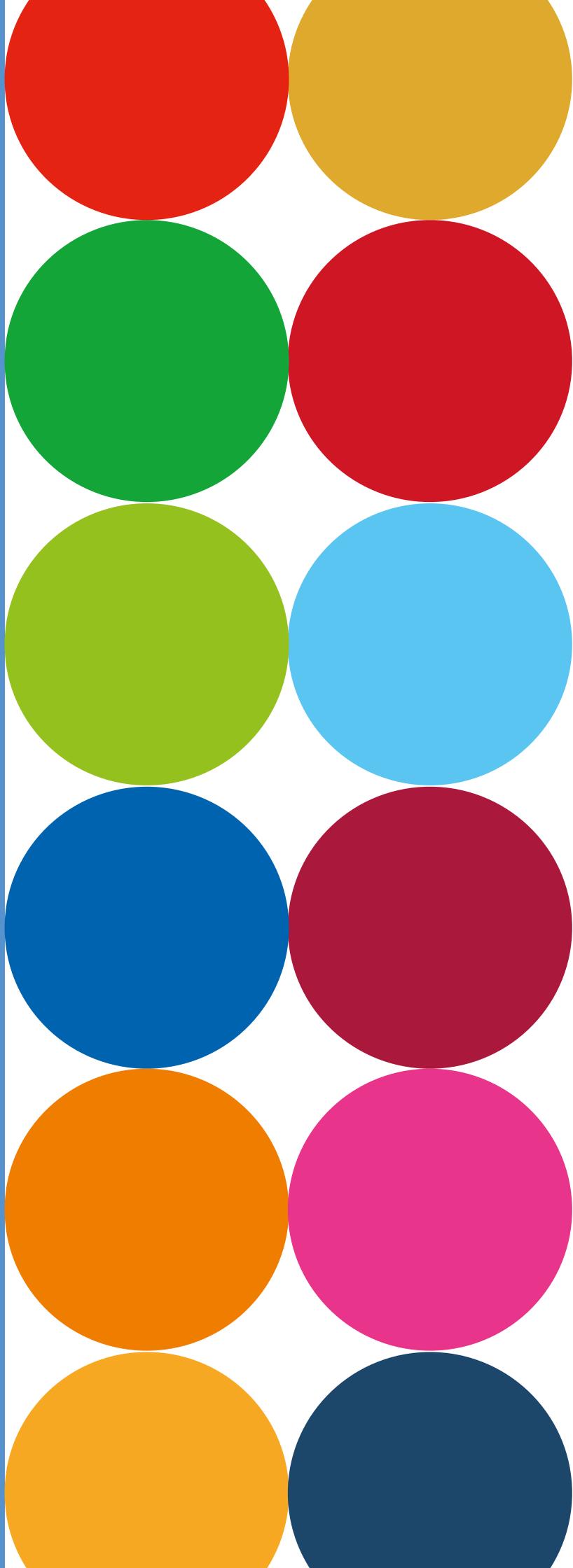
# LIST OF ACRONYMS

•	<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
•	<b>CPTPP</b>	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
•	<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
•	<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
•	<b>DaO</b>	Delivering as One
•	<b>EU</b>	European Union
•	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
•	<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence
•	<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
•	<b>GOUNH</b>	Green One UN House
•	<b>GSO</b>	General Statistics Office
•	<b>HACT</b>	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
•	<b>HCMC</b>	Ho Chi Minh City
•	<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
•	<b>HPPMG</b>	Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines
•	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
•	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
•	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
•	<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
•	<b>MARD</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
•	<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
•	<b>MOET</b>	Ministry of Education and Training
•	<b>MOFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
•	<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
•	<b>MOIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Trade
•	<b>MOLISA</b>	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
•	<b>MONRE</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
•	<b>MPI</b>	Ministry of Planning and Investment
•	<b>MPSARD</b>	Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development
•	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
•	<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
•	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
•	<b>OSP</b>	One Strategic Plan
•	<b>PAPI</b>	Public Administration Performance Index
•	<b>REDD+</b>	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
•	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
•	<b>SEDP</b>	Socio-Economic Development Plan
•	<b>SEDS</b>	Socio-Economic Development Strategy
•	<b>TOE</b>	Tonne of oil equivalent
•	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
•	<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
•	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
•	<b>UNCT</b>	UN Country Team
•	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
•	<b>UNEP</b>	UN Environment
•	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
•	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
•	<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
•	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
•	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
•	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
•	<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
•	<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
•	<b>VCCI</b>	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
•	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
•	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# CHAPTER 1

## DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

- 2018 General Development Context
- Key Development Challenges in 2018
- The UN Delivering as One in Viet Nam



## 2018 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Viet Nam has achieved or surpassed all of the economic growth and development targets set by the National Assembly in 2018. Viet Nam climbed 9 places on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index in 2018, ranking 57th out of 156 countries<sup>[1]</sup>, with progress made on all SDGs (see Chart 1). Viet Nam's position on the Human Development Index (HDI) ranks 116, near the uppermost end of the Medium Human Development Group<sup>[2]</sup>, with a realistic prospect of joining the High Human Development Group in the near future. The estimated multidimensional poverty rate was reduced to 6.8 per cent in 2018, a 1.1 per cent point decrease compared to 2017<sup>[3]</sup>. Viet Nam has also reaffirmed its commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs through strengthening the implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Development, as well as emphasizing SDG nationalization, mainstreaming SDGs into national plans and policies, and SDG monitoring and reporting. The country presented its first ever SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York on 16 July 2018.

In 2018, Viet Nam's economy saw its highest growth since 2008, with the annual GDP growth rate estimated by the Government of Viet Nam at 7.08 per cent, inflation contained at 3.5 per cent, a trade surplus of USD7.2 billion, an unemployment rate of 2 per cent, and an Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR) on a decreasing trend at 5.97<sup>[4]</sup>. Viet Nam's ratification of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in November 2018, as well as the finalization of the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) are important milestones for Viet Nam's further global integration with the world economy.

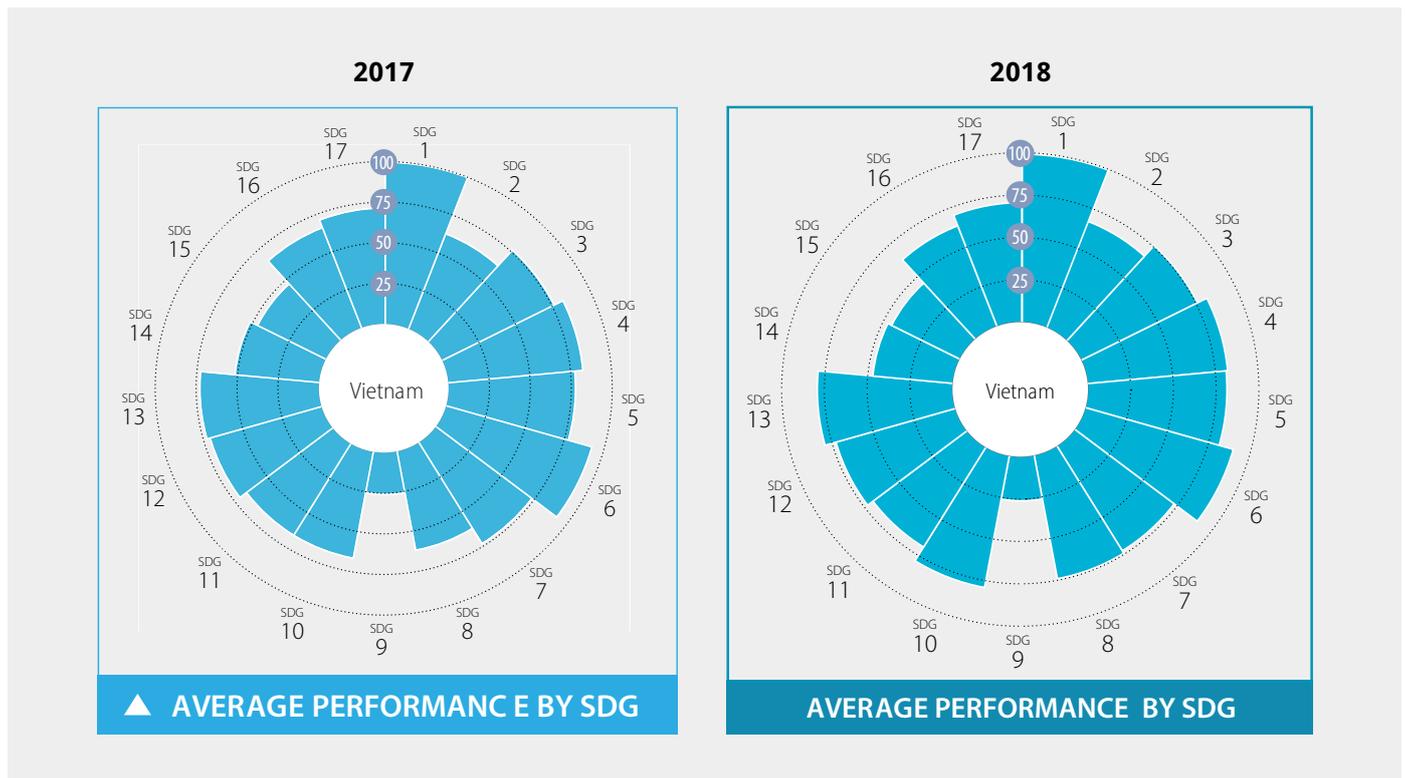
The Government of Viet Nam showed consistent support to the domestic private sector through important policies in 2018, reinforcing its position as an increasingly important driver of Viet Nam's economic growth. Such support included continued tax exemptions, the removal of significant business and investment impediments, support for start-up establishment and operation, and the provision of more favourable conditions for the operation of small and medium enterprises. Government leaders strongly fostered efforts to speed up the further development and implementation of e-governance processes, including the development of national databases, working toward an increasingly digital economy, and by encouraging smart industry in the context of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

Moreover, Viet Nam continued its strong commitment to international cooperation. Viet Nam will assume the chair of ASEAN in 2020. In May 2018, Viet Nam was nominated as the only candidate from the Asia-Pacific region for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 period, with voting to take place in the UN General Assembly in June 2019. Viet Nam was host to several important international events in 2018, including the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in September under the theme "ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth

Industrial Revolution" and the sixth Global Environment Fund (GEF) Assembly. Viet Nam also demonstrated its commitment to the global climate change agenda as the first country to host the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C. Viet Nam made impressive efforts to support UN global peacekeeping operations by contributing a Base 2 Level hospital with its largest contingent of personnel in October and by hosting together with the UN the International Conference on Enhancing Viet Nam's Capacity for UN Peacekeeping Operations. As one of the fastest-growing and dynamic economies in the world, Viet Nam also showed a new interest in South-South Cooperation, as a result of the UN's engagement.

2018 also witnessed an expansion of Viet Nam's social policies benefiting the poor and most vulnerable groups. National health insurance started covering one hundred per cent of health examination and treatment costs for the poor, as well as people receiving social assistance, and ethnic minority people in remote locations. The on-going Education Law revision now includes a proposal for full tuition exemption for 5-year old kindergarten children as well as for public lower-secondary pupils. Taking effect in 2018, the revised Penal Code includes criminal sanctions against corporate entities in addition to individuals, offering workers increased protection against illegal actions, such as unlawful dismissal. The National Action Plan for implementing the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development (MPSARD) was developed and expected to be launched in 2019, seeking to expand inclusive and equitable social care and social assistance systems to maximize the full potential of all citizens, while the Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR) with the vision to 2035, which seeks to establish universal coverage of social insurance, was endorsed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV).

In October 2018, the Secretary General of the CPV, Nguyen Phu Trong was elected State President, consolidating for the first time in 40 years those two positions. Viet Nam has also continued its anti-corruption campaign, which has prosecuted numerous cases of fraud against senior and other officials of the Government of Viet Nam, executives, and bankers connected to state-owned enterprises and major banks. The campaign has helped to reveal gaps in existing governance and legislative systems. In addition, the National Assembly promulgated the new Law on Cyber Security in June 2018, which is predicted to change significantly the landscape for free expression in social media. The CPV and the Government of Viet Nam also took action to establish a ten per cent reduction target for the civil servant personnel headcount by 2020 across all Government agencies, as well as streamlining the organizational apparatus by reducing the number of departments and leadership positions, with an expected reduction in public budget spending.



## KEY DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN 2018

Despite successes in socio-economic development and political stability, significant work remains in the areas of development quality and sustainability, as well as in overcoming inequality. Under performance is apparent for the specific SDG's related to Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Environment (SDGs 14 and 15) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) (see Chart 01).

Moreover, despite government priorities and dedicated policies for disadvantaged people and regions, there are multiple unresolved disparities between geographic regions and population groups. For example, multidimensional poverty rates in the Northern Mountains and Central Highlands regions are more than two times higher than the national average and many times higher for ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups such as children, women, older persons, migrants, and people with disabilities. The proportion of people without education certificates in ethnic minority groups is double that of the Kinh and Hoa ethnic groups. In addition, the gaps in income and expenditure between the ethnic minority and Kinh and Hoa people have widened over recent years<sup>[6]</sup>.

While Viet Nam has made remarkable progress in terms of social assistance and social insurance, moving from two independent policy axes towards one harmonized multi-tier system with universal coverage and higher benefit levels will require significant modifications to institutional

and legal frameworks and substantial additional resources.

Although labour productivity (GDP per hour worked) increased by almost 6 per cent between 2017 and 2018, the increase is largely due to increases in the labour force and employment, rather than to innovation<sup>[7]</sup>. In 2017, the latest year of available data, Viet Nam's labour productivity was equivalent the productivity of only 7.2 per cent of Singapore, 18.4 per cent of Malaysia, 36.2 per cent of Thailand, 43 per cent of Indonesia and 55 per cent of the Philippines, with gaps showing an increasing trend<sup>[8]</sup>. Strengthening the capability for innovation - key for enterprises to adapt IR4.0 technologies, enhancing productivity and competitiveness - requires a stronger enabling environment to accelerate the development of private enterprises.

Viet Nam's strong economic growth and low middle-income status will likely lead to the continuation of the current declining trend in grant Official Development Assistance (ODA) or lead to even sharper reductions in the coming years. Viet Nam is also facing recurrent expenditure pressures, an increase in government domestic borrowing with significant risks, and an increase in debt stock. This situation requires Viet Nam to design new innovative and integrated policy solutions to mobilize the appropriate scale and mix of domestic and international financial resources for financing the SDGs in Viet Nam. These solutions may involve the acceleration of private sector development, the shifting of emphasis of ODA and FDI from quantity to quality, the drive for

efficiency and effectiveness of public spending and investment, the improvement of revenue sustainability through tax base expansion, more efficient and effective tax collection, better management of state assets, the addressing of decentralization's fragmentation and coordination problems, the management of the smooth transition to ODA graduation, the prudent management of public debt, and the management of the interlinkages and fostering synergies of different financial resources, among other policies<sup>[9]</sup>.

While the CPV and the Government of Viet Nam's anti-corruption efforts may have resulted, to a certain extent, in increased trust by citizens and businesses, they have also led to a more constrained environment for innovative structural reforms within the Government and other entities. In 2018, the Government of Viet Nam also faced significant public opposition to the draft Law on Special Administrative and Economic Zones and the passing of the Law on Cyber Security, with public demonstrations and debate raising concerns about national security, freedom of expression, and shrinking civil society space.

The Government's efforts in reducing the number of civil servant personnel, as well as streamlining the Government of Viet Nam's organizational apparatus are expected to reduce public spending, address overstaffing, improve efficiency in inter-sectoral coordination, and reduce burdensome administrative procedures. These initiatives may also negatively affect social service delivery and lead to the interruption of work processes, with disproportionate impacts in poorer areas. These changes have also created some uncertainties and vacancies in certain governmental functions, causing delays in decision-making and approval.

Viet Nam remains one of 10 countries most affected by natural disasters and extreme weather events globally<sup>[10]</sup>. In 2018 alone, natural disasters led to 218 people dead or missing. Natural disasters have cost an annual average of 0.8 per cent of GDP between 1990 and 2016<sup>[11]</sup>; and it is estimated that Viet Nam could continue to lose between 1 and 1.5 per cent of GDP annually to natural disasters<sup>[12]</sup>.

While there is green growth momentum in Viet Nam, large investments are needed in renewable energy, energy efficiency and infrastructure. Currently, Viet Nam continues to trail other countries in renewable energy deployment. Despite potential financing opportunities for renewable energy from the private sector and declining investment costs of solar photovoltaics and wind power, uncertainties associated with the offered tariff structures and the low-credit worthiness of power purchase agreements continue to impede large-scale renewable energy development.

## THE UN DELIVERING AS ONE IN VIET NAM

Viet Nam is a flagship Delivering as One (DaO) country globally, now in its third generation DaO One Strategic Plan (OSP) for the period 2017-2021. The UN Country

Team (UNCT) continued efforts in 2018 to strengthen DaO results to ensure that Viet Nam remains at the forefront of the new UN Development System Reform. This resulted in progress on all six complimentary and mutually reinforcing pillars of DaO, including the One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Voice, One Set of Management Practices and One UN House.

The OSP 2017-2021 in Viet Nam, represents the programmatic and operational framework for delivering UN support to the Government and people of Viet Nam and establishes how the UN will deliver as one in support of national development priorities. 14 resident agencies, including FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UN Women and WHO and 4 non-resident agencies, including ITC, IAEA, UNCTAD and UNEP participate in the OSP 2017-2021. In addition, IFAD and OHCHR, which had not earlier participated in the OSP design are new active members of the UNCT. The OSP is built on the three principles of inclusion, equity and sustainability, and is well aligned with Viet Nam's Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2011-2020, its Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020, the SDGs, and Viet Nam's international human rights commitments and obligations. The OSP 2017-2021 has four focus areas, shaped by the five central themes of Agenda 2030 (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership), with nine related outcomes and with direct contributions to the 17 SDGs.

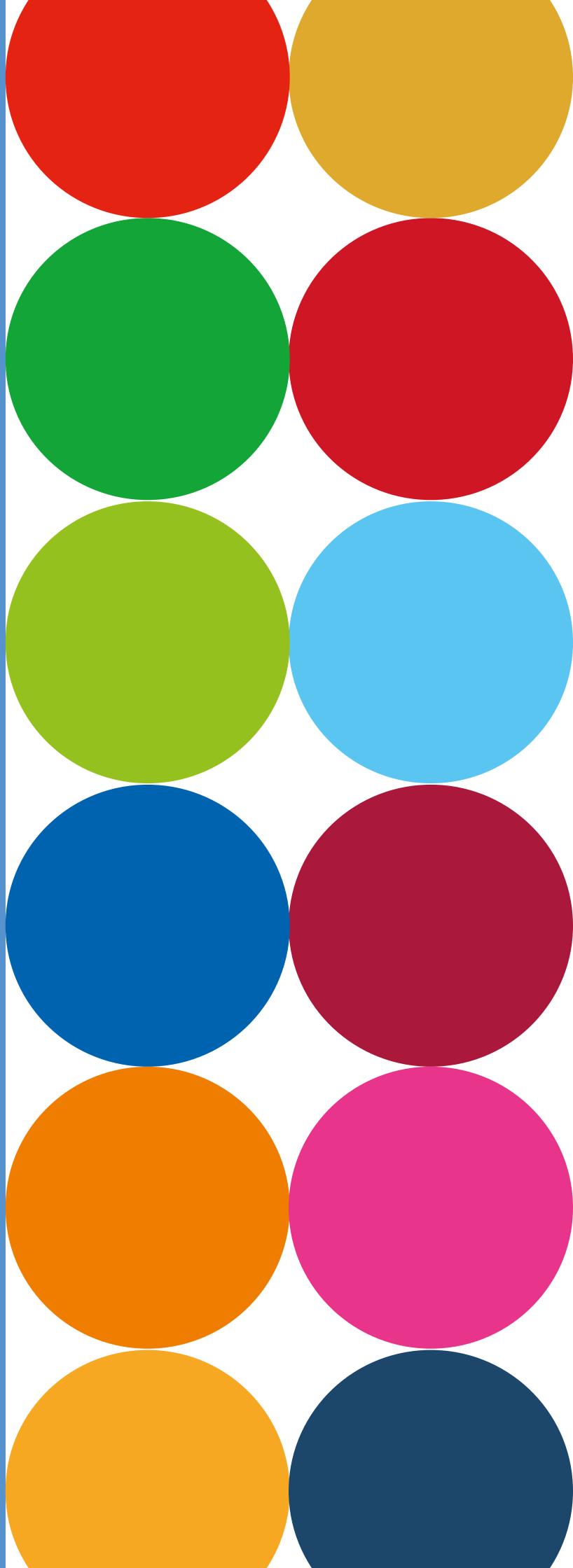
In 2018, OSP implementation was increasingly strengthened, with a significantly increased emphasis on identifying, developing, and carrying out joint UN programmes. The new UN internal coordination architecture was also fully operationalized in 2018 to facilitate joined up work. This was further complemented by the issuance of the UN Country Team Business Operation Strategy (BOS) for the period 2018-2021, its annual workplan, the full application of the new online platform UN Info, and the increased financial viability of the Green One UN House. Detailed DaO results are presented in Chapters 2, 3, and 4.



# CHAPTER 2

## ONE STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021 RESULTS IN 2018

- UN's Support for Accelerating the 2030 Agenda and SDGs' Achievements in Viet Nam
- Outcome 1.1 Poverty and Vulnerability Reduction
- Outcome 1.2 Equity in Health
- Outcome 1.3 Equity in Quality Education, Training and Learning
- Outcome 2.1 Low-carbon, Climate and Disaster Resilient Development
- Outcome 2.2 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment
- Outcome 3.1 New Economic Growth Model
- Outcome 3.2 Inclusive Labour Markets and Expansion of Opportunities for All
- Outcome 4.1 Participatory Decision-making and Responsive Institutions
- Outcome 4.2 Human Rights Protection, Rule of Law, and Strengthened Access to Justice



## UN'S SUPPORT FOR ACCELERATING THE 2030 AGENDA AND SDGS' ACHIEVEMENTS IN VIET NAM

Coherent and joint support to national priorities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda has been a key guiding principle of the UN's actions in Viet Nam. In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam continued to be a critical, trusted partner of the Government of Viet Nam, including by supporting the implementation of the National SDG Action Plan.

Likewise, the UN in Viet Nam enhanced SDG mainstreaming, integrating SDG goal and target marker systems into the 2019-2020 results group joint work plans within the UN Info system.

### **Viet Nam's 2018 Voluntary National Review and National SDG Report**

The UN in Viet Nam substantially contributed to the development of Viet Nam's first VNR in 2018 with the following concrete results:

**One UN key messages:** The UN identified key evidence-based messages and bottlenecks, while suggesting solutions to the Government of Viet Nam on specific SDG-related issues for highlighting in the VNR. These were used by the Government of Viet Nam VNR drafting team to facilitate further consultations with stakeholders including development partners, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

The UN was consulted by the Government of Viet Nam on all VNR draft versions. The UN Data for Development Working Group (DfDWG) led by UNFPA provided consolidated SDG-related data and reports to the VNR development team. The UN also helped the Government of Viet Nam to gather voices of grassroots stakeholders through: (i) UNDP's consultations with Hmong ethnic women, Youth Survey, ASEAN My World Survey, Youth SDG Hub, and the Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI); (ii) UNICEF's initiatives on UPSHIFT and U-Report platforms; and (iii) UN Women-supported dialogues with women's groups and gender advocates.

**SDG capacity building:** The UN provided experts who delivered SDG and VNR introductions for various trainings organized by the Ministry for Planning and Investment (MPI) and the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) to the VNR drafting team, CSOs, and other stakeholders. Likewise, the UNCT cooperated with UNESCAP to organize a training on "SDG integration and stakeholder engagement" to improve these features in VNR development.

**Support to Viet Nam's participation in the 2018 HLPF and VNR launch in Viet Nam:** The UN was deeply engaged in VNR editing and translation, as well as in the preparation of key VNR messages, Viet Nam's speech and slide presentation, and the production of a video segment. Through this participation, the UN was afforded the opportunity to effectively disseminate key One UN messages. The UN

Resident Coordinator directly supported these efforts by accompanying the Vietnamese delegation to the HLPF and by co-chairing the VNR launch in Viet Nam. He was also featured in the video presented at the VNR in New York.

Concurrent to its support of the VNR, the UN in Viet Nam provided analytical assessment of progress towards achievement of the SDGs, examining policy and financing factors contributing to or hampering success and supporting the preparation of Viet Nam's first national SDG report (to be issued by Viet Nam in mid-2019). In addition, UNDP and UNDESA provided proposals for the processes and principles to integrate the SDGs into the 2021-2023 Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) and 2021-2035 Socio-Economic Development Plans (SEDP).

### **Nationalization of SDG Indicators and Support to Data Development**

The UN in Viet Nam, with support from the DfDWG, worked on the overall statistical development for SDG monitoring and reporting, particularly on SDG indicator nationalization.

The UN commented on different versions of Viet Nam's SDG (VSDG) indicators based on UN agency mandates and working areas of expertise. Specifically, ILO provided support to SDG 8 indicator localization, the Rapid Impact Assessment on VSDG indicator issuance, and the application of new statistical standards on labour and employment. UNFPA focused on nationalizing ICPD-related indicators for SDG 3, 5, 16, 17 and mainstreaming SDG indicators into the Population Census and the National Violence against Women and Girls Survey. UNFPA also led the UN effort to contribute comments to the National Statistical Indicators on Youth Development (NSIYD) which was approved in September 2018 by the Ministry of Home Affairs as the tool for monitoring youth-related SDGs. UNDP supported the development of VSDG 1, 6, 7, and 16 indicators, while UNICEF worked on the inclusion and standardization of 55 child-related SDG indicators of VSDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 16 and the development of Viet Nam's Children Indicator System for monitoring child rights realisation in the SDG context. UN Women provided the Government of Viet Nam with baseline data and data gaps for gender-related SDG monitoring and acceleration, and advocated for the urgency to improve gender statistics production and use. FAO supported the compilation of SDG indicator 2.1.2 and food consumption indicators. 158 VSDG indicators will be launched by January 2019.

Furthermore, the UN assisted in the development of a VSDG indicators implementation roadmap to ensure international comparability, sufficient disaggregation, feasibility and relevance to the nationalized VSDG targets and country context.

Since the current national statistical system largely depends on routine administrative reporting systems and surveys, the use of non-governmental data has been limited and is not facilitated by the current statistical legal frameworks. The UN strongly advocated and supported

the use of non-governmental data sources, for example PAPI and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), for national SDG monitoring and reporting. As a result, various non-governmental data sources were used in the VNR and quoted in the draft VSDG indicator framework. The UN also encouraged and supported new and innovative approaches to information and communications technology (ICT) applications. The UNDP-supported Youth SDG Hub (a platform for youth groups involved in SDG work) is an example of a tool that assists individuals and organizations to develop ideas and connect to ensure a cohesive and strong SDG community. WHO supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) in developing an SDG dashboard to monitor health and equity issues. UNDESA together with UNDP also supported the development of an integrated forecasting model for making integrated policies to support the SDG implementation.

The UNCT in Viet Nam maintained close cooperation with the UNSD, UNESCAP, as well as the Regional Coordination Mechanism in the Asia and Pacific (AP RCM) to support the Government of Viet Nam in the VSDG indicator nationalization and SDG data development. Notably, the UNCT-AP RCM Technical Working Group on Statistics collaboration on SDG data was set up as a result of the initiative of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNCT to facilitate coordinated and harmonized One UN support to Viet Nam, in line with UN Development System (UNDS) reform.

**National Roadmap for SDG Implementation**

Following the issuance of the National SDG Action Plan in July 2017, the Government of Viet Nam has been developing a phased roadmap for SDG implementation by 2030 with substantive support from the UN, particularly UNDP, UNICEF and ILO. The roadmap, which further disaggregates the VSDGs with 2020 and 2025 targets, is the basis for setting concrete national development targets in 5-year and annual SEDPs.

**UN Partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Vietnamese National Assembly (NA)**

The UN, with the support of the UN Programme Management Team (PMT), also actively coordinated with the IPU and the NA to promote participation and strengthened roles of the NA and other elected bodies for SDG oversight and planning through the introduction of an SDG self-assessment toolkit produced globally by UNDP and IPU and by organizing a high-level “Conference on the NA and the SDGs”, with financial support from UNICEF and the IPU, where the UN Resident Coordinator delivered an opening speech together with the NA President, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the SDGs, and the IPU Secretary General, emphasizing the important role of the NA in fostering SDG implementation. With the participation of about 200 participants, including seven NA chairpersons, six NA Vice Chairpersons, six standing members from different committees of the NA, and about 70 members of the parliament based in all 63 provinces, the conference resulted in the NA’s strong commitment

to applying the toolkit and conducting self-assessment by the NA in 2019. In close coordination with this, UNICEF also supported NA and MPI participation in the High-level Parliamentary Conference on SDG Evaluation in Sri Lanka in September 2018.

**SDG Mainstreaming in the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) and Socio-Economic Development Plans (SEDPs)**

The UN has been actively advocating for the integration of the SDGs, for example through the inclusion of their associated targets and indicators into the SEDS and SEDPs to ensure full SDG implementation and the allocation of sufficient financial resources.

In 2018, Viet Nam started developing the next 10-year SEDS (2021-2030) and will build the next five-year SEDP (2021-2025) during 2019. The UN, particularly UNDP, UNDESA, UNICEF and the DfDWG, proactively worked with MPI to draft two frameworks and a research report on mainstreaming the SDGs, including child-sensitive SDGs, into the SEDS and SEDPs, with the first drafts shared with MPI by the end of 2018. In addition, UNICEF and UNESCO supported the development of the SDG action plan of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), as well as SDG mainstreaming in provincial Departments of Education and Training plans.

The UNDP Development Finance Assessment for Viet Nam provided an assessment of challenges and recommended directions in financing the achievements of SDGs. This, together with the UNDP ODA study, contributed to the Government of Viet Nam’s efforts in re-strategizing Viet Nam’s development financial resources, especially public resources and ODA.

**Working with Development Partners, CSOs and the Private Sector**

An inclusive partnership approach was consistently taken. The SDG Technical Working Group provided resource personnel for several awareness-raising events hosted by CSOs. UN staff, including from UNDP and UNICEF, participated as facilitators at a well-attended event hosted by the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Improvement (NCSDCI) to introduce practical tools and standards for engaging with the private sector on SDG implementation. The UNCT has been jointly exploring opportunities to be a key partner of the Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development and the NCSDCI, for further outreach to Viet Nam’s high-level leaders and the private sector.

# OUTCOME 1.1 POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY REDUCTION

**BY 2021, ALL PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND POVERTY REDUCTION SERVICES, WHICH WILL REDUCE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY AND VULNERABILITIES**

## CONTEXT

In 2018, Viet Nam continued to show strong momentum on multidimensional poverty reduction and social protection.

Through concerted implementation of the two National Targeted Programmes (NTPs) on Sustainable Poverty Reduction and New Rural Development, together with providing regular and emergency support to the poor and most vulnerable people, the Government of Viet Nam was able to reduce the multidimensional poverty rate to about 6.8 per cent in 2018, a reduction of 1.1 per cent from 2017<sup>[13]</sup>, and maintain progress toward the Government of Viet Nam's poverty reduction targets for 2016-2020. The long-term sustainability of poverty reduction achievements is an ongoing challenge, with the proportion of households falling back into poverty accounting for 5.1 per cent of the total and the proportion of new households in poverty remaining at about 23 per cent of the total for 2018. Significant gaps remain among population groups and geographic areas with chronic as well as newly emerging forms of multidimensional poverty which require innovative and integrated solutions<sup>[14]</sup>.

In the context of an aging-population country which is seriously affected by climate change, the Government placed high priority on the reform of the two important pillars of the social protection system, respectively, social assistance and social insurance. Following the Prime Minister's issuance of the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development (2017-2025) and Vision to 2030 (MPSARD) in April 2017, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) has been drafting an Action Plan providing a clear roadmap for MPSARD implementation and expects to launch this in 2019. In May 2018, the Central Committee of the CPV endorsed a resolution on MPSIR by 2035 consisting of major initiatives to achieve universal

coverage and increased benefits from the social insurance system.

At the same time, Viet Nam is implementing important international treaties, instruments and frameworks recognizing the rights to an adequate standard of living and social protection, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation 2012 (No. 202) and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

## OUTCOME 1.1 KEY RESULTS

The UN in Viet Nam continued efforts in supporting Viet Nam to develop an expanded, more inclusive and equitable social protection system based on a lifecycle approach and universal floor coverage. With UN technical support led by ILO, the CPV's Central Committee endorsed the MPSIR with the vision to 2035 under Resolution 28-NQ/TW, introducing major reforms including a multi-tiered social insurance system, creating flexibility in minimum contribution requirements for pension entitlements, increasing the retirement age effective 2021 and narrowing the gender disparity in retirement age, and expanding social insurance to the informal sector. Resolution 28-NQ/TW also establishes the goal of universal coverage for social insurance, aligning Viet Nam with key international normative references such as the right to social security in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation 2012 (No. 202), and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Concurrently in 2018, the UN in Viet Nam actively supported the preparation of the MOLISA Action Plan for implementing the MPSARD, calling for UN support on various fronts, including raising awareness with decision-makers and the wider public on the benefits of the social protection system to build consensus for

reforms and increasing the efficiency of existing and new social protection schemes. The UN in Viet Nam made also efforts to support the strengthening of shock responsive social protection systems. Within the MPSARD framework, UNICEF supported a study identifying gaps, key challenges and potential improvements to the existing social protection system to ensure effective delivery of assistance during emergency situations and supporting the post-disaster resilience of families and children.

The UN in Viet Nam significantly contributed to the Government of Viet Nam's endorsement of Decree 143/ND-CP of 15th October 2018, extending social protection benefits to migrant workers. This decree will promote the principles of equality of treatment between nationals and non-nationals in terms of coverage and entitlement to social security benefits, in alignment with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990) even though the Convention has not been ratified by Viet Nam. This development is an important and necessary condition for Viet Nam to further engage in bilateral and multilateral social security agreements with other countries to protect the rights of Vietnamese migrant workers.

The efforts made by the UN in Viet Nam in supporting the development of a comprehensive and gender-responsive Social Protection Capacity Building Programme were rewarded by the Government of Viet Nam's adoption of Resolution 28-NQ/TW on the Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform in 2018 for implementation in 2019. The training programme successfully incorporated a life-cycle approach and universal floor coverage, targeting policy makers at the National Assembly, technical staff from line ministries, and local practitioners, is extremely relevant when considered together with the recent issuances of the MPSARD and MPSIR.

The UN in Viet Nam also enhanced capacity for the monitoring of National Targeted Programmes (NTPs), as well as national policies with a stronger focus on addressing multi-dimensional poverty, especially among ethnic minority women, men and children, older people and migrant workers. An unprecedented report providing an overview of multidimensional poverty in Viet Nam was produced by UNDP in 2018 in partnership with government agencies, public and private research institutes, and development partners. UNICEF also published a study on multidimensional child poverty (MDCP) in Viet Nam, comparing the MDCP methodology with Viet Nam's existing multidimensional poverty methodology to highlight limitations of the current approach and recommendations for the development of national standards on MDCP for SDG 1 monitoring. In addition, UNICEF also supported a quality analysis report on multidimensional child poverty highlighting the changing nature of multidimensional child poverty and gaps in existing policies in addressing poverty among children. The reports provide a comprehensive analysis of disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minorities and people with disabilities and serve as significant reference sources, providing inputs to policies and processes,

including: (i) the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the National Targeted Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTPSPR); (ii) the national VNR Report on SDG 1; (iii) Viet Nam's Ten Years Socio-Development Strategy (2021-2030); (iv) the Five Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025); and (vi) further policy discussion by the Government of Viet Nam and the National Assembly on sustainable poverty reduction after 2020. Various results were also achieved at provincial level thanks to the UN's supports. Notably, with support from UNDP, Ho Chi Minh City designed and implemented multidimensional poverty reduction policies and programmes which resulted in significant decreases in vocational skills deprivation and job deprivation which reduced from 53,000 in 2016 to 12,000 in 2018 and from 21,000 in 2016 to 1,200 in 2018, respectively.

UN support on multidimensional poverty reduction also targeted specific population groups. Ethnic minority women's groups in Bac Kan province, with UNDP support in introducing sustainable approaches to poverty reduction and local socio-economic development, were connected to value chain partners to mobilize financial and technical support from both the private and public sectors for their business development. UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO in coordination with other development partners and CSOs also conducted evidence-based advocacy on the multi-dimensional needs of youth.

The UN Adolescents and Youth Thematic Group led by UNFPA, with IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UN Women, UNV and WHO participation, engaged in advocacy for rights-based and evidence-based approaches, inclusiveness, gender equality, gender-based violence, and the rights of vulnerable youth groups. The thematic group facilitated the establishment of and provided capacity building for the Youth Advisory Group to promote full and meaningful participation of young people in the entire process of the Youth Law revision, leading to a dialogue with the drafting team of the Youth Law revision and consultation forums on the Youth Law with elected members. These efforts resulted in the inclusion of specific policies supporting vulnerable young people in the draft of the revised Youth Law which will be submitted to the National Assembly in May 2019. In addition, in collaboration with the National Assembly and the Institute for Legislative Studies, UNICEF supported a study on the implications of changing the national definition of a "child" to include all those under 18 years, in line with international human rights standards, including the collection of the views of children aged 16-17 and other stakeholders such as parents, local authorities, NA members and government officials. Findings of this study, expected to be available in 2019, will be used to advocate for reforms of the Youth Law.

Regarding social services for migrants, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to provide modern family planning information and counselling to 117,563 migrants (of whom 90,775 were women and girls) and modern contraceptives to 24,416 young unmarried migrant workers (of whom 21,923 are women and girls) through public and private

service providers. UN Women used data and evidence to advocate for better gender responsive policies to address gender inequality in ethnic minority groups in Viet Nam. A policy brief on ethnic minority women in Viet Nam with specific recommendations was developed by Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) and UN Women to highlight the intersectional unequal situation of ethnic minority women in health, education and employment issues. UN Women also supported capacity development on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) for 60 staff from CEMA's Department of Ethnic Minority Affairs to effectively implement the National Targeted Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

## VIET NAM'S SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Viet Nam is one of the fastest aging societies in the world. Rising longevity and declining fertility have combined to swell the number of older persons needing care and reduce the number of workers supporting them. While in 2015 there were about six working-age adults for one older person above 60 years, in 2055 it will only be two working-age adults per older person. This means that tomorrow's so-called "sandwich generation"<sup>[15]</sup> will face an increased burden of caring for three generations. In the absence of pensions, the responsibilities of society are also heavier. Ensuring universal protection in old-age is hence not only beneficial for older persons, but also for families.

Currently the coverage of social insurance in Viet Nam is merely 27% of the labour force. By 2030 the number of people above 65 with a contributory pension is projected to be less than two million leaving around ten million without a pension.

In May 2018, Resolution 28-NQ/TW on MPSIR was approved, representing a breakthrough on social policy in Viet Nam. MPSIR brings Viet Nam closer to the most advanced economies in the world in regard to social security policies, particularly through its focus on comprehensive and integrated approaches to address contemporary social security challenges. ILO contributed to shaping the MPSIR by assessing the current social security system,

recommending possible options for the reform through technical papers, and supporting policy dialogues with workers, employers and other stakeholders.

The resolution also established the goal of universal social protection coverage, aligning Viet Nam's policies with international commitments and obligations such as the right to social security in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the ILO Recommendation on Social Protection Floors (R202) and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The decision to reach universal coverage through both contributory (social insurance) and non-contributory (tax funded) benefit sets Viet Nam on a similar path to neighbouring countries with universal coverage such as Japan, South Korea, China or Thailand.

Proposed incremental reforms such as the gradual increase in retirement age, equalizing the qualifying ages for men and women for retirement age and old-age benefits, and aligning replacement rates to international levels will all contribute to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the system. These are essential elements of the reform to guarantee that the system respects and furthers the rights being acquired today.

<sup>[15]</sup> Working-age population that is "sandwiched" between caring both for their children and for their parents.

# OUTCOME 1.2 EQUITY IN HEALTH

**BY 2021, ALL PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE MOST VULNERABLE, BENEFIT FROM INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS, SERVICES AND THE PROMOTION OF HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS**

## CONTEXT

Viet Nam further advanced its achievements in the health sector in 2018, as reflected in improvements of the key health outcome indicators: life expectancy, child malnutrition, child mortality, and new HIV infections. However, these improvements are not significant over the recent years (see Table 01).

In 2018, health insurance coverage reached 86.9 per cent and all children under 6 were granted free health care cards<sup>[16]</sup>. The Government of Viet Nam issued action plans to expand health insurance coverage and increase the levels of benefits through government subsidies for children, pregnant women, and poor and vulnerable people. However, national health insurance schemes still do not pay for preventive medical services, resulting in limited access to quality health care services and a relatively high risk of financial hardship for most vulnerable people,

particularly for people living in poverty, children, and women. There are also unresolved coordination issues in health insurance governance, causing overlaps and inefficiencies.

While strengthening Early Essential New-born Care and Kangaroo Mother Care in coverage and quality is highly correlated with the reduction of new-born morbidity and mortality<sup>[17]</sup>, the fact that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now account for more than 70 per cent of the causes of death<sup>[18]</sup> and the increase of the proportion of indirect causes of maternal mortality since 2010 require linking maternal and NCD programmes to further reduce maternal deaths.

In addition to an improvement in health insurance policies, 2018 saw progress in accelerating, revising, adopting and discussing several important health and health-related policies. These include the accelerated

TABLE 01 | **OSP OUTCOME 1.2 KEY INDICATORS**

	2016	2017	2018
Prevalence of Stunting (%)	24.6	23.8	
Prevalence of Underweight (%)	13.8	13.4	
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	54 (2015)		
Under-Five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	21.8	21.55	21.38
Under-One Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	14.50	14.35	14.24
Life expectancy (year)	73.4	73.5	73.5
Newly Identified HIV Cases	11,000	9,920	7,500 (9 months)

implementation of the Central Party Resolution No. 20-NQ/TW on the Protection, Care and Improvement of People’s Health in the New Situation and the Prime Minister’s Decision No. 2348/QD-TTg on Approving the Scheme for establishment and development of grassroots health facilities in the new situation, the revision of the Law on Disease Prevention, the new development of the Law on Harmful Use of Alcohol, and the preparatory discussions for revising the Law on Health Insurance, Law on Examination and Treatment, Population Law and Law on Preventive Medicines. The National Action Plan on Healthy Viet Nam was also approved by the Government of Viet Nam in 2018 to help promote healthy behaviour. Efforts were made to raise awareness and support the general public and policymakers on the Law on Harmful Use of Alcohol through the first hearing conducted at a National Assembly meeting in November 2018. MOH also issued a new circular on water quality standards, marking a turning point for the water supply sector to better protect public health by improving risk management. The National Action Plan on cervical cancer 2016-2025 was approved, however, implementation is limited due to a lack of national budget funding and appropriate provincial funding mechanisms.

The number of new HIV infections was estimated to decrease to 11,000 cases in 2016 and to about 10,000 cases in 2017 and 2018 country-wide. Statistics display regional variations of the rate of new infections with increasing proportions of infections among some populations, such as men who have sex with men and partners of key populations at higher risk of HIV infections<sup>[19]</sup>. There is strong political commitment on HIV, which needs to be further consolidated with the ongoing integration of HIV into the general health system structure. While sustainability remains a high priority for the national HIV programme, including transitioning of anti-retroviral medicines to social health insurance funding, it is challenged by stretching capacities in the ongoing health system transition and the accelerated plan to meet the 2020 targets.

**OUTCOME 1.2 KEY RESULTS**

The UN in Viet Nam provided support to building a strong and resilient health system in 2018 through: (i) strengthening core capacities on public health emergencies; (ii) extensive work to support improvements in the promotion and financing of primary health care as a key driver for universal health coverage; (iii) support to improve the National Regulatory Authority for medicines and vaccines; (iv) supporting the GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance) transition plan and other support to further immunizations; (v) supporting the introduction of a national license exam for doctors; (vi) supporting the establishment of competency-based curricula at health training institutions; (vii) supporting the development of Viet Nam’s Population Law; and (viii) advocacy and technical assistance on the Law on the Harmful Use of Alcohol as well as the signing of the National integrated early childhood development (IECD) Scheme.

The UN in Viet Nam, including UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA, and UNICEF also advocated for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) Country Coordinating Mechanism on effective Global Fund grant implementation and response to emerging risks, and ensured the sustained funding for the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Country Operational Plan.

Concerning **HIV/AIDS**, the UN in Viet Nam made substantive progress, inter alia, through the One UN HIV Thematic Group, led by UNAIDS, including through: (i) jointly supporting pilots, technical guidance and training resulting in more available options for HIV testing; (ii) financial and technical support for policy dialogues and development and approval of key policies; (iii) support to the generation of new strategic evidence and analysis to address gaps in knowledge on the epidemic and to ensure a well prioritized response and appropriate investments for targeted impacts and ending AIDS by 2030; (iv) contributing to sustaining and expanding combination HIV prevention, including technical guidance and advocacy support for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) pilot interventions and policy, Methadone Maintenance Treatment, managing ATS use, and prevention gap analysis; (v) support to adoption of the Plan for the Triple Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B; (vi) support to expanded HIV treatment access through the progressive transition from external funding to Social Health Insurance; (vii) advocacy for and guiding training sessions on the MOH Directive on stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings; (viii) working to improve awareness and knowledge on human rights and gender equality among key HIV affected populations and to enhance their meaningful participation in policy dialogues and human rights reporting processes; (ix) support to the coordinated approaches to Emerging Infectious Diseases; and (x) political advocacy and joint UN communications to sustain Viet Nam’s commitment towards meeting its national and UN HIV targets by 2020 and 2030.

On **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**, the UN in Viet Nam, including UNICEF and WHO, supported: (i) the Government of Viet Nam and WASH Partners to develop the National and Provincial Action Plan of Open Defecation Free (ODF); (ii) promotion of the use of WASH inclusive standards in schools; and (iii) advocacy for the implementation of the National Program of Water Safety.

On **sexual and reproductive health**, the UN in Viet Nam, led by UNFPA, supported: (i) the development of the draft national guidelines on cervical cancer prevention including HPV vaccination for adolescent girls; (ii) early screening for women aged 35-50 in the reproductive health care system; (iii) the development of a framework and outline of a National Action Plan on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health for the period 2018-2025; (iv) the organization of the 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights; (v) the improvement of the healthcare system to provide quality early essential new-born care services (EENC); (vi) the provision of modern family planning information and

counselling, and modern contraceptive supporting methods; and (vii) strengthening Kangaroo Mother Care for pre-term and low-birthweight new-borns.

In terms of **animal health**, the UN in Viet Nam, including FAO and WHO: (i) supported quality assurance and proficiency testing for animal diseases diagnostic in laboratory systems; (ii) supplied necessary equipment for Regional Animal Health Offices (RAHO); (iii) conducted potency tests of Chinese bivalent H5/H7 vaccine under Vietnamese field conditions to enable better decisions on vaccine licensing; and (iv) supported implementation and assessment of Circular 16 in four provinces, aiming to facilitate collaboration between the animal and health sectors to address zoonotic diseases, which can cause public health emergencies.

On **nutrition**, the UN in Viet Nam supported the launch of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in Viet Nam and the issuance of the CPV's Resolution and the Prime Minister's Directive on Strengthening Nutrition. With the UN support, the Government of Viet Nam was successful in institutionalizing the quality of care criteria for nutrition as part of the Vietnamese Hospital Quality Assessment Criteria.

In terms of **surveillance and data collection**, the UN in Viet Nam: (i) supported the collection and analysis of evidence to inform the health inequity and vulnerabilities of people in different socio-economic groups and geographic areas through support of SDG and UHC monitoring; (ii) expanded efforts in AMR surveillance to more hospitals for future reporting to the WHO's Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System; (iii) supported strengthening of animal health surveillance capacity, animal health Information systems and cross-border collaboration for risk management and mitigation; (iv) initiated IECD data monitoring and reporting mechanisms through advocacy and planning for mobile IECD (MIECD) at national and provincial level; (v) supported qualitative data collection on the feasibility of using provincial funding for rolling out the HPV vaccination programme in five provinces and a national C-section study at public and private hospitals; and (vi) supported the development and revision of maternal and neonatal reporting and recording forms, and cervical cancer prevention and treatment indicators.

## RAISING AWARENESS ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE FOR BETTER HEALTH IN VIET NAM

Since their discovery, antibiotics have served as the cornerstone of modern medicine. However, the persistent overuse and misuse of antibiotics for humans and animals have encouraged the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance (AMR), which occurs when microbes, such as bacteria, become resistant to the drugs that are used to treat them.

Viet Nam confirmed its strong commitment to the global initiative to combat antibiotic resistance with the fourth World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) from 12 to 18 November 2018. The National Steering Committee for Antibiotic Resistance joined forces with WHO, FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and other One Health partners to call on doctors, pharmacists, health workers, farmers, veterinarians, the food and agriculture industry, academia and the general public to "Handle Antibiotics with Care".

To step up efforts to educate future doctors, pharmacists, veterinarians and health care workers on AMR, a series of workshops at several universities were organized 13-17 November.

"Participating in the WAAW is a very useful experience to me, I am better aware of the AMR risk at animal-human interface and I am now feeling more confident to pass the message on AMR and responsible use of antibiotics to farmers in Viet Nam" said Ms. Nguyen Tuyet Trinh, a

Veterinary student at Nong Lam University of Agriculture and Forestry.

"We recognize that the fight against antibiotic resistance is everyone's business. The important work, however, does not stop after the WAAW. Addressing AMR is a priority in Viet Nam. With partners, we will continue to accelerate our efforts until everyone not only stops overusing and misusing antibiotics, but also is informed enough to help us spread the word," said Dr Nguyen Viet Tien, Vice-Minister of Health and Chair of the National Steering Committee for Antibiotic Resistance in Viet Nam.

"Viet Nam is one of the few countries in the Region with bolstered mechanisms in place to manage AMR. The implementation of its national action plan has legislative and political backing. The harmonious working relationships among involved sectors catalyzes progress on the AMR battle front," jointly stated Dr. Kidong Park, WHO Representative in Viet Nam, and Dr. Albert Lieberg, FAO Representative in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam is set to review its National Action Plan on AMR 2013-2020, with discussions on the development of the next action plan underway among leaders of the MOH and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and with ongoing support from WHO, FAO, OIE and other development partners.





HIV screening test done by and for the community  
Photo: UNAIDS

## A NEW VIETNAMESE GENERATION FREE OF HIV, HEPATITIS B AND SYPHILIS IS ON THE WAY

In 2018, Viet Nam reached new milestones towards the end of AIDS as a public health threat, with national plans for a new Vietnamese generation that is free of HIV, Hepatitis B and Syphilis and expanded HIV testing and prevention services, two key results of the UN HIV Thematic Group's<sup>[20]</sup> joint advocacy and technical and financial support. This will bring people-centered and proven effective interventions to people at risk of HIV, especially pregnant mothers living with HIV, Hepatitis B or Syphilis and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM).

Viet Nam joined the few countries with a National Plan for the Triple Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B and Syphilis for 2018-2030. *"In the past few years, the health sector has implemented various highly effective interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, leading to significant reduction of HIV transmission with benefits for families and society"* explained Dr. Nguyen Duc Vinh, Director of Maternal and Child Health Department, Ministry of Health. However, many needs remain unmet. The new integrated approach for Triple disease Elimination will allow more pregnant mothers and fathers to timely protect their child. He further shared that *"the health sector will promote continuous care and universal healthcare coverage, including defining essential intervention packages and ensuring access to them when needed, and ensuring the sustainability of the mother-to-child transmission programme through enhanced coordination, integration and service delivery...We highly appreciated the sound technical and financial support from UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS to help*

*us develop this National Action Plan and I look forward to receiving further support from the UN and relevant partners"*.

HIV testing options, including self-testing, community-based testing and testing in closed settings were expanded for other key populations at risk of HIV, with joint UN support by WHO, UNAIDS and UNODC. In addition, UN and other partner support contributed to the adoption of a National Action Plan for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a new HIV prevention intervention especially effective for MSM, a group with increasing HIV prevalence rate in Viet Nam (currently 12 per cent). As Dr. Phan Thi Thu Huong, Deputy Director General of the Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS Control at MOH summarized, *"Innovative approaches recommended by WHO including community-based testing and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis were piloted in Viet Nam, with strong collaboration between MOH, community-based organizations and UN agencies. Evidence generated from these pilots showed that community-based testing is feasible and can effectively reach undiagnosed key populations. There was also evidence of high demand for PrEP and willingness to pay among key populations especially MSM. These findings informed the development of national policy and guidelines. Continued UN support is needed for scale-up of these high impact interventions to achieve the UN targets and reduce new infections among key populations. The Government of Viet Nam remains committed to achieving the UN 90-90-90 targets<sup>[21]</sup> and ending AIDS by 2030."* As a result, Viet Nam already moved from an initial pilot of 200 clients on PrEP to over 1,300 by the end of 2018, with goals of 5,600 PrEP clients in key provinces by 2019 and 7,500 by 2020.

# OUTCOME 1.3

## EQUITY IN QUALITY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LEARNING

BY 2021, ALL PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE MOST VULNERABLE, BENEFIT FROM INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEMS, SERVICES AND EXPANDED LIFE-LONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### CONTEXT

Education is defined as the top national priority, with the proportion of government spending dedicated to education and training constantly kept at about 20 per cent<sup>[22]</sup>. A number of policies and strategies support educational development in Viet Nam, including inter alia, the Education Development Strategic Plan 2011-2020, TVET Development Strategy 2011-2020, Viet Nam Human Resources Development Strategy 2011-2020, and the Framework on Building a Learning Society for the period 2012-2020. In addition, MOET developed the Action Plan of SDG 4 by 2025 and Orientation to 2030 in June 2017, as a follow-up to the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in May 2017.

Viet Nam is currently reviewing and revising the Law on Education and the Law on Higher Education. MOET will also start the process of developing a new 10-year education development strategy 2021-2030 in 2019.

The Government of Viet Nam's strong commitment and long-standing cultural and social support for the improvement of the education sector has led to significant progress in recent years. In the 2016-2017 school year, the net enrolment rates (NERs) for primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary school were 99 per cent, 92.5 per cent, and 63.3 respectively, while the adult literacy rates of men and women were estimated to be 96.6 per cent and 93.5 per cent respectively in 2016<sup>[23]</sup>. Vietnamese students also recorded an outstanding performance in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2012 and 2015.

However, there are still a lot of challenges, as were

described in the Viet Nam One UN Results Report 2017. The country faces challenges in ensuring equity and inclusion in education, especially as the most vulnerable groups of the population fall behind in terms of enrolment and learning outcomes, including ethnic minority children, children living in remote areas, migrant children and children with disabilities. Gender issues in the education sector, such as school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) and gender inequality in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, are growing concerns. Additional concerns have been raised on the low productivity of the Vietnamese workforce due to a shortage of workers equipped with proper professional skills. Furthermore, education management capacities will need to be improved to effectively and efficiently implement education policies. The quality of teachers is inconsistent, with lower qualifications for teachers working in remote ethnic minority areas. An overarching concern is a lack of systematically disaggregated data collection and analysis which hinder better targeting for improved equity in access to education. A more evidence-based and comprehensive understanding of disparities is needed to ensure equality in education for all.

### OUTCOME 1.3 RESULTS

Following MOET's issuance of the SDG 4 Action Plan in June 2017, the UN (particularly UNICEF and UNESCO) together with other development partners continued supporting the SDG 4 Action Plan's dissemination throughout the country through dissemination workshops in Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City in 2018. Over 120 senior education officials (42 per cent female) enhanced their understanding of SDG 4 targets and key priorities to close various gaps and disparities in the education sector. In addition, with UN support MOET developed the Action Plan on Education

for Persons with Disabilities 2018-2020, which was issued in 2018.

UNICEF and UNESCO prepared and shared joint recommendations on the 2018 revision of the Law on Education with MOET and the Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children (CEYC) of the National Assembly. These recommendations were also shared at a pre-National Assembly session organized by the UNICEF, in collaboration with UNESCO, on children's rights and the Law on Education in September 2018. The pre-session brought together a delegation of children and young people, disability advocates, and disabled people's organizations to share their views with key parliamentary decision-makers about the gaps in children's rights to education and to reach consensus on areas for reform. These combined efforts have led to strong momentum for inclusive education, including political support for a proposal on removing tuition for pre-school 5-year old children and lower secondary education in the latest version of the draft Law on Education.

UNESCO in collaboration with other UN agencies and partners has continued a dialogue with MOET and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat about how to strengthen Viet Nam's education sector planning and monitoring mechanism, including the education sector analysis, the development of an annual education report and a new 10-year education development strategy 2021-2030, and the possibility of applying for the GPE Education Sector Plan Development Grant (ESPDG) for this purpose. UN agencies and other partners will assist MOET in applying for the GPE's ESPDG in 2019.

UNICEF supported Viet Nam's participation in the South East Asia-Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) field trial. This ground-breaking assessment scheme assesses reading, writing, math and global citizenship in Grade 5 students in the ASEAN region. The successful field trial of SEA-PLM resulted in building strong relationships between the UN and MOET's Centre of Educational Quality Evaluation, as well as in gathering political support for the SEA-PLM. Significantly, Viet Nam's participation in SEA-PLM has bolstered skills in the country which will be useful in other educational initiatives, thereby strengthening the overall system.

A key success for the UN was the signing of the National Early Childhood Development Scheme (Strategic Plan) commissioned by the Prime Minister and supported by UNICEF, paving the way for the implementation of a nationwide scale-up of integrated early childhood development (IECD). Furthermore, a grassroots-based, multi-sectoral IECD operationalization model was launched and implemented in 3 provinces with 545 teachers (77 per cent female teachers) and about 1,000 health and child protection workers participating in UNICEF supported workshops.

With UN support, the General Statistics Office (GSO) was at the final stage of finalizing the Viet Nam SDG indicator list, including for SDG 4 monitoring, in 2018. With UNESCO

and UNICEF help, MOET has begun reviewing monitoring indicators in the SDG4 Action Plan.

UNICEF supported MOET in updating the out-of-school children (OOSC) report, based on the 2014 Intercensal Population Survey. The updated report with disaggregated data analysis was disseminated in 2018. Its findings helped education stakeholders understand gaps in education across social demographic groups, such as children in urban and rural areas, between Kinh majority and ethnic minority groups and across income quintiles, and they were used in policy dialogues about the education sector monitoring and the revision of the Law on Education. As child labour has been identified as a major barrier for education, ILO and UNICEF worked jointly under the umbrella of Alliance 8.7 which aims at achieving Target 8.7 on the elimination of child labour. They have supported MOLISA in designing and carrying out a field survey focused on the situation analysis of vocational education and the employment status of adolescents, investigating the labour demand of the enterprises and businesses and the desired skills for labourers. The first draft report will be available for partner consultation in early 2019. ILO also supported GSO in conducting the national child labour survey in December 2018.

In addition, UN agencies such as ILO, UNFPA and UNESCO supported MOET in the areas of child labour, sexual and reproductive health education, and education for sustainable development by developing intervention frameworks to tackle child labour through education in An Giang, Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, and by supporting MOET in (a) reviewing the current implementation of school-based sexual and reproductive health programmes in lower and upper secondary schools, which will be used for the development of the national guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education, and (b) developing the National Framework for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development which describes environment-related knowledge, skills, and attitude, to be acquired by students of pre-school to secondary school levels.

UNESCO and UNICEF worked together at the national and regional levels and supported two officials of MOET to attend the East-Asia Workshop on Monitoring SDG 4, Education Statistics and Tools, held in Bangkok in June 2018. The workshop helped MOET officials enhance their understanding of the global and thematic indicators for monitoring SDG 4 and the data sources available at the national level. These officials have played a leading role in reviewing SDG 4 monitoring indicators, proposed by GSO, and in the SDG 4 Action Plan.



Vang Thi Thu Ha, 14, Lao Cai is an advocate for law reform for bilingual education for ethnic minority children.  
Photo: UNICEF Viet Nam

## INFLUENCING THE LAW ON EDUCATION THROUGH THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In September 2018, the UN in Viet Nam brought a team of children and young people to share their views with key National Assembly members for a pre-session policy dialogue on the reform of the Law on Education. The pre-session served as a space for children and young people to discuss the gaps in children’s rights to education and to reach consensus on areas for reform. The UN utilized its legal and policy analysis on children with disabilities, ethnic minority children and its out-of-school-children study to advocate for reforms to ensure that every child in Viet Nam can access education.

One of the young advocates was Toan. Born in 1994 in Ho Chi Minh City, Toan completed his bachelor’s degree in information technology. Toan, who has lived with a mobility impairment since he was 18 months old, shared his experience of first attending a specialized preschool for children with disabilities but then switching to an inclusive one. He stressed the importance of inclusive education, saying “I wish that inclusive education will be applied in all schools in Viet Nam, so that children with disabilities will have chances to receive the same level of education and same amount of knowledge as other students and thus

will be able to realize their own capacity and potential.”

Another advocate was Vang Thi Thu Ha, a 14-year-old girl from the Mong community from Lao Cai province. When in primary school, Ha attended one of the few schools in her province that applied the ‘mother tongue-based bilingual education’ (MTBBE) approach. Ha excelled in her studies, passed the entrance exam to the best lower-secondary school of the district and received a full scholarship from the Government. In her speech Ha shared her concerns and hopes related to ethnic minority education, passionately advocating for the expansion of MTBBE, so that “all ethnic minority children can attend bilingual classes and thus have a better chance to succeed with their studies and adapt to the community.”

Impressed by the passion and eloquence of the delegation of, Ms. Ngo Thi Minh, Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Youth, Culture and Children, Viet Nam National Assembly committed to pursue inclusive education for all, especially children with disabilities as well as ethnic minority children as a core pillar in the amended Law on Education.

# OUTCOME 2.1

## LOW-CARBON, CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

BY 2021, VIET NAM HAS ACCELERATED ITS TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN GROWTH TOWARDS A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY AND ENHANCED ITS ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS, WITH A FOCUS ON EMPOWERING POOR AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

### CONTEXT

Viet Nam is vulnerable to climate change and is impacted by weather-related events. Viet Nam's priority is to adapt to the changing climate and to reduce or transfer loss and damages beyond its adaptive capacity. Viet Nam's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as per the requirements of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (PA) includes a reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 8 per cent by 2030, or 25 per cent with international support. Viet Nam has covered 30 per cent of its adaption needs but requires external finance and technology transfers.

Major investments are needed in the energy sector. Despite the declining investment costs of solar photovoltaics and wind power Viet Nam continues to trail other countries in its deployment of renewable energy. Uncertainties associated with the offered tariff structures and the low-credit worthiness of the power purchase agreements are impediments, even though there are potential private sector financing opportunities for renewable energy.

Large potential exists to save electricity-use up by to seven per cent by 2035. The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) has started to formulate the 8th Power Development Plan for 2021-2030. The manufacturing sector offers the largest potential for energy efficiency savings, although as of 2017, the 326 established industrial parks have caused ecological challenges by producing hazardous waste, and water and air pollution. A new Decree on eco-industrial parks came into effect to conceptualize industrial

symbiosis terms, encouraging technologies for recycling, reusing energy and waste.

Viet Nam hosted the 6th GEF Assembly in June 2018 in Da Nang, where the 55th GEF Council endorsed the new GEF-7 strategy and a USD 4.1 billion replenishment. Viet Nam's GEF allocation has been set for USD 18.01 million, of which USD 3.62 million has been allocated for Climate Change and USD 13 million and USD 1.39 million for Biodiversity and Land Degradation respectively.

In October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°, urging a drastic reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions to achieve the PA targets. Viet Nam hosted the first IPCC national level launch of this report after its release and prepared a report on global warming impacts to integrate climate change into the next 10-year national socio-economic development strategy.

In December, Viet Nam participated in the Conference of the Parties (COP) 24 in Katowice, where decisions on the Paris Agreement Work Programme were adopted, giving a positive signal on continuously building and maintaining trust and confidence among Parties to implement the PA in a transparent, comparable and consistent manner, and to track actions.

## OUTCOME 2.1 KEY RESULTS

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

UNDP supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and line ministries to integrate NDC targets into the existing development planning process, including through the publication of two issue briefs on Climate Change Loss and Damage and Climate Change Adaptation. The UN also provided inputs to integrate gender mainstreaming principles in the revision and update of Viet Nam's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC-2), which is to be completed by June 2019.

After a massive acceleration in 2017 supported by UNDP, FAO and UNEP, 2018 marked the closing of the UN-REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Viet Nam Phase II Programme that has been catalytic in enabling Viet Nam to access to REDD+ result-based payments. In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam worked on four Joint Programmes on UN-REDD, Drought Forecast Based Financing, Integration of the agricultural sectors into National Adaptation Plans, and development of an Early Warning system for Dengue based on climate change satellite flood data. In 2018, the UN also made good contribution to enable Viet Nam in successfully securing funding for the Viet Nam Emission Reduction Programme for the North Central Region for over USD 50 million from the Carbon Fund Participants of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, with implementation starting in 2019.

The UN supported Viet Nam to improve energy efficiency (EE) through policy advocacy and project intervention. The UN co-chaired the Viet Nam Energy Partner (VEPG)-Working Group on Energy Efficiency and made effective inputs to policy papers, high-level dialogues for the adoption of the 3rd Viet Nam Energy Efficiency Programme (VNEEP-3), which strengthened policy framework and introduced sector specific and mandatory EE targets. The UN's active promotion of energy efficiency and the use of low-carbon building materials, LED technologies and Non-Fired Brick (NFB) production results in reduced GHG emissions and environmental pollution, mitigation of natural resource depletion and improvement of livelihoods. Technical assistance for labelling programmes of LED lamps, as well as for eight indoor and outdoor LED lighting projects resulted in energy saving of 718,627 kWh and 585.97 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in 2018. Production and utilization of NFB likewise contributed to 53,461 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and the energy savings of 9,701 tons of oil equivalent (TOE) in 2018.

Publications from UNDP included a policy paper on Long-Term Greenhouse Gas Emission Mitigation Opportunities and Drivers and a technical report on Private Funding Opportunities for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Investments. UNDP also completed a report on Private Climate Expenditure and Investment Review, focusing on

business areas with the most significant GHG reduction potentials. UNIDO supported Viet Nam's resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) efforts for industrial waste minimization and low carbon technology transfer in the rice and coffee sectors, reducing electricity use by 1,746,683 kWh, equivalent to USD 124,827 and 1,112.2 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

Through technical assistance and policy advice provided by UNIDO, technical guidelines on eco-industrial parks (EIPs) have been finalized, covering all three environmental, social and economic aspects. At the enterprise level, RECP assessments were conducted for 72 companies with 933 intervention solutions implemented with private investment of VND 207 billion after three years. Annually companies benefitted from USD 3.2 million from reductions in electricity and water, and conserved more than 429,000 cubic metres of water, ten tons of chemical waste and 24,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Promoting the application of energy and resource efficiency in a holistic approach was at the center of UNIDO's efforts in various industrial sectors in Viet Nam, with 29 projects on boiler efficiency improvement at 29 enterprises. 11 boiler replacement projects have been successfully implemented, resulting in annual energy savings of 561,065 GJ and 91,957 tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

UNDP's technical support to build resilience of vulnerable coastal communities resulted in the completed construction of 1,402 new resilient houses and reparation of 5,403 houses for the poor, near poor and women headed households, benefiting more than 27,000 people (60 per cent women) in 8 coastal provinces.

Through UN Environment's Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), 4,000 rice smallholders in the Mekong Delta region were trained by agronomists to improve capacities to source and cultivate rice sustainably. Smallholders from at-risk communities in two Provinces were also supported by the IFAD-supported Climate Change Adaptation in Mekong Delta Programme to encourage climate-informed commune and district socio economic development planning.

### UN Support for Viet Nam's Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Disasters Enhanced

Meeting the challenges posed by the economic impacts of climate change and natural disasters requires risk-informed planning across sectors, levels of government, and organizations. In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam worked with its partners to facilitate long-term, risk-informed development planning, helping Viet Nam put a brake on the ever-mounting economic impact of climate and disaster-related damages and losses.

The UN Joint Results Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (DRR4R) reinforced Viet Nam's Commitments toward the Sendai Framework through support for its participation in the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on

Disaster Risk Reduction and through technical support for the preparation of a paper by the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VDMA) on “Viet Nam’s progress toward the Sendai Framework and recommendations on the way forward.”

The UN in Viet Nam also worked with national and local partners including VDMA to develop a set of gender analysis tools and trainings using gender disaggregated data that are compatible with existing Government guidelines and policies in disaster management. The UN also improved gender sensitive community resilience and risk-informed assessment, planning and budgeting for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in 2018 by working with partners on updating DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) training materials, drafting gender integrated e-training courses, and prioritizing capacity building for VDMA. The UN worked closely with the Viet Nam Women’s Union (VWU), to promote gender equality and gender monitoring of climate change actions in Viet Nam, particularly on the theme of resilient housing, mangrove regeneration and community-based risk data for sustainable development.

Education for children is key to preparing communities for natural disasters and the UN partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, MOET and the Government of Japan to help launch natural disaster prevention education in schools as part of the disaster prevention programme for 2018-2023. In addition, the UN provided support to MOET for the development of guidelines for the implementation and evaluation of a safe school framework, which was rolled out for implementation in 2018. Technical assistance and advice were provided to both VDMA and MOET to develop the 2018-2023 programme of cooperation between MOET and MARD on improving education on DRR, CCA, preparedness and response. Technical assistance to VDMA included the first-ever comprehensive capacity risk assessment of the Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) and VDMA system using a child lens. The assessment provided various recommendations to enhance CCNDPC’s capacity for years to come. Technical assistance also included a child-centered disaster risk mapping, assessment and analysis for high risk communities across all 63 provinces in Viet Nam. In addition, with support from the UN provided to the VDMA and MOET, for the first time, the National Day

## ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING AND REPORTING FOR THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

With the Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control issued in 2013 and the commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Viet Nam took steps toward enhanced disaster risk reduction and recovery. Despite these positive steps, monitoring indicators and reporting systems on disaster risk reduction did not meet the standards of the Sendai framework’s requirements.

The UN in Viet Nam planned technical support to enhance the national monitoring and reporting capacity of the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VDMA), the assigned agency for coordinating Sendai Framework implementation in MARD. Spearheaded by MARD’s Vice Minister Hoang Van Thang and with the UN’s advice and technical support, a task force within the VDMA developed a voluntary review on “Viet Nam’s progress toward the Sendai Framework and recommendations on the way forward” by analysing and synthesising updated information available in various sectoral reports. Attending the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Viet Nam’s multi-sectoral delegation, led by MARD’s Vice Minister Thang, disseminated this voluntary review, reinforcing Viet Nam’s national commitment on DRR and motivating concrete actions for improvement of its DRR system.

The Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience joint results group provided technical assistance during the course of

the Ministerial Conference, drawing from the expertise across the UN in Viet Nam, to prepare Viet Nam’s delegation to this regional event, including quality assurance of the review paper. This reporting was voluntary and self-motivated by Viet Nam based on the Sendai-guided indicators. A representative from Viet Nam Women’ Union was also supported to participate in the Conference and raise gender issues and share country experience on promoting women’s leadership and participation in DRR.

As a result of UN’s joint technical and advocacy efforts, the advocacy paper prepared for the review was disseminated at the Conference and welcome by various participants, marking the first reporting document on the Sendai framework for Viet Nam. The development of this paper helped MARD and the VDMA, the main drivers of country’s DRR system, and other government agencies (MPI and Viet Nam Women’s Union) to reduce gaps in currently available information for Sendai monitoring and reporting. The key government officials working in DRR have improved their understanding of the priority areas of the Sendai’s targets and reinforced Viet Nam’s commitment to implement the Sendai framework and DRR-related SDG targets. After the 2018 Conference, the MARD Vice Minister guided VDMA to revise the draft National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction towards 2030 and vision 2050, with a new focus on indicator selection aligned with Sendai and related SDG targets and to develop a dedicated decree on disaster recovery.

for NDPC was celebrated in all schools with an objective to raise awareness & enhance actions for resilience. The celebration ended with live broadcasted event on VTV1 watched by millions of people, with key messages from the UN on equity, inclusiveness, building systems, institutions and participation of communities to build a safer society.

At subnational level in Ninh Thuan, 440 officials benefitted from capacity building interventions. A list of 72 key indicators and targets related to child-centred DRR and climate change adaptation were identified to be included in Ninh Thuan's 2021-2025 sectoral plans and socio-economic development plan. The UN's community-based disaster risk management training also took place in 100 communes, enhancing knowledge and skills in climate and disaster risk management for more than 15,359 local people. In coordination with the Government, UN agencies also facilitated a South-South cooperation study tour by a DPRK delegation to Viet Nam and its provinces on community-based disaster risk management. The UN also facilitated a study visit to Japan as part of partnership building agenda within the CCNDPC. The learning exchange presented an overview of the legal and institutional framework of DRR at the national level and the decentralized role and operational models at the sub-national level.

The UN also supported the Government to facilitate the development of a strong disaster recovery framework, including an institutional capacity assessment, the development of Standard Operating Procedures for disaster recovery, and adapting a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment methodology to suit the Vietnamese context. The UN made significant progress in completing the seven steps needed to fully develop a strategy for DRR in accordance with the National Communication for Development (C4D) roadmap, working on the first two steps in 2018 and building the C4D capacity of national and subnational partners through two trainings conducted for 70 key government officials.

### **Humanitarian Efforts**

The UN Disaster Response Management Team (DRMT) continued its response effort to Typhoon Damrey in 2018, which made landfall in November 2017, affecting more than 4.3 million people across 15 provinces of Central Viet Nam, creating acute food security, water and sanitation, shelter and livelihood needs. Emergency response and early recovery activities continued for the affected populations over the early months of 2018, with FAO, IOM, UNDP, and UNICEF implementing a response that enabled increased food availability and a more effective and timely restoration of livelihoods and agricultural production, improved access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation conditions, in addition to the expedited recovery, repair and reconstruction of shelter for affected households, following Build Back Better principle.

The DRMT drafted and secured broad approval for two

contingency plans for sudden onset and slow onset natural disasters to help strengthen capacities and systems for preparedness, response, recovery and coordination with the Government and other humanitarian actors. The Disaster Management Group (DMG), a multi-stakeholder strategic decision-making body on disaster management led by the UN Resident Coordinator with a Co-Chair from the NGO community conducted an inter-agency simulation exercise to assess the DMG's readiness to activate its contingency plan and to work with partners, testing the humanitarian community's preparedness and response capacity, functionality and the interaction between the Government's emergency response architecture and the processes.

Building on recent inter-agency disaster data and preparedness planning exercises, the UN in Viet Nam secured funding for a joint project to develop innovative tools to show the path of storms and to rapidly assess impacts on the population. In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam began development of the tools and collected key baseline data for all 63 provinces across eight sectors, including health, food security, shelter, WASH, protection, education, nutrition and early recovery. Upon completion of the project, the tools and maps will help predict the most likely scenario of disaster impacts on communities, generate an assessment report within 36 hours of a disaster and calculate the costs of likely humanitarian and recovery needs. A second element of the project will make use of different layers of data to visualize disaster effects caused by typhoons and floods, with a web-based application accompanied by mobile phone-based relief and recovery tracking tool.

Additional joint programmes included work by FAO and UN Women on piloting the forecast-based financing (FbF) approach to help communities respond effectively to drought, with lessons learned from the 2016 El Nino-induced drought and saltwater intrusion emergency. FbF effectively releases humanitarian funding based on forecast information for pre-agreed early actions, allowing more efficient and effective way to enhance preparedness and reduce risk particularly for women and most vulnerable populations. Joint programmes also aimed to enhance Viet Nam's emergency preparedness for a possible H7N9 incursion and its capacity to rapidly detect and respond to a positive case.



Laboratory set up where researchers calculate to produce ethanol from fresh cassava  
Photo: UNIDO Viet Nam/Dinh Thu Huong

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO SUPPORT VIET NAM'S ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Energy efficiency is one of the key measures to reduce GHG emissions and to improve energy security, while also contributing to social, environmental and economic benefits. Among energy efficient interventions, technology transfer has been an important solution to enhance knowledge and skills as well as to enable innovation for effective and efficient production of new eco-friendly and green products.

### Ethanol Production from Cassava

UNIDO has supported the Food Industry Research Institute (FIRI) under MOIT to promote the new bio-ethanol technology involving improved fermentation processes that can enable much higher yields of ethanol. The technology package has helped produce bio-ethanol with higher productivity, shorter time and lower energy consumption during the fermentation process. In addition to the economic benefits, the package will help reduce GHG emissions and waste and improve efficiency in energy utilization. The new technology was developed and transferred to FIRI by King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Thailand, under a GEF funded project for ethanol technology promotion and technology transfer from Thailand to Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam. FIRI has established a training center with a 50 lpd pilot plant of ethanol production and will continue to support bio-ethanol producing companies by providing training and research at its demonstration plant as well as by upgrading their existing equipment to suit the new technology. This is part of a South-South technology

transfer package following the value chain approach from cassava cultivation to ethanol production. One of the other noble achievements of the project is the sharing of international experiences and good practices on policy, incentives and pricing structure to MOIT, contributing to the nation-wide launch of E5 gasoline in Viet Nam since January 2018.

### Solar Thermal System Technology for NFB Curing

With UNDP support through the project to promote the production and application of Non-fired brick (NFB), an environment-friendly building material, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) has worked with Dai Dung Xanh NFB Company in Ho Chi Minh City on the installation of a solar thermal system for NFB curing to utilize available solar energy. This is the first-ever application of a solar energy system for product curing in the NFB sector. Technical assistance was provided for a feasibility study, design and installation of the solar thermal curing system. Hands-on training was provided to the company for operation of the system. The solar thermal system will provide the heat and moisture required for curing, and the temperature and humidity will be controlled using sensors and a control system. The installed system leads to improved product quality, reduction of production costs and a reduction of 30-40 per cent of required land areas for semi-finished products, reducing GHG emission by 26,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>/year.



Bamboo Forest  
Photo: UNDP/Shutterstock

## TERRA-I: CAPTURING FOREST CHANGES IN VIET NAM THROUGH AN ALMOST REAL TIME MONITORING SOLUTION

Viet Nam is one of the countries that have carried out systematic and regular forest inventories. Ground patrolling – a time-consuming and costly method – is mainly applied to detect forest coverage change including as a result of illegal logging and encroachment. Given large and difficult-to-access forest areas, ground patrolling requires enormous staffing and often is not rapidly organized, leading to delayed detection of illegal activities and hindering timely and efficient investigations.

Terra-i is a forest monitoring system that uses 10-meter spatial satellite imagery to detect vegetation-cover changes resulting from human activities in near real-time, producing updates every 16 days. By reducing the time between the occurrence of illegal incidents, such as illegal logging or encroachment and ranger responses, Terra-i provides early warnings on forest changes, helping to strengthen law enforcement and increase the transparency of forest monitoring.

The UN-REDD<sup>[24]</sup> Viet Nam programme phase II, in collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), has supported the pilot application of the Terra-i system to monitor changes in forest land use, especially the forest conversion to coffee plantation

in Di Linh district, Lam Dong province where forest encroachment is widespread and difficult to control. This was done in four steps: (i) introduction of Terra-i to stakeholders and identification of the needs and challenges to be addressed; (ii) deployment of the Terra-i pilot project; (iii) performance of a fieldwork-based calibration; and (iv) validation of Terra-i data with field data, and capacity building of local forest rangers.

Terra-i support not only provides spatial overview of forest cover changes but also provides alerts that are useful for local authorities to identify priority sites, and to plan and carry out timely and efficient actions.

As a result of the successful pilot application in Di Linh district, Lam Dong Provincial People Committee adopted Terra-i and decided to expand its application throughout the Province. Civil society organizations, such as Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) have also recognized Terra-i as a useful tool to promote participatory forest monitoring and suggesting the expansion of its application to other provinces in Viet Nam. Application of Terra-i system will help to enhance early detection of forest changes and enable conditions for effective participation of social in forest monitoring

<sup>[24]</sup> UN-REDD Programme is United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. UN-REDD programme is executed through 3 UN organizations including FAO, UNDP and UN Environment. In partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, UN-REDD Viet Nam programme phase II is to enhance Viet Nam's ability to benefit from future results-based payments for REDD+ and undertake transformational changes in the forestry sector.

# OUTCOME 2.2 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**BY 2021, VIET NAM HAS ENHANCED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL CAPITAL, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

## CONTEXT

While economic development depends on natural resources, strong pressure is put on natural resources due to the rapid industrialization, urbanization and unsustainable exploitation, including through illegal trade in wildlife.

Viet Nam has adopted key laws, strategies and programmes on natural resources and environment, biodiversity, forestry, wetland, chemicals, and persistent organic pollutants, however more effort needs to be made to build coordination and effective enforcement mechanisms.

With regards to water, Viet Nam successfully achieved Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 on water supply in 2015. However, the change from MDG to SDG 6 which focuses on the safe management of water supply needs is substantial. New water quality standards to be issued at the end of 2018 are considered a turning point for the water supply sector in Viet Nam as water quality standards become more realistic and closely linked to water safety and a risk management approach.

Notably, strong attention has been paid to plastic pollution not only globally but also in Viet Nam in 2018. 1.8 million tons of plastic waste are generated every year with plastic consumption increasing 16-18 per cent annually in Viet Nam. Meanwhile waste management, recycling facilities

and relevant policies are not in place to sufficiently respond to the increasing demands. One major concern on this issue is a lack of a system for waste segregation at source. Awareness-raising campaigns are not continuous and effective and as a result, 60 per cent of all plastic that ends up in the oceans comes from only six countries in Asia, including Viet Nam. In 2018, meaningful steps were taken by 41 embassies and international organizations, including through the organization of high-level meetings with the Government, social media campaigns and the signing of a Code of Conduct on Combatting Plastic Pollution.

## OUTCOME 2.2 RESULTS

WHO supported relevant stakeholders in the water supply sector in Viet Nam to set up a National Program for Water Safety to strengthen the Water Safety Plan towards ensuring its sustainability. It is a contextual challenge that Viet Nam has not yet developed a Law on Drinking Water that includes water safety issues. In 2018, training on the rural water safety plan has been scaled up to ensure equity between urban and rural areas. In addition, WHO supported MOH to review and revise water quality standards and to develop models of good WASH practices in healthcare facilities to ensure basic WASH services are safely provided in healthcare facilities.

Scaling up the Water Safety Plan in urban areas and promoting it in rural areas has contributed to ensuring the achievement of SDG 6 in Viet Nam. Without ensuring the

sustainability of the Water Safety Plan, Viet Nam would face difficulties in achieving SDG 6 – a safely managed water supply. The SDG indicators for targets 6.1 and 6.2 on water safety and sanitation are included in the final draft of Viet Nam’s SDG indicators to be approved in early 2019 by the Minister of Planning and Investment. During 2018, with support from UNICEF, 60 schools and 3,000 households in remote and natural typhoon affected communities were provided with water ceramic filters, which provide clean drinking water to school children and households, increasing resilience capacity for drinking water during emergency settings. In addition, 100 new villages were verified and certified as open defecation free.

The final draft of the Decree on Wetland Conservation Management has been finalized and submitted to the Government for adoption. Furthermore, the first draft Provincial Environmental Performance Index 2018 is available, including seven indicators on water quality index (WQI), PM 2.5, NO2, terrestrial protected area cover, forest cover, tree loss, and mangrove cover. Regarding fair and equal access to natural resources, the Decree on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) has been adopted. The UN also provided capacity building to the concerned authorities on the implementation of this Decree. Additional tools and guidelines for implementation are currently under development.

In October 2017, the updated national implementation plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention was approved. This provides a strategic framework for sound management of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The national strategy for general management of solid waste to 2025 with vision towards 2050 was issued on May 2018 with provisions on reduction of plastic waste and enhancement of waste segregation at sources. The draft decree guiding the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Viet Nam was also finalized and will be approved by the Government in 2019. Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer, UNIDO supported the early ratification of the Kigali Amendment as well as country-specific activities and national strategies in order to fulfil the HFC phase-down schedule.

In 2018, UNESCO, with MOST, NATCOM and the National Committee for Man and Biosphere Reserves provided technical support for the formulation of a national monitoring indicator set which will be used for evaluating the management of World Biosphere Reserves in Viet Nam and in the design of a Guideline for these sites to fully function in contributing to sustainable development.

## PRESERVING TRADITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ly Lao Lo is a member Red Dao ethnic group and the director of SapaNapro company. He is the son of Mrs. Ly Mei Chay, who is a famous master in the Red Dao community in Ta Phin commune, Sapa district. He is a typical young ethnic man who helps his community protect the herbal plants available in their locality and promote their uses, for example, as traditional bath medicines.

According to Mr. Ly Lao Lo, the Red Dao people have used traditional bathing methods for thousands of years, using leaves, flowers, roots or fruits of plants from the forest to protect their health. This ancestral knowledge has been handed down for generations. The bathing techniques, combining various herbs, have unique effects, such as on the nerves, respiratory system, skin, muscles, bones, and joints.

In 2006, Mr. Ly Lao Lo established the SapaNapro Company, a community enterprise to commercialize traditional bathing medicines of the Red Dao ethnic people. Their main products are bath medicines for women after pregnancy, which are based on the traditional knowledge of the Red Dao ethnic group. The SapaNapro Company is a community-private model for conserving and developing the genetic resources of medicinal plants and associated traditional knowledge on bathing medicine. It engages

the Red Dao people themselves in the protection of their resources and traditional knowledge through sharing of accrued company benefits from commercialized products back to the Red Dao communities. These benefits include monetary benefits to the holders of traditional knowledge (“bà mế” in Vietnamese) and the company also pays the collectors of medicinal plants according to the value of the plant species collected. In addition, the company contributes a portion of company profits to the communal development fund for the community’s socio-cultural activities. The model contributes both to the improvement of the local community’s livelihood and to biodiversity conservation.

With support from UNDP, under the project Capacity Building for the Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Viet Nam, the SapaNapro Company and their successful bath medicine represents a positive example of an ABS-like mechanism, where the benefits of all involved stakeholders are taken into account. For this reason, SapaNapro Company and the Red Dao people was chosen as the core of the project’s demonstration activities to produce a new pain-relief product. A proper agreement is planned to be established between the traditional knowledge holders, genetic resource providers and the company.

# OUTCOME 3.1 NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH MODEL

**BY 2021, VIET NAM'S GROWTH POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT A NEW ECONOMIC MODEL, WHICH IS INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND MORE PRODUCTIVITY-LED, REAPING GAINS FROM TRADE LIBERALIZATION, INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION**

## CONTEXT

Viet Nam achieved significant goals on both the social and economic fronts while maintaining relative political stability, nevertheless great development challenges may continue to hinder the Government and people's efforts.

A new growth model based on quality human capital and high value-added labour, green jobs, innovative financing for development, and a level playing field will unlock the potential of Viet Nam, steering it toward sustained high growth, dynamic private sector development, and increased productivity, competitiveness and innovation. It's equally important for Viet Nam to enhance social inclusion and reduce growing disparities as preconditions for sustained high growth. Social protection and public investment in the core social areas should not only make basic social services universally accessible and affordable to Vietnamese people, hence leaving no one behind, but also provide an essential basis for Viet Nam to ensure quality human capital and high productivity. There needs to be a radical transformation of Vietnamese society and the economic system in the way people and the economy use resources, as well as in the way Viet Nam produces and consumes food, energy and transportation. Finally, the most decisive factor, as always, will be the political commitment to achieve good governance and make the urgent institutional reforms necessary to attain strong rule of law and egalitarian and transparent legal and justice systems.

Discussions around a new growth model have taken place consistently over recent years in various national dialogues and policy forums. Continuing this trend, the 2018 Viet Nam Reform and Development Forum was organized under the theme of "New Vision, New Drivers of Economic Growth in

the New Era" and identifying a relevant growth model is the key objective of the brainstorming and discussion that took place in the context of the development of the next 10-year SEDS which began in 2018.

## OUTCOME 3.1 RESULTS

In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam worked to enhance the UN's role and leadership supporting the Government of Viet Nam in shaping and implementing an inclusive national agenda for social, economic and environmental development through the UN's active participation and hosting of major policy dialogues and forums, as well as UN activities in various areas of development.

The UN participated in the 2018 Viet Nam Reform and Development Forum (VRDF) beginning with the UN Resident Coordinator delivering a UN strategic note on the vision and key reforms needed for Viet Nam to realize its development aspirations to become an upper middle-income country by 2035 (Vision 2035). The UN also delivered a joint statement on comprehensive conditions needed for Viet Nam to make IR 4.0 inclusive by harnessing opportunities of technological advancement for furthering human development, inclusiveness and sustainability.

The UN in Viet Nam supported wider UN engagement during the ASEAN World Economic Forum (WEF) held in September in Hanoi under the theme "ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution", which aimed to shape the path forward through ASEAN's major economic and global governance transitions. At the event, an Assistant Secretary General in the Executive Office of the Secretary General delivered the UN's

statement during the High-Level Plenary with Heads of State and Government and other senior officials actively participated in the WEF's various sessions.

The UN Resident Coordinator co-chaired the Viet Nam Development Partners Group (DPG) together with the World Bank Country Director and the Embassy of the Netherlands's deputy head of mission, meeting monthly to discuss important development issues such as Viet Nam's development finance challenges, domestic resource mobilization, and public financial management. The UN in Viet Nam also facilitated the provision of DPG joint recommendations to the revisions of Government Decree 16 on ODA management, resulting in a series of positive changes in the new Decree 132. The UN Resident Coordinator also facilitated the establishment of the Informal Ambassadors Group on Development Cooperation (IAGDC), an Ambassador level group of the DPG chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the World Bank Country Director, which engages with high-level state actors across the Government of Viet Nam, the National Assembly and the Politburo on broad strategic issues impacting development cooperation.

The UN in Viet Nam collaborated closely with MPI on SEDS 2021-2030 development by providing background papers, participating in various dialogues and consultations, and issuing UN joint messages on strategic development issues facing Viet Nam. Notable work in 2018 included: the UN in Viet Nam's continuous advocacy with the Government of Viet Nam to implement the National SDG Action Plan integrating the SDGs into the next national SEDS 2021-2030 and SEDP 2021-2025; facilitation of an inclusive process to prepare evidence-based analytical inputs to Viet Nam's first VNR; UNDP's development finance report and policy advice on ODA to support Viet Nam's efforts in promoting private sector development and investment, efficiency of public spending and investment, shifting the FDI emphasis from quantity to quality and re-strategizing the country's ODA mobilization and utilization for 2019 to 2025; and the UNDP/UNDESA development of an inclusive process and evidence-based assessments on SDGs as inputs to the national SDG Report (expectedly to be issued in 2019) and recommendations for mainstreaming SDGs in the country's SEDS and SEDP.

The UN in Viet Nam actively supported the Government of Viet Nam's engagement with the Global Environment Fund (GEF), particularly through the UN's organization of GEF's 6th Global Assembly in Viet Nam where the Prime Minister requested that the UN support Viet Nam in transitioning to low carbon and sustainable industrialization and realization of Agenda 2030. The UN also proactively engaged in the Green Climate Fund's Structured Dialogue for Asia.

In the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the UN in Viet Nam raised five priority issues on gender equality for the forthcoming revision of the Labour Code to H.E. Mme. Truong Thi Mai (Member of the Central Party Steering Committee, Secretary of the Community Party, Chair of the Commission for Mass

Mobilization) and key government officers through the Informal Ambassadors and Heads of Agencies Gender Policy Coordination Group mechanism, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator.

UNDP introduced the inclusive IR 4.0 concept and recommended actions on how to make IR 4.0 inclusive in various policy dialogues, such as the 2018 Viet Nam Reform and Development Forum, policy seminars with CPV's Theoretical Council, Economic Commission and Central Institute for Economic Management and MPI to support the preparation of the Party's Resolution and Viet Nam's IR4.0 Strategy. In partnership with MOIT and the Vietnam Academy Of Social Sciences, UNDP supported the first ever study on IR4.0 readiness of Viet Nam's industrial firms, providing a granular situation analysis of the firms' gaps and challenges as well as proposed actions for enhancing readiness to seize new IR4.0 opportunities for creating more skilled employment opportunities for Vietnamese workers by enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the whole economy.

The UN in Viet Nam provided significant inputs to the midterm review of the National Targeted Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTPSPR) and the development of Viet Nam's NAP on Zero Hunger Challenge, which was approved by the Prime Minister in June 2018 and aligned with existing multi-sectoral policies (including the National Action Plan on Nutrition, NTPSPR, the National Targeted Program for New Rural Development, and the National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention and Preparedness). The NAP aims to achieve five targets by 2025, which are: (i) to ensure access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round; (ii) reduction of under-2 child malnutrition to concrete targets; (iii) sustainable food systems; (iv) increased smallholders' productivity and income; and (v) zero food waste and loss.

The UN in Viet Nam retains its position as a strategic leader in combatting human trafficking in Viet Nam. In 2018, led by IOM and UNDP as co-chairs, UN agencies participated in quarterly consultations at the Viet Nam National Counter Trafficking Network which aims to support the Government of Viet Nam and Vietnamese citizens in the prevention, protection and prosecution of human trafficking cases. UN agencies, alongside leading civil society organisations and foreign embassy representatives shared information on the respective programme activities and observations and identified opportunities for collaboration including a mapping of respective national activities, sharing of resources, and the joint holding of advocacy events to mark the National Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

## LIVESTOCK POLICY ANALYSIS AND MONITORING IN VIET NAM

Viet Nam has seen remarkable progress in the reduction of rural poverty in recent decades. In 2018, the agricultural sector witnessed a growth rate of 2.9 per cent, the highest rate in the 2012-2018 period, with the livestock sector leading as one of the fastest growing subsectors (Source: GSO). However, Viet Nam's agriculture faces many challenges including the growing demand for high-quality, safe and consistent livestock products, difficulties in preventing and treating diseases, and growing the environmental impacts of intensive production and processing of livestock. The lack of data, analysis and evaluation and monitoring mechanisms has been preventing efforts in making informed policy choices to address these challenges.

The project "Development of a Livestock Policy Analysis and Monitoring System", funded by FAO, built national capacity to design, implement and scale up effective livestock policy analysis and monitoring. In 2018, the project conducted a thorough assessment of the social, economic, health and environmental implications of

alternative policy choices, programmes and projects in relevant agencies within and outside MARD, contributing to improved policy choices. A livestock monitoring platform developed in line with guidelines and indicators was piloted in 240 production units, including households and farms, throughout five provinces in Viet Nam. Twenty officers, researchers and lecturers were equipped with a new data envelopment analysis tool to assess the impacts of economic efficiency on livestock production. Through an in-depth study of relevant policies and mechanisms, the project also produced a policy brief, with suggested policy options to support MARD in addressing the impacts of the price crisis in the livestock subsector which occurred in the second half of 2017. The project helped to establish long-term partnerships among government agencies, non-government actors and international agencies and platforms. The issue of gender was central to all project activities and partnerships.



## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MANGO IN THE MEKONG RIVER DELTA FOR EXPORT MARKETS AND INCREASE LOCAL FARMERS' INCOMES

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation – UNIDO, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development provided technical assistance to improve post-harvest technologies to make mangos in the Mekong River Delta more competitive.

A Centre of Excellence for harvesting, packing operations, storage and transportation of mangos in the Mekong River Delta was built at Kim Nhung company Ltd. in the province of Dong Thap, applying innovative technologies for conservation and value addition. The Centre has contributed to sharply increasing the incomes of farmers, cooperatives and the company. It also helped extend the mango farming areas and create new jobs for the local community. In addition, the working conditions have significantly improved, especially for women, as did hygiene in the packing house, effectively meeting the requirement of domestic and international clients.

The Kim Nhung company was equipped with a de-sapping tank to prevent sap burn injuries, a brush unit to save water and clean fruit, a hot water spray unit to control post-harvest microbial diseases and a drying machine. The cooling unit, composed of a forced air system and the cold storage systems were installed in the company to maintain harvested mango flesh and lengthen the shelf life of the mangos. As a result, Kim Nhung company has managed to reduce post-harvest loss from 27 per cent of

its total production to below 5 per cent. The company's capacity was increased from 30 tons/day to 50 tons/day and even 60 tons/day during the peak season. The company also saves its spending on energy thanks to the solar system which provides 40 per cent of the total consumed electricity for the cooling system and 100 per cent of the consumed lighting system. In addition, the company's organizational and managerial production structure was improved.

The model introduced has demonstrated that by applying appropriate harvest and post-harvest technologies and techniques along the value chain, the supply capacity of Viet Nam's agro-products can be remarkably increased, providing a model to be replicated to other farming areas and sectors.

The Centre of Excellence was the first model being introduced in the Mekong River Delta under a project implemented by UNIDO to strengthen the supply capacity of Viet Nam's fruit and vegetable sector by applying proper technologies along the value chain. The project is part of a joint UN Programme: "Support to the National Target programme on New Rural Development" funded by One UN Plan Fund and Finland. The goal of the programme was to support the Government of Viet Nam to improve and modernise agro-based value chain at all stages, including during basic production, processing and marketing.



Cleaning mangoes to remove latex  
Photo: UNIDO

TABLE 2 | THE COMPANY'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AFTER HAVING THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Contents	Old Packing House	Excellence Model
Average capacity (tons/day)	20-30	50
Average turnover (bn VND/year)	81.0	164.5
Mango farming area (ha)	340	950
Average incomes of the workers (mm VND/month)	4.6	5.4
Average post-harvest loss rate (%)	27	5
Average shelf life of the mango (days)	12	30

# OUTCOME 3.2

## INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKETS AND EXPANSION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

BY 2021, A FAIRER, INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKET ENSURES DECENT WORK AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, PARTICULARLY FOR EXCLUDED GROUPS AND DISADVANTAGED GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

### CONTEXT

2018 saw positive developments in Viet Nam's labour market. The labour force significantly increased with 566,200 new labourers, bringing the total number of people in the labour force to 55.7 million people, accounting for almost 60 per cent of the total population. Despite the increased number of closed enterprises compared with 2017, the unemployment rate was kept at a low level of about two per cent, mostly due to the large informal labour market in Viet Nam. The growth in the labour force coupled with the low unemployment rate were the main drivers of increased labour productivity in Viet Nam in 2018. Nevertheless, Viet Nam continues to exhibit lower labour productivity compared with other countries in the region.

The Government of Viet Nam continued its efforts in 2018 to strengthen different measures supporting labourers, including the extension of the job service center system and the enhancement of the National Fund for Job Creation performance, with a greater focus on youth, women, people with disabilities and ethnic minority workers.

Viet Nam is more integrated into the international market, with consistently increasing shares of the global import and export market over recent years. While these gains open new opportunities for Viet Nam, they also require the adaptation and alignment of national legislation with the obligations of the international treaties and agreements to which Viet Nam has legally committed, especially regarding trade, investment, labour relations and unions, intellectual property, and technology transfers. Commitments related to labour include Viet Nam's obligations to respect and promote the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work to which Viet Nam is a party. Viet Nam has ratified five out of the eight ILO core conventions but has yet to ratify Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, Convention 87 on Freedom of

Association and Protection of the Right to Organize and Convention 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour. Viet Nam signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which came into force 30 December 2018 and is making progress toward signing the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement. Both agreements require member states to adopt and maintain the principles and rights of the 1998 ILO Declaration in their national laws, institutions and practices and Viet Nam is implementing a roadmap for ratifying the three remaining core conventions in the coming years.

New regulations became effective or were developed in 2018 towards protecting labourers and expanding the labour market. Notably, mandatory provision of social insurance to labourers by employers is now regulated not only by the Law on Social Insurance 2014 but also in the Criminal Code which now extends criminal liability to legal entities and individuals who do not fulfil. Streamlined administrative procedures for business registration and investment also create potential to improve performance in the private sector, particularly for small and medium enterprises which are important job suppliers in the labour market.

The Government of Viet Nam is in the process of amending the 2012 Labour Code, which establishes the foundation of Viet Nam's labour law system, regulating a broad field of extensive socio-economic labour relations, impacting all economic sectors, enterprises, organizations, establishments and workers. The Labour Code sets legal standards for labour market actors, provides codes of conduct for employers in recruiting and employing workers, and establishes critical legal frameworks for developing sound labour relations. The amendment addresses the alignment of the Labour Code with recent changes in the 2013 Constitution and related laws such as

the 2015 Criminal Code, the 2015 Enterprise Law, the 2015 Investment Law, the 2015 Code of Civil Procedure, the 2013 Employment Law, the 2014 Law on Vocational Education, the 2014 Law on Social Insurance, and the 2015 Law on Occupational Safety and Health. At the same time, the revision needs to ensure consistency with the principles and rights contained in Viet Nam's obligations under international agreements and treaties. The Government of Viet Nam plans to submit the draft code for the National Assembly's approval in 2019.

In September 2018, the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL)'s 12th Congress was held in Hanoi with the attendance of delegates representing officers, union members, civil servants and workers from across the country. The Congress took place within the context of Viet Nam's ongoing international integration, which requires reform of trade union organizations and activities, with a focus on representing, defending and taking care of union members and workers. As the sole national trade union center in Viet Nam, the VGCL approved a Resolution for the 2018-2023 period, which sets the targets of admitting an additional two million trade union members by 2023 and establishing trade-union organizations in enterprises with at least 25 employees. The Resolution also set the objective of having 100 per cent of trade unions in administrative and state-owned enterprises and at least 70 per cent of enterprises with trade unions signing collective labour agreements. It set goals to renovate organizational structures and operations of trade union organizations, protect interests of trade union members and labourers, and improve the capacity and quality of trade union staff. The Resolution called for joint efforts from trade union organizations nationwide in coordination with the Government of Viet Nam to improve national competitiveness and promote sustainable development.

After more than 20 years of informal existence, the Industrial Zones Union Network comprising of more than 50 trade unions, located in 50 Industrial Zones, Export-Processing Zones and Economic Zones (IZs) in 48 provinces has been officially established as a result of the VGCL's decision in June 2018. The Network has been established to strengthen information sharing on the status quo of enterprises, labour and employment and share experiences regarding the content, methods, solutions and skills of trade union work for trade union officers and members in IZs throughout the country. It is expected that the IZ Trade Union Network will take full advantage of its strengths and initiatives to better represent and defend workers and carry out trade union reform within the context of Viet Nam's international integration.

### OUTCOME 3.2 RESULTS

In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam, particularly UN Women and ILO, supported MOLISA during the amendment of the Labour Code that began in 2017 to promote the inclusion of gender equality, human rights principles and international labour standards to align the amended Labour Code with the obligations contained in the ILO Conventions, CEDAW and the CRC. The revised code is expected to be presented to the National Assembly meeting in May 2019.

UN Women also collaborated with the Embassy of Australia to support MOLISA in conducting a comprehensive gender impact and policy assessment to identify gender

gaps, recommendations and key messages for the Labour Code amendment. A series of advocacy events, including technical workshops attended by the drafting team and key ministry staff, broad multi-stakeholder consultations, as well as high-level advocacy dialogues with MOLISA and the National Assembly were organized to advocate key messages. These messages were also disseminated through the Informal Group of Ambassadors and Head of UN Agencies on Gender (co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator with UN Women providing the Secretariat). As a result, the draft Labour Code amendment submitted by MOLISA captures proposed changes in four areas, including: (i) moving towards elimination of the legal retirement age disparity between male and female employees by gradual narrowing the gap; (ii) improving provisions on preventing and addressing sexual harassment; (iii) ensuring equality and non-discrimination based on gender in performing reproductive and childcare responsibilities; and (iv) improving responsibility mechanisms between the Government of Viet Nam and employers in organizing day care.

With support from ILO, multi-employer Trade Union Pilots were designed and implemented in 7 pilot provinces with major progress made in 2018 in the provinces of Quang Nam, Da Nang City, and Ho Chi Minh City. Pilot results were used by the VGCL to develop a strategy for organizing and recruiting new trade union members in small and micro enterprises, which will help VGCL achieve the targets set in the 12th Congress, including recruiting two million union members and unionizing all enterprises employing more than 25 workers and a greater proportion of those with more than 10 workers by 2023. ILO has also been helping MOLISA to enhance the public employment service system through capacity building events and data system improvement. MOLISA also initiated work on promoting green employment in Viet Nam starting from the waste treatment sector with technical support from ILO.

The UN in Viet Nam also supported the Industrial Zones Union Network by organizing various workshops in 2018 aimed to facilitate the Network's members to meet and exchange ideas and generate initiatives on collective bargaining, social dialogue and dispute settlement resolution, as well as to share concerns and solutions for more effective representation and support to workers and grassroots trade unions.

The UN in Viet Nam, through ILO, supported the VGCL in establishing Trade Union Legal Advisory Networks in seven provinces to connect trade union legal advisory centers, offices and teams to promote the sharing of experiences and information to strengthen the representative functions of practitioners for defending the rights and interests of workers. In 2018, ILO helped to organize two trainings for the Trade Union Legal Advisory Networks on how to provide mobile legal advisory services for workers and how trade unions can effectively participate in civil litigation for individual and collective labour disputes.

# OUTCOME 4.1 PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING AND RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

**BY 2021, PARTICIPATORY AND TRANSPARENT  
DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AND ACCOUNTABLE  
INSTITUTIONS ARE STRENGTHENED, WITH POLICIES  
AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS THAT ARE  
RESPONSIVE TO ALL PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY  
VULNERABLE GROUPS, WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

## CONTEXT

Viet Nam has committed itself to the promotion of good governance and participatory decision-making through the SDGs, the VNR, and the NAP on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These efforts are specifically framed under Goal 16, on 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'.

Connecting the voices and opinions of citizens to decision-making bodies is an essential element of efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Many new initiatives have helped bridge the gaps between Government and the public to ensure "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels", as per SDG 16 Target 16.7. Nationwide surveys, online and in-person consultations on draft legislation, shadow reporting to international human rights reporting mechanisms and embracing recent technological advances strengthening citizens' participation are all welcome and critical steps toward achieving all the SDGs, not just Goal 16. Efforts must continue to bridge such gaps and to ensure that opinions and data are not simply collected but form the basis of new policies.

Early progress toward combatting corruption in Viet Nam has stagnated in recent years according to international rankings<sup>[25]</sup> and local perceptions of corruption have matched this trend, despite recent signs of improvement<sup>[26]</sup>. Challenges remain in efforts to strengthen public participation in decision-making, including through processes related to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda's ambitious SDGs and targets, it is critical to continue building the capacities of civil society and other key stakeholders to realize their full potential as development partners and enable them to take on responsibilities supporting the implementation and monitoring of SDG measures. In 2018 the UN in Viet Nam partnered with civil society including non-governmental organizations to increase the vital links and participation from the most marginalized in society through their established networks and grass roots experiences.

Governance and participation are of central importance to the Government of Viet Nam to respond effectively to new and emerging trends, including the growing influence and impact of the private sector, climate change, environmental degradation, and technological advances that may threaten livelihoods. Despite new or increased challenges, the principles to ensure effective governance and justice remain the same: ensuring accountable and transparent institutions that adhere to the rule of law, promoting citizen participation in decision-making, and seeking to guarantee protections for the most marginalized in society, in ongoing efforts to ensure no one is left behind as Viet Nam continues to move forward.

## OUTCOME 4.1 RESULTS

In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam successfully connected public opinion to policy making on a number of important issues through developing mechanisms and platforms for sharing citizens feedback and promoting policy dialogue between stakeholders and government, with a focus on achieving SDG Target 16.7.

UNDP and partners, through the Viet Nam Provincial Governance and PAPI, interviewed over 14,000 citizens on their experiences and perceptions of public administration. Following the PAPI launch, diagnostic workshops were held with 14 Provinces to discuss findings and issue recommendations on improving performance in governance and public administration.

In response to the draft Law on Population, UNFPA collected the views of the public through meetings, field visits, and focus group discussions to advocate for changes in the draft law. UN Women developed a policy brief identifying gender inequality issues faced by ethnic minority women. The policy brief aimed to promote gender responsive policies and programmes for ethnic minorities and encourage policy makers to use disaggregated data on sex to understand the discrimination and inequality situation of the 53 ethnic minority groups in Viet Nam.

UNICEF and partners launched the U-Report, a social media-based platform to monitor child rights implementation in Viet Nam. Over 1400 children and adolescents gave real-time feedback on the prevalence of violence in different settings, which was publicized via social media to raise awareness about violence against children from their perspective and engage policy makers on strengthening protection for children.

Another area where the UN in Viet Nam achieved significant results in 2018 was in providing technical support to strengthen the accountability of institutions by promoting transparency and combatting corruption, with reference to SDG Targets 16.5 and 16.6. UNODC provided technical support to the Supreme People's Court in developing the Resolution of the Judge Council to guide judicial enforcement of several provisions related to money laundering offences in the Penal Code of 2015. UNODC's work with the Legislative Drafting Team of the Anti-Corruption Law focused on providing comments and suggestions to incorporate relevant international standards on anti-corruption, including provisions from the United Nations Convention against Corruption into the draft Anti-Corruption Law, resulting in strengthened engagement of civil society in anti-corruption efforts. UNDP co-convened a Policy Dialogue with the CPV's Central Committee for Internal Affairs (CCIA) on "Effective Mechanisms on Transparency and Control of Income and Assets in the Anti-corruption Law" and supported the Judicial Committee of the National Assembly in hosting a workshop on the draft Anti-Corruption Law on preventing and combating corruption in the private sector. The revised Anti-Corruption Law was adopted by the National Assembly in November 2018. UNODC also partnered with the Government Inspectorate to organize consultations on the draft Law on Asset Declaration in 2018.

UN agencies achieved key results in strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to advocate effectively to policy makers and engage with international reporting mechanisms. This work focused particularly on the 2030 Agenda's call for governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to work collaboratively

to deliver on the Goals.

UN Women supported several international and national NGOs, community-based organizations and youth groups working on gender equality and the rights of ethnic minority people to create a common understanding of GRB. This work highlighted the relevance of GRB to gender mainstreaming in Viet Nam through the "Making budget account for women" initiative focusing on how accountability for GRB could be strengthened. UNFPA supported strengthening the Gender-based Violence Prevention Network in Viet Nam (GBVNet), a 15 members civil society group, to improve prevention and the response to GBV through quarterly network meetings and capacity building opportunities.

UNICEF joined UN Women in developing draft budget oversight guidelines for women and children at the sub-national level (Ho Chi Minh City), further strengthening state budget allocation and utilization for women and children at both national and sub-national level. In addition, with UNICEF's technical support, preliminary findings on budget analysis for children in the area of early childhood education, maternal and child health, and social assistance have been available to the Ministry of Finance and relevant ministries for their consideration to improve budget finance allocation and utilization for children.

UNAIDS and UN Women co-facilitated a national Training of Trainers workshop on gender, human rights and HIV for 30 community leaders for people living with HIV and other key HIV-affected populations, leading to a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) fact sheet on HIV issues ahead of Viet Nam's third cycle of the UPR held in January 2019.

The UN in Viet Nam has continued extensive engagement to promote the rights of transgender people, including discussion to strengthen the Draft Law on Gender Affirmation, supporting analysis of the needs of transgender persons in Viet Nam and advocacy, in various fora, for their rights and access to social services, including through a joint UN statement on the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT) on 17 May 2018.

UNICEF supported the Viet Nam Federation of Disabilities to facilitate interactive exchanges and group discussions with civil society, disabled people's organisations and development partners contributing to a UNICEF-led legal and policy gap analysis from the perspective of children with disabilities. The analysis was utilised by civil society to prepare the Alternative Report as part of Viet Nam's review by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



A role-play discussion at Essential Services Package Capacity Building Workshop in Hoi An, December 2018  
 Photo: UN Women Viet Nam/Nguyen Thi Thuy

## AFTER THE TRUTH: IMPROVING WOMEN’S ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES AFTER VIOLENCE IN VIET NAM

“I didn’t dare to look people into the eyes, I felt so ashamed. The doctor asked me if I had done anything wrong to get beaten that badly by my husband.” Linh<sup>[27]</sup>, a 33-year-old female victim of domestic violence in Ben Tre province said.

“But I was really scared to report my husband at the local authority because he has a wide local network and I didn’t want people all around to know about it” – shared Hoa, another victim.

For these women, the physical pain from violence can be surpassed by the pain from social stigma and gender stereotypes. Will telling the truth only make matters worse or can they be protected from retribution?

According to a survey in 2010, a striking 87 per cent of ever-married women victims of violence in Viet Nam did not report the violence to any formal support service<sup>[28]</sup>. Moreover, according to another survey from 2010, among survivors of domestic violence, only 43 per cent of disclosed cases came to the attention of the police, and of these, only 12 per cent resulted in criminal charges being brought. Alarmingly, only 1 per cent of all reported cases resulted in a conviction<sup>[29]</sup>.

For victims of violence, speaking up requires courage and it sometimes costs them their lives. This is why it is so important to protect the rights, dignity and safety of women and girls when they decide to reveal the truth.

Among the measures to tackle violence against women and girls in Viet Nam, the Essential Services Package (ESP) component of the United Nations Joint Global

Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence is currently being piloted in Ben Tre Province, a rural and isolated part of Viet Nam where survivors of violence find it far more difficult to access services compared with their urban counterparts.

The development of the ESP was initiated by UN Women and UNFPA at a global level, with funding from Australia and Spain, and it is being implemented by these agencies at the country level, alongside UNODC and WHO. ESP is a core set of quality services that respond to both the immediate and long-term needs of women and girls who have experienced violence. Services include support across the health, social, justice and policing sectors, as well as greater coordination between these sectors to strengthen service delivery. UN Women is working directly with MOLISA’s Gender Equality Department to coordinate action across all the sectors.

“It is not enough for sectors to work in isolation. A coordinated response is necessary at all levels in order to ensure the rights and dignity of survivors are upheld, and they are prevented from further harm,” stressed Elisa Fernandez, UN Women Head of Office in Viet Nam.

Alongside its coordination role with MOLISA, UN Women has also been partnering with the Ministry of Justice to train justice providers on the skills necessary to handle cases of violence against women, using ESP principles. With these increasing efforts, survivors of violence like Linh and Hoa can be more confident in bringing their stories to light and escaping the violence that is preventing them from realizing their full potential in life.

# OUTCOME 4.2

## HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, RULE OF LAW AND STRENGTHENED ACCESS TO JUSTICE

BY 2021, THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS STRENGTHENED WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, GREATER ADHERENCE TO THE RULE OF LAW, MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO JUSTICE, INCREASED GENDER EQUALITY AND EFFECTIVE PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

### CONTEXT

Viet Nam has committed to promoting the rule of law and strengthening access to justice through the SDGs, the VNR, and the NAP on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as to strengthening the protection of human rights by ratifying international human rights treaties and constructively engaging with the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review Process.

Since 2014 Viet Nam has initiated broad reforms of the criminal justice system, including new and revised legislation concerning the criminal procedure code, penal sanctions, legal aid and the regulation of the legal profession. The Criminal Procedure Code (2015) and Law on Legal Aid (2017) include key provisions to align national legislation with international human rights obligations by strengthening protection for people accused of crimes and extending legal aid to marginalized groups.

Moreover, efforts continue at the central, provincial and local levels to better protect against and respond to discrimination and acts of violence against vulnerable groups. A 2010 national study on domestic violence reported that 87 per cent of women who had been physically or sexually abused by their partner did not seek help from formal services or people in authority<sup>[30]</sup>, and only one per cent of reported cases of domestic violence result in criminal convictions<sup>[31]</sup>. Between 2013 and 2014, 2,870 cases of child sexual abuse, primarily against girls were reported<sup>[32]</sup>. Violent discipline of children remains

wide-spread and almost 68.4 per cent of children aged 1-14 reported experiencing some form of violence at home by their parents or caregivers<sup>[33]</sup>. Gaps remain in understanding and responding to the drivers of child and early marriage, including connecting the issue with agendas such as gender equality, empowerment of girls and women, ending violence against all children, and addressing inequalities across ethnic minority communities.

Ensuring responsible business conduct with respect to human rights and the environment is an increasingly central issue in Viet Nam. The correct combination of incentives for sustainable corporate behaviour and strong deterrents for businesses acting irresponsibly will be critical to continue attracting foreign direct investment and growing the domestic market while ensuring social and environmental sustainability.

The governance and justice landscape in Viet Nam continues to evolve toward greater openness to international engagement, particularly on engaging on issues related to human rights and international human rights instruments. Human rights are key to achieving the SDGs. Viet Nam has ratified seven major international human rights treaties and covenants, with two, the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention Against Torture, ratified since 2015.

The justice and human rights agendas are key for Viet Nam to respond effectively to the new and emerging trends noted in Outcome 4.1, and the principles underlying effective governance and justice remain: ensuring

accountable and transparent institutions, adhering to the rule of law, promoting citizen participation in decision-making, and seeking to guarantee protections for the most marginalized in society, to ensure that no one is left behind as Viet Nam moves forward.

## OUTCOME 4.2 RESULTS

In 2018, the UN in Viet Nam engaged in several key activities which helped strengthen responsible business conduct and advance the business and human rights agenda in Viet Nam, in line with the 2030 Agenda's call for businesses to uphold international standards and agreements, such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. UNDP and UNICEF, together with MPI, co-hosted a training for over 30 Government Officials on Business and Human Rights in 2018 exploring cross cutting issues, including women's economic empowerment, migrant workers in the supply chain and children's rights in business, with further support from UN Women and IOM. UNICEF hosted awareness-raising workshops, baseline assessments and action planning sessions with footwear and apparel factories as part of their factory programme on protecting children's rights in business, including piloting a breastfeeding promotion campaign. Through the Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) initiative, IOM provided trainings on modern slavery prevention to 82 brand and supplier representatives, which was cascaded down to over 100 tier-2 suppliers in the region.

The UN in Viet Nam, in line with SDG 16, supported relevant agencies and institutions in Viet Nam to strengthen protection against discrimination and violence against women, children and other vulnerable persons, support survivors of violence and discrimination and to build the capacity of vulnerable groups to better protect their rights. UNODC improved capacity of customs and law enforcement officials to detect and prevent human trafficking. IOM's engagement with relevant Vietnam government agencies also strengthened National and Provincial Border Guards' capacity to combat irregular migration and people smuggling from Vietnam, reducing potential migrants' vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, with a focus on five known source provinces for irregular migration. In 2018 IOM also continued to work with the Department of Labour and the Vietnam Women's Union in Nghe An to provide potential migrants with information and guidance on safe migration options, including regional destinations. IOM also provided support to the Government of Vietnam for strengthened processes for victim identification, in addition to a programme of targeted direct assistance to victims of trafficking.

UN Women partnered with MOET to build the capacity of student affairs departments to prevent school related gender-based violence, leading to the development of national guidance which reached over 900 government leaders in education. UNICEF used evidence to inform policy development and improve the legal and regulatory framework for child protection. Several major studies were finalized in 2018, including the "Study on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and young people in Viet Nam", a discussion paper on early child marriage and "Budget and Costing Analysis of the Child Protection System within the Social Welfare Sector". These studies were widely disseminated to increase government and public understanding of and attention to these critical

issues. UNICEF provided technical expertise to the national online conference on ending violence against children, chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by 18,000 parliamentarians, policy makers and government officials at national and local levels, in more than 500 locations nationwide. The conference led to concrete policy directions by the Prime Minister, including a Decision to assign child protection workers at the commune level.

UNFPA hosted an evidence-based advocacy workshop for over 50 Parliamentarians and Government leaders on addressing the gaps in laws, policies and intervention programmes related to Gender Biased Sex Selection. UNFPA also co-convened a policy dialogue with MOLISA and CSAGA on the gaps in legislation and services for survivors of gender-based violence. The Essential Services Package Programme (ESP), coordinated by UN Women, with the participation of UNFPA, UNODC and WHO provides a core set of coordinated quality services responding to short and long-term needs of women and girls who have experienced violence across the health, social, and justice and policing sectors. UN Women also strengthened the capacity for 50 selected officers of Ho Chi Minh People's Council in Ho Chi Minh City and supported the development of gender responsive budgeting guidelines toward the implementation of the State Budget Law, with the aim to advance gender equality through budget monitoring and verification of the Ho Chi Minh People's Council. UNODC also supported the operation of the Domestic Violence Rapid Response teams (DVRRTs) at commune level in Ben Tre province to provide short-term assistance to victims in the immediate aftermath of violent crime.

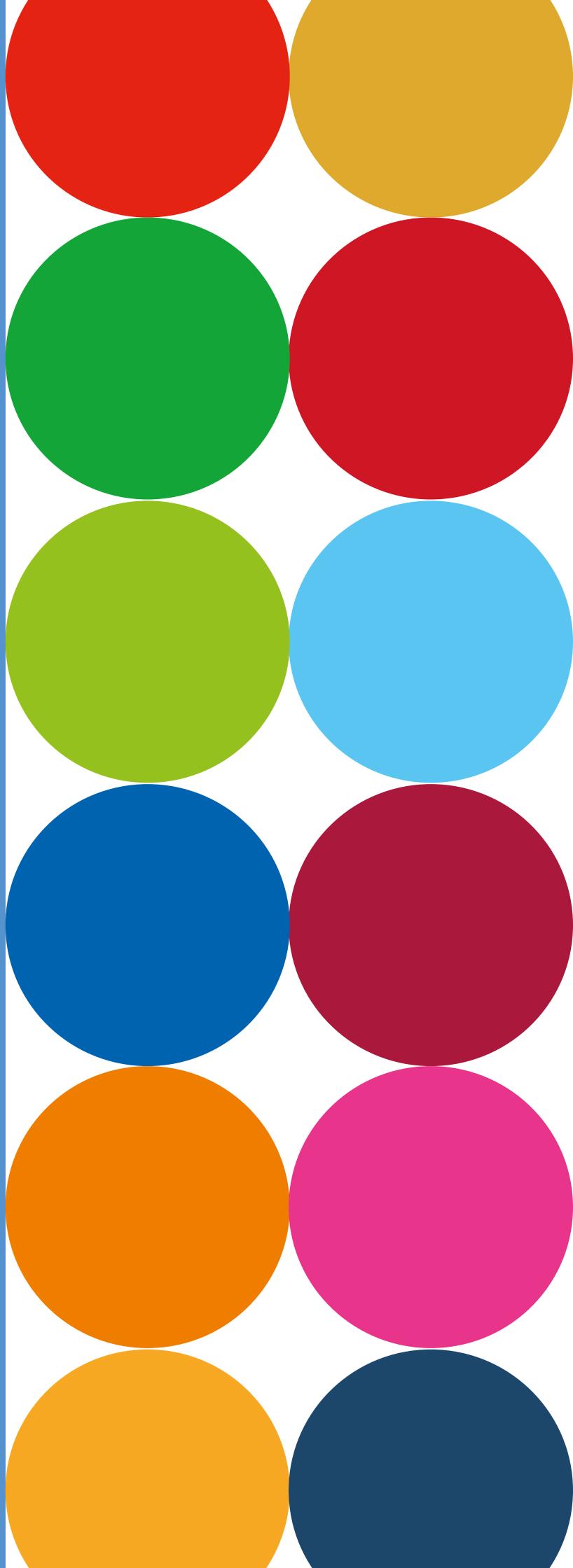
The UN in Viet Nam provided support to strengthening the rule of law and wider reform of the justice system in Viet Nam. Through the EU Justice and Legal Empowerment Programme, a joint programme by UNDP and UNICEF with the EU, the UN in Viet Nam: (i) strengthened data on civil status registration; (ii) built capacity building and provided policy advice for public officials on child-friendly and gender-sensitive legal aid; (iii) supported analysis and legal research; (iv) developed tools to conduct the capacity assessment of central justice institutions; and (v) organized the Legal Partnership Forum, with the participation of key stakeholders, exploring "Law implementation on protection of the poor and vulnerable groups in judicial areas". UNICEF also supported the establishment and launch of the Dong Thap Family and Juvenile Court, the second specialist court for children in the country, and developed and delivered training on justice for children and children's rights to 62 incoming Family and Juvenile judges. UNDP in partnership with Ho Chi Minh City University of Law provided legal support to over 1200 prisoners, across 11 prisons to support their reintegration into society.

The UN extensively supported Viet Nam's engagement with human rights mechanisms. The UN supported Viet Nam's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, including through co-organizing with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) workshops and a mock session for the Vietnamese delegation. Moreover, the UN in Viet Nam supported Viet Nam, including through technical support, workshops and mock sessions, to aid preparations for reviews, reporting and/or implementation for several treaties ratified by Viet Nam, including the ICCPR, CAT, CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, and CERD.

# CHAPTER 3

## 2018 OPERATING-AS-ONE RESULTS

- Green One UN House
- Common Services
- One Leader
- One Set of Management Practices
- Communicating as One



## GREEN ONE UN HOUSE

The Green One UN House (GOUNH) continues to serve as a model for sustainable construction in Viet Nam and demonstrates how innovative design and sustainable management practices can lay the foundations for meeting the SDGs. After receiving the LOTUS Platinum Award in 2017, the highest “green” certification for a non-residential building in Viet Nam from the Viet Nam Green Building Council, the GOUNH was awarded the Leadership in Sustainable Design & Performance Award in the Institutional Category at the World Green Building Council’s biennial Asia Pacific Leadership in Green Building Awards ceremony in Singapore in September 2018. This award, accepted by the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the UN in Viet Nam, recognizes iconic green buildings, up-and-coming innovators, and inspiring industry actors driving change and creating a better future throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2018, the UNCT also delivered more effective GOUNH joint management through the GOUNH Management Board with support from its Executive Committee, the Operations Management Team, and the Common Services Unit (CSU). The UNCT also hosted a visit of the Joint Inspection Unit to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the joint administrative support unit, also known as the CSU, as a result of inter-agency cooperation enhancement. GOUNH’s occupancy rate increased to 89 per cent with 14 out of 16 resident UN agencies joining GOUNH, reinforcing the medium to long-term financial sustainability of the GOUNH. ILO has furthermore, and in principle, also decided to join the GOUNH in January 2020. With this addition, the GOUNH will be close to its full occupancy.

## COMMON SERVICES

The GOUNH offers the first-ever integration of a CSU, providing harmonized IT, facility management, protocol and premises security services to all GOUNH-based UN agencies. This has led to reduced transaction costs for the UN through reduced travel between UN offices across Hanoi, better inter-agency coordination, and enhanced synergies, as well as reduced energy and water consumption and waste, amongst other benefits. The GOUNH Management Board (GMB) Executive Committee, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, is the main governance mechanism responsible for the overall management of the GOUNH and Common Services.

The UNCT, through the GMB, also conducted a functional review of CSU and based on its results, restructured the CSU profile to ensure that it will be “fit for purpose” in the future. By applying innovative measures to ensure a cost-effective and green GOUNH operation, the UN achieved remarkable results which include, but are not limited to, a satisfaction rating of 4.9/5 for all services provided in GOUNH.

## ONE LEADER

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

In 2018, the UNCT fully exploited and operationalized the UN Viet Nam delivery and coordination architecture established in 2017, with five Results Groups, five Thematic Groups, the PMT, the Operations Management Team (OMT), the SDG Technical Working Group, the DRMT, the DfDWG, and the Monitoring for Strategic Results Working Group. UN staff participation in One UN activities was recognized and reflected in their staff performance assessment, encouraging their further contribution and cooperation.

The UN in Viet Nam maintained regular engagement through the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNCT, and UN HQ on UNDS Reform processes, including on issues related to the reinvigorated UN Resident Coordinator system and empowered UN Resident Coordinator.

## ONE SET OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Following the UNCT’s adoption in 2017 of the BOS (2018-2021), it was actively implemented under OMT leadership for all six BOS outcomes including common procurement, common human resources, common finance, common ICT, common logistics, and common premises. The 2018 BOS joint work plan was jointly implemented and monitored by UN agencies, the Common Services Unit, and other interagency working groups, and delivered significant results in 2018.

For Common Procurement, by establishing long-term agreements (LTAs) for different services, the UN was able to achieve an estimated savings of USD 29,271 on translation and interpretation and an estimated 80 per cent time savings by the use of joint UN travel LTAs. On Common Human Resources, the UN has been developing an on-line consolidated workflow. Flexible working arrangements have also been put in place to better manage work-life balance for all UN staff.

The UN in Viet Nam continued to pursue energy efficiency measures to maintain the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, which was audited in November 2018 by an outside auditing body with a very good result with no non-conformity findings. Results include: (i) the GOUNH Solar Panel System generated 83,194 kWh electricity energy in total in 2018; (ii) an additional AC system was installed to increase the heat load of the building to the needed level, helping fix the over-heating and noise level of the building; (iii) a new Waste Water Treatment Plant with membrane technology was installed which helped to increase the waste water quality released to the city waste water channel to the level required by Vietnamese technical standards; (iv) the new Waste Water Treatment Plant whose grey water output was used for irrigation of the garden, resulted in a savings of 650 m<sup>3</sup> clean water in the year; and (v) the replacement of the L5 lighting tubes in the Common Service area by LED tubes, resulted in a reduction of more than 50 per cent of energy consumption for this area and a significantly increased lighting quality. Additionally, the CSU maintained the GOUNH Air Quality Indexes (AQIs) at good or moderate levels, ceased the GOUNH canteen practice of providing water bottles and plastic straws, and required cleaning services providers to use biodegradable waste bags.

On Common Logistics, the CSU supported hundreds of internal UN staff meetings and about 93 large conferences in the GOUNH with smooth and professional coordination among internal teams and outsourced suppliers for catering and conference supplies. Feedback was positive from clients, with the Service Desk achieving a satisfaction rating of 4.9 out of 5 for all services provided. The CSU also received 950 requests for Protocol Services from UN agencies, 44 per cent higher than in 2017, and delivered an overall satisfaction rating of 4.8 out of 5.

The UN continued to apply and review (together with the Government) the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT), the UN-EU cost norms, and the Harmonized Programmes and Project Management Guidance (HPPMG) as well as to explore opportunities for widening these tools' application among UN agencies for realising the "harmonization" and "Delivering as One" targets of the "Operating as One" DaO pillar in Viet Nam.

## COMMUNICATING AS ONE

In 2018, the UNCT, with support from the One UN Communications Team, implemented the 2018-2019 One UN Communications Strategic Framework by producing UN communications products on OSP 2017-2021, SDGs, and other areas in support of UN work in Viet Nam.

Notably, by the end of 2018, the UN was at an advanced stage of the UN Website update, which provides a

responsive and friendly user interface, SDG-related branding, and comprehensive and intensive information on the UN's work and contributions to the SDGs. Additionally, the website is expected to be an efficient tool for SDG advocacy, delivering UN common messages, sharing development data and information, as well as enabling UN partnerships and resource mobilization. Digital communications platforms also included Facebook, Flickr, and YouTube. The One Voice was recognized significantly on the UN in Viet Nam's Facebook profile, achieving a 300 per cent increase in outreach compared to 2017.

The UN Resident Coordinator and UNCT continued to produce joint advocacy statements and messages and to conduct advocacy on various thematic areas and the SDGs. For illustration, the UNCT, supported by the One UN Communications Team, successfully supported Viet Nam to mark joint events (e.g. International Youth Day events, UN-System Wide UNiTE against Violence against Women campaign, the Zero Discrimination Day, the World Environment Day, the International Youth Day, the UN Day, 16 Days of Activism and Human Rights Day, Hanoi Pride, 7 Day Challenge, #CountdownPlastic social media campaign and Action Against Waste) with accurate and strategic reporting on mainstream media which increased the visibility of the UN's added value. These campaigns were launched and participated in not only by the UNCT but also by multiple partners from civil society, state organizations, academia, youth associations, business leaders, foreign embassies and development partners.

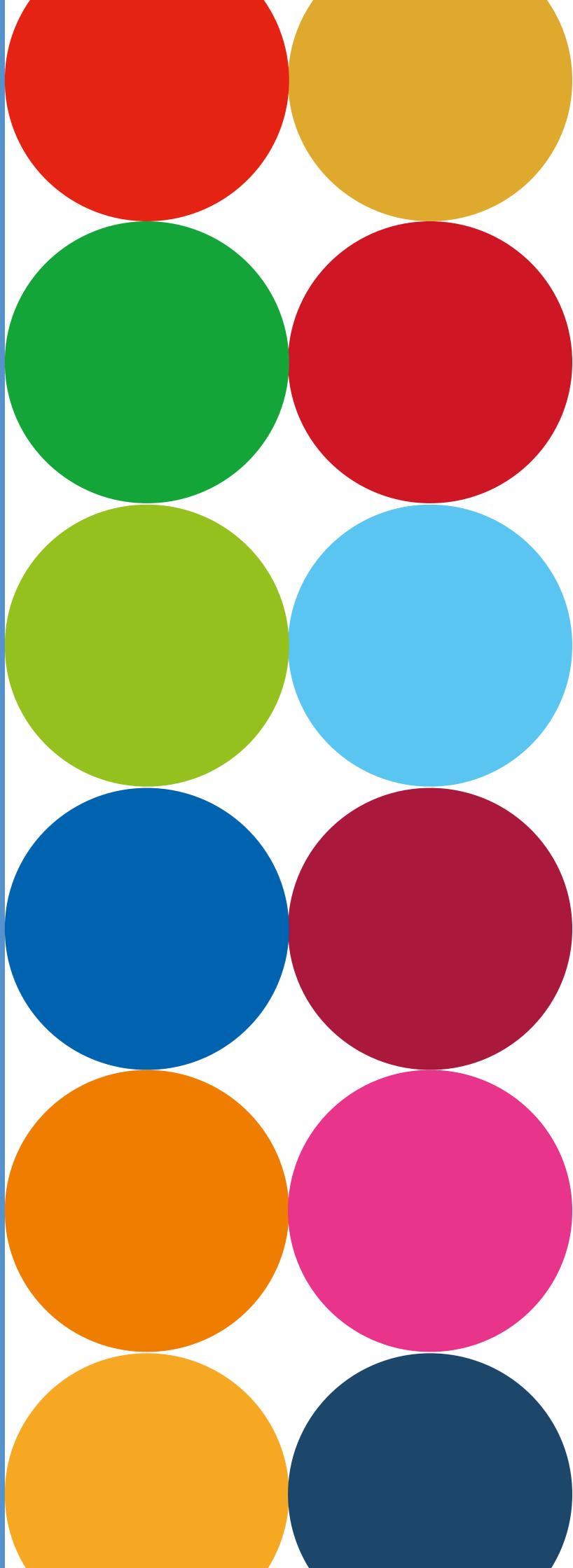


UN Staff and students from the Olympia School cleaning Ngoc Khanh Lake on UN Day  
Photo: UN in Viet Nam/Hoang Hiep

# CHAPTER 4

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Joint Resource Mobilization
- 2018 Budget and Expenditures



## JOINT RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Joint resource mobilization for OSP implementation was prioritized by the UN in Viet Nam in 2018. Due to the shifting financial landscape in which grant ODA has faced a sharp decline, resource mobilization has become increasingly challenging. In this context, the UN in Viet Nam has made a concerted shift in strategy to move towards joint programmes, which are more effective and coherent but also more attractive for resource mobilization from regional and global funding sources.

In line with efforts by the UN in Viet Nam to strengthen resource mobilization for joint initiatives, the UNCT, through Results Groups and Thematic Groups, succeeded in establishing and starting the implementation of six new joint programmes with a total joint programme budget of approximately USD13.4 million, bringing the total number of joint programmes to eleven. In addition, there were many other proposals under-development or pro-actively prepared that are expected to be ready when funding opportunities arise.

By the end of 2018, the UN in Viet Nam in consultation with the Government of Viet Nam and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office had successfully completed the rebranding of the One Plan Fund into the UN Viet Nam SDG Fund. This will provide a local pooled fund, mirroring global efforts on the Joint SDG Fund, to better support SDG acceleration and OSP implementation.

The UN Resident Coordinator also finalized the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) Transition and Implementation Plans, providing for a smooth transition to the new UN Resident Coordinator system, which were approved by UN HQ. Furthermore, the UN Resident Coordinator mobilized three new RCO positions in 2018, supporting efforts on results and partnerships, governance and justice, and communications, with support from the governments of Sweden, Denmark, and the Republic of Korea respectively. The RCO also received support from the Government of Turkey for a short-term international consultant coordinating natural disaster response.

## 2018 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

The below Table 03 displays the total estimated budget for implementing the OSP 2017-2021 in 2018. The total planned budget for 2018 was approximately USD 92.3 million, accounting for 21.8 per cent of the total five-year OSP 2017-2021 estimated budget (of USD 423.3 million). Of the 2018 total planned budget, the regular/core budget accounted for about 21 per cent, a reduction from 23 per cent for 2017, indicating that the UN is more dependent on non-core funding donor sources. The highest proportion of the UN investment in 2017 went to Outcome 1.2 on equity in health, Outcome 2.2 on sustainable management of natural resources, and Outcome 4.1 on decision-making and responsive institutions.

In 2018, the UN system continued to effectively mobilize additional resources for OSP implementation, with USD 44.5 million being newly mobilized during the year, a significant increase over the 2017 amount of USD 26.9 million and notably higher than the 2018 target of USD 18.4 million. In the context of declining grant ODA, this achievement on resource mobilization is particularly impressive. However, the resources mobilized for both 2017 and 2018 only reached 27.6 per cent of the 5-year mobilization target of USD 258.9 million, suggesting that increased efforts are needed to sufficiently finance the OSP 2017-2021. Of the USD 44.5 million mobilized budget, USD 35.9 million remained unspent and was carried over to 2019 for spending.

The actual expenditure in 2018 is presented in Table 04. By the end of 2018, UN agencies delivered USD 76.5 million, resulting in a disbursement of 63.2 per cent against the total available budget of USD 121 million. This moderate disbursement was partly because the additionally mobilized funds in 2018 are also for activities in 2019 and subsequent years.

TABLE 03 | **OSP 2018 ESTIMATED BUDGET (IN USD)**

Focus Areas	Outcomes	2018 ESTIMATED BUDGET (USD)			
		Total	Regular	Other secured	To be mobilized
FA1	Outcome 1.1	6,036,271	1,899,531	4,011,740	125,000
	Outcome 1.2	21,217,798	3,698,780	8,957,750	8,561,268
	Outcome 1.3	5,784,094	485,187	3,330,202	1,968,705
FA2	Outcome 2.1	9,451,219	1,835,734	6,664,565	950,920
	Outcome 2.2	17,575,871	2,284,083	14,366,788	925,000
FA3	Outcome 3.1	6,517,826	1,203,652	4,043,568	1,270,607
	Outcome 3.2	4,781,624	932,311	3,612,313	237,000
FA4	Outcome 4.1	12,128,990	4,286,871	5,471,145	2,370,974
	Outcome 4.2	8,780,932	2,797,457	3,995,232	1,988,243
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>92,274,625</b>	<b>19,185,796</b>	<b>54,453,302</b>	<b>18,397,717</b>

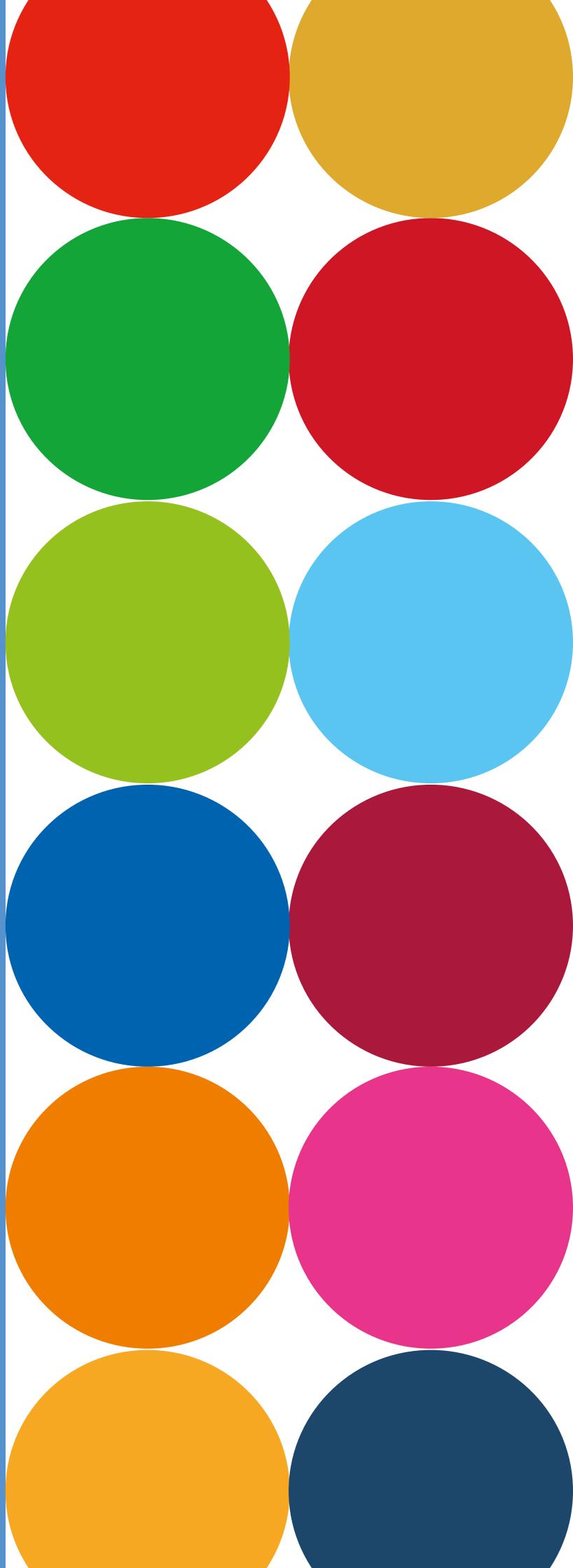
TABLE 04 | **OSP 2018 EXPENDITURES (IN USD)**

Focus Areas	Outcomes	2018 SPENT BUDGET (USD)			
		Total	Regular	Other secured	Newly mobilized in 2018
FA1	Outcome 1.1	4,900,614	1,765,742	2,974,919	159,953
	Outcome 1.2	15,482,177	2,952,873	8,186,594	4,342,710
	Outcome 1.3	3,784,868	535,641	3,032,003	217,224
FA2	Outcome 2.1	8,262,251	1,645,151	6,332,977	284,123
	Outcome 2.2	17,962,897	2,233,143	14,326,162	1,403,593
FA3	Outcome 3.1	5,313,819	959,730	3,649,330	704,759
	Outcome 3.2	3,917,096	920,724	2,969,372	27,000
FA4	Outcome 4.1	9,339,415	2,995,339	5,702,178	641,898
	Outcome 4.2	7,546,025	2,938,945	3,836,376	770,705
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>76,509,162</b>	<b>16,947,288</b>	<b>51,009,910</b>	<b>8,551,964</b>

# CHAPTER 5

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND WAYS FORWARD FOR THE UN IN VIET NAM

- Challenges and Lessons Learnt
- Opportunities for 2019



## CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

The One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was implemented more smoothly in 2018, its second year, with a significantly increased emphasis on identifying, developing, and carrying out joint programmes. Nevertheless, the UN in Viet Nam has been facing several challenges.

Reductions in grant ODA have continued and this downward trend is expected to intensify in 2019. This has caused a direct impact on the UN budget at country level, with the proportion of the core budget in the UN total budget of only 21 per cent, or a slight decrease compared with the 23 per cent figure in 2017. The UN became more reliant on non-core funding sources. The window for resource mobilization from donors at country level has become narrower, requiring the UN in Viet Nam to pursue funding opportunities at the regional and global levels, leading to an increased prioritization of joint efforts and integrated innovative solutions. This broader pool of funding opportunities, while more competitive, also requires greater joint efforts and coordination among UN agencies and between the UN in Viet Nam and diverse counterparts including in government, the private sector, civil society, and development partners. In this context, the UN in Viet Nam has emphasized joint strategies for broadened and more effective partnership and resource mobilization.

The UN in Viet Nam continued with its strategy of positioning itself as a technical advisor to Viet Nam rather than as a financial donor. While this shift promotes national ownership in the context of decreasing grant ODA, challenges arising during implementation include mobilizing sufficient technical expertise to assist developing internal government capacity, disruptions to policy advocacy work in key development areas which require long-term and significant financial investment, and higher turn-over rates and workload for UN staff. In this context, working together and Delivering as One are crucial for the UN agencies to complement each other in common areas of support.

Moreover, UN Development System Reform requires innovative adaptations and changes to: (i) the internal UN coordination architecture, with stronger commitment and cooperation by UN agencies and emphasis on substantive dialogues among them; (ii) coordination, planning, monitoring and reporting tools and mechanisms; and (iii) higher levels of engagement between the UN in Viet Nam and the Government of Viet Nam, the Delivering as One Joint Steering Committee, as well as other government partners, civil society, development partners and the private sector.

The UN in Viet Nam faced a number of challenges in specific areas, especially in: (i) supporting the Government of Viet Nam to finalize and implement legal frameworks and policies in an effective and efficient manner, given the existing limited national resources and legal governance and institutional structures, for example in

the areas of universal social insurance, anti-corruption, and asset recovery; (ii) coordinating with government partners in the context of insufficient collaboration and cooperation amongst government agencies, with redundant, incoherent or uncoordinated national policy frameworks and implementation in some areas; (iii) strengthening awareness of service providers and rights holders in different development arenas such as business and human rights awareness for government officials and state-owned enterprises, and human trafficking awareness in law enforcement agencies; and (iv) finding ways of adapting to the interruption of work processes, uncertainties and vacancies in certain governmental functions, with delays in decision-making and approvals by the CPV and the Government of Viet Nam in the context of reductions to the number of civil servant personnel and the Government of Viet Nam's organizational apparatus.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019

### UNDS Reform

As a global leader of UN reform at the country level since 2006 through the DaO/One UN initiative, Viet Nam is on solid footing to carry out UNDS Reform. Seeing this and considering that Viet Nam will enter its third year of OSP implementation in 2019 with all key implementation and coordination mechanisms functional, realization of UNDS Reform objectives should be facilitated smoothly. With the UN Resident Coordinator continuing in an augmented capacity in a revitalized, full-time UN Resident Coordinator post, and the RCO transition and implementation plan approved with a strong staffing profile scenario, Viet Nam is in a good position to achieve the objectives of UNDS Reform.

The UN Resident Coordinator has worked consistently with MOFA to ensure the Government of Viet Nam's accreditation for a full-time UN Resident Coordinator as per the UN Secretary General's request. The UN Resident Coordinator and RCO have also prioritized adequate and appropriate RCO human resources by expediting the recruitment of three national staff by June 2019 and two international staff (the Strategic Planning and RCO Team Leader and an Economist) starting in July pending the availability of funds. The RCO will also bring on board one international JPO on Disaster Risk Response funded by the Italian Government in September 2019. The UNCT will continue to closely engage on UNDS Reform processes, including UNDAF guidance development and the Mutual Accountability Framework, and update the tools and procedures for the six DaO pillars accordingly. At the same time, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP have ensured a smooth separation of the UN Resident Coordinator and his office from UNDP.

The UN Resident Coordinator and the UNCT will further strengthen the integration of the five core principles of UN integrated programming (Leaving No One Behind; human

rights; gender equality and women's empowerment; sustainability and resilience; and accountability) with the principle of Leaving No One Behind as the key unifying principle across programming and advocacy efforts in Viet Nam. The UN Info framework will be utilized to monitor this integration and the UN contribution to the 2030 Agenda. Joint resource mobilization will be a key priority in 2019 and the UNCT will play an important role in using the Joint Programmes mechanism as a key tool for resource mobilization.

### **Enhancing the UN's role and position in development forums**

Despite its great success in socio-economic development and relative political stability, the Government of Viet Nam is fully aware that development quality and sustainability as well as inequality and human rights issues are still posing great challenges, in addition to the need to improve productivity, competitiveness and innovation. Viet Nam's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters is also adding challenges to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

The UN aims to continue to work together and mobilize appropriate expertise to provide integrated solutions which address critical development issues in the country through the Viet Nam Reform and Development Forum (VRDF), the Development Partners Group, the Informal Ambassadors Group on Development Cooperation, the Informal Ambassadors and Heads of Agencies Gender Policy Coordination Group, and through other bilateral mechanisms and fora.

### **Agenda 2030 and the National Agenda**

Maintaining the UN's role and position as a key partner of the Government of Viet Nam in SDG implementation in 2018 is a strong starting point for more UN engagement and a strengthened profile for future work. 2019 is an important year for the Government of Viet Nam's development of the SEDS 2021-2030 and the SEDP 2021-2025. The UN will continue engaging in these processes, building on what was initiated in 2018 to ensure that the SDGs are fully mainstreamed in these two critical documents through inclusive participation of all stakeholders as indicated in the Government of Viet Nam SDG National Action Plan. The UNCT will also continue its effective partnership with the Government of Viet Nam, the National Assembly and the IPU.

The UN in Viet Nam will seek additional outreach opportunities with high-level Government of Viet Nam leaders and the private sector by exploring key partnerships with the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Improvement and the Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development, two entities with wide influence on the success of SDG implementation in Viet Nam. The UN also plans to further reinforce the partnership with development partners on the SDGs through the newly established Informal Ambassadors Group on Development Cooperation as well

as the wider Development Partners Group. Both will be important platforms for this purpose.

2019 also presents opportunities for the UN in Viet Nam to have enhanced policy influence by engaging in the development of the SDG national report which by design aims to guide national policy makers toward SDG acceleration and achievement.

The lack of a significant UN budget to support overarching SDG activities (e.g. national reporting, monitoring, mainstreaming, and advocacy) is expected to persist in 2019, encouraging the UNCT to continue to reinforce the UN in Viet Nam's role as the key provider of best practice policy and technical expertise to the Government of Viet Nam in close coordination with regional and headquarter entities. The UNCT will also continue to emphasize the joint and coordinated pursuit of a wide variety of funding opportunities from the global Joint SDG Fund as well as other regional and global sources.

### **Communications and Advocacy**

The UN in Viet Nam will continue to provide relevant, timely, and consistent information to its various stakeholders including the Government of Viet Nam, CSOs, development partners, academia, youth, and the general public through the dissemination of joint advocacy messages. Maintaining strong media relations and social media engagements will be an increased priority in addition to intensifying the UN in Viet Nam's policy advocacy and communications for development (C4D) capacities. Furthermore, building on its solid foundations as a trusted and strategic partner on development with Government and development partners, the UN will work on the forefront of communications and advocacy to improve levels of public outreach for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through OSP implementation. The newly redesigned UN Viet Nam website which will be completed in early 2019 presents a stronger and more visible sustainable development profile for the UN in Viet Nam as well as a new communications interface with all development partners and the general public.

The UNCT will further leverage the existing capacities of the One UN Communications Team to communicate through One Voice, presenting innovative new methods for the effective and smooth implementation of joint activities and programmes as well as for partnerships and resource mobilization. The One Voice of the UNCT in Viet Nam will be strategically expanded into Twitter for strengthened partnerships amongst development partners and UN agencies at local, regional, and global level. Communications support will also be key to increasing the visibility of the UN's strategic leadership in important development fora.

# FOOTNOTES

[1], [5] <http://sdgindex.org/assets/files/2018/01%20SDGS%20GLOBAL%20EDITION%20WEB%20V9%20180718.pdf#page=22>

[2] <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI>

[3], [4], [7], [13] GSO, 2018 socio-economic development report (2018)

[6] UNDP, Multidimensional Poverty Report (2018)

[8] The World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI)

[9] UNDP, Development Finance Assessment for Viet Nam (September 2018)

[10] Germanwatch, Global Climate Change Index (2019)

[11] CRED EM-DAT database

[12] Viet Nam's National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020

[14] MOLISA

[15] Working-age population that is "sandwiched" between caring both for their children and for their parents.

[16] MOH

[17] <http://iris.wpro.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665.1/13424/9789290617822-eng.pdf>

[18] [https://www.who.int/nmh/countries/2018/vnm\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/nmh/countries/2018/vnm_en.pdf)

[19] VACC

[20] UN HIV Thematic Group's work, chaired by UNAIDS, includes WHO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA and UNESCO

[21] 90% of People living with HIV (PLHIV) know their HIV status, 90% of diagnosed PLHIV receive HIV treatment, and 90% of PLHIV on treatment have viral load suppression

[22] Viet Nam SDG Voluntary National Report, 2018

[23] MOET

[24] UN-REDD Programme is United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. UN-REDD programme is executed through 3 UN organizations including FAO, UNDP and UN Environment. In partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, UN-REDD Viet Nam programme phase II is to enhance Viet Nam's ability to benefit from future results-based payments for REDD+ and undertake transformational changes in the forestry sector.

[25] See Transparency International's CPI at <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018>

[26] CECODES, VFF-CRT, RTA & UNDP (2018). The 2017 Viet Nam Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI 2017): Measuring Citizens' Experiences. A Joint Policy Research Paper by the Centre for Community Support and Development Studies (CECODES), Centre for Research and Training of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VFF-CRT), Real-Time Analytics, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Ha Noi, Viet Nam, page 11 ([http://papi.org.vn/eng/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2017PAPI\\_Report\\_ENG.pdf](http://papi.org.vn/eng/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2017PAPI_Report_ENG.pdf)).

[27] The names of victims of domestic violence in this story have been changed so as not to reveal their identity.

[28], [30] 'Keeping silent is dying' - Results from the National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam, 2010, General Statistics Office, page 22 ([http://www.gso.gov.vn/default\\_en.aspx?tabid=487&ItemID=10693](http://www.gso.gov.vn/default_en.aspx?tabid=487&ItemID=10693)).

[29], [31] UNODC, HEUNI, Research Centre for Gender and Development (2010) Research on the Quality of Criminal Justice Services available to Victims of Domestic Violence in Viet Nam, referenced in Access to criminal justice by women subjected to violence in Viet Nam - Women's justice perception study, UN Women, 2017, page 25 ([http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc\\_details/565-access-to-criminal-justice-by-women-subjected-to-violence-in-viet-nam.html](http://www.un.org.vn/en/publications/doc_details/565-access-to-criminal-justice-by-women-subjected-to-violence-in-viet-nam.html)).

[32] MOLISA, Children Indicators in Vietnam 2013-2014, Ha Noi 2015.

[33] See General Statistics Office and UNICEF, 2015. Viet Nam Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014: Around 20 per cent of girls and boys aged eight reported being physically punished in school (UNICEF Innocenti Research Brief 2016-06, Undermining learning: Multi-Country Longitudinal Evidence on Corporal Punishment in School); Around 16 per cent of children (equivalent to 1.7 million) aged 5-17 are considered child labourers of which 7.8 per cent work in hazardous conditions.



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