



2021 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT VIET NAM

March 2022



UNITED NATIONS
VIET NAM



COVID-19
RESPONSE



FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



The UN in Viet Nam was in close companionship with the Government and Vietnamese people through the challenging year of 2021 when the historic COVID-19 pandemic hit the country hard and caused severe impacts on all socio-economic areas. The UN system, led by WHO and UNICEF, worked hard to assist Viet Nam's access to and management of COVID-19 vaccines with more than 61 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines provided to Viet Nam through the COVAX facility. The UN has been striving to advocate and support in providing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to the prioritized groups including older persons and children 12 years old and above as well as to strengthen pandemic preparedness, surveillance, and risk assessment, and to support the COVID-19 vaccine regulation efforts.

2021 was also the end year of the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (OSP). Despite many adjustments and adaptations to the UN work have been made in timely response to COVID-19, the UN system managed to achieve the majority of the OSP targeted results, contributing significantly to SDG acceleration and the achievement of national goals. At the heart of the UN services to Viet Nam were the provision of technical advice and high-quality expertise, international experience and good practices, the strengthening of national capacity, the convening of development partners, as well as the mobilization and accessibility to global, regional, and domestic resources. The UN also did well in mainstreaming gender, human rights, and disability as the cross-cutting issues into the OSP processes. Cumulatively, in the five years of the OPS, the UN was able to mobilize USD 390 million (92.1 per cent of the OSP five-year estimated budget) and spend USD 342.3 million with an average annual delivery rate of 87.8 per cent.

We are successfully closing the OSP cycle. Nevertheless, there is still much to be done, especially in strengthening inclusive social development, improving climate change and disaster resilience and environmental sustainability, promoting inclusive and equal economic transformation, and fostering governance and access to justice, focusing on the most vulnerable groups, particularly under the COVID-19's impacts. These strategic priorities have been translated into the outcomes of the new UN-Viet Nam Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026) which were finalized in 2021 in a consultative manner, to be approved by the Government of Viet Nam and the UN in early 2022. Being well aligned with the 10-year Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2021-2030, the 5-year Socio-Economic Development Planning 2021-2025, the National SDG Action Plan, and other key national strategies and priorities, the UNSDCF is expected to make an important contribution to Viet Nam's equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development in the next 5 years and in the longer future.





This 2021 UN Country Results Report focuses on the results that were achieved by the UN Country Team in Viet Nam in 2021 and summarizes key achievements in the whole OSP period. The report provides information on the UN's strengthened partnerships with different stakeholders and UN results in terms of the resource raised and spent. The UN's prioritized actions for 2022, the first year of the UNSDCF 2022-2026 implementation, are also highlighted.

Through this report, the new UNSDCF, and different UN programmes and projects, the UN reiterates its strengthened commitment to supporting the country's inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth, SDG achievement, and recovery from the COVID pandemic, in line with the 2021 Party Congress' 2030 and 2045 aspirations, in close partnership with the Government of Viet Nam and all development partners.



Caitlin Wiesen

Resident Coordinator a.i.

March 2021



LIST OF ACRONYMS



CAF	Centre for Analysis and Forecasting	•	MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management	•	MPTF	UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund
CCA	Common Country Analysis	•	MSM	Men who have sex with men
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention	•	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	•	OSP	One Strategic Plan
CEMA	Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs	•	PAPI	Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index
COP26	26th UN Climate Change Conference	•	PCDPC	Provincial Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control
CSO	Civil Society Organization	•	PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV prevention
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	•	PwDs	People with Disabilities
DOH	Department of Health	•	PWID	Persons Who Inject Drugs
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	•	SEDP/S	Socio-Economic Development Plan/Strategy
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	•	SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
EDSP	Education Development Strategic Plan	•	UN	United Nations
FTA	Free Trade Agreement	•	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
FSW	Female Sex Workers	•	UN-SWAP	UN System-Wide Action Plan
Gavi	The Vaccine Alliance	•	UNDS	UN Development System
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	•	UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
GOUNH	Green One UN House	•	UNPRPD	UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
GOV	Government of Viet Nam	•	UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
GSO	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam	•	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City	•	UNSDCF	UN Strategic Development Coordination Framework
ILSSA	Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs	•	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
IPSARD	Institute of Policies and Strategies for Agriculture and Rural Development	•	VASS	Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer and other sexual minority groups	•	VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	•	VDMA	Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority
MECBAs	Multi-Employer Collective Bargaining Agreements	•	VGCL	Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs	•	VWEC	Viet Nam Women Entrepreneurs Council
		•	VWU	Viet Nam Women's Union



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UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN VIET NAM



23 UN entities including 17 resident and 6 non-resident agencies, funds and programmes comprise the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Viet Nam, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the highest-ranking representative of the United Nations development system in the country.

The UNCT in Viet Nam is working towards Viet Nam's achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as national development agendas through the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (OSP). The UNCT coordinates closely with the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) at the strategic level in implementing the OSP through the UN-GOVN Delivering as One Joint Steering Committee.

The OSP 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. 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 2021, the last year of the OSP cycle, the UNCT with support from four Results Groups, four cross-cutting Thematic Groups, the Programme Management Team, the Operations Management Team, and other inter-agency working groups conducted the Common Country Analysis, OSP Evaluation, CF development, and took action to respond to COVID-19, among other initiatives to support Viet Nam's regional and global roles and visibility, and to ensure the achievement of intended OSP results.



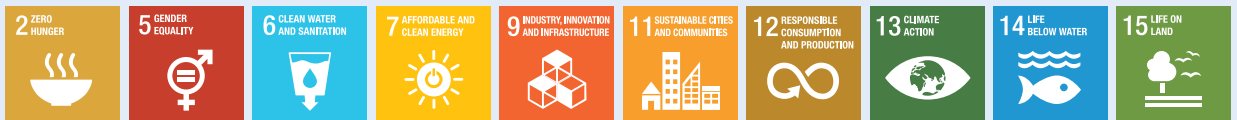
FOCUS AREAS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



FOCUS AREA 1 Investing in people



FOCUS AREA 2 Ensuring climate resilience and environmental sustainability



FOCUS AREA 3 Fostering prosperity and partnership



FOCUS AREA 4 Promoting justice, peace and inclusive governance



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Data for development



Human rights



Participation



Gender equality



Partnership and innovation

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN VIET NAM



The UN in Viet Nam continued to broaden its partnerships in 2021. Key development partners included a wide range of Viet Nam's government agencies at both central and local levels, civil society and the private sector, international financial institutions (e.g. the WB, ADB, IMF) and development partners (e.g. JICA, SECO, NORAD, SIDA, UK, USDOL, KOICA, USAID, GIZ, AUSAID, UK, Global Funds, GEF, DFAT, EU, PEPFAR).

The UNCT continued to work closely with relevant ministries and public agencies, predominantly with MOH, MPI, MOFA, MOET, MOCST, MOLISA, MOIT, MOHA, MPS, MOND, MONRE, MARD, Viet Nam Women's Union, Viet Nam Farmers' Union, and Youth Union, as well as numerous committees of the National Assembly and research institutions. The UNCT, especially in close cooperation with MPI, MOFA, MOF, and the Office of the GOVN in developing the new UNSDCF 2022-2026 for the UN-Viet Nam partnership.

With the UNRC as Co-Chair of the Informal Ambassadors Group on Development Cooperation, Development Partners Group, Informal Ambassadors Group on Gender Equality, and Disasters Management Group (DMG), the UN was able to collaborate with a broad range of development partners (including CSOs) to pursue strategic approaches and influence

policy on crucial development issues such as the country's NDC, Energy Transition Strategy, COVID-19 response support plans, flood response plans and the formulation of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2021-2030 and the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025.

Given the emerging Vietnamese private sector, the UN has increased its efforts in opening dialogues to mobilize and engage the Vietnamese private sector in contributing to SDG implementation in Viet Nam, by both contributing resources and incorporating the UN principles of responsible business in their operations. The UN prioritized the inclusive partnership with CSOs in all areas of the UN work.



UN ENTITIES IN VIET NAM



CHAPTER 1:

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN VIET NAM AND IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

2021 POPULATION:

98.51
MILLION PEOPLE

2020 GDP GROWTH RATE:

2.58
PER CENT

2021 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:

3.22
PER CENT

2019 HDI:

0.704, 117/189 COUNTRIES,
HIGH-LEVEL



Viet Nam entered 2021 optimistic and yet cautious after successfully controlling the widespread outbreak of COVID-19 transmission in 2020. Unfortunately, in April the fourth wave of COVID infections hit Viet Nam and continued until the end of 2021, with the highest number of positive cases (1,636,455) and deaths (31,007)¹.

The fourth wave warranted strict containment measures which impacted all sectors of the economy and led to a growth rate of just 2.58 percent, the lowest seen in a decade, with a particularly severe impact on the south-east region. The service industry lost 2.3 million workers between June and September, and many businesses were forced to close down. The average monthly earnings of workers declined sharply, and unemployment grew to 3.22 percent compared to 2.48 percent in 2020. Approximately 2.2 million people were forced to return to their home provinces due to job losses, of which over a third were women, which no doubt caused further disruption to those under their care including the older persons. The pandemic continues to impact women disproportionately impacted due to their predominance in the informal sector, high childcare burden and other unpaid domestic labour.

COVID-19 exacerbated disparities in terms of access to quality education, health care, and social

protection, particularly for most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in the country. Millions of children continued to have their education disrupted as schools switched to online learning. COVID-19 exposed a stark digital divide, whereby in remote areas 67% of children could not access online education and 93% of teachers had not used digital technology in class.² The disruption to school routines and learning challenged quality learning and exacerbated risks, such as gender-based violence, child labour, mental health issues, child marriage, and teenage pregnancies. The health system in Viet Nam has been overstretched by the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, the essential services for pregnant mothers, children, and older persons have been disrupted, particularly for vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities and migrant workers. It was estimated that the number of maternal deaths could possibly increase by 44-65% due to COVID-19.³

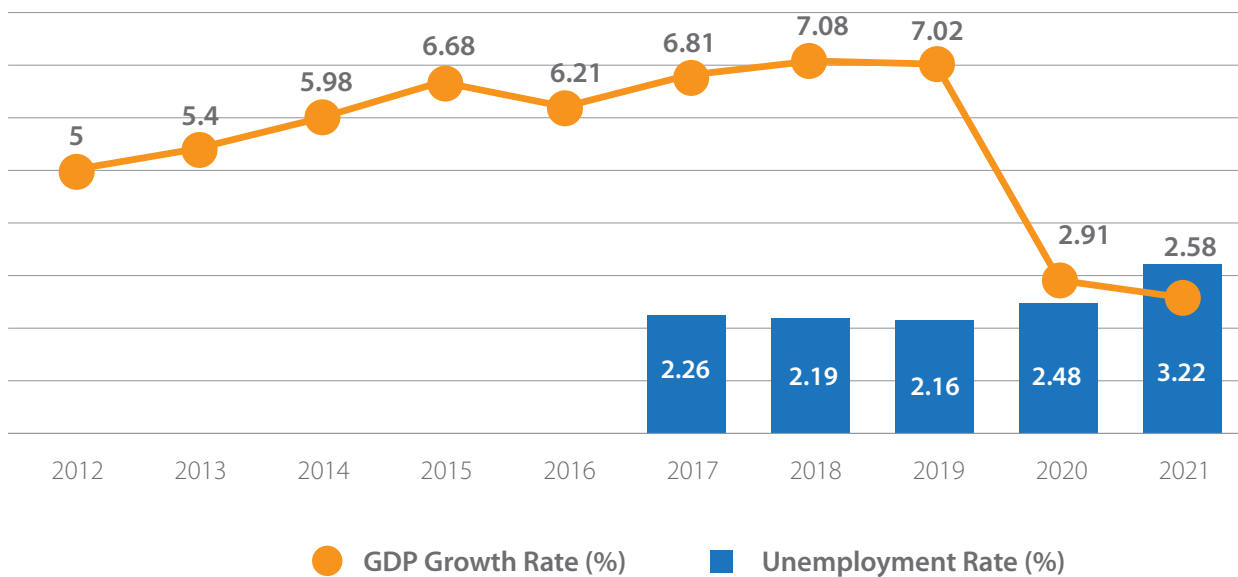
The government took swift and decisive action to avoid prolonged lockdowns by increasing the roll-out of vaccinations and boosting social assistance measures. By the end of 2021, more than 144 million doses of vaccines were administered.⁴ VND37.5 trillion (approx. USD1.6 billion) was allocated to support nearly 22 million

1 As of 25 December 2021, MOH

2 UNICEF's survey on online teaching-learning during COVID-19 in selected provinces, 2020

3 UNFPA Technical Brief, 2020

4 MOH 2021



Source: GSO

people and 364,000 employers/household businesses.⁵ However, Viet Nam social assistance spending for COVID-19 was still the lowest among G20 countries (around 2 per cent of the gross domestic production).⁶ COVID-19 also made the shortcomings of the social protection in Viet Nam more visible (such as fragmentation, ineffectively implementation, and significant gaps in coverage).

The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) identified Viet Nam as one of the economies most affected by climate change with projections on losses to GDP of 6.7% by 2040. As a result of crop loss, disease, and natural disasters, almost 10 million people were identified as suffering from hunger.⁷ Viet Nam has been struggling to maintain significant progress towards all environment-related SDGs under the pressure on public finances.

Viet Nam endorsed the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2021-2030, the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2021-2025, and two new National Targeted Programmes on Social Economic Development in Ethnic Minorities Areas for 2021-2030 and

Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2021-2025, with the goal of becoming an upper middle-income country with modern industries by 2030 and industrialized country with high incomes by 2045. Several important legal documents were approved in 2021, including the National Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030, vision to 2050, the new National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2030, the Politburo's Resolution 02-NQ/TW dated 12 June 2021 on reforming of the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), and the Prime Minister's 2021 Directive No. 16 on ensuring decent work, raising living standards, improving working conditions of workers.

In the context of international integration, Viet Nam had 14 FTAs in force in 2021, one FTA to be in force in 2022, and two FTAs under negotiation. VN became the ASEAN nominated member of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2023-2025 term. Viet Nam completed the national follow-up report responding to the priority recommendations by the Human Rights Committee under ICCPR and the UPR Mid-term Voluntary Report on implementation progress of 241 accepted recommendations, showing Vietnam's increasing will and commitment to engage with the international communities on human rights and rule of law.

5 GSO 2021

6 World Bank 2021

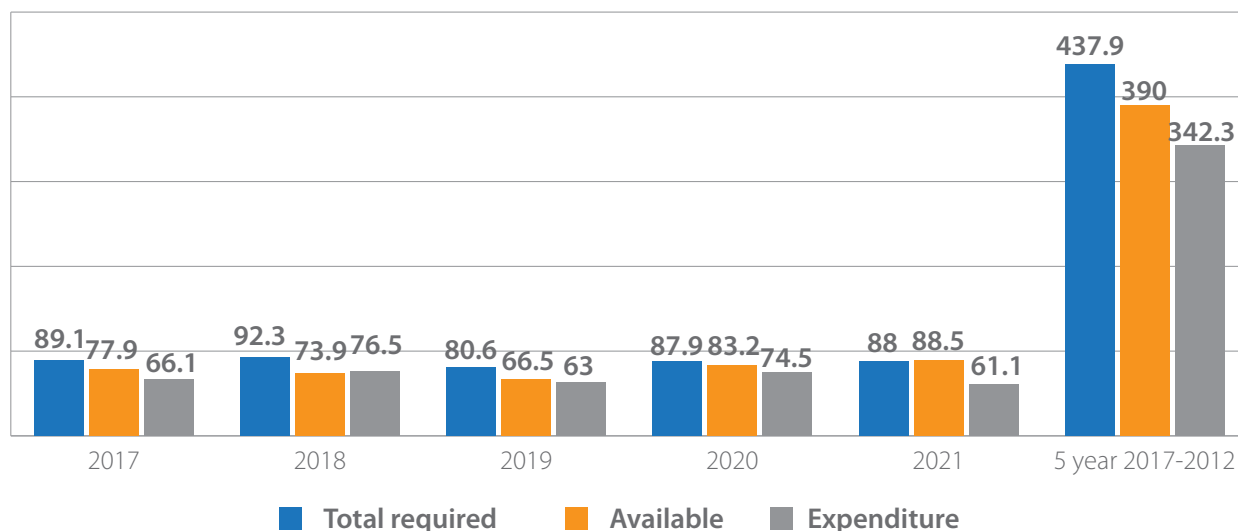
7 GSO 2021

CHAPTER 2:

UN IN VIET NAM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES



OSP 5-Year Funding Framework (million US dollars)

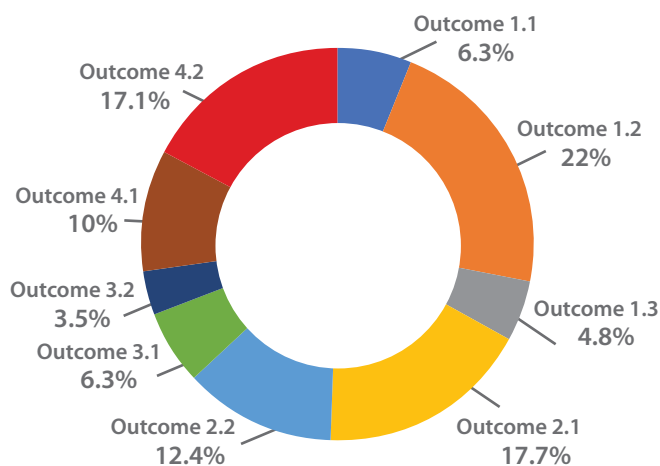


In 2021, the last the OSP 2017-2021, the whole UN system in Viet Nam jointly made great efforts to achieve the OSP targeted results as well as to prepare for the next 2022-2026 cycle of the UN partnership with the GOVN in supporting the national development agenda and SDG acceleration.

According to the OSP evaluation, the OSP was well aligned with key national strategy and planning documents and therefore very relevant to national needs and priorities. Overall, the UN was considered to have made an important contribution to the achievement of national SDG goals through its support for strengthening national capacity in developing and implementing national key policies and strategic plans. The UN's strength in technical advice and convening power as well as ability to mobilise global and international high-quality expertise is highly recognized by the GOVN. The UN did well in mainstreaming gender, human rights, and disability as the cross-cutting issues into the OSP processes. Nevertheless, there is still much to be done to strengthen inclusive social development, to improve climate change and disaster resilience and environmental sustainability, to promote inclusive and equal economic transformation, and to foster governance and access to justice, focusing on the most vulnerable groups, particularly under the COVID-19's impacts.

Cumulatively, in the five years of the OPS, the UN was able to spend USD 342.3 million out of USD 390 million mobilized, achieving an average annual delivery rate of 87.8 per cent, accounting for 80.1 per cent of the OSP's total five-year estimated budget of USD423 million. If based on the accumulated available fund of the five year, the UN mobilized 92.1 per cent of the OSP 5-year estimated budget. This result reflects the UN's successful resource mobilization in coordination with the GOVN although financial targets and expenditure should not be viewed as the only or even the most important indicator to evaluate UN contributions given the UN's added value is providing technical and advisory support.

OSP 5-Year Spending by Outcome



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

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
4,973,639	4,900,614	2,922,937	3,811,624	4,830,261

Expanded, more inclusive and equitable social protection.

The UN continued to support Viet Nam in increasing the social protection coverage for the vulnerable population, including children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. The joint work by ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, provided technical support to the GOVN in issuing Decree 20/ND-CP on Support Policies for Social Protection Beneficiaries in March 2021 and its follow-up National Guideline, aiming to meet the country's target of having 60% of pensionable population covered with at least one source of income security by 2030. UNDP also significantly supported UXO survivors.

Other supports in the social protection reform included in: the endorsement in December of the Policy Orientation for the Social Insurance Law Reform (ILO); the full actuarial valuation of the social insurance system and analysis of state resources to improve the allocation of resources between central and provincial funds (ILO); the approval of the National Programme for Social Work Development 2021-2030 and its related plans and guidelines (UNFPA, UNICEF); the issuance of an action plan on the development of a digital management information system and an integrated database (UNDP); a feasibility analysis and related guidelines on the delivery of cash assistance for children in emergencies in



Viet (UNICEF, FAO); the development of a model and associated materials and trainings to ensure quality and accessibility of care services for older persons, especially the poor, disabled and vulnerable older persons (UNFPA); the integration of care for older persons into GSO's annual Population Change Survey, the production of "Older persons in Viet Nam: An analysis of the Population Change and Family Planning Survey 2021", and the approval of the National Program of Action on Older Persons 2021-2030 (UNFPA); the approval of the National Guidelines on Social Pension Extension and facilitating sub-national autonomy in expansion of social protection coverage and increase fiscal space for social protection reform (ILO, UNFPA); the organization of business forums and promoting of start-up on care services for older persons to promote private sector participation in older person care (UNFPA).

Enhanced capacity for National Targeted Programmes (NTPs) and national policies

The UN continued substantive support to GOVN in sustaining progress in poverty reduction. With UNDP's policy advice and technical assistance, two of three NTPs on Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minorities for 2021-2030 and Sustainable Poverty Reduction for 2021-2025 (NTPSPR) were designed with innovative solutions. Through this, poor Ethnic Minority women are effectively supported to obtain new knowledge and skills to expand their businesses and implement their own solutions to address health, education & livelihood challenges, including recovery from COVID-19. As a result of UNDP support to the GOVN's issuance of Decree No. 07/2021/ND-CP on stipulating the multidimensional poverty line for the 2021-2025 period, an additional 8 million people (among a total of 15 million people) are eligible to receive GOVN support and will benefit from the policies and programs on social protection and poverty reduction. At the same time, UNDP continued its support to GSO in collecting multidimensional poverty through the Viet Nam's Household Living Standards Survey. The UN, led by UNDP, supports the review and launch of the GOVN's five-year SDGs implementation report.

UN Women, in collaboration with the VWU, advocated for the inclusion of gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in the new NTP on New Rural Development 2021-2025.

Online self-registration for **15 million SA beneficiaries** in 2021-2025.

27 million people benefited from \$1.4 billion social protection packages and projections

8,200 key officers with improved capacity in child protection and care services/ supports for children in COVID-12 context

100 participating factories received training on COVID-19 risk assessment and responsive plan, and gender mainstreaming

450,000 people in Quang Binh and Binh Dinh provinces received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.

Over **6,000 PwDs and UXO survivors** received support package in response to COVID 19



Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

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.

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
15,663,021	15,482,177	15,307,498	19,113,510	9,688,591

Assisting the GOVN in fighting against COVID-19 and ensuring equity in accessing health services and benefits in the COVID context were among the top priorities of the UN's work in Viet Nam in 2021.

COVID-19 prevention, control, and response.

Several joint efforts among UN agencies (led by WHO and UNICEF) were made in producing joint advocacy letters, press releases, and highest-level meetings with the GOVN, especially MOH, and capacity trainings, to (i) support Viet Nam's access to and management of COVID-19 vaccines; (ii) strengthen pandemic preparedness, surveillance and risk assessment, and laboratory; (iii) advocate and support in providing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to the prioritized groups including older persons and children 12 years old and above; and (iv) support the COVID-19 vaccine regulation efforts.

The UN provided direct supports to the people who were most affected by COVID-19 as well as quarantine establishments, and frontline officers. For illustration, IOM supported migrants, particularly female migrants. IOM and UNFPA handed PPEs, Obstetric Monitors and Fetal Heart Rate Dopplers in different provinces to support provision of SRH services without disruption amid COVID-19 and post natural disasters. ILO closely worked with Viet Nam Social Security to analyze the COVID-19 impacts on the Health Insurance scheme in Viet Nam and to formulate recommendations



More than **61 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines** with associated injection devices through COVAX facility

Capacity building for **3,189 healthcare workers and relevant GOVN officials** in organization of COVID-19 vaccination

1,904 Doppler Fetal Heart Rate Detectors, 64 Obstetric Monitors, 86,800 gowns, 215,600 N95 masks, 195,000 gloves, 19,111 face shields, and 900 coveralls to health facilities

Over **27,800 items of Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)** handed over to provincial quarantine establishments and frontline officers

Direct assistance to **2,000 internal migrants** affected by COVID-19 returning from Southern provinces and **1,000 migrant women** in vulnerable situations

5 One-Stop Service Offices and **1 free-of-charge Hotline (1800599967)** set up and provided counselling support to **853 returning migrant women and their children**.

Vietnamese channel of OpenWHO featuring core and latest e-learning modules related to COVID-19

649 families (1,679 male and 1,699 female) most affected by COVID-19 received multipurpose cash transfer in Dong Nai province.

to maintain an equitable system. IOM partnered with the VWU to support returning migrant women and their children in Ha Noi, Hai Duong, Hai Phong, Can Tho and Hau Giang through impact analysis, capacity building for VWU officers, and the establishment of free counselling offices and hotline (1800599967). WHO launched the Vietnamese channel of OpenWHO which is accessible to anyone interested, including health workers in remote and hard to reach areas, as well as conducted the assessment of Risk Indicators for COVID-19 in working places and dormitory. UNICEF launched a nutrition sector preparedness plan for 2021- 2022 in emergencies during COVID-19 and other natural disasters. FAO provided multipurpose cash transfer to the families who were most affected by COVID-19 in Dong Nai province.

The UN produced many impact assessments of COVID impacts to inform social protection response. These include UNDP and UN WOMEN's joint impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on ethnic minorities, UNDP's rapid assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households and household business and the second round of

assessment on citizens' opinions of and experience with GOVN responses to COVID-19 pandemic.

Delivery of health-related services

The COVID-19 pandemic with movement restrictions and containment measures largely impacted the quality and timely delivery of health services, especially on disadvantaged, remote, and most vulnerable population. In 2021, the UN paid great efforts to minimize the disruption of health service delivery.

The UN (WHO, UNICEF) supported the continued routine **immunization** through the development of national guidelines for immunization during COVID 19 pandemic, capacity building and other supports, resulting high routine vaccination coverages. UNFPA contributed to the extension and the national roll out of HPV vaccination in Viet Nam during the period 2021-2030 using national and provincial budget and mechanisms, as well as advocated for rolling out cervical cancer screening.

In the area of **maternal and childcare and SRH**, UNICEF continued to contribute to the scaling up

and implementation of early essential newborn care and Kangaroo Mother Care in respectively 100 and 85 percent of health facilities at national and sub-national level, as well as antenatal care in UNICEF's supported provinces. UNFPA, in collaboration with MOH and provincial CDC, continued its support in the flood affected areas through providing outreach SRH services and life-saving protection information. UNFPA updated offline and online national guidelines and training packages on provision of relevant services without disruption during COVID-19 as well as supported in reducing maternal mortality in ethnic minority regions of Viet Nam in 2021-2024 through its new project "Leave no one behind: Innovative interventions to reduce maternal mortality in ethnic minority regions of Viet Nam". UNFPA also supported the installation of virtual tele-consultation equipment at the MOH Maternal and Child Health Department to facilitate tele-consultation, online on-the-job learning, monitoring and supervision of the performance of SRH facilities at subnational level nationwide.

UNICEF led the UN support for emergency **nutrition** interventions in 300 communes of the 6 most affected provinces and developed four nutrition benefit packages for implementation at commune health centers. WHO in coordination with National Institution for Nutrition and TIHE conducted capacity building on nutrition for CDC system in the 4 highland provinces.

The UN worked hard on **WASH** improvement with UNICEF's provision of WASH supplies to poor and near-poor people, difficult-to-reach schools and health centers in in 7 poor central provinces. A new approach for the integrated WASH and Climate Change resilience to maximize the use of resources was initiated by WHO and piloted in several health center facilities in Lao Cai, Ben Tre and Nghe An with lessons learnt shared in national workshops for scaling up. WHO also initiated Scaling Up Water Safety Plan in both urban and rural areas as a continuing

1.2 million children fully immunized with routine vaccines.

1 million newborns and **13,000 premature and low birth weight babies** benefited from early essential newborn care and Kangaroo Mother Care

31,528 pregnant women, 49,686 mothers, and **42,957 newborns** benefited from antenatal care

364 mobile service teams established to provide outreach SRH services to **65,108 women** and **4,714 men** in flood affected areas. **484,209 people** received SRH life-saving protection information.

1,425 health providers received offline and online trainings on provision of SRH services without disruption amid COVID-19

73, 000 people in 6,409 vulnerable households, 105 schools and commune health centers received WASH supplies

Urban areas of 34/63 provinces and rural areas of 53/63 provinces applied Water Safety Plan.

120,000 under-5 children screened for detection of acute malnutrition; **6,030 acute malnourished children** successfully treated. **100 key government staff** in 18 disaster prone provinces trained on emergency nutrition.

1,500 young international migrant workers who have returned home due to COVID-19 provided with CSE and GBV knowledge and counseling on job planning; 300 received financial supports for job replacement.

progress in supporting Viet Nam in achieving the long-term strategy to ensure sustainability of Water Safety Plan and to meet SDG 6.

In coping with both **infectious and non-communicable diseases**, the UN made significant contributions. A new circular on using social health insurance for tuberculosis-related services, including covering TB first-line drugs, was issued by MOH with WHO's considerable support. WHO also supported for the adoption of Hepatitis B and C testing and treatment guidelines and scaling up of HIV lay provider testing, and the implementation of hypertension/diabetes in more than 2,000 commune health stations of 52/63 provinces applying the MOH new instruction. A national campaign was supported to raise public awareness on salt intake reduction to prevent and control hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. FAO continued to strengthen One Health coordination and communication through several national platforms and mechanisms including the One Health Partnership framework for zoonoses (OHP) and the Pandemic Prevention Task Force (PPTF). FAO minimized zoonotic diseases transmission risks, developed surveillance and response capacity for avian influenza and other transboundary animal

diseases (e.g. African swine fever and lumpy skin diseases). FAO worked with WHO, UNODC and several development partners to reduce the risk and impact of wildlife borne pathogens by phasing out commercial trade and consumption of species and practices having high-risk of pathogen emergence and spill over. FAO collaborated with WHO to support human and animal health sectors to address antimicrobial resistance issues.

The UN paid special attention to **specific groups of population** whose health were most vulnerable and affected by COVID-19, including **migrants, trafficked people, migrants, trafficked people, people who use drugs and people affected by HIV/AIDS**. A number of the UN highlighted results include: (i) IOM and WHO's contribution to the finalization of the 10-year national action plan for migrant health in Viet Nam to be approved by MOH in 2022; (ii) IOM support to MOLISA's development of a reintegration handbook introducing the IOM model for identifying the influencing factors on the sustainability of the reintegration of returned trafficked victims in line with MOLISA's plan on victim reception and the National Plan of Action on the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking

KEY LEGAL DOCUMENTS APPROVED IN 2021 WITH UN CONTRIBUTIONS

National Deployment and Vaccination Plans
(NDVPs) for COVID-19 vaccines

National Scheme to Reduce Child Mortality in Viet Nam by 2030

National Action Plan on Health Maternal, neonatal and child health 2021-2025

National Action Plan on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health 2021-2025

National Strategy on Youth Development 2021-2030

National Nutrition Strategy 2021-2030

National Strategy in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation by 2030 vision 2045

National Action Plan for Rabies 2021-2030

National Program for Prevention and Control of Child Injury in Viet Nam 2021-2030 with 53/63 Provincial Action Plans

National Toolkit/training package on Quality of Family Planning services at Primary Health Care, and on Skilled Birth Attendance and provision of SRH services amid Covid-19

for the period 2021-2025; (iii) IOM's support in providing upgraded software for MOLISA's National Hotline (111) on support to children and trafficked persons as well as in enhancing the capacity of 53 hotline counsellors; (iv) UNAIDS, UNODC and WHO's joint provision of policy and technical supports for the national multiday take-home Methadone doses pilot project, contributing to more diversified and people-centred HIV service delivery; (v) UNAIDS's facilitation of Viet Nam's participation at the 2021 UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and contribution to the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS; (v) UNAIDS and UNODC's trainings and policy dialogues among provincial HIV, health, social affairs and public security authorities to roll-out the "National guideline on HIV interventions for people who use stimulants" and development of a "National Guideline on Harm Reduction for People engaged in sexualized drug use"; (vi) UNFPA partnered with the Youth Union to mitigate impacts of Covid-19 on young returning migrants.

The UN led by WHO also worked toward the enforcement of **drink drive ban** under the Alcohol Control Law, contributing to the significant reduction in the prevalence of drink driving from 45% in 2015 to 27.3% in 2021. WHO supported MOH to develop a guideline on health impacts from **air pollution** to protect public health and strongly advocated for putting health impacts from climate change and air pollution up high on Viet Nam's development agenda. WHO, FAO, and MOH jointly worked on stopping the misuse and overuse of **antimicrobials** at hospitals, farms and homes.

Strengthened key regulations, national strategies and action plans

Several important health-related legal documents were designed and approved in 2021 with the UN's support and incorporating UN recommendations. These include several national strategies, action plans,

KEY LEGAL DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED AND REVIEWED IN 2021 WITH UN CONTRIBUTIONS

Health Insurance Law expected to strengthen fund management and ensure fund sustainability

Government Decree guiding some health aspects of the amended Drug Law, in support of objective assessment of drug-dependence status and greater opportunity for community-based drug dependence treatment.

Review of the **National Pharmaceutical Sector Strategy (NPSS) 2014-2020** and development of the **National Pharmaceutical Sector Strategy 2021-2030** with a vision towards 2045.

Integrated **National Action Plan for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases** including mental health

National Deployment and Vaccination Plans (NDVPs) for COVID-19 vaccines

National Scheme to Reduce Child Mortality in Viet Nam by 2030

National Action Plan on Maternal, neonatal and child health 2021-2025

National Action Plan on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health 2021-2025

National Strategy on Youth Development 2021-2030

National Nutrition Strategy 2021-2030

National Strategy in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation by 2030 vision 2045

National Action Plan for Rabies 2021-2030

National Program for Prevention and Control of Child Injury in Viet Nam 2021-2030 with 53/63 Provincial Action Plans

National Toolkit/training package on Quality of Family Planning services at Primary Health Care, and on Skilled Birth Attendance and provision of SRH services amid Covid-19

programmes and associated guidelines, trainings, advocacy, etc. on COVID-19 vaccination (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA), primary health care (WHO), reproductive health (UNFPA), nutrition (UNICEF, WHO), water, hygiene, and sanitation (UNICEF), rabies (WHO), child injury (WHO), health insurance (ILO), harm reduction for people who use drugs and drug dependence treatment (UNAIDS, UNODC, WHO), pharmaceutical sector (WHO), and non-communicable diseases including mental health (WHO),

All of these legal documents aim to improve health outcomes in Viet Nam in the context of COVID-19, towards the SDG achievement, especially through equal, inclusive, and timely access to different health services. The focus was on the most vulnerable groups including women, children, ethnic minorities, urban obese adolescents, older persons and the poor.

Improved data and evidence for effective policy advocacy and policy making

The UN in fully shared and support the GOVN in implementing the common goal “Better data, Better Lives”.

UNICEF successfully advocated to include severe acute malnutrition (SAM) indicators in the official Health Information System (HMIS) that was first time ever published in the Health Statistic Yearbook 2021, and to consider SAM as a disease whose treatment was included in the latest draft of the Law on Medical Examination and Treatment. UNAIDS actively supported for the generation of quality strategic information to better inform HIV programming through the development of a national M&E plan for the National Strategy to End AIDS by 2030 and other surveillance tools. WHO contributed to the monitoring of the National Strategy for Prevention and Control of NCD 2015-2025 and the Healthy Viet Nam Programme. In order to complement the service provision by existing health establishments during COVID-19, UNFPA upgraded the smartphone application “MCH24/7”

Inclusion of **SAM indicators** in HMIS

Costed National M&E Plan for the National Strategy to End AIDS by 2030

HIV sentinel surveillance being piloted among transgender women; **AIDS Epidemic Modelling (AEM)** updated at provincial level; and reporting to **Annual Global AIDS Monitoring report**

National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) and Risk Factors Survey

Smartphone application “MCH24/7” upgraded with real time SRH information and services, used by over **5,000 migrant workers and ethnic minority women**



Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

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

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2,564,041	3,784,868	2,368,013	3,738,586	4,039,127

Improved national policy/plan and programmes for inclusive and equitable quality education for all

The UN in Viet Nam (UNESCO and UNICEF) provided its joint support for the MOET in producing an education sector analysis report, to be finalized in 2022 and providing inputs for developing the new 10-year Education Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) 2021-2030. Furthermore, the UN also supported for the development of the executive version of the EDSP for MOET's submission to the GOVN in May 2022. The EDSP will consist of priority education programmes and an M&E framework which will be available in September 2022. On the area of vocational training, ILO supported in preparing technical reports for the drafting revisions of the Employment Law, technical advice to MOLISA for the development and approval of the first National Skill and VET Strategy for 2021-2030 with a vision to 2045, which was then adopted by the Prime Minister Decision No.2239.

Delivery of education services and enhanced capacity of teachers and GOVN educational officers

In 2021, the UN actively supported the digital transformation of the education system in the COVID-19 context. A number of



120 videos, manuals, materials on gender and CSE knowledge provided on <https://weshare.vnies.edu.vn>

228,864 organic reaches and 12,402 engagements gained through 2021 UN Free & Equal campaign on CSE

Augmented and virtual reality education software, benefitting **2,199 teachers and 29,745 marginalized students** (36 per cent ethnic minorities, 49 per cent girls).

1,503 lower secondary teachers and educational administrators (772 female) received online trainings on school counselling

607 children of Hanoi, HCMC, and An Giang province received attended in short-term and long-term vocational training courses

significant results include (i) UNICEF's contribution to the development of a National Digital Literacy and Transferable Skills Framework launched in June 2021; (ii) UNICEF's support the recovery of students' learning loss in partnership with MOET through introducing a augmented and virtual reality education software to promote students and teachers' engagement with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts; (iii) UNICEF's provision of universal access to 160 free, open-source, high-quality, digital early grade reading books in Vietnamese, eight underserved ethnic minority languages and sign language; (iv) and UNESCO's supported MOET online trainings on gender-responsive school counselling in lower secondary schools of Ha Giang, Ninh Thuan, Soc Trang and Kon Tum provinces.

UNFPA and UNICEF continued their support to the MOET in developing the guidelines for teachers on integrating comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in pre-school, primary, and secondary school programmes and selected relevant subjects of national education curriculum 2018 in line with international standards. In addition, UNFPA supported for MOLISA's development, approval, and inclusion of an innovative self-learning online program on CSE for students in vocational facilities. UNFPA also provided 450 drug users in Son La,

Hoang Binh and Hai Phong with knowledge on CSE, life skills education, prevention of gender based violence, and HIV infection.

UNICEF supported the Viet Nam Institute of Educational Sciences with the creation of a website (<https://weshare.vnies.edu.vn>). The 2021 UN Free & Equal campaign (UNESCO, UNAIDS and UNDP) promoting CSE among young LGBTI+ people, including pre-service teachers as change agents, was organized in Quarter 4, 2021 through a series of social media posts and a hybrid webinar, in collaboration with the University of Education and Viet Nam Network of Young Key Affected Population (VYKAP).

The UN actively worked to improve gender equity and gender-based violence at schools. With support of the Japanese Government, UNFPA supported in developing training materials for teachers on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence in the COVID-19 context in five secondary schools of Hue City, on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence in the COVID-19 context. UN Women built the capacity of the MOH Political Education and Student Affairs Department on prevention of school related gender-based violence and discriminations.



Photo: ©UN Viet Nam





OUTCOME 2.1. LOW CARBON, CLIMATE, AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

By 2021, Viet Nam accelerates its transition to sustainable development and green growth towards a low-carbon economy and enhances its adaptation and resilience to climate change and national disasters, with a focus on empowering poor and vulnerable groups

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
10,040,882	8,262,251	21,814,633	15,944,423	12,670,956

Viet Nam’s institutional capacity strengthened to systematically collect, analyze, manage, use and disseminate sex and age disaggregated data on vulnerability and hazards.

In 2021, the UN strengthened VNDMA’s capacity through various activities, including (i) conducting the first capacity assessment providing baselines for provincial capacity monitoring (UNDP); (ii) integrating GSO’s census data with GPS information into the disaster risk database for houses, particularly in high-risk areas in 14 coastal provinces, to better monitor community risk, disaster preparedness/response, and climate change (UNDP); (iii) collecting socio-economic data in Ca Mau and Gia Lai provinces to feed into the Viet Nam Disaster Monitoring System (VNDMS) for mapping risks to drought (FAO and UN Women); (iv) conducting online training courses on updating disaster risk management plans to more than 21,000 officials of 63 provinces, to enhance people’s resilience to “the



dual challenges” of natural disasters and COVID-19; (v) collecting the first-ever sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) on gender-sensitive disaster risks monitoring at provincial level to fit into the VDMS (UNICEF); and (vi) developing a national guideline for 63 provinces on planning for risk reduction efforts in the COVID-19 context.

Viet Nam’s policy and legislative environment on disaster risk reduction enhanced and informed by evidence and analysis including gender and vulnerability analysis.

With UNDP’s support, the MPI issued a new circular to guide the integration of disaster risk reduction into the SEDP processes at all administrative levels. A new nationwide 10-year CBDRM Strategy 2021-2030 was also approved by the Prime Minister. To date (i) over 47,000 local leaders and activists (48% women) in 373 communes in vulnerable coastal provinces have enhanced climate and disaster risk knowledge and skills, and (ii) VNDMA’s decision to expand risk management and awareness-raising activities to all 28 coastal provinces.

UNDP and UNICEF provided technical inputs to the MPI for the development and approval of the new Green Growth Strategy for



Figure 1: The national guideline on disaster prevention and control in the COVID-19 context



Photo: SADDD in the disaster monitoring system of VNDMS

Disaster risk reduction integrated into SEDPs at all levels

10-year Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Strategy 2021-2030 approved

New Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030, Vision to 2050 approved

National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2030, vision to 2050 developed

the period of 2021-2030, vision to 2050 (No. 1658/QĐ-TTg), reflecting a stronger focus on children, air pollution, risk management, climate change mainstreaming in education, low-carbon development, and green operation public services. Children's rights were raised in the context of climate change and for net-zero emission in view of COP26 through UNICEF's advocacy to the Viet Nam COP26 delegation.

In terms of gender mainstreaming, UN Women and VNDMA conducted a gender assessment on disaster management policies and institutional mechanisms and online trainings on gender analysis and advocacy in DRM for VWU officials, which contributed to improve the GOVN system in ensuring gender equality and social inclusion in disaster management.

IFAD assisted the MARD and IPSARD in the formulation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development 2021-2030, vision to 2050, in which disaster risk reduction was mainstreamed.

Viet Nam systematically invests in disaster risk reduction initiatives and actions to build resilience of the most vulnerable groups

UNDP's initiative with MARD and MOC on typhoon resilient houses was successful with 4,000 houses built in 2017-2021 which remained undamaged after cyclones and storms in the Central Region of Viet Nam in October-November 2021 and Quang Nam province decided to construct 10,000 resilient houses in 2021-2025. A new typhoon resilient house model for islands which can withstand strong wind and with rooftop solar panels was also invented to produce sufficient electricity for daily uses. UNDP also worked to (i) regenerate mangrove forests, (ii) raise awareness on 5K⁸ messages in emergencies before the disaster season of 2021 reaching more than 10,000 viewers, and (iii) develop digital telehealth solutions to help healthcare staff to connect commune health stations with health facilities at higher levels and communities.

UNDP and WHO jointly promoted the use of the Dengue Model forecasting Satellite-based System (D-MOSS). UN Women and UNDP

8

- Khẩu trang (Face Masks)
- Khử khuẩn (Disinfection)
- Không tụ tập (No Gathering)
- Khai báo y tế (Health Declaration)
- Khoảng cách (Distancing)

4,000 resilient houses constructed, benefiting **20,000 poor and near-poor people** (67% women).

39 new typhoon resilient house model for islands built

Anticipatory Action Protocol (AAP) for typhoons and floods underdevelopment

Software “Doctor for everyone” introduced to 63 DOHs

Over 583 hectares of mangroves planted and regenerated with **411 households** benefited from livelihood models, led to **191,025 tCO2 reduction**

200 health officials trained on D-MOSS system for Dengue prevention and control planning.

jointly worked to promote the role of community-based forces and women in disaster response through the television show game “Commune Disaster Response Team competition”.

FAO supports VNDMA to develop the AAP for typhoons and floods in the Central region to enable the government and communities to take necessary actions ahead of typhoons and floods.

UNICEF conducted various advocacy and communication initiatives to promote children and youth’s engagement in climate change actions and environment protection, including social media campaigns towards COP26 <https://www.facebook.com/unicefvietnam/videos/964906747396337/>; the promotion of children and young people initiatives on green behaviors <https://uni.cf/3giQqGy>; and **communication materials** <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1fXIPup5U8lKRPLcOpld0Cl9bKq8uTKFv>.

Strengthened cooperation with other countries and multiple stakeholders on disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework chapter on international cooperation and global partnership).

The UN was active to build partnership among DRR actors. In 2021, the UN led by UN Women supported the VNDMA in organizing a high-level partnership event to celebrate the International Day on DRR and the ASEAN Day on Disaster Management with the

Ambassador of Sweden, H. E. Ann Måwe, and the UN Women Country Representative highlighting key messages on gender equality and women’s empowerment in DRR. In 2021, UN Women also supported the VNDMA and ASEAN Secretariat to organize an ASEAN Forum on Gender and DRR, documenting good practices from ASEAN in implementing Ha Noi recommendations and the Sendai framework.

Strengthened legislation, standards, and capacity for low carbon development

The UN paid a great effort in promoting low carbon development through its various projects and partnership.

The UN facilitated the Development Partners Group (DPG)’s discussion around the strategic topics (e.g. energy transition, Nature Based Solutions and COP26 commitment and implementation) and the Informal Ambassadors’ Group on Development Cooperation (IAGDC) correspondent to the Prime Minister, calling for Viet Nam’s stronger contribution to global climate action prior to COP26, COP26 Viet Nam’s climate commitments, and development partners’ supports. UNDP as co-chair with the MOIT of the Energy Efficiency (EE) Working Group of the Viet Nam Energy Partnership Group (VEPG) continued to coordinate and support the implementation of the Viet Nam National Energy Efficiency Programme (VNEEP III).



The UN supported Viet Nam in developing and issuing many national plans, strategies, and legal documents in 2021. These include PDP8, NCCS, NDC and NAP with more gender-sensitive solutions and increased engagement of local communities and civil society, private sector and particularly youth. These also include different GOVN decrees on energy efficiency, resource saving, green buildings, and forestry seedling management.

Contributing to the UN joint effort, IFAD assisted ethnic minority provinces in forest land allocation and forest carbon market access through partnerships with international carbon traders aiming to reduce emissions and support National REDD+ Action Programme goals. UNDP also launched the Youth4Climate Initiative in promoting youth's participation and climate solutions.

Strengthened action planning and implementation capacity for climate change adaptation (CCA) to reduce vulnerabilities of the most affected groups such as poor people, women and children.



FAO supported MARD in identifying most cost-effective mitigation and adaptation measures to be included in the NDC and for MARD resource mobilization through a study “Consolidating evidence and practical bases for selecting mitigation and adaptation priorities of agriculture sector being included in NDC of Viet Nam”.

UNEP under the joint UNEP-UN Women EmPower project established with VWU and Viet Nam Bank for Social Policies a dedicated revolving fund for women’s entrepreneurs using renewable energy for climate resilient livelihoods, providing access to 15 women-led enterprises in 2021. The two agencies also developed an assessment report on the “State of Gender Equality and Climate Change” and a brief for policymakers as inputs for MONRE’s formulation of the Viet Nam Climate Change policy and the NDC implementation. UN Women also led the UN effort in gender mainstreaming through technical assistance to MONRE in developing the

New Power Development Plan (PDP8) developed

National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) drafted

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) updated

New Decree (No. 27/2021/NĐ-CP) on Forestry Seedling Management

Decision No. 1662/QĐ-TTg elaborated covering coastal forests to respond to climate change and facilitate green growth 2021-2030

Regulations on energy efficiency, resource savings and green building included in **Decree No. 15/2021/ND-CP on investments in buildings**

Youth4Climate Learning Hub launched; **Youth4Climate Innovation Contest** with over 400 innovative ideas with 10 awarded and 3 further developed





Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

National Strategy on Climate Change (NSCC) (2022-2030) and its training to VWU and Viet Nam NGOs network (61 CSO representatives) on gender equality and climate change. As a result, the “Workshop on Women’s participation in climate change and disaster risk reduction” and the key messages to UNFCCC/COP 26 on “Gender Mainstreaming and Women’s Empowerment” were produced by the NGOs network and VWU and presented at the Virtual Gender Market Place held during the Gender Day at UNFCCC/COP26. UNFPA, as the co-chair of the GBVIE sub sector supported VNDMA/MARD to develop the Guideline on integrating GBV interventions in emergencies.

With IFAD’s support, the four provinces of Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Ben Tre, and Tra Vinh completed their Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans 2021-2030, vision toward 2050.



OUTCOME 2.2. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
12,587,889	17,962,897	2,940,527	4,793,030	4,117,840

Improved policy framework for effective and efficient natural resources management (NRM).

Through the global project “Addressing Environment Challenges through Law”, UNEP engaged with MONRE’s Environmental Science Institute (ESI) in reviewing existing legal frameworks regarding animal health and management (including wildlife), and waste management. This informed the improvement and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations to address associated threats to human health and environment, such as zoonotic diseases, air and water pollution.

A public-private platform, “Viet Nam Circular Economy Hub”, was launched by UNDP, MONRE and other development partners, aiming to enhance dialogue, generate skills, and mobilize collective action towards the transition to a circular economy in Viet Nam.

In fighting against plastic pollution, UNDP supported the preparation and approval of Decision No.1407/QĐ-TTg, indicating Viet Nam’s commitment to reducing marine plastic pollution through building negotiating capacity, databases, and stakeholder coordination



mechanisms. UNDP Viet Nam also collaborated with UNDP Indonesia and UNDP Philippines to launch the Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) Phase II, resulting in 139 applications from 7 ASEAN countries; of which four winners received support for scale-up and implementation in Indonesia and the Philippines in 2022. In supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030, UNESCO's Youth and Innovation for Ocean Initiatives provided supports for three youth-led innovative solutions on plastic management; at the same time, more than 300 young professionals participated in the "Youth Action for Ocean without Plastic Waste" Forum. UNESCO and its partners organized communication campaigns on social media to raise awareness on plastic waste management and single-use plastic reduction (the Plastic-19 Challenge) during 2021.

UNDP supported the development and integration of regulations on Biosphere Reserve management, such as into the GOVN decree on guiding the implementation of Law on Environmental Protection 2020 and the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP)

until 2030, vision to 2050. UNESCO continued to support MARD and MONRE in capacity building in sustainable water resources management through training workshops, benefiting about 107 national and provincial officers and scholars.

Strengthened compliance to multilateral environmental instruments

UNDP supported Viet Nam in implementing international agreements on chemicals, including the Stockholm Convention and Minamata Convention, particularly in demonstrating Green Chemistry in paint and electroplating sectors. UNDP has been assisting the Viet Nam Environment Agency (VEA) of MONRE on biodiversity conservation through the revision of the Circular on Environmental Impact Assessment to better integrate biodiversity conservation in the environmental impact assessment process, the development of a circular on financing for Biosphere Reserves in Viet Nam, as well as the development of technical guidelines (e.g. on Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and High Conservation Values (HCV) areas, and on monitoring indicators for Biosphere Reserves)

3,652kg of POPs and 6,3kg Mercury eliminated

1,587 tons of POPs contained materials and products removed

Four new production technologies in paint and plating introduced

A circular on financing for Biosphere Reserves drafted





Photo: ©UN Viet Nam



OUTCOME 3.1. ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

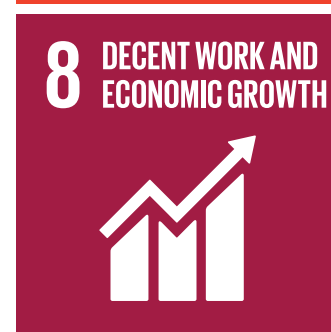
Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
5,408,625	5,313,819	4,256,897	3,163,274	3,373,111

Inclusive Growth Model

UNDP supported Viet Nam's transformation to a more inclusive, productive, green & climate resilient economy through assisting the development and rolling-out of the 2030 integrated national financing framework (INFF), of which the SDGs are at the heart, while considering the impact of COVID-19. A series of UNDP thematic reports provided the GOVN with inputs for (i) strengthened resource allocation via better alignment of development finance; (ii) improved effectiveness of public investment gained through better integration across GOVN agencies (vertically & horizontally); & (iii) increased private sector investment & quality FDI flows that support the development of green & productive domestic private enterprises.

To inform the GOVN's policy actions and development partners' support interventions for mitigating the four waves of COVID-19's negative impacts on Vietnamese people, especially the informal workers and vulnerable groups, UNDP-financed and commissioned two reports: (i) "Rapid Assessment of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable Households in Viet Nam" by CAF/VASS, and (ii) "Rapid assessment of design and implementation of Government's 2nd support package for the affected by Covid-19" (according to Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP) by ILSSA/MOLISA. Taking UNDP's advice through COVID impact assessments, the GOVN's second social



assistance package for vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 was extended and refined by reducing eligibility criteria & simplifying procedures, helping the support package reach 27.37 million people with \$1.4 billion from the state budget.

Strengthened capacities, institutions, and policies to promote a favorable, transparent, and fair business environment for sustainable enterprise development

The UN led by ILO continued to support the GOVN's salary reform through its support to strengthen the National Wage Council (NWC) operation, organizing experience sharing seminars, developing the 1st ever National Wage Report, as well as organizing the Trade Union technical forum on the minimum wage in the context of Covid-19.

In supporting the GOVN in promoting transparent business environment, UNIDO helped expand the national business registration system to cooperatives, amend the Enterprise Law 2020 and the Investment Law 2020, develop Decree No.01/2021/ND-CP guiding business registration in line with the revised Enterprise Law, and develop Decree No.122/2020/ND-CP guiding the inter-agency coordination in enterprise registration. UNIDO also enhanced the standards and quality compliance capacity of SMEs in the tropical fruit sector to facilitate their access to export markets.

To support fair and safe migration and migrant workers, ILO worked with the GOVN in (i) promulgating guiding decrees for implementation of the Law on Contract-Based Vietnamese Overseas Workers (Law 69), (ii) developing vocational training programs for migrant workers, (iii) better communicating safe migration messages to women, (iv) enhancing national data and analysis capacity on labour migration, especially woman migrant workers, and (v) setting up five Migrant Worker Resource Centers (MRCs) to provide legal assistance to migrant workers.

UN Women actively worked on gender equality and women empowerment at workplace through its support to the MPI in (i) integrating gender into the newly developed Decree No. 80/2021/ND-CP on SMEs supporting policies, (ii) developing the Programme on the Enhancement of Competitiveness for Women-Owned SMEs 2021-2025; (iii) developing a web-based gender responsive enterprise assessment tool for SMEs; and (iv) producing e-learning lectures on business skills for female business owners and manager. UN Women also supported 369 women entrepreneurs to access finance and gender-responsive financial products and services through different platforms.

Improved competitiveness and productivity of informal and formal sector businesses towards more compliance with recognized standards and trade agreements

The UN modernized and digitalized business models and tools. UNDP's effective e-commerce & e-payment business models helped benefit 1,142 people in Lao Cai and Son La provinces. UNIDO and IFAD rebuilt and digitalized agricultural value chains in Dong Thap and Ben Tre provinces.

The UN led by UNIDO together with UNICEF, FAO, IFAD contributed to the successful organization of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit in Viet Nam. Under the framework of the UN joint programme on Creative City in Ha Noi, the UN (UNESCO, UN Habitat and UNIDO) supported the city in creating alternate and short-term incomes for the most affected tourism workers at World Heritage sites and developing a roadmap for private sector's pledge in sustainable tourism in the post COVID19 recovery.

ILO, through Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) project, supported improvement of productivity and working conditions in SMEs. The project trained 409 policy makers and social partners and integrated SCORE aspects in existing public training programmes.

OUTCOME 3.2. INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKET

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

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2,829,173	3,917,096	2,826,952	1,694,140	590,000

The UN, mainly through ILO and UNICEF, strengthened the legal framework and monitoring of **child labour**. The achieved results in 2021 includes: (i) the approval of the National Plan of Action for Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour 2021-2025, vision to 2030; (ii) the inclusion of key indicators on child labour, formalization, multi-dimensional child poverty in the revised Statistics Law.

ILO led the UN effort in working on informality, rights to organize and collective bargaining, trade union including multi-employer union, abolition of forced labour, international labour standards compliance, social dialogue, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and business continuity plan during COVID-19, etc. which produced significant results.

In terms of promoting gender equality, the UN, through UN Women, supported the GOVN in developing regulations for the business sector on reporting gender equality and promoting women's empowerment in the workplace. UN Women, VWEC and VCCI organized the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards the second time in Viet Nam in 2021. The WEPs Awards 2021 recognized companies and business leaders' exceptional championship of gender equality and support for the WEPs.





Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

VGCL's position papers on ratification of the **ILO Core conventions 98, convention 105** submitted

Five MECBAs signed in 62 enterprises benefiting 32,000 workers (48% women)

Four sets of training package on formality entrepreneurship (MyCoop, GetAhead, SIYB, Policy guide for formalization) developed and used

Multi-employer union established for 10 private childcare groups in Tam Ky city, Quang Nam province.

A proposal on strengthening VGCL strategies to deal with FTA impacts through the establishment of a union network developed

Capacity of **trade union leaders in 50 Industrial zones/parks in 48 cities/provinces** within Industrial Zone Trade Union's Champion Network strengthened to support workers

25 Federation of Labour trainers trained on social dialogue and soft skills through Better Work Viet Nam

110 and 100 final-year students of Nha Trang University and Can Tho University, respectively, trained on CSR

A **survey on COVID-19 impacts on labour and employment** in Viet Nam conducted by VCCI

A **technical guideline for Covid-19 prevention and control at workplace** issued by ILO and WHO

OUTCOME 4.1. DECISION-MAKING, 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

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
6,539,158	9,339,415	4,702,023	6,934,841	6,774,096

More participatory and transparent decision making and policy monitoring processes in and in alignment with international standards, with active engagement of civil society actors, vulnerable groups, GOVN and other actors.

UNDP engaged voices of vulnerable groups and directly affected communities in the formation of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights indicators, the national baseline study on salient business & HRs issues, National Action Plan on Responsible Business & HRs in Viet Nam, situational analysis on the rights of Vietnamese PwDs, the draft laws on gender affirmation and marriage equality, and economic impact of same-sex marriage legalization. The joint EU JULE Programme coordinated by UNDP convened three high-level forums respectively on legal aid, civil judgement enforcement and judicial support to discuss existing challenges and recommendations for better access to justice of vulnerable groups.

UNICEF provided inputs on and created multistakeholder platform for the development of a decree on management of three NTPs. Public consultations and technical assistance created jointly by UNAIDS and UNODC in partnership with government partners





Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

resulted in an important GOVN decree guiding some health aspect of the amended Drug Law which promotes greater opportunity for community-based drug dependence treatment.

The UN continued to support the application of citizen-centric and HRs-based approaches to policy making. UNDP through its PAPI programme supported provincial governments in the adoption of citizen-centric governance and public administration innovations through policy advocacy and training on user-centric design of digital services and other digital capabilities; as a result, the percentage of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services increased in 2021⁹.

Improved capacity of civil society organizations to engage in advocacy, implementation, and monitoring of development policies, including effective engagement in international monitoring mechanisms.

9 PAPI 2021, UNDP

UN joint efforts led by UNDP contributed to the drafting of the first UPR mid-term report, with CSOs engagement and international best practices. With UNDP's support in capacity building, nearly 200 persons representing youths, academics & CSOs, were equipped with knowledge on UPR, international laws & standards on the application of death penalty, HRs indicators, adversarial skills, business & human rights education, human right informed practices to be observed by business and showed commitments in integrating business and human rights in their teaching curricular. 15 CSOs were supported by UN Women to develop the CSO report on CEDAW implementation in Viet Nam. Dialogues between the government and CSOs on gender financing were made possible with support from UN Women. UNFPA supported for the amendment of the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control through working with GBVnet to develop policy recommendations and organizing consultative meetings with vulnerable groups.

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

Expenditure in USD

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
5,498,126	7,546,025	14,162,996	15,385,320	16,062,144

Improved knowledge, capacity and commitment of relevant public agencies and corporate sector to protect, respect and remedy human rights, including the development of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

In 2021, many UN agencies jointly worked to foster national capacity in the protection of human rights, particularly on (i) provision of legal support for victims of domestic violence, women in ethnic minority, PwDs and other vulnerable groups (UNDP, UNICEF), (ii) dealing with child sexual exploitation (UNODC), (iii) gender responsive delivery of essential services to survivors of violence (UN Women, UNODC, WHO and UNFPA), (iv) the Nelson Mandela Rules (UNODC), (v) transparency, prevention of corruption and anti-money laundering, (vi) HIV counseling, testing, care and treatment (WHO, UNODC, and UNAIDS), (vii) development, implementation and monitor of gender equality policies, (vi) human trafficking (IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women); and (vii) harmful practices (UNFPA).



Capacity Strengthening to

600 justice practitioners to provide legal support for victims of domestic violence

500 service providers to provide integrated services for GBV survivors

130 investigators, prosecutors and judges to deal with child sexual exploitation

700 professionals in gender responsive delivery of essential services to survivors of violence

500 undergraduate law school students to complete Child Justice Course

200 criminal justice officers on the Nelson Mandela Rules

100 officers from law enforcement, justice and anti-corruption agencies on transparency, prevention of corruption and anti-money laundering.

200 health care workers from prisons and pre-trials detention centres on HIV rapid testing, counseling, care and treatment

500 GOVN officials to develop, implement and monitor gender equality policies.

Rights-based laws, policies, and mechanisms developed and improved for better human rights protection, gender equality and prevention of discrimination and violation

The UN made significant contributions to the development and issuance of key legal documents in 2021 to protect human rights in Viet Nam. These consist of, but not limited to, (i) the National Programme on Child Labour Prevention and Elimination 2021-2025, the National Programme on Child Online Protection 2021-2025, and the National Programme on Social Work Development 2021-2030 (UNICEF), (ii) the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2030 (UN Women), (iii) the National Program on Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat 2021-2025 and the National Action Plan to Support Victims of Human Trafficking 2021-2025, orientation to 2030 (IOM, UNODC), (iv) Decree 09/2013/ND-CP on human trafficking victim support (IOM) aligned with the revised Trafficking in Person Law, (v) the amended Law on Statistics (all UN agencies), (vi) the draft Laws on Gender Affirmation & Marriage Equality (UN agencies jointly), (vii) the amended Law on Drug Prevention and Control (UNODC and UNAIDS), (viii) the draft Law on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) on

Hotline 18001768 supporting GBV survivors: **1,000 calls** within first month of operation

A **training manual** including on providing integrated essential services for GBV survivors

One more **One Stop Service Center (OSSC)** for GBV survivors in Thanh Hoa province

5 videos on sexual harassment prevention, maternal rights, gender equality, minor labor rights of children, reaching **3,700 people** through social media

A video on civil registration and vital statistics

3 Peace House Shelters and **1 Hotline** benefiting **2,197 female survivors of violence**

12,000 vulnerable women at reproductive age in Da Nang city received sanitary pads and leaflets on end violation against women

4 Standards of Operating Procedures on providing coordinated services for women migrant workers as survivors of violence developed.

Five One-Stop-Service offices and hotline 1800599967 providing free counselling and referral support

Criminal Matters (UNODC), (ix) the amended Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control (UNFPA, UNODC) and the National Programme on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control in the new situation until 2025 (UNFPA), (x) the draft Law on Gender Equality (UN Women, UNFPA), (xi) Directive No. 36/CT-TTg for improving care and protection of children from violence, promotion of mental health, and expansion of family-based alternative care for children orphaned due to COVID-19 (UNICEF), and (xii) the National Action Plan on Responsible Business and Human Rights (UNDP).

Developed practical tools for HRs protection and access to justice

A number of practical tools for HRs protection and access to justice were developed by UN agencies in 2021. These are on the areas of GBV (UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, ILO); sexual harassment prevention, maternal rights, gender equality, minor labor rights of children (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA); civil registration and vital statistics (UNFPA); legal, psychological, vocational training and employment difficulties of migrant women (IOM); and criminal records, criminal expungement, property rights, and handling compensation cases (UNDP, UNODC, UNAIDS).

Effective public awareness campaigns on human rights

The UN also led various public awareness campaigns on promoting human rights, particularly of most vulnerable people. These include social media, online and in-person campaigns focusing on LGBTIQ+ persons and other minority groups (joint UN); **HIV-related legal education (UNAIDS); death penalty (UNDP); access to land information (UNDP); human trafficking (IOM, UNODC); gender bias and GBV (UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC).**

UN Campaigns on Human Rights

ZeroDiscrimination#BeTheForceForChange and UN Free & Equal #StandWithPride

Knowing Your Rights reaching over 5,000 people living with or at risk of HIV

Online talk shows on international standards on the application of the death penalty

“Think Before You Go” on human trafficking, reaching over 1.5 million people

“Girls deserve to shine” engaging over 1,200 participants and 120,000 views in social media

#HeForSheatHome and **#MySheroes, a campaign** reaching over 40 million people

“Ensuring social security, empowering and creating opportunities for women and girls to realize gender equality and eliminate violence against women and girls”, reaching 21 million people with 655,000 reactions and 75,000 engagements and shares

White Ribbon Breakfast on “Gender sensitivity in adjudicating violence against women and girls”, engaging 100 judges, prosecutors, investigators, lawyers, and gender equality activists

Safe and Fair Migration, reaching 800 women

MAIN CHALLENGES

The major wave of COVID-19 in 2021 presented main challenges to the UN's programmes and operations in all working areas. Several UN-supported activities (especially those requiring physical participation) were postponed and delayed during the COVID-19 outbreak due to social distancing and the mobilization of a large amount of GOVN human resources for the COVID-19 response.

With enforced lockdowns and travel restrictions, **the health sector being overstretched**. Staff at the MOH and provincial CDCs experienced delays in implementation of UN planned activities, particularly in COVID-19 control and management, organizing face-to-face advocacy events, collaboration with other sectors, and conducting clinical training sections on real patients.

Prolonged school closure in many provinces especially in HCMC and Ha Noi led to the **delay and cancellation of many activities in the educational sector** with the MOET, teachers and students, particularly including the EDSP 2021-2030 formulation. In addition, online-learning, which requires the supports of ICT equipment, limited the access and learning quality among students especially at young ages and at the same time increased the burden of unpaid care work for teachers.

The socio-economic impact of the pandemic made it **much more challenging in closing socio-economic gaps and reducing inequality** for most vulnerable groups including the poor and near poor, women, children, ethnic minorities, older persons, migrants and workers in informal sectors, sex workers, people who use drugs, people affected by HIV/AIDS, youth and adolescent, and PwDs. It was critical for the UN and other stakeholders to close the digital divide, address adolescent mental health, strengthen social protection, realize human rights, and address

violence against women and children. It was more challenging to advocate for further social spending while the GOVN was under pressure to boost economic growth.

The pandemic presented **unique challenges to the protection of HRs**, and disproportionately impacted on vulnerable groups in society. Discrimination, stigma and violence being reinforced during COVID-19 have exacerbated situations and the pandemic also made new groups vulnerable. Continued more punitive policy environment with regards to drug use posing challenges in scale-up existing community-based drug dependence treatment and addressing emerging and increasing use of amphetamine type substances and sexualized drug use. Stigma and discrimination causing barriers for the most vulnerable populations in accessing emergency support in the context of COVID-19, including for sex workers and other key HIV-affected populations. The national focus on successfully controlling the spread of the virus did not always put HRs obligations at the core of response and recovery measures. Several training opportunities on UN HRs mechanisms for key national partners were delayed due to challenges in obtaining timely endorsement and coordination from the relevant governing bodies within the Government. The constraining civic space, including for CSOs, in Viet Nam has been one of the major challenges, particularly in HRs advocacy, citizen participation, and civic engagement.

Despite much progress made towards epidemic control, Viet Nam's **HIV epidemic remains a public health threat**, with significant challenges regarding sustainability of prevention and community-led services. The declining new infections among PWID and FSW runs the risk of being offset by rapid increase of new infections among MSM, transgender women and women infected by intimate partners. Political leadership and commitment remain strong but needs consolidation. Implementation of national





Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

commitments remain uneven across the country. Strict social distancing measures for COVID-19 control and HIV-related social stigma and discrimination disproportionately affected HIV key populations in adherence to HIV treatment, PrEP service for HIV prevention, and access to SRHR services and essential livelihoods and social support.

Within the UN in Viet Nam, **agency-specific as well as joint UN programming and resource mobilization continued to be a significant challenge.** Despite a considerable coordination among UN agencies under the UNDS reform, limitations still existed regarding involvement, financial contribution, communication and information sharing, especially for joint activities.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND - HIGHLIGHTS

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

According to the UN-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard reporting in 2021, the accountability and performance by UNCT in Viet Nam towards gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE) have significantly improved, with 80 per cent of monitoring indicators exceeding or meeting minimum requirements (from 67 per cent in 2016), focusing on gender advocacy and communication, partnership, leadership, mainstreaming, and resource mobilization.

Through the Gender Thematic Group (GTG), the UN

fully mainstreamed gender equality in all outcomes of the new Viet Nam UNSDCF 2022-2026. The UNCT action plan on gender equality was developed and endorsed in July 2021, based on the UN-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard findings.

The UN in Viet Nam made great efforts towards strengthening the capacity of UN staff, particularly operations staff, on Gender-responsive Procurement through a learning session on “Gender-responsive Procurement: What, Why, and How in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals for Application in Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0”, aiming at fostering gender equality in the UN system and promoting women’s entrepreneurship by using public procurement.

In terms of public advocacy, the UN in Viet Nam organized a policy forum “Promoting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from a Gender Perspective”, the “16 Days of Activism” campaign to end violence against women and girls, and the UN Secretary-General’s UniTE campaign. These campaigns, which were organized with the active engagement of the GOVN, international NGOs, CSOs, and donors, significantly contributed to the “National Action Month on Gender Equality and the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls” and the SDG5 implementation in Viet Nam, especially in the recovery and post-pandemic period.

UNDIS Scorecard

Ranking	Number of UNDIS Scorecard Indicators	
	2020	2021(*)
Exceeds Requirements	0	3
Meets Requirements	4	8
Approaches Requirements	6	3
Missing	4	0

(*) UNCT Viet Nam's self-evaluation

UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and Action Plan

In 2021, the UN developed and implemented the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) Action Plan aiming at providing the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the UN. The UN Viet Nam (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF) also has received UNPRPD trust fund to conduct the inception phase and the implementation phase of the joint programme on PwDs in 2022-2023. A significant progress has been made in improving the UNCT's ranking on meeting or exceeding the UNDIS's requirements.

Various activities were conducted which contributed to this significant achievement, including: (i) the first-ever training on PwDs for UN leaders and PwDs issues integrated in UN leaders' keynote speeches and opening remarks, such as on the International and National Days of PwDs; (ii) PwD/UNDIS issues integrated in One UN Results Reports, OSP evaluation, CCA and the new UNSDCF 2022-2026, particularly in Focus Area 4 on inclusive participation, access to justice, and the rule of law; (iii) the establishment of the UN Disability Inclusion Coordination Mechanism chaired by a head of agency; (iv) UNCT mobilization of resources required for its Action Plan, including

for a UNCT Disability Inclusion Focal Point that will act as Secretariat to the Coordination Mechanism; (v) a consultation with organizations of PwDs (OPDs) on the UNDIS implementation and OPDs visits to the GOUNH; (vi) GOUNH renovations including tactile walkway for people with vision impairment, lift voice, caution stripe in stairwell, auto taps in single use restroom, glazed panels on all doors for safety, installing outdoor speakers to announce to walking people, GOUNH accessibility manual, and ISO25142-standard assessment survey with 43 hotels in the procurement list of the UN in the progress of encouraging venues to meet accessibility standards for PwDs; (vii) a mapping report on the GOVN disability data collection for future capacity building and interventions and a first-ever training on measuring disability inclusion the UN M&E working group; (viii) a UNDP project on improving access to healthcare and employment for PwDs in the COVID-19 context; and (ix) a review of the gaps in disability inclusion in the UNCT's human resource policies and the disability status of our employees and non-employees to promote the inclusion of a disability-inclusive diversity statement in all vacancy announcements of all UN agencies in Viet Nam.



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Youth

With the UN's active advocacy and policy advice through the Thematic Group on Adolescents and Youth, a number of important instruments were developed and promulgated in 2021 to promote the rights of youth and adolescents, including the approval of the National Strategy on Youth 2021-2030 and the GOVN decrees on youth dialogues, supporting 16-18 years old youth, and supporting youth vanguards and youth volunteers.

Many campaigns and events were conducted by the UN in coordination with the UN Youth Advisory Group (YAG) and government partners to disseminate and promote the Youth Law's implementation, and to advocate for youth's voice and participation. These include: the online national youth forum on the 2021 International Youth Day; the U-Report Poll on the awareness about the Youth Law and gaps that concerns 13-24 years old U-Reporters to inform youth-related interventions; the annual World Children's Day and #MyStreet campaign showcasing adolescents' stories about how their lives have changed since COVID-19 in multimedia forms; the local Healthy Eating Campaign "Healthy Food Good Mood" to the prevention of adolescent overweight, reaching two million of youth and adolescents in Viet Nam; and the IOM-supported campaign "Think Before You Go" regarding safe migration and prevention of human trafficking for young aspirant migrants. Of which, the results of "Think Before You Go" can be highlighted as the UN success with 2,651 youth students in Quang Binh improved their knowledge through community outreach events,

over 500 youth students in Hai Phong and Nghe An receiving online career orientation, 1.5 million people benefiting from the Facebook page "Nghĩ trước Bước sau – Think Before You Go" as well as various advocacy videos and gameshows.

Children and youth's participation, voice, creativity, and skills were improved thanks to the UN's supported platforms and forums. Together with AIESEC, an international youth-led organization, UNICEF supported the online Youth Leadership Conference (LeCo) to strengthen the employability of adolescents and youth, which engaged more than 1,000 participants aged 18 to 23 years old with active engagement from the private sector (Prudential, Nielsen, Lazada, TopCV, Cho Tot) and 80 participating teams in the Hackathon on business-case management. The monthly programme "What I Want To Say" and the Children's Counselling and Support Club were organized by UNICEF and the Youth Union and Young Pioneer Council in HCMC for children and adolescents to raise their voice on children's issues and contribute to a child-friendly HCMC. UNICEF also coordinated with these two agencies in introducing and established 30 Social Innovation Clubs for improving 21st century skills for children and adolescents, benefiting 900 children and adolescents, including out of school children and children in remoted areas.

In addition, the UN worked to increase knowledge on CSE, life skills, prevention of gender-based violence, HIV infection, and social innovation of young drug users, young people in TVET centres, and disadvantages children and adolescents.

HIV/AIDS

Overall, thanks to UN advocacy and guidance led by HIV Thematic Group, Viet Nam's political commitment to and progress towards ending AIDS as a public health threat remains strong even in the context of COVID-19. The Deputy Prime Minister led Viet Nam's active participation at the 2021 UN High Level Meeting on AIDS recommitting to the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. Viet Nam was among the countries that had supported the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

The HIV Thematic Group continued to contribute significantly to the protection of the health of people living with HIV and preventing new HIV infections among key populations including people who use drugs, sex workers, MSM, transgender women and people in closed settings in the context of COVID-19. This was done through supporting the initiation and scale-up of innovative approaches such as: multiday take-home Methadone doses; web-based HIV self-testing distribution and linkage to PrEP and HIV treatment; a 5-year national plan for PrEP scale-up until 2025 and updated guideline for PrEP implementation; a study on preference, uptake and retention of event-driven-PrEP to inform national programme; a guideline on behavioural interventions among MSM and transgender women in the context of unsafe sexualized drug use and HIV; implementation of key-populations-led multiple disease testing and demand generation; roll-out of comprehensive sexuality education including on safer sex and HIV prevention in and out of schools; and, expansion of community-led initiatives for peer support and mitigation of impacts of COVID-19, strengthening capacity for more than 50 CBOs and benefiting more than 7,000 persons living with and at higher risk of HIV (health/HIV counseling and direct service delivery).

The HIV Thematic Group also continued joining forces with the Human Rights Thematic Group and Gender Thematic Group to advocate for and contribute to improved knowledge and actions on human rights and gender equality among HIV key populations and

greater access to justice. This resulted in community meaningful engagement in policy dialogues for legislation and policy making on HIV and drug dependence treatment; community-led response to HIV and COVID-19 including access to HIV services in the context of COVID-19 and provision of emergency health/HIV and social services to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19; vulnerable communities participation in the #BetheForceforChange public information campaign between the Zero Discrimination Day and International Women's Day, the World AIDS Day campaign and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence; and the 2021 UN Free & Equal campaign promoting comprehensive sexuality education, safer sex and HIV prevention among young people including trainee teachers and young key populations at higher risk of HIV infection.



Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2021, the UNCT and each of its members continued to expand partnerships with traditional and new stakeholders inside and outside Viet Nam to help accelerate the SDGs and national goals, and leverage financing for the 2030 Agenda.

In **collaboration with Member States and development partners**, the UN played a key leading role in assisting the GOVN in mobilizing support for COVID-19 responses in Viet Nam. The UN led by UNICEF maintained strong partnership with Gavi and COVAX Facility to leverage further funding support for COVID-19 and routine vaccination, resulting in the approval of Gavi's support of USD 1.2 million for cold chain equipment and USD 3 million for vaccine delivery in Viet Nam. The UN led by UNICEF and WHO convened a stakeholder workshop on COVID-19 vaccination in Viet Nam (with USAID, the World Bank, ADB, PATH, JICA, KOICA, EU, and other partners) and helped mobilize USD 10 million from DFAT, USD 1 million from USAID, and USD 650,000 from the UK for COVID-19 vaccination delivery, procurement and distribution of medical devices and services. The UN (UNDP) expanded partnership with Australia, and CEMA, and MOLISA, in the experimentation of innovative solutions for empowering poor ethnic minority women in business in Lao Cai and Son La which fed into the design of two NTPs and opened the opportunities for longer term UNDP-GREAT/DFAT partnership. Through the partnership between UNFPA, the Government of Japan, and the GOVN, Japan provided an over USD 2.8 million project on SRH and mitigating the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam.

The UN continued to advocate and support Viet Nam in **accessing global funds**. With UN support, Viet Nam had access to USD 700,000 from the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF and USD 850,000 from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF for Building Forward

Better (COVID-19 MPTF Call 2). Viet Nam became a pilot country of UNDP's global Insurance and Risk Financing Facility (IRFF) established with the German Government and the Insurance Development Forum (IDF) with a joint concept note for USD 2 million submitted and pre-approved for 2022-2023.

The UNCT achieved significant results in **partnership with the private sector**. Through UNDP, consultations with private and state owned enterprises such as VN Post, Viettel, GreenHTV, were conducted in the preparation of position papers for the SEDP/S. UNDP partnered with VN Post and Viettel in the delivery of e-payment social assistance during covid-19, enabling beneficiaries to self-register and receive money without having to travel. UNICEF and Kimberly-Clark and Johnson and Johnson (J&J) got a 3-year partnership extension to work on maternal and child health in Viet Nam. UNDP partnered with VCCI and VNDMA in engaging businesses in disaster risk reduction as part of Connecting Business Initiative – a global business network from 13 countries, which the first Business Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in the country. UNESCO succeeded in supporting Ha Noi in the approval of in the City's Resolution in Developing Cultural and Creative Industries 2022-2025 and the coordinated framework on Creative City, formalizing the public-private partnerships and forstering partnership with multiple international and domestic partners.

Inclusive **partnership with CSOs** was emphasized by the UNCT in various areas. This is evidenced by, for example, (i) the UN-VWU partnership on gender equality and women's empowerment in organizing the High-Level Dialogue on Gender Gaps in the Social Protection System, developing child protection protocols, and supporting for the National Programme on Child Protection 2021-2026; and (ii) the UN strengthened partnership with community-based organizations of people living with and at higher risk of HIV focusing on vulnerable persons most affected by COVID-19.

The UN with its convening role worked intensively to support the GOVN in **forming new partnership forums and mechanisms** on various development areas. UNDP in collaboration with the MPI and Fulbright University Viet Nam to create a new semi-annual economic forum, the Viet Nam Economic Pulse, for analyzing trends and exploring emerging issues in economics and policy making. IOM successfully supported the MOH to establish the Migrant Health Working Group (MHWG) on migrant-related health issues and more migrant-friendly health interventions and policies in Viet Nam, consisting of representatives from GOVN ministries, UN agencies, and other stakeholders.

RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

In 2021, the UN continued to utilize the **UN “fit-for-purpose” coordination architecture** for implementing the OSP which was established in 2017 and revised in 2019 in line with the UN Development System (UNDS) reform. The current architecture includes a Joint GOVN-UN Steering Committee (JSC) as the highest-level coordination structure between the GOVN and the UN, the UN Country Team consisting of Heads of UN Agencies, a Programme Management Team, four Joint Results Groups, four cross-cutting Thematic Groups, as well as other inter-agency working groups for OSP implementation. The former UNRC took his retirement starting in September 2021, following which the WHO Representative took on the role as the UNRC a.i. until November 2021, and the UNICEF Representative served as the RC a.i. in December 2021.

The UN updated the **2021 Joint Workplan**. It contains numerous actions by individual agencies or jointly by multiple agencies to deliver expected OSP outputs and outcomes and, especially, to

respond to COVID-19 impacts in Viet Nam. The **UN Info database** continued to be updated with both programmatic and financial information which was published through the UN Info public dashboard tool embedded on the **UNCT Website**.

The UN through its inter-agencies contributed significantly to the development of 2021-2030 SEDS and 2021-2025 SEDP and other critical legal documents on health, education, social protection and assistance, water and sanitation, labour, development finance, statistics, etc. Through its SDG Task Force, the UN maintained its support and progress towards **SDG mainstreaming, monitoring, data and reporting**. These include the UN technical and financial support to the development and implementation of the SDG survey on children and women, the National Statistical Laws and National Statistical Indicators, the first national SDG report, the National Statistical Yearbook, the Viet Nam Country Gender Equality Profile, analysis of the 2019 census data, etc.

2021 is also the year when the UN put great effort into working with the GOVN (through the UN-GOVN DaO Joint Steering Committee, high-level policy roundtables with the GOVN, and the interaction with MPI and MOFA leaders) and other stakeholders to complete **the OSP Evaluation, its management response and the CCA, and to develop the UNSDCF 2022-2026**. The final draft of the UNSDCF was submitted to the GOVN for approval, expected in February 2022. A new **coordination architecture** was proposed in preparation for the UNSDCF 2022-2026 implementation period. The UN in Viet Nam’s experience in conducting the OSP evaluation and Annual Joint Workplanning were highlighted as a good example to share regionally with other countries.

The UN continued to emphasize the importance of joint work and made substantive efforts to formulate

No.	Title	Participating UN Agencies	No.	Title	Participating UN Agencies
1	EU Justice and Legal Empowerment Programme (EU JULE), PAGO DA mechanism	UNDP, UNICEF	5	Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs	UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women
2	Strengthening human rights and gender equality through climate change action and disaster risk reduction (EmPower-Women for Climate Resilient Societies)	UN Environment, UN Women	6	Joint SDG Fund on Social Protection and LNOB	ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP
3	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, UNESCO	7	UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities MPTF	UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF
4	Joint SDG Fund on Social Protection and LNOB	ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP	8	Building Forward Better (COVID-19 MPTF Call 2)	IFAD, UNIDO, UN Women
			9	Joint Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence	UNWOMEN, UNODC, WHO, UNFPA

new **Joint Programme (JPs)** in 2021. A total of 9 JPs (USD 19.8 million) were in implementation in 2021, of which two were new ones (USD 3.7 million), covering all four OSP strategic areas, including four JPs supported by global funds on social protection, INFF, mitigating socio-economic impact of COVID-19, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In implementing the **UN Viet Nam Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2021 annual workplan**, the UN in Viet Nam has achieved a full occupancy rate (100%) at the GOUNH, leading to significant cost-efficiency gains resulting from cost avoidance or reduction of per desk cost by almost 25% between 2018-2021. The application of the common long-term agreement (LTA) database and rosters for procuring consultants and services saved almost USD 86 thousand in total for the UN. The GOUNH Common Back Office (CBO) continued to provide high-quality service to all 15 UN entities in the GOUNH in 2021 with efficiency and effectiveness, as evidenced by the positive results of the All-Staff survey and client satisfaction, with an average rating of 4.9 out of 5.

OSP EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2021, the UNCT in Viet Nam completed the final evaluation of the OSP 2017-2021 to provide important information for strengthening programming and results at the country level, specifically informing the planning and decision-making for the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026) and for improving UN coordination at the country level. The OSP evaluation also supports greater accountability of the UNCT and GOVN to OSP stakeholders by objectively verifying results achieved within the OSP framework and assessing the effectiveness of the strategies and interventions used.

The evaluation assessed OSP relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, transformational changes and conformity with the OSP cross-cutting principles. It was conducted in an inclusive manner and promoted national ownership through the meaningful engagement of relevant national partners throughout the evaluation process. The OSP evaluation provided 19 findings on OSP design, implementation and coordination. The OSP also emphasized 11 recommendations including: having a robust Theory of Change in the next

UNSDCF; emphasizing normative, capacity building and awareness raising mandates constituting major comparative advantages of the UN system; strengthening GOVN and stakeholders' engagement; improving governance and management structure; having more systematic and coherent joint programming and joint programmes with improved GOVN engagement; and enhancing monitoring and reporting.

Based on the evaluation findings and recommendations, the UNCT in coordination with the GOVN finalized the Management Response to the OSP Evaluation with 24 specific follow-up actions among which many have already been incorporated when developing the new UNSDCF 2022-2026. By the end of 2021, the UNCT completed seven out of 24 actions. The development of the Management Response was highlighted as a good practice by the regional DCO, which shared it with other countries. Through the process, a number of learnt lessons were summarized as follows:

- (i) Although, technically, the process is not as complicated as the evaluation, it took a long time for getting comments from the Government.
- (ii) The UNRCO played the key role in supporting the UNCT in drafting, monitoring and reporting of the Management Response's Action Plan
- (iii) The evaluation and the management response are interrelated exercises. Therefore, if both the UN and the Government are well informed and engaged in the evaluation, then it will be much easier and faster to obtain the both sides' consensus the management responses and actions.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2021 Budget and Expenditure

In total, the UN in Viet Nam was able to mobilize approximately USD 88.5 million, higher than the total planned budget for 2021 of about USD 88 million, which was the highest compared to the mobilized amount in each of the last four years, 2017 (USD 77.9 million), 2018 (USD 73.9 million), 2019 (USD 66.5 million), and 2020 (USD 83.2 million). Most of the UN mobilized budget (80%) came from non-core funding sources. Given the shrinking ODA context in the country, this shows a great effort of the UN system in resource mobilization to provide meaningful support for Viet Nam's development agenda and SDG acceleration, particularly in the COVID-19 context.

The greatest proportion (23.9 per cent) of the mobilized fund went to Outcome 1.2 on Equity in Health, partly because of more funds available for COVID-19 response. It is followed by Outcome 4.2 on human rights protection and justice (21.7 per cent), Outcome 2.1 on low-carbon, climate, and disaster resilient development (16.5 per cent).

2021 UN FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (USD)

Outcomes	2021		
	Total Required	Available	Expenditure
Outcome 1.1	5,361,100	5,233,044	4,830,261
Outcome 1.2	19,119,564	21,159,017	9,688,591
Outcome 1.3	5,473,620	5,237,061	4,039,127
Outcome 2.1	15,830,356	14,574,720	12,670,956
Outcome 2.2	5,735,327	5,220,327	4,117,840
Outcome 3.1	5,893,414	5,383,106	3,373,111
Outcome 3.2	2,685,873	4,576,528	590,000
Outcome 4.1	8,242,756	7,933,237	6,774,096
Outcome 4.2	19,687,857	19,183,097	16,062,144
TOTAL	88,029,866	88,500,137	62,146,126

With respect to expenditure, by the end of 2021, UN agencies delivered USD 62.2 million, resulting in a disbursement of 70.2 per cent against the total available budget of USD 88.5 million. This is the lowest level of spending over the last five years as the result of many delays and postpones in UN programmes and projects due to COVID-19.

UN Viet Nam SDG Fund

The UN Viet Nam SDG Fund (SDGF) was established at the end of 2018 and planned to be closed at the end of 2021 after disbursing all the outstanding balance. However, the implementation of the SDGF experienced delays and re-prioritization due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thus has been extended to 31 December 2022 by the MPTF Office at the JSC's request. The extension is necessary to ensure the mainstreaming of disability inclusion into the UNSDCF, the implementation of the UNDIS Action Plan's initial activities, and other coordination activities.

The 2021 expenditure was recorded at USD 36,017

out of the total 2019-2021 accumulated expenditure of USD 142,460. These expenditures covered the contractual services and general operating expenses for those who provided coordination assistance to the UNCT and different substantive inter-agency groups (including Result Groups) in implementing the above-mentioned activities.

SDGF Items	2021 Amount (in USD)
Opening Balance – 01 Jan 2021	146,332
Expenditure	36,017
Staff and other personnel costs	24,262
General reporting and other direct costs	8,559
Support cost (GMS and UPL/LPL)	3,196
Closing Balance – 31 Dec 2021	110,316

Data source: UNDP Viet Nam



CHAPTER 3:

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR



Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

Upon the completion of the final draft UNSDCF 2022-2026 at the end of 2021, the UN priority is to work with the GOVN/MPI to quickly achieve the **GOVN approval and signing of the UNSDCF document** in early 2022. Being the first year of the new UNSDCF 2022-2026 cycle, 2022 will be a critical year for the UN to finalize the **CF coordination structure**, followed by the **establishment of results groups** and other relevant working groups and the development of the **UNSDCF annual workplan** in which gender, disability, human rights and youth issues are properly mainstreamed. The UN will also closely cooperate with the MPI and other stakeholders in developing the **UNSDCF partnership and resource mobilization strategy** to guide the UN's efforts towards strategically positioning itself as the partner of choice for the government and development partners to support national priorities of Viet Nam. The UN will retain its strategy for enhancing **joint programming, joint resource mobilization, and multi-stakeholder partnership** as key for UNSDCF success. The UN will continue to **implement the Management Response to OSP Evaluation actions** to ensure the UN's efficient and strategic operation.

In 2022, the UN's priority remains to support for **Viet Nam's post-COVID recovery** with focus on the

most vulnerable population groups. At the same time, the UN will be ready to support the GOVN in launching other **humanitarian and emergency responses**, particularly to natural disasters, when necessary.

The UN will leverage **the partnership** with GOVN agencies, development partners, and other stakeholders in all areas of the UN's work, in which the partnership with the private sector is considered critical for increased resources, support and respect of corporate responsible business and the partnership with CSOs is considered critical in reaching the most vulnerable groups especially in the context of COVID-19.

Last but not least, under the framework of the new UNSDCF, the UN will convene relevant partners, introduce innovative and good practices, facilitate knowledge sharing, improving capacity, and help Viet Nam broaden its partnership for development as well as access to global/regional funding sources, etc. to **achieve targeted results on four UNSDCF focused areas**, namely, (i) inclusive social development; (ii) climate change, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability; (iii) shared prosperity through economic transformation; and (iv) governance and access to justice, for the UN-GOVN collaboration in the next period.





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