



UNITED NATIONS  
VIET NAM



# MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

## BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM PERIOD 2022-2026

Session 2: Cooperation Framework Outcomes and  
the Theory of Change

### Outcome 4: Governance and Access to Justice



# Overview

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- **This presentation will cover:**
  1. Summary problem analysis
  2. Theory of Change: Proposed UN Offering and Leave No One Behind (LNOB targets)
  3. Cross-cutting issues
  4. Assumptions, risks and partnerships (*WORK IN PROGRESS*)
  5. Guiding questions for discussion



## Summary Problem Analysis

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- Although much progress has been made, improvements could be made to enhance civic space, transparency, access to justice, access to information, rule of law and the exercise of fundamental freedoms.
- The rule of law could benefit from reinforcements to the independence of the judiciary and fair trial.
- High incidence of serious violence against women (esp. women with disabilities) and children remains.
- Land rights and protection from discrimination are also lacking for certain groups, impacting livelihoods and stability in certain provinces.



The analysis points to **six major challenges** to governance and access to justice, achievement of the SDGs, gender equality and the fulfilment of human rights: **i) limited capacity of governance institutions** to accommodate the participation and complex needs of vulnerable groups; **ii) disparities between national standards** for the rule of law, access to justice and combatting discrimination compared to international human rights norms and standards; **iii) Ongoing gender discrimination** in the areas of social, economic, political and leadership opportunities; **iv) high incidence of serious gender-based violence** especially against women and children, and abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups; **v) complex, cross-border criminal activity** in trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, and corruption and money laundering; and **vi) limited disaggregated data and statistics** to inform evidence-based and rights-based policies, planning, budgeting.

There are also a number of **cross-border challenges**.

# Theory of Change

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will have benefited from and have contributed to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination in line with international standards

## Outcome

## Outputs

## Challenges

**OUTPUT 4.1**  
The enabling environment is created towards innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems in participation of vulnerable groups in the sustainable development process

**OUTPUT 4.2** National institutions and systems are enhanced to strengthen the rule of law, expand access to justice and combat discrimination with a focus on vulnerable groups and in a child, youth and gender sensitive manner in line with international human rights norms and standards

**OUTPUT 4.3** The social, institutional and legal environment is enhanced to accelerate the achievement of gender equality, empowerment, participation and decision-making of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, girls and LGBTIQ persons.

**OUTPUT 4.4** Socio cultural attitudes and practices, accountability, and legal and policy frameworks are transformed to eliminate gender-based violence and all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups

**OUTPUT 4.5** National legislation, policies and agencies are strengthened to prevent and address trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering, and equitable access to protection

**OUTPUT 4.6** Data and production, analysis and use are strengthened to inform evidence based and rights-based policies, planning, budgeting and monitoring for the SDGs.

## Proposed Interventions

**Limited capacity of governance institutions** to accommodate the participation and complex needs of vulnerable groups

**Disparities between national standards for the rule of law, access to justice and combatting discrimination** compared to international human rights norms and standards

**Ongoing gender discrimination** in the areas of social, economic, political and leadership opportunities

**High incidence of serious GBV** especially against women and children, and abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups

**Complex, cross-border criminal activity** in trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, and corruption and money laundering

**Limited disaggregated data and statistics** to inform evidence based and rights-based policies, planning, budgeting.

### Challenge

i) Limited capacity of governance institutions to accommodate the participation and complex needs of vulnerable groups

### Proposed Interventions

- Create an enabling environment for innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems.
- Promote accountability and transparency, and the application of technology, digitization, and full implementation of e-governance, for more innovative, efficient and broader participation.
- Help accelerate implementation and monitoring of public sector reforms.
- Support participatory legislation development and evidence-based & people-centred decision-making processes aligned with international standards.
- Support the expansion of institutional mechanisms to provide citizens with opportunities to participate in policy design and decisions impacting their lives.
- Emphasis on children, youth, women, LGBTQI persons, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic health issues, and ethnic minorities.

### Challenge

ii) Disparities between national standards for the rule of law, access to justice and combatting discrimination compared to international human rights norms and standards

### Proposed Interventions

- Improve the independence of judiciary, promote and apply responsive and protective laws and policies, improve access to justice by vulnerable groups, and expand access to legal aid.
- Recommend innovative approaches to address complex challenges, such as enhancing civic space and related rights.
- Encourage participation of women in elected bodies.
- Support child and gender-sensitive justice system reform, including access to justice for women and child survivors of gender-based violence.
- Maintain and expand prospects for freely chosen and productive employment through migration, promoting global principles and compacts.
- Prioritize LGBTQI persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, people affected by HIV &/or other chronic health issues, migrants, stateless persons, and communities affected by Explosive Ordnances.

### Challenge

iii) Ongoing gender discrimination in the areas of social, economic, political and leadership opportunities

### Proposed Interventions

- Enhance the social, institutional and legal environment to accelerate achievement of gender equality, empowerment and decision-making of women and to eliminate discrimination against women, girls and LGBTQI persons.
- Strengthen government's capacity to develop laws and policies that promote gender equality, end harmful practices, & address discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.
- Reinforce multi-sectoral government and stakeholder coordination, accountability mechanisms, and partnerships
- Mobilize initiatives in digital transformation to promote women's rights and gender equality across all segments of society.
- Continue to promote women's role in peace and security and ensure women's participation in leadership at all levels of decision-making.



### Challenge

iv) High incidence of serious gender-based violence especially against women and children, and abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups.

### Proposed Interventions

- Transform legal and policy frameworks, accountability and socio-cultural attitudes and practices.
- Advocate to increase the commitment and resourcing for implementation of laws and policies, and data collection on gender-based violence (GBV), and improve capacity of essential services for survivors of violence.
- Formulate national guidelines for front line workers and establish a multi-sectoral coordinated GBV response to ensure continuity in essential services particularly in humanitarian and emergency situations.
- Support participatory and inclusive mechanisms to eliminate stigma and discrimination, transform social norms and attitudes, and improve human security – initiating campaigns, advocacy and community mobilization to promote gender equality and discourage stereotypes.
- Focus on women, children, persons with disabilities and communities affected by unexploded ordnances, and those experiencing child or forced labor.



### Challenge

v) Complex, cross-border criminal activity in trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, and corruption and money laundering

### Proposed Interventions

- Apply expertise in crime prevention to improve the detection and elimination of such crimes
- Assist to ensure equitable access to protection systems for victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups, especially migrants, women and children.
- Leverage capacities in coordinating on cross-border issues, regional cooperation and information-sharing.

### Challenge

vi) Limited disaggregated data and statistics to inform evidence based and rights-based policies, planning, budgeting.

### Proposed Interventions

- Increase the availability, access and disaggregated nature of data and statistics for improved monitoring and policy design
- Improve the participation and empowerment of non-governmental organizations, the private sector and communities as key partners for SDG achievement.
- Encourage the application of responsive and protective laws, policies and statistical methodologies in line with international standards to better capture the needs of vulnerable groups and effectiveness of ongoing interventions.
- Increase the availability of quality data and statistics to promote and track progress on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Develop innovative approaches to advocacy and communicate to accelerate progress in gender equality and women's empowerment.

# Theory of Change: Proposed UN Offering and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) targets

LNOB groups were highlighted as:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) Ethnic Minorities                     | e) LGBTQI People  |
| b) People living with Disabilities       | f) People affected by HIV/AIDS                                |
| c) Migrants                              | g) Demographic foci of children, youth, women and the elderly |
| d) People living in disaster prone areas |   |



## WHY?

- Women, PWDs, persons with intersecting identities such as female children, women living with HIV, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities face **multiple discrimination which severely reduces or prohibits access to basic social services and economic opportunities.**
- **Gaps in protection** also affect people living with HIV, key population groups, sex workers, intravenous drug users and LGBTQI persons.
- **Gaps in institutional capacity to support victims** of child abuse and violence, trafficking and stateless persons.
- The pathway to creating a more just, safe and inclusive society is through the **strengthening of governance institutions and systems**, as well as **tackling negative social norms and ending harmful practices** that foster discrimination and violence.

**Cross cutting priorities** to guide and focus the monitoring of the CF were confirmed as:

- (a) Human Rights;
- (b) Equity and inclusivity;
- (c) Gender equality;
- (d) Climate Change;
- (e) Humanitarian & Pandemic Response.



## Assumptions, risks and partnerships (*WORK IN PROGRESS*)

The TOC relies on the overall **assumption** that there is a knowledge of and respect for international norms and standards – human rights, gender equality, freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, education and economic opportunities increase, social safety nets in place, and integrated disaster risk response.

### Risks identified

- ineffective mobilisation of resources
- lack of attention to LNOB principles or priorities
- lack of data collection, harmful persistent gender norms
- protracted impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and/or other disasters that may halt progress

### Partnerships will need to include a variety of stakeholders following the whole-of-society approach

- Partnerships with International Financial Institutions and development partners to mobilize necessary resources to finance the SDGs and foster innovation.
- Open new dialogues to mobilize and engage the Vietnamese private sector in contributing to the SDGs implementation.
- Leveraging the UN's partnerships on gender equality, migration, trafficking, HIV, governance, access to justice, combatting trafficking, GBV and discrimination, and participation by fostering cooperation between government, business, academia and communities for business innovation and social impacts.
- Forge closer partnership with foreign and national partners linking the public and private sector, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfers, and effective innovation policy frameworks.
- Collaboration with public agencies, NGOs, civic and community-based networks to promote good governance, legal and justice reforms, and tackle social challenges.
- Collaboration with other global institutions and regional partners networks to support cross-boundary issues, particularly on trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, and corruption and money laundering.

## Guiding Questions

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- (i) Does the overall theory of change (ToC) and proposed UN offering reflect Viet Nam's reality, the UN's comparative advantage, and accelerant measures to support progress towards the achievement of the SDGs?
- (ii) Does the target LNOB groups correspond to those most at risk and does the UN offering sufficiently respond to the primary LNOB needs?
- (iii) Are the cross-cutting issues correctly identified and captured in the UN's approach?
- (iv) Are the assumptions for the TOC sufficiently realistic and comprehensive? Can any of these assumptions be sufficiently mitigated against through the UN's proposed interventions?
- (v) Are the risks adequately captured and reflect the potential impact of major events and crises e.g. COVID-19, natural disasters, worsening pollution etc?
- (vi) Which strategic partnerships would strengthen the proposed UN offering? Are there additional partnerships/collaborations that could have a transformative impact on achieving the ToC?



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