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DELIVERING AS ONE

ANNUAL RESULTS
REPORT 2015

The UN in Viet Nam Making a difference

OVERALL GOALS

- Promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth
- Ensuring access to quality essential services and social protection
- Enhancing governance and participation



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FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

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From the UN Resident Coordinator

2015 proved to be another landmark year for the UN in Viet Nam, with the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon inaugurating the new Green One UN House in May, as well as marking the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations in October. The UN played a key role in helping Viet Nam prepare for the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, and helped Viet Nam prepare to participate in key events on the global stage, including the Finance for Development Summit in Addis Ababa, the Sustainable Development Summit in New York and the Climate Change Summit COP 21 in Paris.

It was also another important year for delivering results. In January 2015, together with the Prime Minister, the UN launched the Secretary-General's **Zero Hunger Challenge** (ZHC) Initiative which is providing a strong platform for Viet Nam to address a number of SDGs. Building on this, a new UN joint project on 'Integrated nutrition and food security strategies for children and vulnerable groups in Viet Nam' moved into action, with financial support from the Sustainable Development Goals Fund.



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Throughout the year, the UN came together with other development partners for high-level advocacy to address chronic deprivation in the ethnic minority areas. The 'MDG Action Plan for Ethnic Minority Areas' and multi-dimensional poverty approach were approved by the Prime Minister, offering a comprehensive policy package for tackling chronic poverty to ensure access to quality public services.

The UN also advocated successfully for greater public consultation during legislative reforms, including the land reform process, but the opportunities overall for participation of civil society organizations remains very limited. The UN increased its engagement and dialogue with civil society organizations and helped broker direct representation in a number of critical processes. An important UN joint programme was launched to help improve the enabling conditions for civil society organizations, including support to engage a national network of civil society organizations in the formulation

of a new Law on Association. An important UN joint programme was launched to help improve the enabling conditions for CSOs, including support to engage a national network of CSOs in the formulation of a new Law on Association.

In 2015, the Government developed the first draft of the new five-year national Socio-Economic Development Plan. The UN Country Team took the opportunity to contribute substantive comments from an SDG perspective that were prepared by the eight joint programming groups. UN engagement will continue in 2016 to help integrate SDGs and relevant targets into the SEDP and in the formulation of a government action plan to roll out the SDGs.

As in previous years the UN values the strong collaboration with Government and donors. This tripartite partnership is one of the major factors in the success of the Delivering as One initiative. The UN

system looks forward to continuing to work closely with all our national and international partners to build a more inclusive, sustainable and equitable future for everyone in Viet Nam.

We hope that you will appreciate this 'new look' Annual Results Report, put together with contributions from all participating agencies. This interactive reader-friendly format includes links to additional data and information. We welcome your comments and feedback to further improve our engagement with our key donors and partners.

Pratibha Mehta
UN Resident Coordinator

Acronyms

AIDs	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ARVs	Antiretrovirals
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DaO	Delivering as One
DRT-F	Delivering Results Together Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GSO	General Statistics Office
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
JPGs	Joint Programming Groups
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
MIC	Middle-income country
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MPTF-O	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
OPF	One Plan Fund
PAPI	Public Administration Performance Index
PSPMOs	Political, social, professional and mass organizations
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEDP	Socio-Economic Development Plan
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VNW+	Viet Nam Network of Women Living with HIV
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

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INTRODUCTION



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Viet Nam in 2015

The past year was largely one of consolidation and reflection for Viet Nam. The economy strengthened further and poverty continued to decline, although poverty rates in ethnic minority and remote communities remains stubbornly high.

Viet Nam recorded strong performance in the final **Millennium Development Goal Report**. However, a number of key targets are yet to be reached, including those on child mortality, HIV and environmental sustainability. Progress in ethnic minority areas lags behind overall. Viet Nam committed to the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Agenda at the Global Summit for Sustainable Development in New York in September, including making a commitment to begin SDG nationalization as early as possible.

SDGs had been one of the key topics of the 132nd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, hosted by Viet Nam in March. The closing communiqué, 'The Ha Noi Declaration', reaffirmed a vision of people-centred sustainable development, emphasizing the key role that Parliamentarians can play in shaping the SDGs and ensuring effective roll-out in Member States.

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In 2015 the Government continued to increase engagement on human rights, including adopting an Action Plan on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. Citizens expressed public concern over the environmental impacts of rapid economic development and weak regulatory control of pollution but more space is needed for civil society voice and expression.

The country also experienced several extreme weather events in coastal zones and heavy rains in the northern uplands, resulting in fatalities and damaged livelihoods. These events have heightened worries over the impact of climate change, bringing Viet Nam's global responsibilities sharply into focus. The Government also acted to make growth greener and also to offer, for the first time, clear mitigation commitments.

Towards the end of the year Viet Nam contributed to the Paris Agreement and committed a Voluntary contribution of US\$1 million to the Green Climate Fund. Finally, the Communist Party Congress early in January 2016 was an important event that set the political direction for the coming 5 years.




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The UN ‘Delivering as One’

As one of the first countries globally to ‘Deliver as One’, Viet Nam’s UN Delivering as One Initiative continues to combine the expertise, experience and capacities of 15 resident and two non-resident UN agencies. Through greater harmonization of its work and alignment with Viet Nam’s development priorities, the UN is providing more coherence, better results and greater impacts.

By Delivering as One the UN is



More relevant

Bringing together the collective strengths of various UN entities to provide **policy advice**  to complex development challenges, jointly supporting data and **evidence generation**  and mobilizing **international expertise**  and knowledge in support of Viet Nam's international engagement.

More effective

Providing a fuller picture of the UN's contribution to One Plan results using **common monitoring**  tools, improving the impact of the UN's **joint advocacy and communications**  for results, learning from experience and ensuring adequate **UN staff capacity**  to deliver results.

More efficient

Reducing duplication  by producing inter-agency deliverables and jointly organizing events, **reducing transaction costs**,  ensuring that the most qualified teams advance processes on behalf of the whole UN and **generating cost savings**  through the joint UN management of the Green One UN House.

The Delivering as One Initiative is based on six pillars



The first pillar, the One Plan, is at the heart of the Delivering as One Initiative. The current One Plan is a five-year plan of cooperation that was signed with the Government of Viet Nam in March 2012. As the common programmatic framework for participating UN system agencies, the One Plan is aligned with national planning cycles, in particular the 2011-2015 Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP). With one budget and one results matrix, the One Plan sets out a focused and coherent joint work programme based on national priorities and on the comparative advantages of participating UN agencies.

More details about the different results achieved in 2015 can be found in the thematic reports and monitoring tables prepared on an annual basis by the UN Joint Programming Groups. Please log into our One Plan Database platform <http://dimonitoring.org/v4/vietnam> using the password: [User ID: **OPDuser** / Password: **OPD2012**]

In 2015 an independent review of the One Plan was conducted to assess results achieved so far. Findings and recommendations from this exercise are being used to shape the next strategic framework for cooperation between the Government of Viet Nam and the UN in the 2017-2021 period. Selected insights generated by this evaluative exercise have been included throughout this report.

The UN Country Team in Viet Nam



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Inauguration Ceremony of the Green One UN House in Viet Nam

Lễ khánh thành Ngôi nhà xanh Liên Hợp Quốc tại Việt Nam

Hà Nội, 23 May 2015



The Green One UN House

Dancing dragons and beating drums welcomed the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he inaugurated the first green certified UN House in Viet Nam in May 2015, alongside Viet Nam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, and UN Resident Coordinator Pratibha Mehta. This was an auspicious opening for the much anticipated Green One UN House in Ha Noi, now home to 12 UN entities.



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The new building is at the heart of the UN in Viet Nam's commitment to answer the Secretary-General's call to be carbon neutral by 2020. Designed and developed with assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme, the country team made sure to adapt, re-use and recycle the structure of an existing UN building in order to reduce the demolition works, cost and waste materials.

The six storey open plan building has already set a new standard in Viet Nam for green building, the first to be **awarded a provisional Lotus Gold Standard from the Viet Nam Green Building Council.**

The design and construction are already certified to be environmentally friendly and have a high level of energy efficiency. The building is expected to reduce energy consumption by 22% and water by 36%.



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@ UN Viet Nam \Jakub Zak

“The UN House in Viet Nam is the best possible eco-friendly and energy efficient office building in the region and is a testimony to UN coherence, inter-agency cooperation and teamwork.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

The One Plan



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Implementation of the One Plan relies on the support of the five other pillars, which seek to avoid duplication, improve coherence, coordination and complementarity, reduce transaction costs and help UN agencies to work more effectively together.

The One Plan 2012-2016 has three focus areas, each with four accompanying outcomes.

- **Focus Area 1**
Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth
- **Focus Area 2**
Access to quality essential services and social protection
- **Focus Area 3**
Enhanced governance and participation

Summary of Delivering as One pillars and the One Plan 2012-2016 Focus Areas



The One Plan
2012-2016



FOCUS AREA 1

Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth

- Outcome 1.1
Evidence-based development policies
- Outcome 1.2
Opportunities for decent work
- Outcome 1.3
Climate change and disaster risk management
- Outcome 1.4
Natural resources and environmental management



FOCUS AREA 2

Access to quality essential services and social protection

- Outcome 2.1
Social protection
- Outcome 2.2
Health
- Outcome 2.3
Education and training
- Outcome 2.4
Gender equality and HIV



FOCUS AREA 3

Enhanced governance and participation

- Outcome 3.1
Elected bodies and the legislative process
- Outcome 3.2
Legal and judicial reform and access to Justice
- Outcome 3.3
Public administrative reform
- Outcome 3.4
Political, social, professional and mass organizations



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Focus Area 1

Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth

The UN is committed to helping Viet Nam balance economic goals with sustainable social and human development, while ensuring all citizens benefit. The UN also helps Viet Nam respond to climate change, address environmental degradation and manage disaster risks.



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ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

Viet Nam continues to accelerate efforts to reduce poverty, particularly in the poorest areas of the country. Green growth and structural reforms remain at the core of the Government's policy agenda. Structural reforms are having far reaching implications for workers, businesses and society and the UN is seizing every opportunity to provide decision-makers with accurate data, evidence and policy alternatives based on international good practice. However, if economic growth and decent work are to be achieved, a number of bottlenecks still need to be addressed.



Coordinated by FAO and ILO, bringing together the efforts of IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV and UN Women.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcomes**
1.1 Evidence-based development policies
and 1.2 Opportunities for decent work:
US\$13,731,900



Progress in 2015

Outcome 1.1

Evidence-based development policies



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“Evidence provided by the UN helped identify key issues, raise awareness and facilitate focus on specific areas and vulnerable groups”

Evaluation insight

Evidence is critical to ensuring the inclusiveness of development policies. Throughout 2015, the UN made a number of evidence-based recommendations designed to improve access to rights for vulnerable groups in critical areas, including education, health, participation and reproductive health. These recommendations were built strongly on evidence generated in 2014, particularly from the **Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)**, studies on legal gaps on child rights and the first-ever **Inter-Census Population and Housing Survey**.

New evidence generated in 2015 included the **National Human Development Report** “Growth that works for all”, which highlights the emerging issue of the “missing middle”. Findings and recommendations from a Labour Force Survey have helped to inform employment-related decision-making.

As Viet Nam starts to transition to striving for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN advocated strongly for the need to address the ‘unfinished MDG agenda’. An important new joint initiative, funded by the UN’s Delivering Results Together Fund at the global level, has been actively helping Government set the MDG accelerated targets for Ethnic Minorities. This includes developing innovative planning, monitoring and delivery mechanisms to help address the unfinished MDG agenda for Ethnic Minorities and other vulnerable groups. Given the importance of reaching ethnic minority groups and better understanding the multi-dimensional aspects of ethnic-minority poverty, the UN has helped to strengthen national capacities through a number of activities, including conducting surveys that have collected disaggregated data, advocacy that is helping to improve gender mainstreaming in policies, and development of tools that are already improving overall implementation.



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Who is the 'missing middle'?

The “missing middle” refers to a large share of the population whose incomes are too low or too insecure to be resilient to shocks, but too high for them to be defined as poor. This means they fail to qualify for social assistance or other forms of state support such as social and health insurance, or educational support. Research shows that the “missing middle” account for a majority of the workforce, largely workers in the informal sector, including farmers and agricultural labourers, the self-employed and those working in retail, hospitality and construction. Migrants, women, those affected by disability and other disadvantaged groups are often trapped within this category.

Vulnerable families not only need sufficient social protection to build their own resilience, but also the ability to invest in their children’s futures. The phenomenon of the “missing middle” serves to limit overall productivity growth but as the country becomes more deeply integrated into global and regional economies, new job and livelihood opportunities will open up. Empowering the missing middle to seize these opportunities is therefore key to Viet Nam’s future prosperity.



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Tracking national progress



The UN delivers considerable support to Viet Nam – in particular to its General Statistics Office – to produce data and report on progress towards national priorities and international commitments. In 2015, wide-ranging support was provided to assessing achievements against the targets laid out in the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015, in reviewing and reporting on final MDG achievements, and in laying the groundwork for establishment of a national SDG monitoring framework.

Delivering as One Highlight: Evidence generation



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Harnessing the power of data for decision-making

In order to help realize the rights of all citizens in Viet Nam, the UN is working hard to help improve the quality and availability of data at all levels. If the needs of vulnerable groups (women, children, young and older people, ethnic minorities, migrants and people who are disabled) are to be adequately addressed in the development of new policies and legislation, it is



vital that data is sufficiently broken down by demographics.

In Viet Nam, UN agencies work closely together to ensure that support provided to the General Statistics Office (GSO) and research institutions is both consistent and well coordinated. By using a 'Delivering as One' approach, new data have helped to highlight emerging issues such as rapidly change population dynamics and the plight of the 'missing

middle'. Highlights of data generation in 2015 included the successful completion of the Inter-Censal Population and Housing Survey, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), as well as national and provincial situation analyses on children. Once generated, in-depth analyses provide a strong foundation for the UN to make evidence-based recommendations and speak authoritatively with one credible and compelling voice.

[READ MORE](#)





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Progress in 2015

Outcome 1.2 Opportunities for decent work

Throughout 2015, the UN continued to help Viet Nam strive for decent work for all people, in particular the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, by bringing about necessary institutional change.

Support was provided to develop a Government decree that aims to improve opportunities for community contracts in local infrastructure work, and to help stimulate the local construction sector. UN expertise also helped develop tools and guides to apply Skills Foresight and **Women's Empowerment Principles** in enterprises. In the central region, the competitiveness of local businesses in Quang Nam province and Hue city improved as a result of technical assistance provided to community-based tourism by **linking informal business groups to the tourism chain**.

As of 2015, nearly all types of enterprise in Viet Nam have been able to benefit from

simplified business registration procedures, developed as a direct result of several years of UN support. Similarly, Viet Nam's international competitiveness has improved as a result of technical assistance provided to help benchmark Viet Nam's industrial manufacturing skills training system.

Ensuring respect for the rights of migrants and returnees continues to be another key priority for the UN. **Migrant Worker Resource Centres** were piloted successfully and have already reached more than 4,000 clients. The UN also facilitated dialogue to help improve the management of foreign workers, and supported a survey that provided valuable insights into the situation of foreigners working in Viet Nam. In addition, the UN helped inform the upcoming revision of the Law on Sending Vietnamese Workers Abroad by identifying gender gaps in the law and advocating for provisions to protect migrant women worker's rights.

 **Women's Empowerment Principles**



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Empowering communities through tourism in Central Viet Nam

Destinations like Hoi An, Hue and My Son frequently appear on the bucket list of some of the world's most discerning tourists, but thanks to technical support from two specialized UN agencies, tourism is making a real and lasting

impact in local people's lives. In 2015, ILO and UNESCO worked together to help formalize the tourism value chain by helping to establish a number of community cooperatives. By providing services that meet local demands and building on existing local capacities in Hoi An, My Son and Hue, valuable jobs

have been created and local people are already benefiting from improved livelihoods. This innovative approach is helping to drive sustainable economic development in communities and surrounding areas. [READ MORE](#)



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate change continues to present major challenges for Viet Nam. At the same time that natural disasters and climatic stresses are increasing, Viet Nam faces a rapid increase in energy demand, green house gas emissions and associated pollution and costs. Adapting to climate change and reducing disaster risk are key national priorities. The UN provides policy advice and technical assistance across a range of critical areas.



Coordinated by UNDP, with participation of UNIDO, FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UN Women and WHO.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcomes 1.3** Climate change and disaster risk management, and 1.4 Natural resources and environmental management: **US\$14,111,850**



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“Climate change is one of the areas where the UN is seen to use more innovative approaches, with NGOs and research partners particularly positive on the UN’s use of innovative approaches.”

Evaluation insight



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Progress in 2015

Outcome 1.3

Climate change and disaster risk management

The UN is helping Viet Nam reduce greenhouse gas emissions through Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and by developing a national system for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation REDD+. In 2015, a number of important research and feasibility studies were completed, which also helped to build the capacity of key government officials. As a result, mitigating actions have been integrated into management as well as into the production sector. Provincial REDD+ Action Plans were developed with UN support, and implementation has been launched in 14 sites. UN support to 10 community-based forest management plans aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions could potentially benefit the livelihoods of an estimated 40,000 forest-dependent people.

A review of environmental protection fees stimulated important dialogue on ways to reduce emissions from the rapidly growing industrial sector. It also helped to identify opportunities for fiscal tools to potentially contribute to green growth. **The Green Growth Action Plan**, developed successfully with UN support, proposes specific emission targets for steel, fertilizer, energy and paper sectors. An assessment of companies for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production potential, and production of a legal guideline for Eco-Industrial Parks were also significant UN contributions. The assessment and guideline highlight ways that businesses and local communities could cooperate to reduce resource use, waste and pollution. In order to reduce transport emissions, a national labelling scheme on fuel efficiency standards for vehicles was developed with UN assistance.



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Supporting Viet Nam's engagement in Paris



2015 was a pivotal year for climate change action internationally with the signing of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global increases in temperature well below 2°C. In Viet Nam, the UN played a key role in supporting the Government's preparations and engagement in the negotiations, including **development of Intended Nationally Determined Contribution for submission to UNFCC**, provision of advice on modelling and calculation of greenhouse gas emissions, and assessment of climate-change impacts and adaptation needs. The UN also joined other development partners to support a number of side events convened to showcase Viet Nam's actions.

Delivering as One Highlight: International expertise



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Setting REDD+ up for success

By making forests more valuable than deforestation or degradation, REDD+ is a key strategy for Viet Nam to reduce the country's overall greenhouse gas emissions. 2015 saw a massive acceleration in the UNREDD programme, with financial delivery almost doubling over 2014, helping to lay a much stronger foundation for future success of the REDD+ mechanism. In the past year the UN has helped Viet Nam improve its technical readiness by submitting the forest reference level, a key UNFCCC requirement.

The UN also helped to develop a new REDD+ geoportal, which has created a much more robust and transparent system for monitoring overall progress. With the finalization of REDD+ action plans at the local and provincial levels, it is now possible to channel financial support to both communities and companies as well as improve the overall management of forests.

It has become clear that unless Viet Nam embraces a broader approach for protecting and developing its forests, REDD+ will be unlikely to succeed. Forests are a critical resource and key element of the country's development. [READ MORE](#)



DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

In 2015, an important circular on integration of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Control Plan into the Socio-Economic Development Plan was developed to ensure more regular and sustainable financing of disaster risk management across all ministries. This circular builds on the experience of a number of pilots undertaken at the local level with UN support that demonstrate the potential for women and other vulnerable groups to play a key role in disaster risk management planning and preparedness.

The year also marked five successful years of implementing the **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Programme**, with an insightful review highlighting the lessons learned, achievements, and need to scale up and extend the programme. The role and capacity of the education sector for disaster risk management and climate change response was also strengthened further through the development of the “Safe School” education materials. These

are a comprehensive School Safety module that will soon be rolled out in 20 of the highest-risk provinces. An engaging e-learning course on disaster risk reduction, climate change response and biodiversity conservation was developed and will soon be institutionalized in the curriculum of the National Institute of Education.

A number of severe weather events, including El Niño, drought in the south and central regions, as well as flooding and heavy rains in the northern uplands and coastal zones, occurred in 2015. Strengthening of the governance system for overall disaster risk management continued with UN assistance, and coordination with relevant government and non-government actors improved, with OCHA, Spider and UNISDR providing coordinated technical assistance and advice to the Central Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control, as well as flash updates and emergency situation reports.

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The UN's Disaster Risk Management Team

An inter-agency team under the Joint Programming Group on Climate Change and Environment is an effective mechanism to reduce duplication and ensure the UN's coherence in supporting Viet Nam in managing disaster risks. Extensive support was provided in 2015, such as to updating the national Strategy on Disaster Risk Management, development of the National Disaster Prevention and Control Plan, as well as strengthening community-led disaster risk management initiatives.

Delivering as One Highlight: Reduced duplication



Progress in 2015

Outcome 1.4

Natural resources and environmental management

Legal frameworks for environment and natural resources management continued to be strengthened in 2015 as a result of UN assistance. A new decree to Guide Implementation of the revised Law on Environmental Protection, a new Law on Environment and Natural Resource Management of Seas and Islands, and a feasibility study to pilot a Provincial Environmental Performance Index to enforce implementation were all influenced by UN support.

In line with international standards, the Viet Nam National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan were reviewed to help Viet Nam meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The UN advocated successfully for increased public financing for biodiversity, which resulted in the issuance of relevant legislative policies on biodiversity conservation monitoring, planning and financing. These policies were illustrated by three revenue-generating mechanisms piloted at three protected sites. The UN continued to help improve management of toxic chemical wastes, including mercury and pesticides.

“The UN’s independence from a political agenda allows it to introduce new methodologies and ways of working (e.g. UN brought in international experts to help the drafting team of the Law on Environmental Protection understand new challenges).”

Evaluation insight



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Helping Viet Nam tackle wildlife and forest crime

Viet Nam continues to earn an unwelcome reputation as a major transit and consumer country for wildlife trafficking and forest crime. However, UN analysis has led to the development of a practical toolkit to fight Wildlife and Forest Crime that is already helping to improve the collection of forensics and success of investigations. With training underway and a new Action Plan in place, 230 prosecutors, police and customs officers are already stepping up their wildlife and forest crime fighting efforts.

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Focus Area 2

Access to quality essential services and social protection

The UN helps Viet Nam to improve the quality of essential services, including education and health, in a way that ensures access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. At the same time, the UN supports Viet Nam to build a more effective national social protection system that provides increased coverage, quality and equitable access to all.



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SOCIAL PROTECTION

As Viet Nam settles into middle-income status and confronts many of the associated risks and vulnerabilities, social protection is a potential growth engine and, therefore, a Government priority. However, limited coverage, major gaps in provision, and imbalances in funding and benefit levels mean not everyone is benefiting, with the 'near poor' at particular risk. The UN is thus supporting a number of reforms and improved delivery to better ensure the most vulnerable can benefit from the social protection system.



Coordinated by UNICEF, bringing together the efforts of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNODC and UN Women.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcome**
2.1 Social Protection: **US\$3,734,009**



Progress in 2015

Outcome 2.1 Social protection

“Ample examples of how the UN is able to support the government to provide a coordinated response to complex issues were observed”

Evaluation insight



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An array of policy studies and research, high-level policy dialogues, and cross-country exchanges of experience facilitated by the UN informed development of key policies, including the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform, Child Law, Draft Plan of Action for the implementation of CRPD, National Programme on Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour and National Plan on Action on Anti-Human Trafficking (2016-2020). This support, in its entirety, helped set the direction of Viet

Nam's Social Protection reform process towards a more coherent, rights-based and efficient system that responds to multiple vulnerabilities over people's entire lives. To improve effective implementation of policy, the UN contributed to development and piloting of social protection indicators, production of baseline tools on cash transfer and strengthening human resource capacity of the Government, academic institutions and the private sector around social protection reform.

“Evidence of the UN's convening power on the ground, at technical level and for high-level policy-oriented actions is widely observed... increasing transparency among the different actors, helping highlight gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies.”

Evaluation insight



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Streamlined support to Government



Delivering as One makes it easier for the Government to receive consolidated recommendations on behalf of the whole UN System, as opposed to numerous sets of theme specific comments. In 2015, all the UN's inputs to the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2021 were presented as a single package towards better ensuring the country's development is people-centred.

Delivering as One Highlight: Reduced transaction costs



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Brokering cross-country experience exchange



The UN facilitated access to international knowledge and experience by supporting a study visit of key Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) officials to Sweden and the UK, and an exchange with Oman around social protection issues. These exchanges were seminal in contributing to high-level decision-making on the vision for the Master Plan on Social Protection Reform, and towards bringing Viet Nam's Social Protection system up to international standards and achieving equitable results.

Delivering as One Highlight: International expertise



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Ensuring coherence for more inclusive policies



Amid growing concerns over the impact of commercialization of public services on vulnerable people, the Joint Programming Group on Social Protection held intensive discussions to ensure alignment of the UN's work. This resulted in establishing a unified policy position on Viet Nam's policy of 'socialization' and identification of risks, priorities and key messages that will strengthen the UN's ability to coherently advocate for more inclusive policies as well as to secure additional resources in the coming years. [READ MORE](#)

Delivering as One Highlight: Policy advice, and joint advocacy and communications



"The One UN modality has enabled a more coherent approach to channel information and perspectives into the policy processes more effectively"

Evaluation insight



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HEALTH

In recent years, Viet Nam has made important progress in providing healthcare. While access is broadly available, it still remains challenging for those living in remote areas, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups including migrant women and children. The UN is supporting Viet Nam to build a comprehensive health system that delivers equity, efficiency, access and affordability for all.



Coordinated by WHO, bringing together the efforts of UNFPA, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV and UNODC.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcome**
2.2 Health: **US\$16,306,162**



Progress in 2015

Outcome 2.2 Health

In 2015, the UN continued to focus on increasing equity in health and access to healthcare, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. UN support resulted in the development of a national framework to establish a more resilient, responsive and transformative health system; improvements to the health policy framework; design of the Master Plan on Health for 2030; the National Strategy on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases; the National Health Sector Plan 2016-2020; the National Financing Strategy and the new Pharmaceutical Law. Human resources in health remain a key priority, and the UN continued to support reforms in medical education, and helped develop regulatory mechanisms for health professionals.

Major milestones were achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including approval of the Multi-Sector Strategy on Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control for the period 2015-2025, carrying out the Global Adult Tobacco Survey and STEPS survey, and a capacity building programme for drug dependence treatment and care service providers.



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More than 20 million children were successfully immunized by the UN-supported national Measles-Rubella campaign, and the UN played a key role in helping develop the national risk communication plan, communication strategies on immunization and emerging infectious diseases, and skills building of key staff in risk communication. As a result multi-sectoral collaboration, One Health is now stronger, with a closer working relationship between human and animal health sectors, improved outreach activities, and standard operating procedures on collecting and sharing information, conducting surveillance and investigating outbreaks are now in place. The UN also helped to review and revise the Law on Communicable Diseases,

restructure the Ministry of Health system and develop five-year action plans to strengthen the public health laboratory system, as well as tackling rabies control and elimination.

Important evidence was generated from a series of surveys, studies, assessments, reviews and monitoring missions. This has helped to highlight emerging issues, disparities and inequities in access and utilization of services, as well as critical gaps between policy and implementation. Advocacy events and dialogues were key in helping to develop a number of new laws, policies guidelines and action plans to improve service delivery, including the Plan of Action of Maternal and Child Health 2016-2020, the

National Plan of Action of Prevention Control of Cervical Cancer 2016-2020, the Operational Plan of Maternal Death Surveillance and Response to 2020, and the National Action Plan on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 2016-2024. The UN also provided support to scale up Early Essential Newborn Care interventions, including establishment of three centres of excellence responsible for expanding care throughout the country through staff capacity building, supervision and annual assessment to the lower levels of care. By the end of 2015, hundreds of provincial trainers and teachers had been trained so that in the coming years they can build the capacity of service deliverers in 61 out of Viet Nam's total of 63 provinces.



Designing a Health System truly for everyone

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being” – WHO Constitution

If good health outcomes are to be achieved for all, Vietnamese citizens must be able to engage actively with high-quality, people-centered health services. To help government and development partners better understand the health challenges of people living in hard-to-reach areas the UN organized a number of immersion missions. These provided insights that have proved vital in planning a number of equity-focused interventions to address service delivery bottlenecks in remote areas.

In helping the Government to design a transformative health system for Viet Nam the UN has now put a number of key building blocks in place. These include the UN-supported overall systems design framework, and improved functioning by helping to strengthen policies and processes. The UN has also helped to strengthen regulations and oversight to achieve resilience. To ensure responsiveness, the UN is helping the Government embark on grassroots health reform, which is a key milestone for providing a focus for UN support in years to come.



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Improving health through hygiene

Thanks to UNICEF support, communities in 280 villages in seven provinces are now proudly celebrating their 'open free defecation' status, part of an overall effort to improve sanitation and hygiene, drinking water safety and the sustainability of water supply systems. Guidelines on open defecation free verification are now ready to be issued nationwide. The UN has also helped the Government to mobilize WASH sector financing, including a soft loan of US\$200 million from the World Bank to scale up WASH projects in 21 provinces. UN inputs were provided on a number of water safety related policies, including the National Target Programme on New Rural Development, and a National Plan of Action on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage. A series of studies led to UN recommendations for more efficient water supply systems and increased sector finance, as well as development of a plan of action to enhance effective water management schemes in 23 poorly performing provinces. [READ MORE](#)





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Strengthened coordination for national nutrition and food security strategies

The UN secured funding in 2015 from the Sustainable Development Goals Fund for a Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam. With the aim of meeting equitable targets set out in the National Nutrition Strategy and National Food Security Strategy, joint monitoring missions have been undertaken at the start of the programme with participation of multiple UN and government agencies. This has improved cross-sectoral collaboration across national and sub-national levels.

Delivering as One Highlight: Common monitoring



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EDUCATION

Viet Nam is known internationally as an education sector success story, having achieved universal primary education in 2000 and universal secondary education in 2010. Yet despite significant achievements, disparities in educational attainment persist among several groups, including ethnic minority children, children with disabilities, migrant children and those in remote and hard to reach areas. UN efforts in Viet Nam are focused on reducing these disparities, aiming to achieve equity and quality learning for all.



Coordinated by UNESCO, bringing together the efforts of UNICEF, ILO and UNFPA.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcome**
2.3 Education and Training: **US\$3,703,161**



Progress in 2015

Outcome 2.3

Education and training

The UN continued to provide technical support, with a focus on improving equity and quality of learning, to national education reform following the approval of Resolutions 29 and 44 on Fundamental and Comprehensive Education Renovation.

Through assessments of progress and gaps, as well as recommendations on improving delivery, the UN contributed to making education more inclusive for vulnerable children, in particular ethnic minorities, those with disabilities, those affected by HIV and AIDS, and those affected by the impacts of climate change. Examples of evidence generation supported by the UN in 2015 include the Viet Nam Out-of-School Children Study, an analysis on rights-based education sector planning and management, an evaluation of Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education and a Public Expenditure Review conducted jointly with the Ministry of Finance and World



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Bank. The UN leveraged this evidence in key policy dialogues to advocate for quality education interventions, equitable access and better learning outcomes.

UN efforts around institutional capacity building have improved education sector capabilities to improve teaching and learning

methodologies for enhanced education delivery. This included UN support to improve education data collection for international reporting, education sector planning, equity-focused sector planning and budgeting, and institutionalization of tools such as monitoring tools for education financing and screening tools for children with disabilities.



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Supporting high-level engagement in international fora



In 2015, the UN started early interaction with Viet Nam on the SDGs and assisted its participation in all major UN conferences throughout the year. For example, the UN supported the Ministry of Education and Training's participation in the **Asia and Pacific Education Meeting** on SDG 4, where officials discussed the Education SDG's relevance for the region and agreed upon an Outcome Document for taking initial actions in the region from 2016 onwards.

Delivering as One Highlight: International expertise



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Going to school without fear

Gender-based violence, bullying and discrimination are still too common in schools in Viet Nam. This is not only a barrier to learning, but also a fundamental violation of human rights. Over the past year, the UN supported national efforts to create safe learning environments free from gender stereotypes and all forms of violence and discrimination. This involved collecting data in six provinces as well as developing tools to address major concerns in HIV and sexuality education. In 2015, the UN launched the 'Gender Equality and Girls' Education Initiative in Viet Nam' to strengthen gender parity achievements and address gender inequality through targeted training and gender transformative approaches. Gender equality initiatives in education have the potential to transform social norms and will be key to promoting life-long learning opportunities for all in Viet Nam. [READ MORE](#)





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GENDER

Gender equality in Viet Nam has improved over time. Representation of women in the National Assembly stands at 24.4 percent, above both the averages for Asia (19 percent) and the world (21 percent). Yet the overall proportion of women in decision-making positions is still very low. Preference for sons is manifested in the imbalanced sex-ratio of newborns. Acceptance of male dominance is suggested by the high prevalence of domestic violence. Barriers exist to women's access to resources, productive assets and technical and vocational education and training. The UN is involved in providing policy advice, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy in Viet Nam, as well as supporting civil society, to address significant remaining challenges to achieving gender equality and empowerment for women.



Coordinated by UN Women, bringing together the efforts of FAO, UNFPA, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV and WHO.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcome 2.4 Gender: US\$2,999,174**



Progress in 2015

Outcome 2.4 Gender



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In 2015 the National Programme on Gender Equality 2011-2015 was reviewed with UN support, informing development of the National Action Programme on Gender Equality 2016-2020. In 2015 the National Thematic Project on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response was developed through extensive consultation supported by the UN.

The UN continued to provide significant support to key coordination mechanisms in responding to gender inequality,

gender discrimination and gender-based violence, including the Gender Action Partnership, the national domestic violence network and various civil society organization consultations on key policies. With UN support, for the first time professional women and marginalized women – including those living with HIV, ethnic minorities and those living with disabilities – were engaged in the development and submission of the **Shadow Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**.

“The [evaluation] team was able to observe how – through the use of its other comparative advantages – the UN is able to advocate for the most vulnerable as well as to provide a forum for the vulnerable to advocate for themselves”

Evaluation insight



@ UN Viet Nam\Phan Huong Giang



Speaking with One Voice on gender issues

As one of the pillars of the Delivering as One approach, speaking with One Voice is a core strategy to more strongly advance the UN's positioning. For example, in 2015, key UN advocacy campaigns brought greater public attention to gender issues and a better understanding of national commitments to addressing them. These included the **#HowAbnormal**, **#HeForShe**, **#16DaysofActivism** and the STOP Gender Discrimination, STOP Gender-Biased Sex Selection campaigns, which reached millions of people through social media and coverage on over 400 television channels. [READ MORE](#)

Delivering as One Highlight: Joint advocacy and communications





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Better integrating gender perspectives into legislation



A series of laws including the Law on Elections, Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on Organization of Government, incorporated UN recommendations that promote gender equality and protect the rights of women.

Delivering as One Highlight: Policy advice



“The One Plan Evaluation provided...various examples of how UN advocacy efforts, based on evidence and expertise, led to successful results”

Evaluation insight



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HIV

HIV and AIDS remain a major public health problem and AIDS is responsible for a significant proportion of premature deaths in the country. Furthermore, people living with HIV continue to face significant stigma and discrimination. While HIV prevalence is among the lowest in the region at 0.47 percent for people aged 15-49, the absolute number of affected individuals is significant, with official figures standing at 227,151 HIV-positive individuals in 2015. The UN is supporting Viet Nam in its efforts to improve access and quality of services for people living with HIV, and to reduce stigma and discrimination.



Coordinated by UNAIDS, bringing together the efforts of UNODC, ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, UN Women and WHO.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcome**

2.4 HIV: **US\$3,232,524**



Progress in 2015

Outcome 2.5

HIV



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The Joint Programming Group on HIV supported adoption of the HIV Investment Case priorities at national and sub-national levels to fast track the national response 2016-2020 for HIV prevention and control. The five-year plan for HIV 2016-2020 was developed, making use of new evidence generated with UN support, as well as key recommendations from the HIV Investment Case. These also fed into the review of the 2012-2015 National Target Programme on HIV, which served as the basis for HIV budget allocations over the coming five years. This programme is expected to improve access to – and quality of services for – people living with HIV.

UN advice on the role of social health insurance, policy and technical considerations contributed to a Ministry of Health decision to request the Prime Minister's approval for central and competitive procurement of ARVs using domestic funds, and free ARV provision through health insurance. A series of innovative local-level, community-based pilots to improve testing, counselling, service provision and information management are underway with UN support.

Joint UN normative support helped to improve service linkages between sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention. Assistance was also provided to help build capacity for provincial health workers and trainees at vocational centres. UN supported advocacy and policy dialogues have led to improvements in due process and labour rights protection for people who use drugs, while an Action Plan and Guidelines for prison-based methadone maintenance therapy was initiated, building on inputs from the UN.



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Helping more at-risk people know about their HIV infections

Viet Nam has committed to ensuring that 90 percent of all people living with HIV in the country know their HIV status by 2020, with 90 percent on treatment, and 90 percent of those on treatment with sustainable viral suppression. UNAIDS and WHO are assisting the Viet Nam Authority of AIDS Control with an innovative approach of community-based HIV testing and counselling, and a test-for-triage using lay-provider to encourage people to take HIV tests every six months. Early rollout in Thanh Hoa and Thai Nguyen has proven successful, and development of national guidelines and further expansion are expected in 2016.

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Focus Area 3

Enhanced governance and participation

In this focus area, the UN is working to improve the overall performance of public sector institutions by promoting transparency and accountability, and to expand the meaningful participation of citizens in the decision-making processes that affect them.



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GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

UN efforts are centered on improving the responsiveness of elected bodies to address citizens' concerns and reforming the legal and justice system to increase access to such services and protect rights of all people in Viet Nam.



Coordinated by UNDP, bringing together the efforts of UNODC, IOM, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNV and UN Women.

2015 expenditure in contribution to **Outcomes**
 3.1 Elected bodies and the legislative process;
 3.2 Legal and judicial reform and access to Justice;
 3.3 Public administrative reform; and 3.4 Political, social, professional and mass organizations
US\$14,526,056





Progress in 2015

Outcome 3.1 Elected bodies

Both the contents of laws and the law-making process itself were improved in 2015 as a result of UN support to the National Assembly. This was achieved through facilitating access to international and domestic expertise, technical advice and research, and by supporting increased citizen inputs. Examples include research on civil society participation in the law-making process for the Law on Laws, production of policy briefs for the Law on Referendum and Law on Elections and development of a discussion paper for the Civil Code.

Key UN recommendations successfully integrated into laws include the UN's position on the benefits of legalizing sex-reassignment, a chapter in the Law on Laws on legislative initiatives by National Assembly Members and a clear fixed quota of women candidates for elections within the Law on Elections. The UN's successful efforts to increase the National Assembly's direct engagement with CSOs in policy discussions contributed to these improvements. In 14 consultation events around 9 laws in 2015, the UN facilitated the engagement of 40 CSOs in discussion with legislators and policymakers to ensure the direct voices of those affected by laws could be taken into account during the lawmaking process.

“Many CSO respondents highlighted the importance of the UN as a bridge to facilitate their access to policy-makers and, specifically, to reach a higher policy level”

Evaluation insight



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Using evidence to ensure inclusion

Encouraging politicians to take an evidence-based approach to law-making is a critical step in ensuring legislation meets people's needs. The UN continues to work closely with the National Assembly to make the best use of scientific evidence and data available to protect and reflect the needs of the most vulnerable. In 2015, UNICEF carried out Viet Nam's first analysis of the legal gap between domestic laws and international commitments to advocate for child's rights to be a central theme of the Law on Access to Information. UN Women took the lead in conducting research to advocate for changes in the Penal Code and Penal Procedure Code related to violence against women and sexual violence, while UNDP led UN joint recommendations on the Law on Elections to help meet Viet Nam's international gender equality commitments. UNFPA also published policy papers and organized dialogues on population issues with recent data from the Viet Nam Intercensal Population Survey 2014. Overall, the UN delivered more than 30 consultation events on 20 laws in the National Assembly's legislation programme, each attended by an average of 50 MPs per event, while more than 50 CSOs directly engaged with legislators to bring a public voice to the law-making process. [READ MORE](#)





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Progress in 2015

Outcome 3.2 Legal systems

The UN plays a key role in supporting Viet Nam to improve national legal systems towards meeting its commitments under international instruments in order to better protect the rights of all people in the country.

In 2015, significant policy support was undertaken towards these ends. The UN supported Government to develop an Action Plan to follow up on the Universal Periodic Review recommendations of 2014 and a third phase National Plan of Action on Anti-Human-Trafficking.

Inter-agency collaboration contributed to the review of the Law on Legal Aid to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups. The UN also supported law enforcement and judicial institutions to develop training curricula, with specialized training courses delivered to more than 800 duty-bearers.



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“The UN’s impact was strengthened by the bringing together of the agencies’ diversity of mandates within the One Plan, which is helping visualize a more comprehensive and rich picture of the different issues at play.”

Evaluation insight



Consolidated support to improve legal systems and better ensure people’s rights

Joint advocacy and policy briefs bringing together the efforts of seven UN agencies contributed to revisions of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. As a result, the rights of the most vulnerable groups will be better protected, including children in contact with the criminal justice system, survivors of violence against women, victims of human trafficking, migrants who were smuggled across the border, people affected by HIV, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Successful UN recommendations led to expansion of the range of acts that constitute rape, reductions in the application of the death penalty, increased transparency during criminal investigations and earlier access to legal counsel.

Delivering as One Highlight: Policy advice



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Protecting rights through law and judiciary reform

Increasing access to justice and protecting rights is vital if Vietnamese people are to fully realize their aspirations and potential. In the past year, UN agencies worked together to enhance revisions to a number of legal codes to better protect rights of vulnerable groups in society, including children in conflict with the law, women survivors of violence, survivors of human trafficking and people living with HIV. This intensive, multi-agency approach climaxed with the revised Criminal Procedure and Penal codes approved by the National Assembly in late November 2015. These revisions enshrined a number of steps forward in protecting human rights and minimizing use of the death penalty. Under the new Penal Code, the death penalty will be abolished for seven crimes, while punishments for perpetrators of child abuse, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and violence against women will be strengthened. The scope and definition of human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, rape and domestic violence offenses have also been broadened. [READ MORE](#)





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Progress in 2015

Outcome 3.3

Public sector performance

To improve access to services and reduce disparities, the UN provides significant support to Vietnamese public sector institutions to improve performance, accountability and transparency.

In 2015, highlights of support included capturing citizen feedback in disadvantaged areas of Lao Cai province on delivery of birth registration services, used to inform policymaking and ultimately improve service delivery in the future. Thirty-seven public administration agencies in four municipalities (involving nearly 28,000 public administrators) are now more transparent and accountable as a result of using innovative public human resource management tools made available through UN support. This included developing a recruitment procedure toolkit, a guideline on carrying out functional analysis and public human resource management information system software.

The UN has supported four provinces to improve their public administrative services through use of internal workflow procedures and software for 'One Stop Shops', resulting in improved efficiency, reduced corruption and increased public satisfaction with service delivery. Capacity to tackle money laundering has improved through UN technical assistance and training programmes for officials on detection and prevention.



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Data to assess governance and service delivery performance in all 63 provinces continues to be made available through the **Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) survey**, with data used in policy dialogues in over 20 provinces towards improving service delivery.

“PAPI was fully developed in Viet Nam but with support of international experts able to incorporate solid best practices such as sampling strategies, interview training and cutting-edge survey experiments. [Other countries] are learning from the experience and many government officials have travelled abroad to share what they have learned through this exercise.”

Evaluation insight



@ UN Viet Nam \ Nguyen Viet Lan



Citizen feedback improves public services

As education levels rise, so do expectations for better public services. Back in 2012, the UN and Da Nang local authorities began to develop innovative ways for local governments and citizens to better communicate with each other. This included an online user feedback mechanism used by the city's leaders to review the annual performance of 85 staff working at 'One-stop-shop' centre for public administration. Through this feedback mechanism, the quality of the city's 1,278 public administrative procedures has improved. Applications for public administrative services can now be initiated and checked online, resulting in more efficiency, reduced opportunities for corruption and increased public satisfaction with service delivery. In 2015 Da Nang's ranking was in the top five of the **Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index**. Not only has this resulted in better public satisfaction, but the reforms are helping Da Nang attract domestic and foreign investment as well as an enabling environment for different sectors to do business. [READ MORE](#)



Progress in 2015

Outcome 3.4 Participation



“The role the UN plays in integrating CSOs into development should not be underestimated... Many felt some achievements would have been unthinkable before and impossible without a neutral and trusted partner such as the UN”

Evaluation insight

In 2015, UN efforts continued to succeed in expanding the role of Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations (PSPMOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in decision-making.

Several messages were advocated jointly on women’s rights, and on stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and the LGBTI community. For example, three CSO networks on gender equality improved the quality of the Shadow Report submitted to the CEDAW Committee and increased the number of CSOs contributing to it. Other examples include the follow-up of concluding observations made by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Committee regarding the implementation of the CRC and the UN’s consolidation of observations of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), which engaged the wider public and

LGBTI community. Reduction of HIV-related stigma and discrimination was strongly advocated for by people living with HIV in the five highest burden provinces.

Workshops on draft laws, including the Penal Code, Civil Code and Legal Aid Law, provided opportunities for CSOs to actively participate. The UN convened an informal working group of four principal CSOs to advocate for major changes to the draft Law on Associations (LOA), which will regulate how CSOs register and operate. The draft Law on Associations now allows CSOs to receive foreign and domestic funds and removes Government control over membership. This year, CSOs and PSPMOs were also involved in consultations with the Government in the development of the Action Plan to implement recommendations made during the 2014 Universal Periodic Review.



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Helping women living with HIV claim their rights

A significant proportion of new infections in Viet Nam are from intimate partners. Recent national evidence indicates that discrimination against women living with HIV has limited their access to sexual and reproductive health services and family planning. This has compromised their rights to inheritance and work, among other rights. To help focus on the needs of HIV-positive women, the UN has helped to empower women living with HIV to understand their rights and engage meaningfully in decision-making processes to reduce stigma and discrimination and increase access to services. Since 2014, UN Women and UNAIDS have jointly supported the network of women living with HIV in Viet Nam (VNW+) to know and claim their rights under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Before joining this process, VNW+ had only limited opportunities and capacity to participate in national dialogues. However with strong support from the UN, VNW+ has developed an advocacy plan and are generating strategic information for evidence-based advocacy to claim their rights. [READ MORE](#)

Delivering as One Highlight: International expertise

The One Plan Fund II



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The One Plan Fund II (2012-2016) contributions and allocation, and the One Plan expenditure

The One Plan Fund II (2012-2016)¹ or OPF is designed to support and provide an incentive for joint programming.

¹ This section contains information pulled from a variety of sources. As such, the information contained may not match the official information available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.



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DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ONE PLAN FUND II (2012-2016)

In accordance with donor agreements significant allocations were made at the beginning of the programming cycle to ensure timely implementation of planned activities. In 2015, funding from three donors and the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F) totalling an amount of around US\$ 4.8 million was allocated through the OPF. Table 1 summarizes donor contributions to the OPF from 2012 through 2015.

Table 1 - Donor contributions* to the OPF as of 31 December 2015 (US\$)

Donor	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total (2012-2015)
At country level					
UK Department for International Development	1,588,878	2,295,684	781,861		4,666,423
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	2,003,309	1,200,000	300,000		3,503,309
Government of Ireland	1,492,490	1,305,100	1,305,100	862,480	4,965,170
Expanded DaO Funding Window	2,225,000	-	-		2,225,000
Government of Norway	3,619,313	273,304	1,243,588	1,283,283	6,419,488
Australian Agency for International Development	-	2,411,180	-		2,411,180
Government of Finland	-	2,656,500	-		2,656,500
Government of Luxembourg	810,197	750,000	1,050,000	1,200,000	3,810,197
Government of Belgium	1,289,000	1,316,900	1,293,800		3,899,700
Accumulated interest from previous OPF donations	22,701	-	-		22,701
TOTAL	13,050,886	12,208,668	5,974,349	3,345,763	34,579,668
At global level					
Delivering Results Together Fund	-	-	1,480,000	1,500,000	2,980,000
TOTAL	-	-	1,480,000	1,500,000	2,980,000
GRAND TOTAL	13,050,886	12,208,668	7,454,349	4,845,763	37,559,666

* The above donor contributions are full amount received from donors and are subject to AA fee (1%) from 2012 and direct cost (2.5%) from 2013 before allocations are made to UN agencies.

2015 ONE PLAN FUND ALLOCATIONS: COUNTRY LEVEL²

The 2015 allocation round was conducted jointly by the Government of Viet Nam and the UN. The allocation was made following a joint review of proposals submitted by UN agencies and assessed by an Independent Review Panel against agreed OPF allocation criteria.

The OPF is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) on behalf of the UN System. Administrative charges and indirect costs are applied to both the Trust Fund Office and the implementing UN agencies receiving the funds.³

In 2015, the total amount of funding transferred to UN agencies was US\$ 3,526,201,⁴ bringing the total funds allocated to UN agencies in the 2012-2016 cycle to date to US\$ 31,148,787.⁵ Table 2 shows the allocation of funds per One Plan outcome from 2012 to 2015, with funds reducing over the past three years. Due to donor contributions earmarked to outcomes under Focus Area 2 (in particular Outcomes 2.2 and 2.4) and Focus Area 3, greater resources can be seen allocated to these outcomes when compared with others.

² The information in this section excludes the contributions to the One Plan Fund received from the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F) at global level.

³ Details on sources and uses of the Viet Nam One Plan Fund II are available on the MPTF Office Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/VN200> (Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent of the Viet Nam One Plan Fund II for the period 1 January to 31 December 2015)

⁴ This figure excludes contributions from the DRT-F to the One Plan Fund

⁵ This figure excludes contributions from the DRT-F to the One Plan Fund



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Table 2 - OPF Allocations from the funding received at country level by One Plan 2012-2016 Outcomes (US\$)

One Plan Outcomes	2012	2013*	2014**	2015**	Total allocation from funding received at country level
Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies in a MIC Viet Nam	355,175	1,983,462	965,941	210,915	3,515,493
Outcome 1.2: Opportunities for Decent Work	123,930	704,710	52,800	47,758	929,198
Outcome 1.3: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	756,360	1,870,000	140,000	369,000	3,135,360
Outcome 1.4: Natural Resources and Environmental Management	62,500	40,500			103,000
TOTAL FOCUS AREA 1	1,297,965	4,598,672	1,158,741	627,673	7,683,051
Outcome 2.1: Social Protection	691,514	1,269,077	783,400	342,000	3,085,991
Outcome 2.2: Health	928,650	2,869,111	1,206,908	983,505	5,988,174
Outcome 2.3: Education and Training	90,660	670,792	284,000	240,417	1,285,869
Outcome 2.4: Gender Equality and HIV	901,437	2,303,366	676,446	547,156	4,428,405
TOTAL FOCUS AREA 2	2,612,261	7,112,346	2,950,753	2,113,078	14,788,438
Outcome 3.1: Elected Bodies and the Legislative Process		1,209,898	441,152	156,000	1,807,050
Outcome 3.2: Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice	590,160	805,635	170,000	306,415	1,872,210
Outcome 3.3: Public Administrative Reform	446,836	3,226,131	716,036	323,035	4,712,038
Outcome 3.4: Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organisations (PSPMOs)	286,000	-			286,000
TOTAL FOCUS AREA 3	1,322,996	5,241,664	1,327,188	785,450	8,677,298
TOTAL**	5,233,222	16,952,682	5,436,682	3,526,201	31,148,787

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

** Apart from the above allocations made from One Plan Fund donors at the country level, there was also funding from the Delivering Results Together Fund at global level, which was allocated through the One Plan Fund II (2012-2016). Therefore, the information in this table will not match the official figures on the GATEWAY. The allocations for the DRT-F are reported below.



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2015 ONE PLAN FUND ALLOCATIONS: GLOBAL LEVEL⁶

In 2015, UN Viet Nam submitted a proposal to the second round of the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F), which supports DaO countries to achieve transformative, sustainable development results through funding integrated policy interventions in alignment with national development goals and priorities.

The UN Country Team prepared a joint initiative on a Strengthened Legal Framework for Civil Society Participation which received US\$ 1.5 million from DRT-F. The DRT-F uses the OPF for allocations to UN agencies and for management of the fund.

⁶ The information in this section excludes the contributions to the One Plan Fund received from the Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F) at global level.

Table 3 - OPF Allocations from the DRT-F funding by One Plan 2012-2016 Outcomes (US\$)

One Plan Outcomes	2014*	2015	Total allocation from the DRT-F**
Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies in a MIC Viet Nam	1,428,200		1,428,200
TOTAL FOCUS AREA 1	1,428,200		1,428,200
Outcome 3.2: Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice		643,636.42	643,636.42
Outcome 3.4: Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organisations (PSPMOs)		804,197.58	804,197.58
TOTAL FOCUS AREA 3		1,447,834	1,447,834
TOTAL	1,428,200	1,447,834	2,876,034

* The allocation was approved by the DRT-F in late 2014, but only transferred to UN agencies in January 2015

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



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EXPENDITURE OF THE ONE PLAN 2012-2016

Tables 4 and 5 illustrate the expenditure from different sources by all participating UN agencies for results achieved in the year 2015. The OPF expenditure is verified with the certified figures reported by agency headquarters to the MPTF Office and can be viewed from the Gateway of the UNDP MPTF Office. Where there is a discrepancy, notes are included for clarification.

Table 4 - Expenditure of the One Plan 2012-2016 by Outcome in 2015 (US\$)

One Plan Outcomes	Expenditure from regular resources (core) in 2015	Expenditure from other resources in 2015 (non-OPF)	Expenditure from OPF resources in 2015	Total expenditure in 2015
Outcome 1.1*	3,907,471	4,509,401	2,162,078	10,578,949
Outcome 1.2	143,662	2,670,390	338,899	3,152,951
Outcome 1.3*	1,905,426	9,976,163	372,497	12,254,085
Outcome 1.4	101,059	1,722,891	33,816	1,857,765
FOCUS AREA 1	6,057,617	18,878,845	2,907,289	27,843,751
Outcome 2.1*	1,348,421	1,532,586	853,002	3,734,009
Outcome 2.2	5,661,202	8,789,333	1,855,627	16,306,162
Outcome 2.3*	1,110,163	2,239,606	353,391	3,703,161
Outcome 2.4	2,394,604	2,657,165	1,179,928	6,231,698
FOCUS AREA 2	10,514,391	15,218,691	4,241,948	29,975,029
Outcome 3.1	462,264	171,220	548,407	1,181,891
Outcome 3.2*	1,425,247	3,837,923	300,518	5,563,689
Outcome 3.3	3,994,668	1,489,028	788,721	6,272,416
Outcome 3.4*	967,522	432,727	107,810	1,508,059
FOCUS AREA 3	6,849,702	5,930,898	1,745,456	14,526,056
Total	23,421,709	40,028,434	8,894,693	72,344,836

Source: One Plan Participating UN Organizations at country level in Viet Nam for Regular Resources and Non-OPF resources and MPTF Office GATEWAY for One Plan Fund expenditure, adjusted to reflect discrepancies reported by ILO and UN-Habitat at their headquarters level.

** The OPF expenditures of these Outcomes will not match the official figures on the MPTF Office GATEWAY due to the difference in the reporting by ILO and UN-Habitat at their headquarters level to the MPTF Office. The corrections will be made by their HQs to the MPTF Office in 2016.*

Table 5 - Expenditure of the One Plan 2012-2016 by Agency in 2015 (US\$)

UN Agency	Expenditure from regular resources (core) in 2015	Expenditure from other resources in 2015 (non-OPF)	Expenditure from OPF resources in 2015	Total expenditure in 2015
FAO	434,437	4,456,732	478,277	5,369,446
IFAD		520,000		520,000
ILO	311,805	3,140,797	392,495	3,845,097
IOM	314,024	952,564	113,670	1,380,258
UN Women	478,585	1,756,090	350,760	2,585,434
UNAIDS	101,092	400,323	451,101	952,516
UNDP	9,144,387	11,537,921	2,453,493	23,135,800
UNEP	300,000	127,000	6,399	433,399
UNESCO	127,000	528,895	309,485	965,380
UNFPA	3,832,408		727,335	4,559,743
UN-Habitat*	377,340	289,965	124,948	792,253
UNICEF	4,953,584	6,117,596	1,534,954	12,606,134
UNIDO	53,425	3,240,323	393,595	3,687,343
UNODC	127,859	1,022,538	322,110	1,472,507
UNV	102,362	252,437	80,387	435,186
WHO	2,763,401	5,685,253	1,155,684	9,604,338
Total	23,421,709	40,028,434	8,894,693	72,344,836

Source: One Plan Participating UN Organizations at country level in Viet Nam and MPTF Office GATEWAY for One Plan Fund expenditure, adjusted to reflect discrepancies reported by ILO and UN-Habitat at their headquarters level.

** The OPF expenditure for UN-Habitat will not match the official figure on the MPTF Office GATEWAY due to the difference in the reporting by UN-Habitat at their headquarters level to the MPTF Office. The correction will be made by their HQs to the MPTF Office in 2016.*

The Mission of the United Nations in Viet Nam

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

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