

# 2020 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT VIET NAM



UNITED NATIONS  
VIET NAM



COVID-19  
RESPONSE



# 2020 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

## VIET NAM

# FOREWORD



2020 presented a great challenge for Viet Nam due to COVID-19 and severe natural disasters. The UN in Viet Nam needed to significantly adjust and adapt its work in Viet Nam to provide timely, appropriate and quality responses to emerging needs. The work of the WHO in support of the Government of Viet Nam's successful tracking of COVID-19 in 2020 was pivotal. In addition, the UN quickly rolled out a number of strategies such as to mobilize two million USD from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund and other partners for COVID-response activities, develop the UN COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) to assist Viet Nam's recovery efforts, publish both the Policy Brief on the Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam (April 2020) and the UN Social and Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 (SEIA) in Viet Nam (September 2020), and work hard through UNICEF and WHO to help Viet Nam secure access to high quality WHO approved vaccines through the COVAX Facility.

With the redoubling of efforts, the UN Team in Viet Nam also ensured the smooth implementation of the UN 2020 Annual Work Plan, which, despite COVID-19 related challenges, produced extraordinary results in different strategic areas, including poverty reduction, social protection, health, education, gender equality, climate resilience, environmental protection, prosperity, partnership, governance, and justice, with a focus on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). We are proud to contribute to Viet Nam's success in both containing the pandemic and maintaining positive GDP growth of close to 3% in 2020.

By the end of 2020, the UN system in Viet Nam delivered USD74.6 million, resulting in a disbursement of 89.7 per cent against the total available budget of USD83 million, which is a very high delivery rate given all the COVID-19 related challenges as well as those related to complex government ODA procedures and the difficulties of ODA grant mobilization for an emerging middle-income country.

This 2020 UN Country Results Report provides a compact description and analysis of the results that were achieved by the UN Country Team in Viet Nam in 2020, consistent with the One Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (OSP), highlighting the UN's socio-economic response to COVID-19. The report also provides information on the UN's strengthened partnerships with different stakeholders and UN results in terms of the resource raised and spent. The report also presents the UN's prioritized actions including on COVID response for 2021, the final year of the implementation of the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

Being a long-term trusted partner of Viet Nam, the UN reiterates its commitment to supporting the country's inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth and SDG achievement in line with the 2021 Party Congress' 2030 and 2045 aspirations, in close partnership with the Government of Viet Nam and all development partners. Building on the cumulative results achieved in 2020 and over the past years, the UN strongly believes that Viet Nam will prevail against the COVID pandemic, and both sustain and advance the country's significant social and economic transformation.



**Mr. Kamal Malhotra**  
**Resident Coordinator**  
**May 2021**



# LIST OF ACRONYMS



AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	MSM	Men who have sex with men
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	NTP	National Targeted Programme
CEMA	Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	OPF	One Plan Fund
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	OSP	One Strategic Plan
DaO	Delivering as One	PAPI	Public Administration Performance Index
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
ECD	Early Childhood Education	PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
EU	European Union	PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
EU JULE	EU Justice and Legal Empowerment Programme	RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
EVFTA	EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SEDP	Socio-Economic Development Plan
GBV	Gender-based Violence	SEDS	Socio-Economic Development Strategy
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	UN	United Nations
GOUNH	Green One UN House	UN Women	United Nations Entity for the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
GOVN	Government of Viet Nam	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
GSO	General Statistics Office	UNCG	UN Communications Group
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City	UNCT	UN Country Team
HDI	Human Development Index	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	UNDS	UN Development System
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNEP	UN Environment Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
INFF	Integrated National Finance Framework	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
INGO	International Non-governmental Organizations	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
ITC	International Trade Centre	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MDP	Multidimensional Poverty	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
MOCST	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training	VCCI	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
MOH	Ministry of Health	WB	World Bank
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade	WHO	World Health Organization
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs		
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment		
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment		



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# UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN VIET NAM



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

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

The OSP represents the programmatic and operational framework for delivering UN support to the Government and people of Viet Nam and establishes how the UN will deliver as one. The

OSP 2017-2021 has four focus areas, shaped by the five central themes of Agenda 2030 (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership), with nine related outcomes and with direct contributions to the 17 SDGs.

In 2020, the UNCT with support from four Results Groups, four cross-cutting Thematic Groups, the Programme Management Team, the Operations Management Team, and other inter-agency working groups conducted the Common Country Analysis, OSP Evaluation, CF development, and took action to respond to COVID-19, among other initiatives to support Viet Nam's regional and global roles and visibility, and to ensure the achievement of intended OSP results.



# FOCUS AREAS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## FOCUS AREA 1 Investing in people



## FOCUS AREA 2 Ensuring climate resilience and environmental sustainability



## FOCUS AREA 3 Fostering prosperity and partnership



## FOCUS AREA 4 Promoting justice, peace and inclusive governance



## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



Data for development



Human rights



Participation



Gender equality



Partnership and innovation

# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN VIET NAM



The UN in Viet Nam continued to broaden its partnerships in 2020. Key development partners included a wide range of Viet Nam's government agencies at both central and local levels, civil society and the private sector, international financial institutions and development partners (e.g. SECO, NORAD, SIDA, UK, USDOL, KOICA, USAID, AUSAID, UK, Global Funds, GEF, DFAT).

The UNCT continued to work closely with relevant ministries and public agencies, predominantly with MOH, MPI, MOFA, MOET, MOCST, MOLISA, MOIT, MOHA, MPS, MOND, MONRE, MARD, Vietnam Women's Union and Youth Union, as well as numerous committees of the National Assembly and research institutions. The UNCT, especially in close cooperation with MOFA, supported Viet Nam in its execution of Viet Nam's dual role in 2020 as the Chair of ASEAN and a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2020-21 term, as well as Viet Nam's more active role in South-South Cooperation.

With the UNRC as Co-Chair of the Informal Ambassadors Group on Development Cooperation, Development Partners Group, Informal Ambassadors Group on Gender Equality, and Disasters Management Group (DMG), the UN was able to collaborate with a broad range of development partners (including CSOs) to pursue strategic approaches and influence policy on crucial development issues such as the country's NDC, Energy Transition Strategy, COVID-19 response support plans, flood response plans and the formulation of the Socio-Economic

Development Strategy 2021-2030 and the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025.

The EU continued to be a key partner of the UN in many areas of cooperation such as justice and legal empowerment, renewable and energy transition, forest law enforcement, food security and natural disaster mitigation and response, agriculture, trade and decent work, and enhancement of labour rights. In 2020, the UN also worked in synergy with the World Bank in social protection, aiming to achieve greater coverage of vulnerable or marginalized groups in Viet Nam. The UN in Viet Nam also ensured active collaboration with UN regional and global entities including UNESCAP and UNDESA/UNSD, especially on enhancing the national statistics system's strategy and capacity.

Given the emerging Vietnamese private sector, the UN has increased its efforts in opening dialogues to mobilize and engage the Vietnamese private sector in contributing to SDG implementation in Viet Nam, by both contributing resources and incorporating the UN principles of responsible business in their operations. The first ever partnership agreement between the UN and a Vietnamese private corporation (SOVICO) was signed in September 2020. Strongly backed by the Government, this reflects a good practice example for the UN to continue strategic dialogue with the Vietnamese private sector, which is expected to attract the engagement of other private sector actors in support of sustainable development initiatives.





# UN ENTITIES IN VIET NAM



# CHAPTER 1:

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN VIET NAM AND IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

2020 POPULATION:

**97.6**  
MILLION PEOPLE

2019 HDI:

**0.704, 117/189**  
COUNTRIES, HIGH-LEVEL

2020 GDP GROWTH RATE:

**2.91**  
PER CENT

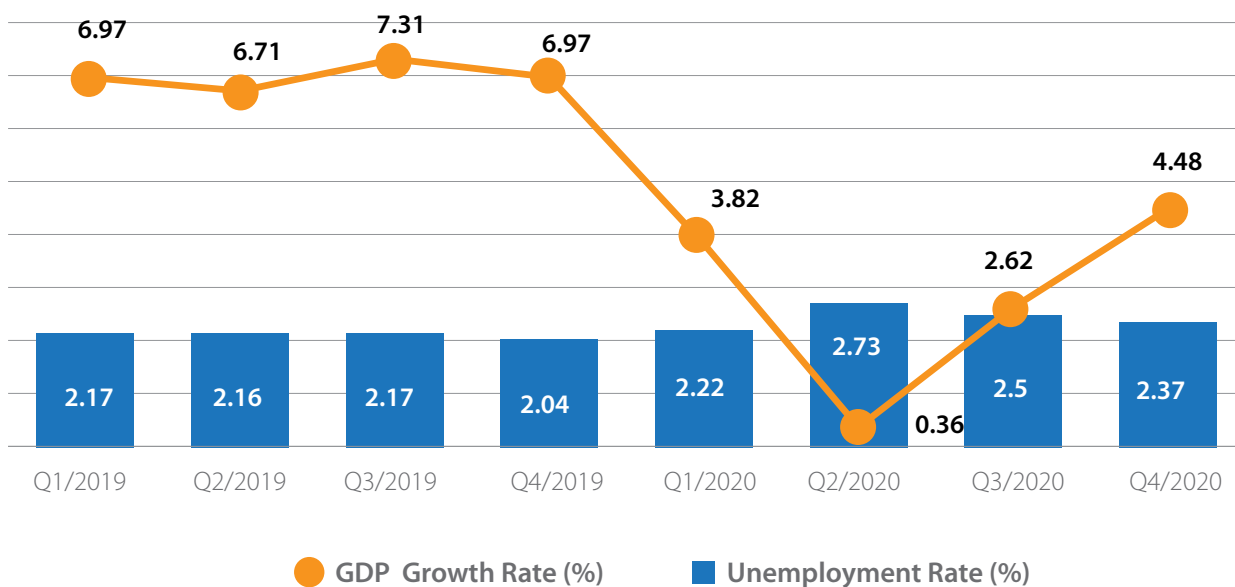
2020 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:

**2.48**  
PER CENT

2020 saw major challenges caused by COVID-19, severe drought in the Mekong Delta and unprecedented floods in the Central Region, which negatively affected Viet Nam's economy, particularly the service and manufacturing sectors. The GDP growth rate of 2.91% was at its lowest level in the 2011-2020 decade, with the second quarter rate at almost zero – the lowest in three decades. In the same quarter, the unemployment rate reached the highest level in the last 10 years. The ongoing drought, water shortages and saltwater intrusion posed a significant risk to 685,558 people in the Mekong Delta region, affecting 13 out of 63 provinces. Floods in the Central Region caused economic losses estimated at more than \$1.5 billion with more than 340 people dead or missing, 819 injured, and thousands of houses and hectares of crops damaged. Vulnerable populations have been disproportionately affected, in particular persons with disabilities, sex workers, people who

use drugs, people living with HIV, LGBTIQ persons and migrants. Nevertheless, regionally and globally, Viet Nam was one of the countries with highest growth and one of 10 countries with the lowest unemployment rate globally. The country joined the High Human Development category in 2020 with a Human Development Index of 0.704, ranking 117 out of 189 countries globally.

In 2020, Viet Nam demonstrated strong leadership, solidarity, and capacity to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. With a quick and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the outset, Viet Nam was among the few countries able to control COVID-19 in 2020 and not allow sustained, wide community transmission. The country kept the spread of infection and death at a minimum in 2020, with 1,150 cases and 35 deaths by the end of 2020.



2020 was also the year in which Viet Nam prepared the country's next 10-year Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2021-2030 and 5-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2021-2025. They set the development direction for the coming period, and were approved at the 13th National Communist Party Congress in February 2021. The Congress also ushered in new leadership for the country.

Viet Nam played a dual role as the Chair of ASEAN in 2020 and a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 term. In June 2020, the National Assembly approved the ratification of the European Union Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and the EU – Viet Nam Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA), opening a wide corridor to better connect the EU and Viet Nam. In the framework of the 37th ASEAN Summit in November 2020, Viet Nam, together with 14 other countries, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), contributing to building the ASEAN Economic Community by 2025.

Although viewed as a dynamic and emerging economy with substantive potential to ignite a fourth industrial revolution, there remain a number of vulnerable communities (e.g. ethnic minority groups) that have been left behind, especially in the COVID-19 context. Contact-intensive services are still on the downturn, with millions of people, particularly women and workers in small and informal businesses, having lost their jobs leading to decreased or no income. There are also serious concerns regarding access to basic services (including in health and education) for the most vulnerable groups. Although Viet Nam has begun

to recover on the domestic front, medium-term recovery remains contingent on a number of factors, such as the re-opening of international borders, the recovery of major trading partners, the resulting impact on public finances, and the uncertain characteristics of the post-COVID-19 global trading landscape. The anti-corruption fight has continued, with a series of new high-profile cases being brought to court. Air pollution and waste, especially plastic and water pollution, reached alarming levels in 2020. For example, Viet Nam is among the top 10 countries with the worst air quality globally. Viet Nam's HIV epidemic remains a public health threat with the rapid increase of new infections among men who have sex with men and women infected by intimate partners. Viet Nam projected that the country would struggle to meet 10 SDGs (SDG 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16) and be unlikely to meet two SDGs (SDG12 and 14) by 2030.

While the Asia and Pacific region has a more important position globally and is considered a crucial driving force of the world economy, there are potential factors of instability due to competition and disputes over territory and resources, particularly in the South China Sea and concerning freshwater in the Mekong River. Competition among countries seeking to become financial and innovation centers has been increasing as well.

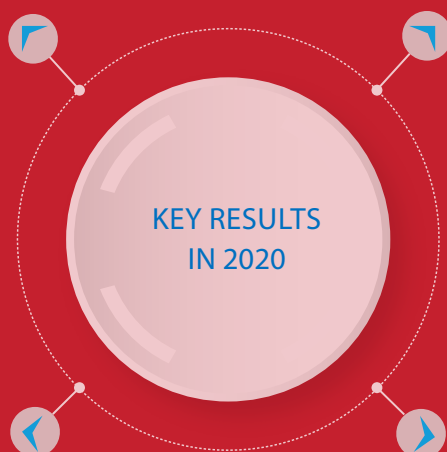


# CHAPTER 2:

## UN SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

UN VIET NAM'S COSTED COVID SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN (SERP) WITH USD 5 MILLION REPURPOSED FOR COVID RESPONSE

OVER 450 HEALTH WORKERS AND 250 CSO MEMBERS TRAINED IN INTEGRATED HEALTH AND NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS, COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.



ABOUT 1 MILLION DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINES TO COME TO VIET NAM IN APRIL 2021

UN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 (SEIA) IN VIET NAM

## A UN framework for the immediate secio-economic response to COVID-19



HEALTH FIRST  
Prod.....



PROTECTING PEOPLE  
Social protection and...



ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECVIRY  
Social protection and...



ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECVIRY  
Social protection and...



ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECVIRY  
Social protection and...

Throughout 2020, the UN in Viet Nam worked closely with the government and people of Viet Nam in containing the initial and successive outbreaks of COVID-19 and the fight against the pandemic, focusing on vulnerable populations under the principle of leaving no one behind.

In the early days of the first COVID-19 outbreaks, test-kits and epidemiological surveillance trainings were quickly provided by the UN (WHO and FAO) to MOH and MARD to help the country quickly

detect the initial cases and effectively monitor the situation.

The UN also quickly jointly mobilized funds from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (one million USD) and the Australian Government (1.5 million USD) to form two joint programmes on “Mitigating the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam on the Most Vulnerable Groups and Supporting More Resilient Policies and Systems” and

“Supporting Interventions to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children in Viet Nam under COVID-19 Emergency”.

In July, the UN in Viet Nam produced its COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) based on HQ guidance, especially the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19, consisting of five pillars. The SERP helped the UN Agencies focus on projects and programmes that best assisted recovery efforts of the government and people of Viet Nam, with USD 5 million repurposed for COVID-19 response.

In September 2020, the UN published the UN Social and Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 (SEIA) in Viet Nam <https://vietnam.un.org/en/95127-un-assessment-social-and-economic-impact-COVID-19-viet-nam>. This report is the joint product of a series of UN empirical, evidence-based assessments of the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 over the second and third quarter of 2020. It sought to understand the actual and potential future impacts of COVID-19 on the overall socio-economic development of the country, focusing on the most vulnerable population groups and especially those at risk of being left behind. This assessment was also the basis for the UN in Viet Nam’s strategic policy recommendations to the Government of Viet Nam as it sought to formulate and finalize its Socio-Economic Development Strategy (2021-2030) and Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025). The SEIA was presented to the then Prime Minister at the UNCT’s meeting with him in October 2020, where the Prime Minister, along with other senior officials, expressed sincere appreciation for UN support to the GOVN’s fight against COVID-19. [To Comms: any picture of the meeting?]

A Pandemic Prevention Task Force (PPTF) formed by the UN (FAO, UNEP, UNODC and WHO), US, Germany and NGOs (PanNature, WCS, WWF) in 2020, aims to minimize the risk of pandemic virus spillover to humans from wildlife trade and



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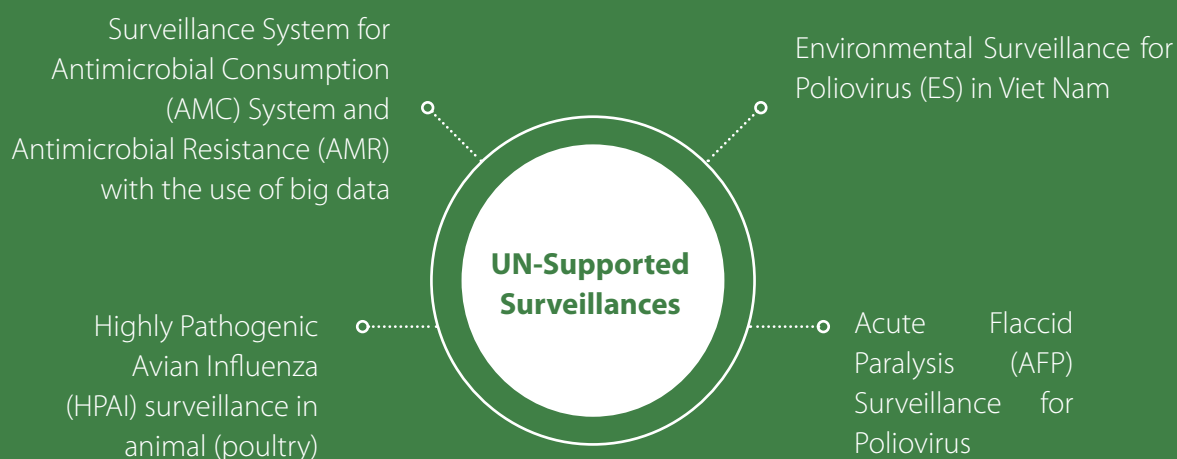
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consumption. Responding to PPTF’s position paper, the Prime Minister invited PPTF (led by the UNRC) to a courtesy meeting on 8 February 2021 at which he confirmed the GOVN’s full support to the group’s efforts and to take synchronous, decisive and effective measures to prevent illegal wildlife trade, consumption, and hunting.

Through the COVAX Facility (led by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO and CEPI), the UN (led by UNICEF) worked with manufacturers and partners on the procurement of COVID-19 vaccine doses, as well as freight, logistics and storage towards the delivery of a first shipment of 811,200 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Viet Nam in April 2021.

# CHAPTER 3:

## UN IN VIET NAM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES





### 3.1. OSP RESULTS BY OUTCOME

## OUTCOME 1.1. POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY REDUCTION

*By 2021, all people benefit from inclusive and equitable social protection systems and poverty reduction services, which will reduce multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerabilities*

### **Expanded, more inclusive and equitable social protection.**

Through the Joint Programme on Social Protection and LNOB and other UN projects, the UN in Viet Nam significantly contributed to the GOVN's preparation and issuance of important policy documents including (i) the draft Decree on Social Assistance (Decree 20), (ii) the draft National Programme on Social Work 2021-2030, (iii) the draft Decree on Social Work, and (iv) the approved National Programme on Child Protection 2021-2025. These policies and programmes aim to expand social protection coverage for vulnerable populations including children (especially 0-3 year olds), older persons and persons with disabilities. These efforts aim to strengthen the social care system to reflect the GOVN's recognition of social service and social workers as an integral part of the social protection landscape in Viet Nam, and to promote a multi-sectoral child protection approach to address violence against children.

An assessment of the implementation of Decree 136/2013/ND-CP on social assistance and costing policy options for regular cash transfers for older persons and older persons with disabilities was implemented by the ILO and UNFPA. This research provided the GOVN with evidence for revising social assistance regulations and proposing a roadmap to achieve the GOVN's targets of



## Outcome 1.1 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Proportion of population below the international poverty line (USD1.9 PPP a day)	3.23% (2012)	0.6% (2020 est., WB)
Proportion of population living below the national poverty line	9.88% (2016, multidimensional poverty)	5.7% (2019, VHLSS)
Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	21.3% (NHDR 2015 using VHLSS 2012)	Below 3% (2020 est., VHLSS)
Proportion of labour force covered by social insurance	21.1% (2015)	31.0% (2019, VSI)
Proportion of population with health insurance	73% (2015)	85.4% (2019, VHI)

45% and 60% coverage of old-age income security in 2025 and 2030, respectively. The Assessment Report also recommends linkages between shock responsive mechanisms and regular cash transfers.

A comprehensive Gender Impact Assessment of Social Insurance in Viet Nam was completed by the ILO in partnership with the Viet Nam Women's Union, providing an overview of the gender gaps in social protection outcomes, particularly pensions, arising from labour market inequalities and suboptimal social insurance regulations. It makes key recommendations for increasing adequacy and narrowing down gender gaps in coverage and benefits.

Under the framework of the Master Plan on Reform and Development of Social Assistance 2017-2025 and a Vision to 2030, the first nation-wide rapid assessment on social assistance needs of children and families in Viet Nam affected by COVID-19 was commissioned by UNICEF. The assessment highlighted the acute needs of families with children and called for an urgent expansion of cash assistance. These measures aimed to strengthen the national social assistance system to be more shock-responsive and to enhance the resilience

of children and families in Viet Nam to climate and economic shocks, disease outbreaks and pandemics. Similarly, UNICEF collaborated with FAO to assist MOLISA to initiate a feasibility analysis on the delivery of cash assistance for children in emergencies, exploring options for effective delivery mechanisms to transfer cash to children and their caregivers.

The UN, led by UNDP, piloted breakthrough support in digitalizing the GOVN cash transfer program management and delivery in 2020. The pilot will be scaled up to national coverage in the coming years. UNFPA supported the General Statistics Office in conducting in-depth analyses, projection, and dissemination on population aging and older persons in Viet Nam, which provided valuable inputs to evidence-based policy advocacy and decision making to improve quality of life of older persons in Viet Nam.

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

In 2020, the GOVN proposed to the National Assembly three new NTPs for the next five and ten-year periods, including the Sustainable Poverty

Reduction (SPR), the New Rural Development (NRD), and the Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minority and Ethnic Minority Areas (SEDEMA) NTPs.

The UN jointly supported the GOVN's effort through many activities, such as the assessment of the National Assembly Resolution on Accelerating Sustainable Poverty Reduction (5-year implementation) which identified key shortcomings, lessons and recommended solutions for designing the new NTPs. This together with other UN policy advice and UN-supported policy dialogues contributed to the issuance of NA Resolution 120/2020/QH14 in June. The NA Resolution approved the investment plan for the SEDEMA NTP 2021-2030 (with a budget of approximately USD 6 billion for the 2021-2025 phase) and enabled the GOVN's development of the other two NTP investment plans to be considered by the NA in 2021. The resolutions also provided strategic directions guiding the design of NTPs, including with more focus on multidimensional poverty (MDP) reduction in ethnic minority and remote communities, raising the MDP thresholds to allow more vulnerable people access to NTP support, and providing greater space for local innovation and strength.

The UN in Viet Nam (led by UNDP and UNICEF) continued to provide technical support to the GOVN's revision and approval of the national multidimensional poverty standards for 2021-2025, including the MDP child poverty lines, to be

applied in the new NTPs. By doubling the income poverty threshold and adding new indicators for non-income deprivations in nutrition, employment and skills, social protection support will be expanded to over 7.5 million vulnerable Vietnamese people.

Furthermore, UNDP introduced digital tools and updated procedures for identifying the MDP households, allowing online MDP self/e-registration and e-verification, as well as the creation of an MDP sex-disaggregated e-database for more efficient and transparent delivery and monitoring of MDP policy and program support. Business models based on e-commerce and e-payment introduced by UNDP helped vulnerable ethnic minority women-led cooperatives in Bac Kan and Dak Nong provinces sustain and expand their business. The models helped them effectively address the COVID-19 induced disruption of supply chains and diversify markets for their products, scaling up the Anticipatory, Agile, and Adaptive (Triple-A) governance approach in the new NTP design.

The UN's recommendations on gender mainstreaming have been included in the final draft of the NRD NTP 2021-2025 with UN Women's support and collaboration with MARD and the Vietnam's Women Union. A policy brief on gender responsive budgeting in poverty reduction programs was produced by UN Women and CEMA, advocating for gender responsive implementation of the SEDEMA NTP 2021-2030.

## OUTCOME 1.2. EQUITY IN HEALTH

***By 2021, all people, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive and equitable health systems, services and the promotion of healthy environments.***

Assisting the GOVN in fighting against COVID-19 and ensuring equity in accessing health services and benefits in the COVID context were among the top priorities of the UN's work in Viet Nam in 2020, through close collaboration with MOH and the National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, as well as national and international development partners. While the COVID-19-related key results are detailed in Chapter 3, this part of the report highlights many other important health-related results produced by the UN system.

### **COVID-19 prevention, control, and response.**

The UN led by WHO worked closely with the GOVN and other partners to increase capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19 and further strengthen health systems preparedness. Particularly, WHO led the UN support to the GOVN in developing and implementing the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP). UNFPA worked to prevent COVID-19 transmissions and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) service disruption, focusing on mountainous and most affected provinces, migrant workers, and older persons. UNAIDS, UNODC and WHO supported the development of the guidance on provision of methadone maintenance therapy (MMT), the introduction of take-home multi-dose MMT and antiretroviral therapy (ART), ensuring uninterrupted access to essential HIV services.

The "Guidelines for prevention, control and assessment of COVID-19 infection risk for employees in the workplace



## Outcome 1.2 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Prevalence of stunting	24.6% (2016)	19.9% (2019, NIN)
Maternal mortality ratio	54 (2015, UN est.)	46 (2019, GSO)
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	93.8% (2014)	97% (2019, MOH)
Under-five mortality rate	21.8 per 1,000 (2016)	21 per 1,000 (2019, GSO)
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	14,000 in adult population (estimated for 2015)	8,200 (2019), 7,800 (2020 est., MOH)

and dormitory”, known as Decision 2194/QĐ-BCĐQG, was issued in May 2020 with technical support from WHO, ILO and key national tripartite partners.

[https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Informationresources/Publicinformation/newsitems/WCMS\\_752562/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Informationresources/Publicinformation/newsitems/WCMS_752562/lang--en/index.htm)

### Delivery of health-related services

UNICEF assisted the GOVN to procure and distribute personal hygiene items for health facilities, communities and schools. UNICEF also supported the MOH’s strengthening of the cold chain at the provincial level for the Expanded Programme on Immunization through co-financing from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, which will be extended to the district level in 2021. Also with UNICEF technical assistance, MOH obtained GAVI support to deploy Inactivated Polio Vaccine second doses and Rota vaccines through the routine immunization programme over the next five years. UNAIDS worked with community-led organizations of HIV key populations to provide emergency health/HIV/Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) services, enhanced Information Education and Communication on HIV and COVID-19, and

emergency subsistence support.

WHO, UNAIDS and UNODC jointly provided innovative support on HIV/AIDS to Viet Nam. Highlights include a national guideline on HIV interventions; HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) target setting for HIV key populations; a 5-year national plan for PrEP scale-up until 2025; a guideline on behavioral interventions among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women in the context of unsafe sex, drug use and HIV; a new national guideline on the use of ART for HIV prevention and treatment; and UN guidance on prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission in prison settings.

With UNICEF’s support, the sector partnership on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) was enhanced by the operation of the sanitation working group, which helped plan and coordinate WASH support for COVID-19 responses, and organize the Sanitation for All Finance Ministers’ Meeting.

**642 health workers** received training courses on COVID-19 and Medway Community Healthcare → **210,400 visits** for SRH services

**64 fetus monitors** provided to 56 district hospitals in 9 mountainous provinces to prevent COVID 19 transmission

**MCH247-“Mẹ con vui khỏe”** (i.e. Healthy and Happy Mother and Baby) smart-phone application facilitating tele-SRH service provision in the COVID-19 context

**287 staff and caregivers** of Social Protection Centers and **2,376 home-care volunteers** for older persons received PPEs and hand sanitizers

**2000 persons living with HIV, 90,000 prisoners** informed by Factsheet on people living with HIV and COVID-19

A Technical Brief on Impact of COVID-19 on Maternal Health and Family Planning in Vietnam for GOVN

Technical Guidance Note on Older Persons: COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

## **Strengthened key regulations, national strategies and action plans**

The revised HIV Law was approved by the National Assembly with UN support (led by UNAIDS) and will come into effect by mid-2021, ensuring greater and more sustainable access to HIV services for all people in need. With WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF's technical support, the National Program on Reducing under five Child Mortality until 2030, the National Strategy on Population and Development for the period 2021-2025 with Vision toward 2030, the National Action Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health Services Provision to Adolescent and Young People, and the National Action Plan on Improving Quality of Family Planning Services were approved. UNFPA also supported the development of the National Program on Health Care for Older Persons to 2030 (Decision 1579/2020/QĐ-TTg) toward achieving healthy and active ageing. These follow the life-cycle approach to address population specific

health needs of young children, mothers, and older people. The National Strategy to End the AIDS Epidemic by 2030; the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Prevention and Elimination for 2021-2025; the national guidelines on hepatitis B and C viruses testing and treatment; and the National Guideline on Dengue Surveillance, Prevention and Control were also endorsed by the GOVN in 2021. WHO also supported the development of a National Action Plan on Health Care for Older People to effectively manage and control communicable disease and public health security issues. In addition, WHO advocated and supported the country to implement an innovative public health approach to non-communicable disease (NCD) management. This approach involves strengthening the institutional capacity of the public health system at all levels of care, developing simplified and effective tools, and creating a regulatory framework for this new approach with the development of the National Action Plan for NCD prevention and control 2021-2025.

UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO jointly supported MoH to develop a national action plan on maternal, neonatal and child health for the period 2021-2025 with a vision towards 2030. The action plan prioritized addressing disparities in maternal and child health status amongst vulnerable populations including ethnic minorities, migrant populations and those who live in disadvantaged regions.

UN support to sub-national integrated planning continued, with 58 provinces developing and implementing plans for integrated early childhood development, and 20 doing so for the triple elimination of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

### **Improved data and evidence for effective policy advocacy and policy making**

In 2020, data on nutrition was enhanced with UNICEF technical support for the National Survey on Nutrition by MOH which revealed reductions in stunting among children under-5, but growing inequities (e.g. the national stunting rate is 19.6% contrasting with 37.4% in the Northern Mountains). With UNICEF support, MOH added severe acute malnutrition (SAM) indicators to the Health Statistics Yearbook and proposed an article to provide therapeutic products for SAM treatment in the draft amended Law on Examination and Treatment. It also finalized a basic nutrition package, including integrated management of acute malnutrition interventions to be paid for by local budgets or health insurance.

The ongoing UNFPA-funded investment case study on HPV vaccination in Viet Nam – through estimating costs and benefits of different investment scenarios and analyzing investment returns – will provide strong evidence to scale up the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination program. It will also offer policy recommendations

**848,000 newborns (412,128 girls)** received early essential newborn care

**1,170,000 children (568,620 girls)** were fully immunized

**144,000 people (1,100 pregnant women, 124,500 under-5 children of which 60,507 girls)** received antenatal care, micronutrient supplementation and infant and young child feeding counselling, screening and treatment of severe acute malnutrition.

**> 2 million under-18 children (978,000 girls)** benefited from hand sanitizers, soaps, ceramic water filters, water tanks and awareness messaging on infection prevention and control of COVID-19.

**54,000 people** living with HIV sought for enhanced IEC

**1,500 people** living with HIV and other key affected populations benefited from emergency health/HIV/STIs and subsistence support

**>2,000 Common Health Stations of 36 provinces** implemented a new public health approach for NCD management

**69,804 people benefited from Sexual and Reproductive Health services** and **484,209 benefited from life-saving information** during humanitarian situation.

on the national roll out of HPV vaccination in Viet Nam during the period 2021-2030.

UN Women and Viet Nam Women's Union conducted a study on the access to credit from the Social Policy Bank for women living with and affected by HIV in the five provinces in the North of Viet Nam. The study reveals stigma, discrimination, fear of exposing their HIV positive status, together with lengthy and complicated bank procedures for loan application are the key barriers which serves as inputs for making credit policies more gender responsive.

With support from WHO, the country generated evidence to monitor health trends and to serve decision-making processes on a wide range of areas, particularly through strengthened multi-source surveillance and risk assessment. Valuable data on rehabilitation was published through the Situation Assessment of Rehabilitation in Viet Nam (approved by MOH in 2020). By conducting the Global School-based Student Health Survey and the STEP survey, evidence was generated for NCD risk factor monitoring and to support NCD management at the primary care level.

One Health collaboration efforts have been strengthened by FAO, UNEP and WHO in Viet Nam to generate evidence and policy advice for minimizing the threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), zoonotic diseases as

well as the ongoing challenge of antimicrobial resistance. The signing of the new One Health Partnership Framework for the period 2021 to 2025 demonstrates a continuing long-term commitment of the GOVN and the partnership members to working together collaboratively towards the shared goal of mitigating future pandemic risk.

In response to the need for immediate and reliable data on the impact of the COVID-19 on the labour market of Viet Nam for better policy-making, from quarter 2/2020, ILO has been supporting quarterly studies on the impact of COVID on the labour market. The reports are issued by the General Statistics Office (GSO) and represent the only national report on COVID-19 and the labour market based on statistical data (labour force survey). These quarterly reports have become an important resource for Viet Nam policymakers, media, academy, and development organizations in Viet Nam for designing, implementing, and monitoring the responses to the outbreak of the COVID-19.





## OUTCOME 1.3. EQUITY IN QUALITY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LEARNING

*By 2021, all people, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive and equitable quality education systems, services, and expanded life-long learning opportunities*

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

The UN (led by UNESCO and UNICEF) together with other development partners, provided support for MOET in producing an education sector analysis report to be finalized in Quarter 1 of 2021. The report will become the basis for developing the new 10-year Education Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) 2021-2030. UNESCO and UNICEF also conducted a rapid situational analysis on the effects of and responses to COVID-19 on the education sector in Asia, including a Viet Nam country case. The findings are expected to feed into, among others, the development of the SEDP 2021-2030 to make the plan more crisis sensitive.

In enhancing the GOVN's education officials' capacity, the UN in Viet Nam (UNFPA and UNICEF) provided joint technical and financial support to MOET in developing the guidelines for teachers on integrating comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in pre-school programs and selected relevant subjects in the national education curriculum. The guidelines help to ensure that the national CSE is aligned with international standards.

In addition, UNFPA supported the Department of Vocational Education and Training of MOLISA in piloting the online self-learning program on comprehensive



**633 (280 female) lower secondary teachers and 210 (89 female) educational officers' capacity in school counseling and career orientation in Ha Giang, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang was enhanced**

**300 (180 women) GOVN officers, lecturers and students were equipped with knowledge of safe campuses**

### Outcome 1.3 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Proportion of children and young people completing primary and lower secondary school	Primary: 92.2% Lower Secondary: 83.2% (2013-2014)	Primary: 98%, Lower Secondary 89.2% (2019, MICS)
Proportion of children from 36 to 59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	88.7% (2014)	90% (2019, MOET) Boy: 90%, girl: 89% (2019, MICS)
Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have met the standards	Pre-primary: (0-3 years): 94.7%; (3-5 years): 98.6% Primary: 99.8% Lower secondary: 99.5% Upper secondary: 99.5% (2015-2016)	100% (2020 est., MOET)

sexuality education, to be mainstreamed in the vocational education program.

The publication of the Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey (NCLS), conducted in 2018, was officially launched in December 2020 with ILO's support. The survey identified the existing child labour issues, which fed into the production of the abovementioned education sector analysis report. The NCLS results informed the development of the new National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour for the period 2021-2025 with vision to 2030 and the National Action Programme for Children, for the period 2021-2030.

#### **Enhanced capacity of teachers and GOVN educational officers**

The UN enhanced teaching and the educational management capacity through activities such as, UNESCO-supported school counseling and career orientation programs, UN Women's activities

to strengthen MOET's capacity on prevention of school-related gender-based violence and discrimination, and UN Women and MOET's joint commemoration of the National Action Month on gender equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the 16 Days of Activism to End GBV Campaign through a communication event on safe campuses with 19 universities in the North. The online self-learning program by UNFPA on CSE, integrated in the vocational training curriculum, was developed and piloted with 20 mentors and 170 students in three vocational training schools in Dien Bien, Kien Giang and Khanh Hoa provinces. In addition, UNICEF supported the GOVN to develop a Transferable Skills and Digital Literacy Framework, and facilitated the participation of leading tech companies, academia and youth representatives during the development process in 2020. This framework will set competency standards and promote digital literacy and transferable/life skills curricula for pre-school to upper secondary, as well as technical and vocational education and training.



## OUTCOME 2.1. LOW CARBON, CLIMATE, AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

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

**Strengthened institutional capacity to systematically collect, analyze, manage, use and disseminate sex and age disaggregated information on climate change and disaster risk.**

This can be reflected through, for example, the results of (i) the UNDP-MARD Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded project's disaster risk trainings and assessments, (ii) the UNDP-MOC needs assessment identifying the need to build over 100,000 resilient houses in 28 coastal areas that are critical entry points for MOC's development of new housing, (iii) the First National Press Award for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) organized by the GOVN and UNDP, (iv) the UNICEF-MPI Climate Landscape Analysis for Children informing the preparation of socio-economic development plans and other climate change-related policies with a more child-centred approach, (v) the UN Women and FAO's joint support to Ca Mau and Gia Lai provinces in collecting gender-sensitive data on vulnerabilities and hazards, (vi) UN Women's Policy Briefs on Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion in NDC and on Gender Mainstreaming in the National Action Plan on Climate Change, and (vii) IFAD's support for communes and districts in Ben Tre and Tra Vinh provinces to prepare and implement annual climate-informed, participatory market-oriented SEDPs;





**Enhanced policy and legislative documents on disaster risk reduction**

A number of important policy and legislative documents on disaster risk reduction were reviewed, developed and endorsed in 2020 with the UN's significant contribution. One example is the amended Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (with UNICEF support). This was a game changer for children in Viet Nam, bringing a major shift from response to disaster risk reduction and prevention, empowerment of communities and the role of the Community Disaster Prevention Force in disaster management, allocation of budget for data and contingency planning, and awareness raising, including in ethnic minority languages. Another example is the development of the Ninh Thuan SEDP 2021-2025, with UNICEF support, which integrates child-focused indicators to guide the budget allocation and specific interventions to protect children from natural disasters.

**Strengthened partnership**

The UN continued to strengthen partnerships, especially with CSOs and the private sector, in sustainable development, climate change and DRR work. A business network was established, with UNDP support, to work with the GOVN and development partners to discuss appropriate policies to enhance the role of businesses in building resilience. UNDP also conducted a study on the role of the private sector/businesses in disaster risk reduction (which included policy level recommendations to address the gaps in the revision of the DRR law). The agency is working with the GOVN and other partners to identify specific entry points for global insurance companies to deliver climate and disaster risk insurance products in Viet Nam as part of UN support to develop climate and disaster risk financing strategies. A "Network of Women Pioneering in Climate Change Adaptation and DRR" was established with UN Women's support, with the membership of 25 woman-led CSOs. It aims to produce good-practice papers and trainings on gender and climate change issues; increase CSOs' role, gender mainstreaming



## Outcome 2.1 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Number of deaths, missing people and persons affected by disasters	361.3 (1995-2014, average)	316 deaths, missing and injured persons
340 deaths and missing persons (2020 till Nov.6, MARD)		
Proportion of crop production area (selected key products) under productive and sustainable agriculture following VietGAP standards	24,780 ha (2015)	38.600 ha (2019, MARD)
Energy intensity measured in terms of GDP	583 kgOE/1000 USD (2013)	515.8 kgOE/1000 USD (2019, MARD, GSO)

in DRR/CC, and advocacy efforts to mainstream gender in climate change policies; and develop a toolkit to measure women’s contributions in emission reductions from the solid waste sector.

IFAD facilitated private companies and farmers’ organizations to co-finance value chains for commodities and to upscale agricultural practices that are resilient to climate change; supported infrastructure schemes, including roads, dykes, irrigation canals, drainage systems and water supply systems to mitigate climate impacts; financed poor and smallholder farmers in replicating climate change adaptation (CCA) models through innovative approaches, such as farmer-to-farmer and enterprise-to-farmer extensions.

UNDP moderated the session on “Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities, at

**A crowdfunding initiative** with Dan Tri Newspaper, aiming to **build 100 resilient houses** for flood and storm affected vulnerable households in Quang Binh province

**Child-friendly communication messages** on disaster risk reduction, recovery and preparedness, **reaching 4 million people**

**World Children Day 2020 Campaign with 500 short videos** by kids on creative ideas to address climate change and environmental problems. **200,000 children** in Ho Chi Minh City participated in clean up actions in their communities

the ASEAN Forum on Sub-Regional Development – Converging Mekong subregional cooperation with ASEAN Goals,” chaired by MOFA. The event included key interventions on the need for ASEAN countries to continue cooperating to identify and enact innovative multiple-win options to accelerate the SDG agenda.

ILO worked with the GOVN, especially MOLISA, the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour, VCCI, and the Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance, in which ILO offered support through policy advice, capacity building and technical cooperation to open opportunities for women and men to gain access to better jobs and have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

### **Systematic investment in disaster risk reduction initiatives and actions to build resilience of the most vulnerable groups**

In supporting the country’s fight against the historical floods and landslides in the Central Coast, many initiatives were carried out with the UN’s support. These include (i) the design and construction of typhoon resilient houses by UNDP in collaboration with MARD and MOC, particularly in Quang Binh, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces; (ii) the formulation of a recovery plan for central Viet Nam in cooperation with MOFA; (iii) the promotion of digital tools such as KoBo as innovative approaches to engage households/beneficiaries; (iv) child-friendly communications messages on disaster risk reduction, recovery and preparedness provided by UNICEF in close coordination with VNDMA for those affected by the storms, floods and landslides; (v) the integration of gender responsive early warning, early actions into drought response plan in Ca Mau province by FAO and UN Women; and (vi) the development of

training manuals on gender mainstreaming in DRR for Viet Nam Women’s Union by UN Women.

Following the GOVN’s request, the UN mapped its past and on-going support to the Mekong River Delta region and developed four concept notes proposing key priority areas for UN-GOVN cooperation in the region. The priorities identified were (i) Supporting Sustainable Energy Transition in the Mekong Delta (jointly led by UNDP and UNIDO), (ii) Building Resilience to Droughts, Saltwater Intrusion and Climate Change in the Mekong Delta (jointly led by UNDP and IFAD), (iii) Strengthened Capacity and Resilience of Children, Families and Communities in the Mekong Delta to Cope with Climate Change Risks Through Safe and Clean Community Approaches (jointly led by FAO and UNICEF), and (iv) Smart and Sustainable Aquaculture through Effective Biosecurity and Digital Technology (led by FAO). These were shared with and reviewed by MOFA for possible cooperation.

Other DRR initiatives included UNICEF’s “Kids Meet Gods” digital application and campaign on World Children Day 2020 to strengthen awareness of children on climate change, environment and natural disasters. UNICEF also developed a comprehensive national guideline on Safe, Clean and Green community models, as well as tools to support the newly established Community Disaster Prevention Force and empower communities, families and children to participate in local disaster risk reduction efforts and plans.

## Response to Flood in Central Viet Nam

Flood Response Plan aiming to support **177,000 people** with **USD 17 million** mobilized by the end of 2020 (UN CERF: USD 3 million)

**3,323 houses** were repaired and **3,500 households** received with gender-responsive household kits

**101 communes in 24 districts of 5 provinces** received with knowledge on typhoon resilient housing methods and gender-sensitive household kits

**60,144 people, including 43,000 women, 7,000 girls, 3,704 older persons and 2,700 people with disabilities** received life-saving assistance meeting the special needs for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV)

Life-saving support was provided to **3,232 vulnerable households**; Nutritional screening to **125,000 children under-5**; 900 emergency ECD kits to schools, reaching **45,000 school children**; and dignity kits for **3,400 children**

Cash grants were provided for food and basic non-food needs were provided to **7,106 households** (25,218 people, 52.3% women); Conditional cash for livestock production recovery to **1,273 households** (5,587 people, 49% women)

Cash grants to **315 vulnerable women-headed households** in Quang Tri province

**1 million Aquatab tablets, 800 jerry cans and 300 LiveStraw water filters, and trainings** were provided to enhance the capacity of healthcare workers to cope with flood and landslides.

### Strengthened cooperation with multiple stakeholders on disaster risk reduction

(the Sendai Framework chapter on international cooperation and global partnership)

Through the DMG, the UN in Viet Nam partnered with UN OCHA, GOVN agencies, other development partners, CSOs and the private sector to provide a coordinated response to the successive floods and storms in the central region. A Flood Response Plan was formulated for Viet Nam and launched at the Green One UN House in October, calling for USD 40 million to meet the needs of the 177,000 most vulnerable flood-affected people. As of December 2020, almost USD 17 million funded by 20 UN agencies, development partners and NGOs was

### Response to drought and saltwater intrusion in Mekong Delta

**900 water tanks** and livelihood support to **2,000 households**.

**1,000 Litre-water tanks, soap, hand sanitizers and water filters** to **1,100 marginalized families and their children**

**778 vulnerable households** in Ca Mau province received unconditional cash for foods and livelihoods



**mobilized for planned support, of which USD 3 million was from the UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF).** In 2020, UNDP as vice-chair of the technical working group on private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction, contributed to the partnership on disaster risk reduction, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) with the participation of the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, INGOs and UN agencies.

Through the DMG as well as the UN internal Disaster Risk Management Team, the UN was able to provide timely responses to drought and saltwater intrusion in Viet Nam in early 2020. UN agencies in coordination with VNDMA, development partners and INGOs, led two joint needs assessments in the Mekong Delta. These were followed by the launch of the Viet Nam Emergency Response and Recovery Plan for Drought and Saltwater Intrusion in March 2020, resulting in significant assistance (USD 1 million) from UN agencies, INGOs and development partners. In addition, the UN coordinated with VNDMA to conduct a socio-economic impact assessment in five provinces in the central region

and the Mekong Delta – focusing on the impact of drought, saltwater intrusion and the COVID-19 pandemic (UNDP) – and shared international best practices and facilitated exchange with other countries on children and disaster risk reduction (UNICEF).

### **Strengthened legislation, standards, and capacity for low carbon development**

UN Agencies supported the Government of Viet Nam to complete its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which was submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in September 2020. The ambition to reduce future GHG emissions has increased in the revised NDC, but only modestly (1% - equivalent to 21.2m tones of CO<sub>2</sub>eq). With UN support, the NDC includes details on co-benefits of considering gender equality and risk reduction for vulnerable groups and is one of the most child focused NDCs in the world.

Till the approval of the NDC in July 2020, UNDP continued its support to MONRE on the development of four out of five chapters of the NDC, CGE modelling on the economics of

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**Reduction of 65,007 tCO<sub>2</sub>** through energy efficiency in buildings

**Regeneration of 1,939 hectares of mangrove storm-surge buffer zones** in all 5 coastal provinces → **2,700 people (45% female)** were better protected from storm surges and a **reduction of 146,534 tCO<sub>2</sub>**

**Annual electricity savings of 34,422 kWh, energy saving of 4,088 ktoe, reductions of 34,856 ktCO<sub>2</sub>**

**77 enterprises** adopted the Energy Management System (EnMS) plan, **14 enterprises** obtained EnMS ISO 50001, and **139 enterprises** implemented SO

mitigation options, and a co-benefits screening tool. The 2019 “UN Bottlenecks Assessment and Solutions to Accelerate Implementation of Paris Agreement in Viet Nam Report,” led by UNDP, was a key advocacy tool to encourage the Government of Viet Nam to raise its ambition in the revised NDC. UNDP also (i) launched the Viet Nam Climate Promise (promoting social inclusiveness and a whole-of-society approach in the NDC process, focusing on the private sector and youth), (ii) rolled out the national online and offline Youth4Climate initiative in coordination with MONRE, HCMC and youth-led CSOs, (iii) developed the “Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam and Roadmap for Strengthening Youth Engagement in the COP26 and the Upcoming NDC Cycle 2021-2025” report, (iv) launched the Climate Business Index (<http://cbi.undp.org.vn>), (v) engaged public-private partnerships to support green transportation, (vi) conducted capacity and awareness raising in order to issue green bonds, and (vii) provided technical support to the National Assembly and MOC for the inclusion of energy efficiency provisions in the revised Law on Construction. UNDP (as co-chair with the MOIT of the Energy Efficiency Working Group of the Viet Nam Energy Partnership Group) continued to coordinate and support the implementation of the Viet Nam National Energy Efficiency Programme through the formulation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, based on discussions on financing energy efficiency at scale.

UNIDO supported the promotion of pyrolysis technology and the development of a market for biochar (the by-product), as well as the successful implementation of the Industrial Energy Efficiency project and the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme.

Technically supported by FAO’s Forest & Farm Facilities, the Vietnam Farmers Union and forest

and farm leaders piloted ten crop production systems that provide environmental benefits and enable communities to diversify into crop products and services. FAO, in collaboration with GIZ, promoted the use of legal and sustainable timber products in the domestic market through trainings and training materials on timber verification for custom clearance. These formed the Due Diligence System, a core part of the EU-Viet Nam Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade. The iTwood traceability system for timber products was established and updated for use by households, enterprises, and traders, while the survey on rubber plantation owners was completed for Binh Phuoc and Tay Ninh provinces.

The FAO-led technical assistance to the GOVN in formulation of the five-year Agriculture Restructuring Plan (ARP, 2021 – 2025) was outstanding, resulting in the Prime Minister approval of the Plan in February 2021. This Plan confirms the sustainable pathways to improve quality, added values and competitiveness of Vietnam’s agro-products, environmental and ecological conservation, rural income generation, and food security. FAO, together with UNICEF, UNIDO, IFAD and other UN agencies, started forming technical working groups to prepare the Government and local counterparts in upcoming UN Food Systems Summit to be organized in September 2021 as well as the transformation process beyond the event.





Photo: ©UN Viet Nam



## OUTCOME 2.2. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

*By 2021, Viet Nam has enhanced sustainable management of natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and improved the quality of the environment, while contributing to the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements*

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

UNDP supported the GOVN in contributing to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. With UNDP support, the Tam Giang – Cau Hai Wetland Conservation Area (TG-CH WCA) (2,071.5 ha, 17,945 ha buffer zone and 69,684 ha linked landscapes of the WPA) was established in Thua Thien Hue province, and national level policy support was provided with the aim of having greater inclusion of priority wetland sites on the Ramsar Convention list.

UNDP supported the technical design, consultation, and pilot of the tourism entrance fee collection. This is expected to be operationalized in 2021 and aims to replicate the sustainable financing schemes in marine protected areas nationwide. The UNDP-led Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge, which was launched in 2020, contributed greatly to the implementation of National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Litter.

UNEP and UNDP succeeded in advocating for the inclusion of the concept of a circular economy in the revised Law of Environment Protection (LEP), which was



## Outcome 2.2 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Forest area as a proportion of total land area	40.84% (2015, MARD)	42.01% (2020, MARD)

approved in 2020 and the Central Party resolution in early 2021. In addition, through collaboration with the LEP revision team, UNEP strengthened the institutional arrangement for implementation of the revised LEP.

UNESCO provided technical assistance to MONRE on Marine Spatial Planning and Blue economy and contributed to Resolution 36-NQ/TW on the National Strategy on Ocean economy development to 2030, vision to 2045.

In 2020 FAO and UNEP launched the Sustainable Forest Trade Initiative to address forest crimes through improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong region.

### Strengthened Viet Nam's compliance with multilateral environmental instruments

UN support was delivered through UNDP's capacity-building efforts for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. UNDP supported MONRE and MARD in formulating two guiding circulars (Circular No. 07/2020/TT-BNNPTNT, and Circular 10/2020/TT-BTNMT) for

the implementation, monitoring and reporting procedure of ABS-related policies. To support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the Minimata Convention on Mercury, with UNDP support, Vinachemia (MOIT) launched the Green Chemistry Cell at the Decision 04/QD-HH, which is expected to create a more enabling environment and promote awareness on Green Chemistry in Viet Nam. Two facilities were selected to demonstrate the application of green chemistry, with the expectation of reducing up to 3 tons of new persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention.

Following the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Timber Legality (VPA) signed between Vietnam and EU in October 2018 and effective from June 2019, FAO has continued providing technical support to the VPA implementation through the 3rd phase (2016 - Dec 2021) of the FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

## OUTCOME 3.1. ECONOMIC GROWTH

*By 2021, Viet Nam's growth policies and institutions support a new economic model, which is inclusive, sustainable and more productivity-led, reaping gains from trade liberalization, international integration and migration*

### **A more inclusive growth model enhancing the resilience of vulnerable groups**

The UN continued to support Viet Nam's development of the next 10-year SEDS and 5-year SEDP. The UN provided a UNDP-led policy paper on institutions and AAA governance as well as the Joint UN COVID-19 social and economic impact assessment. These contributed to the SEDS being approved in early 2021, embarking on (i) innovation for enhancing productivity and competitiveness as a key driver of the country's development in the next ten years and (ii) the important role of public investment in economic recovery in the short term.

The national 5-year review of SDG progress was conducted with the UN providing technical assistance for the drafting process (UNDP), materials and comments on different versions (UN SDG Working Group), evidence and data on LNOB (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNESCO, FAO, RCO), as well as other publication and advocacy support.

In the context of an emerging domestic private sector, the UN increased its efforts in mobilizing and engaging the Vietnamese private sector in contributing to SDG implementation in Viet Nam. This was done through both contributing resources and encouraging incorporation of the UN principles of responsible business in their business operation. A significant achievement in 2020 was the

**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



### Outcome 3.1 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Viet Nam has implemented well-managed migration policies that are gender sensitive, promote the rights of women and men migrants and foster regional and international cooperation	9 key policy documents (excluding decrees) (2016)	Law 69 (2020) 5 sub-ordinate laws
Average monthly earnings of wage workers by sex	Female earnings 4.43 million VND; Male earnings 4.92 million VND (2015)	6,78 million VND total (2019, MOLISA)

historic agreement between the UN (UNESCO, UNIDO, and UNHabitat) and SOVICO Group, one of the largest Vietnamese private businesses. The agreement resulted in the issuance of the Resolution and Action Plan on Creative City Vision by the Ha Noi Party Committee and People's Committee, respectively.

The Report "COVID-19 Socio-economic Impact on Vulnerable Households and Enterprises: a gender sensitive assessment" of UN Women and UNDP provided a gender-sensitive assessment of COVID-19 Socio-economic Impact on over 900 Vulnerable Households and 900 MSMEs in Viet Nam (<https://vietnam.un.org/en/resources/publications>). UNIDO conducted the first survey on COVID-19 impacts on Vietnamese manufacturing and food processing firms. These provided input to the GOVN's efforts in refining actions and their implementation to protect livelihoods of vulnerable households, support MSMEs in recovering their operations and ensuring continued employment for workers, and

the eventual achievement of the SDGs in the 'new normal' of living safely with COVID-19.

ILO significantly contributed to the adoption of the Law on Contract-Based Vietnamese Overseas Workers (law no.69) in November 2020 which sets a better legal protection framework on labour migration, through providing technical inputs in line with international labour standards and ILO Conventions, and ensuring the participation of migrant workers in the law's development.

The UN work on gender equality was also reflected through a gender analysis of the situation of ethnic minorities, the five-year review of the implementation of "The minimization of child marriage and consanguineous marriage in EM areas" scheme from 2015 to 2020, the Gender Review and Impact Assessment of the National Target Programme on New Rural Development (NTP NRD) for the period of 2010-2020, and the review of the implementation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) support legislation and the



## The Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) database on Ethnic Minority

The Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) database on Ethnic Minority is a joint UN initiative developed by seven agencies (FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women) in cooperation with the Mekong Development Research Institute.



<https://vietnam.un.org/en/107534-leaving-no-one-behind-lnob-database-ethnic-minority>

capacity building needs and training services for women-owned SMEs and women entrepreneurs in Viet Nam. The analyses provide options for Viet Nam to strengthen gender responsive policies in ethnic minority regions to enable the achievement of the SDG targets in 2030.

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

A number of important legal documents were amended with UN support (led by UNIDO) in 2020, including the Enterprise Law and Investment Law, which create more favorable conditions for business registration and operation. Following the amendments, the UN (UNIDO) contributed to the development of two new GOVN Decrees (No.01/2021/ND-CP and No. 122/2020/ND-CP) to guide business registration and inter-agency coordination. The UN (UN Women) also supported

the revision of Decree No. 39/2018/ND-CP that regulates some articles of the Law on Supporting SMEs utilizing a gender lens.

ILO supported VCCI to develop the national guideline on Business Continuity Plan and conducted two training workshops on Socially Responsible Labour Practices for a safe workplace, resilience, and business continuity organized for supporting the Business Coalition on CSR- led by VCCI in the Northern and the Southern areas

UNESCO continued to support the cultural and creative industries in Viet Nam, through a series of capacity building programmes and thematic trainings for 110 SMEs in Ninh Binh Province on responsible tourism and establishing SME-Authority partnerships. UNESCO promoted the cultural film industry through, for example, a situational analysis of Vietnamese domestic film industries as an input to the revision of the Law on Cinema, and various training workshops



for independent film makers. A program on promoting the cultural and creative industries was approved by the Prime Minister as a result of UNESCO's support and coordination with MOCST.

UN Women expanded its partnership with the Viet Nam's Women Union on economic empowerment of women in the context of climate change and disaster risks, receiving more than 700 initiatives in response to its call for start-up ideas. **Improved competitiveness and productivity of informal and formal sector businesses towards more compliance with recognized standards and trade agreements**

UNIDO and UNCTAD joined efforts to provide policy recommendations to the GOVN for better compliance with international standards, including WTO rules and regulations on trade development, competition, foreign direct investment and business linkages with domestic companies. In addition, UNIDO provided technical assistance to strengthen the standards and quality compliance capacity of SMEs in the fruit sector to facilitate their access to export markets. FAO and UNIDO continued their support to Viet Nam's economic growth through the agency's technical support for the development of agro value chains. While FAO promoted smart "Farming for the Future Generation - Optimize vegetable value chains through innovative and sustainable technologies", UNIDO promoted the scaling-up of the Centers of Excellence (COE) approach in the Northern Mountainous, Central Highlands and Mekong River Delta provinces. These efforts have contributed to the implementation of Viet Nam's National Target Programme on New Rural Development and the Agricultural Restructuring Plan (ARP) for food security and income generation.

With the ILO technical advice, various studies on informality were conducted and helped provide strong evidences to address the increasing

demands of Vietnam's key partners responsible for the informal sector, especially in the context of crisis. ILO, through the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Programme – and in collaboration with business associations like VCCI, public private sector development agencies like the SME Technical Assistance Centers (SME TAC) under MPI, the Center of Supporting Industries (CSID) and Vietnam Industry Agency (VIA) under MOIT – also supported 250 enterprises and suppliers to improve productivity and working conditions, aligned with MPI Circular No. 06/2019, which aims to develop a National Consultant Network of enterprise consultants.

With support from Better Work Program-ILO, a worker engagement platform was established and operationalized with 200 factories and over 1,200 users, for raising awareness for workers on the topics such as national law, gender equality, Covid 19 prevention, and control, labour relations, etc. For supporting the sustainable enterprises, this technological platform also deployed to support around 5000 enterprises to conduct Covid 19 risk assessment, based on which the enterprises can develop Covid 19 responsive plan in a timely manner.

UN Women organized e-learning courses on leadership, confidence building, decision-making, networking, change management, smart marketing, leadership, and networking for business continuity and recovery from impact of COVID-19 for 619 female business owners, CEOs, and managers. The courses were uploaded to the MPI's E-Learning Platform and a smart phone application.

## OUTCOME 3.2. INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKET

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

During 2020, the UN, led by ILO and UN Women in partnership with MOLISA, the Viet Nam's Women Union, Trade Union, CARE International, GIZ and an NGO Nutrition Network (SUN) made substantial contributions to the GOVN's issuance of Decree No. 145/ND-CP in 2020 to guide the implementation of the 2019 Labour Code's chapters relating to dialogue at the workplace, labour dispute settlement, female workers and gender equality, wage, labour management, working time/resting time, and labour disciplinary. The Decree, for the first time, includes a clear definition of sexual harassment, a comprehensive definition of the workplace, an illustrative list of identifiable behaviours of sexual harassment, and the responsibilities of employers in addressing sexual harassment cases at the workplace. Provisions on breast feeding policies, the organization of kindergartens and childcare for employees, tax reduction policies for companies that use many female workers and the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of working conditions and reproductive health care for female and male workers were also included. A great achievement of Viet Nam in ensuring decent work for all was the country's ratification of ILO Convention 105 on abolition of forced labour in 2020, which was the result of ILO's collaboration with the GOVN and the EU delegation in Viet Nam.

Various studies were produced by the UN system in 2020 regarding employment and the labour market. These include (i) the report "Vietnam and COVID-19: Impact on the private sector" (UN Women), (ii) the quick



**250 enterprises** raised awareness and shared good practices on enterprises practicing gender equality and women's empowerment principles (WEPs) in the workplace, marketplace and communities

**71 companies** committed to support WEPs with **169,520 female and male employee beneficiaries**

<https://www.weps.org/companies>

### Outcome 3.2 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Labour market participation rate by sex	Female workers: 72.9% (2015); Male workers: 83% (2015)	83.1% total 86.5% male 79.6% female
(2019, ILOSTAT)	Female earnings 4.43 million VND; Male earnings 4.92 million VND (2015)	6,78 million VND total (2019, MOLISA)
Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	ILO's convention 87 and 98 are being listed by GOVN as a priority for ratification	Convention 88, 159, 98, 105 ratified. Planning for ratification of Convention 87 in 2023

impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on key economic sectors including tourism, garments, electronics, seafood-processing, and wood-processing industries (ILO), and (iii) the Study on “Capacity Building Needs Assessment for workers in the Ready-Made-Garment (RMG) sector in Viet Nam” (UN Women). These reports assisted employers to be well prepared in supporting their workforce post-COVID-19, served as inputs supporting the practical implementation of ILO international labour standards, and provided findings on gender equality challenges and needs in different sectors.

The first-ever National Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards 2020 was organized by the UN (led by UN Women) and Viet Nam’s Women Entrepreneurs Council of VCCI to recognize companies and business leaders’ exceptional championship of gender equality and support for the WEPs. Nine Vietnamese companies received the award, the top five of which went on to

represent Viet Nam in the Regional WEPs Awards of the Asia-Pacific.

UN Women supported the Viet Nam Women’s Academy to develop a textbook on “Gender in Economics and Management” for the Bachelor of Arts and Master degrees and to provide comprehensive knowledge and skills to analyze and solve gender issues in the field of economics and management. Students who are well trained on gender in economics and management will become future workers and entrepreneurs who are the real engine of sustainable growth and development of the economy and society.

## OUTCOME 4.1. DECISION-MAKING, RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

*By 2021, participatory and transparent decision-making processes and accountable institutions are strengthened, with policies and implementation mechanisms that are responsive to all people, particularly vulnerable groups, women, youth and children*

**Connecting the experiences of vulnerable groups to inform COVID-19 response and recovery: Greater participation of people through surveys and public consultations was achieved by connecting people's feedback to the development of policies and interventions.**

In responding to COVID-19 in 2020, a number of rapid impact assessments and surveys were conducted by various UN agencies (in particular UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women). These included a gender-sensitive assessment of the impact on vulnerable groups and enterprises, and assessments with a focus on persons with disabilities, children and families, and sex workers (community-led), all of which focused on socio-economic impacts. Citizens' opinions of government responses were also assessed, through PAPI. Each of the assessments had the common goal and result of connecting people's experience and opinions to the development of policies and interventions. The findings of most of these assessment surveys also contributed to the formation of the UN Social and Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Viet Nam, published in September 2020, to strengthen the GOVN's response and recovery efforts.

UNFPA supported the GOVN (General Statistics Office) for in-depth analyses and dissemination of emerging population issues (e.g. imbalance sex ratio at birth, fertility,



## Outcome 4.1 Indicators

Outcome Indicator Statement	Baseline (year)	Progress (year, source)
Proportion of women in managerial positions (department head and above) in state agencies	Ministers: 9% (02/22); Vice Minister or similar: 9.4% (12/128); Heads of government agencies: 12.5% (1/8) (2014)	NA: 27.3% Party committees: 20.8% (provincial) 36.6% ministries having female minister, vice minister (2020, NA)
(a) Number of population and housing censuses in the last 10 years and (b) percent of birth registration achieved	(a)2009 population census conducted (b) 90% (2016)	(a)2019 pop. census conducted (b)98.2% (pop. census 2019)

migration and urbanization, population projection, population aging) using data from the 2019 Population and Housing Census, the development of the 2019 Population Census Dashboard, as well as the improvement civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS).

### **Creating platforms for people's direct participation in decision making: Consultations and convening of CSOs and other stakeholders in the development of key laws.**

A number of key laws and other legal documents continued to be developed during the pandemic with UN agencies playing a convening role and offering technical support through (i) providing platforms for open and participatory dialogues and consultations especially among affected communities, vulnerable groups, government agencies, business and civil society groups – a rare practice in Viet Nam, and (ii) strengthening the instruments' alignment with international standards and the protection of marginalized groups.

The UN (especially UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, and UN Women) focused in particular on the revision and adoption of the first-ever Youth Law, the Law on Drug Prevention and Control, the Law on Contract-Based Vietnamese Overseas Workers, the GOVN resolution on peacekeeping, and the National Action Plan on Anti Human Trafficking (NAP). The UN also contributed to the implementation of the Law on Anti-Corruption's new provisions; strongly advocated for the need for a National Action Plan on Responsible Business Practice in Viet Nam; worked with relevant actors to achieve the Hanoi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community; and supported the launch of the Methadone Take-home Doses and Harm Reduction Service Package for People Who Use Stimulants for community-based organizations. The UN led by UN Women supported the GOVN in mainstreaming gender aspects into the amendment of the Law on Contract-Based Vietnamese Overseas Workers, making the law more gender sensitive through the inclusion of some important provisions such as on clarifying the responsibilities of service enterprises in preventing and responding to violence and

harassment against women migrant workers which is critical for the realization of the rights of women migrant workers to decent employment as well as safe and fair migration. The UN provided joint comments on the draft amendments of the HIV Law, Drug Law and the Law on the Handling of Administrative Violations. These efforts helped to ensure more progressive laws that better protect the rights of children, persons who use drugs, and persons affected by HIV, and that are more aligned with international standards.

The UN also maintained support for the GOVN's reporting on compliance with and implementation of its international obligations, including under CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, ICCPR and UPR. These efforts included the development of indicators for ICCPR follow-up, an analysis of access to justice in employment and vocational training in line with the CRPD, and a review of the gaps in the legal framework in relation to the ICCPR (in particular in the context of COVID-19). The UN advocated with the National Assembly for the inclusion of a gender dimension in the resolution on Viet Nam's engagement in UN peacekeeping operations, which was approved for adoption unanimously, reinforcing the country's commitment to global peacekeeping.

Another platform created was the Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group, comprising UNICEF and international NGOs (Plan International, World Vision, Child Fund and Save the Children) for information sharing and coordinating plans to support the GOVN in responding to child protection in emergencies.

To promote youth development and participation in decision making, the UN Thematic group on Adolescent and Youth (UNYGAY) led by UNFPA supported for the development of the National Strategy on Youth Development for 2021-2030,

the development of two decrees on youth volunteerism and young people (16-18 years old) in line with the Convention for the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Youth Advisory Group platform for facilitating young people's participation in policy process, and the UN75 Youth Forum on "listening to the young people" in the UN75 celebration. UNFPA also supported the training of 200 young people across the country on sexual and reproductive health, life skills, gender equality, prevention sexual based violence, HIV prevention, and policy advocacy skills, to help building their confidence to voice their needs in national and provincial policy development dialogues

The UN also worked on various public awareness campaigns, such as a UNFPA-led communication campaign on changing social norms toward son preference and the undervaluing of girls (to combat gender bias sex selection (GBSS)), supported by MOH and MOLISA. A total of 1,500 participants directly participated in GBSS communications, with video clips reaching 6,821,009 views in a Tik Tok competition with high media coverage. Greater empowerment of community networks and organizations for improved access to justice were achieved through social media campaigns, such as [#BeTheForceForChange](#) on the occasion of Zero Discrimination Day and International Women's Day (convened by UNAIDS and UN Women with the participation of seven UN agencies), a UN Women-led 16 days of activism campaign to advocate for a strengthened national response to eliminating gender-based violence in Viet Nam (with a reach of 6,651,500), a UN Free & Equal campaign [#SaferHomesforLGBTIQPeople](#) coordinated by the HRTG (see below), and community engagement on the rights, experiences and contributions of women migrant workers.

## OUTCOME 4.2. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, RULE OF LAW AND STRENGTHENED ACCESS TO JUSTICE

*By 2021, the protection of human rights is strengthened with improvements to the justice system, greater adherence to the rule of law, more equitable access to justice, increased gender equality and effective prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence*

### **Functions and capacity of the rule of law institutions supported, including to strengthen the protection of human rights and improve access to justice and redress**

Campaigning, awareness raising and direct support to victims and government agencies led to strengthened protections and services for victims of violence, including through preventative, rehabilitative and redress mechanisms. In addition, capacity building and guidance on legal aid and legal redress mechanisms developed for government agencies ensured services sensitive to the needs and rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities.

In 2020, the UN enhanced the capacity of legal aid providers, grassroots mediators and justice personnel – who often deal with vulnerable persons in contact with the law – through the development and piloting of training materials and guiding documents.

Partnerships with key actors in the justice sector were strengthened and contributed towards establishing strong future legal practitioners in order to provide better services to vulnerable groups, with the immediate result of child victims and women survivors of violence receiving qualified legal aid.



## 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



### Building justice sector capacity

**8 sets of training materials** and **4 sets of guiding documents** were developed and piloted

**>1235 legal practitioners and 260 judges** were trained.

**Specialist Interview Equipment** were provided to Family and Juvenile Courts

**121 child victims and 116 women survivors of violence** received qualified legal aid from legal aid officers trained in 2020.

**100s of children and women** avoided trauma and re-victimization during prosecution and trials.

Equipping the Family and Juvenile Courts with specialist equipment for interviewing purposes will allow hundreds of children and women to avoid trauma and re-victimization during prosecution and trials. Support to the Supreme People's Court on judgment drafting and a code of conduct improved the capacity of judges and judicial integrity. Such support also led to four new precedents being promulgated and six precedent commentaries being published, which provide transparent legal arguments and reasoning on how cases are decided. Many activities were undertaken in the context of migrants, in particular migrant women, with nearly 200 MOFA diplomats obtaining a better understanding about violence against women.

The UN actively worked against gender-based violence (GBV). UNFPA supported the GOVN for the development and approval of the National Programme on Prevention and Response to GBV 2021-2025 and its monitoring and evaluation

### COVID-19: protecting persons deprived of liberty and combatting corruption

Educational material for **54 national prisons and 6 compulsory education/reformatory centers**

**330 leaders and health care officials** trained in the facilities

**150 law enforcement, justice and anti-corruption officers** trained

**110 prisoners** reached



framework, the MOH Clinical Management of Sexual Violence Survivor and its guidance, six training manuals on providing essential services for GBV survivors, the M&E Framework of the National Proposal on Addressing Sex Ratio at Birth Imbalance. UNFPA collaborated with MOLISA and GSO to conduct and disseminate the National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN (including UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and UN Women) focused on vulnerable groups. For example, the UN and MPS developed educational material targeting prison officials, prisoners and families, which were widely distributed and used in trainings that reached around 110 prisoners who have worked and stayed in these facilities from July to December 2020. In a separate project, the capacity of officers from law enforcement, justice and anti-corruption agencies was built with respect to transparency, prevention of corruption in public procurement, anti-money laundering, and the prevention and response to corruption risks in the context of COVID-19. Quang Ninh province was supported by the UN to launch Anh Duong House – the one-stop-shop center which provides integrated essential services to GBV survivors during the lock-down period of April 2020. The hotline in operation since 2019 offered a critical service until the center’s launch. To tackle the increased risks of GBV, a joint UN project of UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women also provided timely support to women and children at high risk of violence amid the pandemic, achieving outstanding results.

UN Women supported the GOVN in drafting the National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) 2021-2030 through the review of the last NSGE and public consultation events, which resulted in, for the first time, the inclusion of LGBTI groups as a target for intervention in the health.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

The unprecedented pandemic of COVID-19 combined with a series of intense natural disasters presented great challenges to the UN’s programmes and operations in 2020. Several UN-supported activities (especially those requiring physical participation) were postponed and delayed during the COVID-19 outbreak due to social distancing and the mobilization of a large amount of GOVN human resources for the COVID-19 response.

Despite Government’s priority for expanded, more inclusive and equitable social protection, poverty and vulnerability reduction, the country is facing limited fiscal space for reform, which could hinder the expansion of assistance and the extension of coverage for income security, particularly for the most vulnerable people. Furthermore, legal framework development as well as actual implementation tend to work in a siloed fashion, leading to uncoordinated and fragmented implementation in this priority area. Regarding social protection, the GOVN’s focus on poor and near-poor groups may lead to further category-based social protection schemes design, which will negatively influence the life-cycle and universal approaches.

Workers in informal employment are an especially vulnerable group. They experience lower job quality, longer and sporadic working hours, low access to labour protection legislation, including social protection which leaves them in conditions of extreme vulnerability during shocks that have economic consequences.

Provision of emergency supplies was identified as one priority of UN work in 2020 due to three emergencies that struck Viet Nam (COVID-19, drought in Mekong Delta, and floods in the central coastal region). Regardless of the procurement

method, there were significant difficulties in getting supplies to target beneficiaries in a timely manner. These included insufficient commitment of GOVN agencies to activate emergency protocols to fast-track administrative procedures; the heavy dependence on offshore supplies with long transit times, as well as the limited capacity of local suppliers to quickly produce and deliver supplies; in addition to the limited flexibility of internal UN processes and procedures even during emergencies.

Despite much progress towards achieving HIV/AIDS control, the HIV epidemic remains a public health threat in Viet Nam. Declining new infections among people who inject drugs and female sex workers risk being offset by the rapid increase of new infections among men who have sex with men and women infected by intimate partners. The progress was uneven among provinces and sustainability challenges remain significant especially for prevention, which heavily depends on external funding. There was increasing political emphasis on more punitive approaches related to drugs and administrative sanctions which adversely impact access to harm reduction and HIV prevention services among people who use drugs.

In the COVID-19 context, education is one the most affected sectors due to social distancing. Thus, UN interventions had to be adjusted for more innovative approaches including IT solutions to support quality and undisrupted education systems. In 2021, Viet Nam will develop the country's new 10-year Education Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) 2021-2030 which is expected to set out breakthrough orientations to intensively reform and leverage the education and training sector in the context of the IT revolution and unexpected natural and pandemic disasters. This is a great challenge as well as opportunity for the UN

to identify creative and meaningful support to this important document in 2021 in addition to the on-going development of the education sector analysis report.

The limited awareness of natural disasters among children, families, communities, and local authorities remains a challenge to support effective risk reduction measures, preparedness, and response and building resilience in communities.

Regular social assistance policies in Viet Nam are fragmented and lack an emergency clause to 'flex' the existing schemes to covariant risks such as climate change, economic crisis and pandemics. On the other hand, Viet Nam's existing emergency cash assistance focuses mainly on short-term emergency relief immediately after natural disasters through in-kind aid and some cash. It is barely child sensitive or shock responsive due to limited local capacity to assess damage and identify people's needs. It is based on a highly rigid framework that hinders timely assistance, including for early action. A limited delivery system, inadequate levels of support, and weak coordination across stakeholders, among others, are also serious challenges.

The lack of sex, age and disability aggregated data is a key challenge in providing sufficient evidence to policy makers for more targeted and gender responsive policies and programmes to leave no one behind.

With the large openness and deeper international integration, Viet Nam was more vulnerable to global socio-economic fluctuations. Although the COVID-19 pandemic was controlled relatively well in Viet Nam in 2020 the pandemic situation still remains complicated in the country and most parts of the world, causing disruptions and stagnation in most domestic industries, especially in the service and manufacturing sectors. Viet Nam's



**COVID-19: Eliminating violence against women and children**

**3,894 Dignity Kits** distributed to GBV survivors/women at risk

**>10 million people** made aware of violence against women & children and support services

**3 shelters** established



labor productivity is still at a low level while facing higher demands for human resources in the IR4.0. These factors together pose a great challenge for the country in implementing its dual goal of both fighting against COVID-19 and gaining economic growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for the protection of human rights, and disproportionately impacted on vulnerable groups in society, especially the poor and near-poor, women, children, ethnic minorities, migrants, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, drug users, sex workers and prisoners. Discrimination, stigma and violence reinforced during the pandemic have exacerbated situations and the pandemic also created new vulnerable groups. The GOVN's focus on successfully controlling the spread of COVID-19 did not always put human rights obligations at the core of response and recovery measures. Due to the pandemic, implementation and reporting

commitments under some major UN human rights mechanisms were also put on pause.

Finally, during 2020, a number of ministries underwent organizational restructuring, coupled with the preparations for the 2021 national election, which delayed the implementation of a number of projects.



Photo: ©UN Viet Nam

### 3.2 LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND - HIGHLIGHTS

#### Gender Equality Marker (GEM)

The UN in Viet Nam continued its successful application of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) into the UN INFO platform (the UN online tool for planning, monitoring, and reporting UN work). UN work and financing for gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) was tracked, which has been highlighted as a good practice globally by UN Women Headquarters.

#### Promoting Rights of LGBTIQ persons & Gender Equality

UNAIDS and UNESCO led joint UN work on the 2020 UN Free & Equal campaign for promoting the human rights of LGBTIQ persons, including support for a national community-led summit, reaching 143,799 people in person and on social media. UNAIDS convened a UN Viet Nam campaign for Zero Discrimination with the participation of 7 UN agencies to mark 2020 Zero

Discrimination Day. The social media campaign, named “#BethetheForceforChange” aimed to call for solidarity with groups of women and girls most vulnerable to discrimination in Viet Nam and the protection of their rights.

#### UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and Action Plan

In 2020, the UN in Viet Nam became one of 10 UN Country Teams selected to participate in a targeted roll-out of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), which provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the UN. Earlier in the year, the UN in Viet Nam was one of seven UN Country Teams selected to use the UN Secretary General’s accountability scorecard tool to measure the level of disability inclusion in its activities. On the basis of that baseline assessment, the UN in Viet Nam developed an Action Plan to progress the implementation of the UNDIS. Through the Strategy, the UN system will systematically embed the rights of persons with



## Brief on good practice example of UNCT-GEM application: Viet Nam experience

### I. Introduction

UN Country Team (UNCT) Viet Nam shares its experience on UNCT Gender Equality Marker (GEM) application and tracking financing in support of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE) within the UN INFO and through the UNCT Joint Work Plan (JWP). This brief contains a detailed description of the process, results, reflection and learning, and future perspectives. The good practice example from the Viet Nam experience can facilitate learning for UNCTs globally – with a possibility to eventually consider, adapt and replicate practices on UNCT GEM application and tracking financing in support of GEWE at the UNCT level to the specific situation and context.

### II. Good practice summary

disabilities (PWDs) into its work, both externally, through programming, and internally, through its leadership, operational and organizational culture. It will build trust and confidence among PWDs to ensure that they are consulted and valued, their dignity and rights are respected, and that, in the workplace, they find an enabling environment in which to fully and effectively participate on an equal basis with others. While the UN has already made progress in just a few months – improving its ranking in 4 out of 14 indicators – there is still much that can be done to strengthen the UN in Viet Nam’s approach and meet or even exceed the requirements under UNDIS.

#### **Youth**

With the UN’s active advocacy and policy advice, a number of important instruments were promulgated and developed in 2020 to promote the rights of youth and adolescents, including the approval of the Youth Law and development of the National Strategy on Youth 2021-2030.

Many campaigns and events were conducted in coordination with MOHA, MONRE, the Central Youth’s Union, CSOs, the Saigon Innovation Hub, HCMC’s Association for the Protection of Children’s Rights (HAPCR), Change Viet Nam and other organizations, the UN, especially UNFPA and UNICEF. These enhanced the voice of youth and children and their participation in policy making processes, promoted youth engagement in climate change actions and environmental protection, strengthened youth capacity to prevent violence, and promoted innovation by youth. The campaigns and events included: the Youth-led UN75 Online Youth Forum, the Virtual International Youth Day 2020 on “The Viet Nam we want in 2030 - Youth Act for Clean Environment”, the “Good Deeds for Children” photo contest, the one-month campaign “For a Green, Clean and Safe Vietnam for Every Child”, and the writing and drawing contest “Children’s rights – Our rights”.



### 3.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2020, the UNCT and each of its members continued to expand partnerships with traditional and new stakeholders inside and outside Viet Nam to help advance the SDGs, leverage financing for the 2030 Agenda, and support Viet Nam's dual role as non-permanent member of UN Security Council (UNSC) and Chair of ASEAN.

In collaboration with Member States and development partners, the UN played a key leading role in supporting the GOVN to successfully host a High-Level International Conference on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), entitled "Strengthening Women's Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: From Commitment to Results". This was held in December to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNSC Resolution 1325 and the WPS agenda, which was cited by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister as one of Viet Nam's top ten highlights in 2020. This event brought together 400 participants – including three Under-Secretaries-General (USGs) and one former USG of the UN, numerous ministerial-level officials and experts – from over 80 countries and all continents. Core UN Member States supporting the event included Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the US. The event resulted in an Outcome Document called "Hanoi Commitment to Action" which was co-sponsored by 75 States. It was submitted by the Government to the Presidents of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly in February 2021 to support the acceleration of WPS actions in the coming decade.

The UN in Viet Nam played an instrumental role in securing the attendance of the Secretary-General at the 11th ASEAN-UN Summit, where the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action for 2021-2025 was adopted, and at the opening segment of the 15th East Asia Summit in November 2020. A first-ever

ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit was held with the SG's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, Queen Maxima, in attendance, which the UN in Viet Nam helped secure. The RC attended all three events as part of the UN Delegation. Throughout 2020, the UN engaged in or supported ASEAN-related activities, such as: the Sustainable Development High-Level ASEAN Regional Conference; ASEAN Youth Summit; ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPA) meeting on Education and Culture; ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour; and conference on the Role of Women in Peacekeeping.

Given Viet Nam's development status as a Medium Income Country with limited public resources facing a trend of sharply declining grant ODA, it has become more difficult to access bilateral ODA at the country level. The UN continued to advocate and support Viet Nam in accessing global funds. With UN support, Viet Nam succeeded in obtaining approval for its proposals from the global Joint SDG Fund. These resulted in new Joint Programmes (including on social protection, Integrated National Financing Framework, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and COVID-19 impact) with total funding of USD 11.4 million. Under the leadership of the RC, the UN in Viet Nam was also successful in obtaining USD 3 million from CERF for rapid response to storms and floods in Central provinces.

The UNCT achieved significant results in partnership with the private sector. A historic agreement was signed between the UN and the SOVICO Group, a Vietnamese private conglomerate. The agreement was built on an initiative led by UNESCO with UNHABITAT and UNIDO participation. It seeks to support the visioning exercise and strategic development of the capital city Hanoi with key interventions contributing directly to SDG8, 9 and 11. This partnership will also support the City's vision of a Creative City, requiring coordinated government policies and programmes to support

the creative and cultural industries, led by UNESCO. UNFPA has also built a strong partnership with Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in an on-going project providing advocacy and policy support to scale-up the HPV vaccination programme in Viet Nam.

Inclusive partnership with CSOs was emphasized by the UNCT in various areas, including maternal care, ethnic minority populations, youth, LGBTIQ persons, people living with HIV, disaster risk reduction, climate change, and gender. With the strong partnership of the GOVN and CSO/NGOs, the UN jointly advocated for the rights of youth, including LGBTIQ youth, through different campaigns and advocacy events. UNFPA mobilized USD 1.2m from MSD-for-Mothers to implement innovative interventions to reduce maternal mortality in ethnic minority regions of Viet Nam. The UN, led by UNICEF and UNDP in cooperation with Viet Nam's Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), conducted a socio-economic impact assessment in five provinces on the impacts of drought, saltwater intrusion and COVID-19 to vulnerable households, cooperatives and SMEs. The work sought to address the challenges from and solutions to COVID-19 and natural disasters when the population is hit by both. The UN, led by UN Women and UNEP in partnership with GIZ and CCWG, provided technical support to MONRE to strengthen the Gender Responsiveness of Viet Nam's Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement. This assistance resulted in the inclusion of details on co-benefits of considering gender equality and risk reduction for vulnerable groups in the updated NDC. ILO together with UN Women and other development partners, including CARE International, GIZ and the EU, provided intensive technical assistance to MOLISA in the formulation and enforcement of the Decree to guide implementation of the 2019 Labour Code, which embedded new means for protecting workers' rights.

The UN supported the GOVN in establishing the Migration Health Working Group (MHWG), an inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral working group which enables the GOVN to manage migrant-related health issues. The UN, through the Ethnic Minority Working Group (EMWG) with UNDP as co-chair, has built a strong partnership with the GOVN, the National Assembly (NA), and international development partners to support the development of the new National Targeted Program on Social Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas. The Education Sector Group (ESG) (which consists of development partners active in the education sector in Viet Nam), led by UN Viet Nam (UNESCO and UNICEF), supported MOET to successfully secure a grant of USD 500,000 from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The partnership between UNICEF, UNDP, MOJ and the EU Delegation to Viet Nam was further bolstered through the signing of a two-year extension of the EU Justice and Legal Empowerment Programme (EU JULE), which aims at enhancing the capacity of legal aid providers and grassroots mediators, or justice personnel who often deal with vulnerable persons in contact with the law. In December 2020, a number of UN Agencies who are members of the UN Human Rights Thematic Group, jointly participated in two major events on UPR organized by MOFA in partnership with UNDP.

In partnership with and as a result of funding support by Australia, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women have been jointly implementing and providing support to women and children at high risk of violence amid COVID-19.



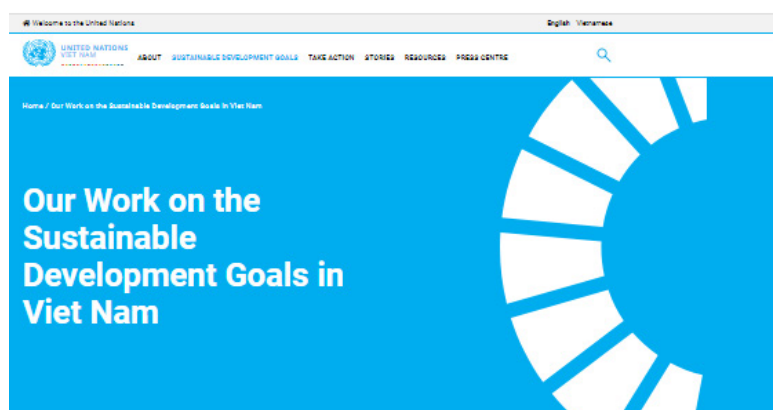
### 3.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

#### UN “Fit-for-Purpose” Coordination Architecture for Effective Delivery of OSP Results

The UN “fit-for-purpose” coordination architecture for implementing the OSP was established in 2017 and revised in 2019 in line with the UN Development System (UNDS) reform. The current architecture includes a Joint GOVN-UN Steering Committee (JSC) as the highest-level coordination structure between the GOVN and the UN, the UN Country Team consisting of Heads of UN Agencies, a Programme Management Team, four Joint Results Groups, four cross-cutting Thematic Groups, as well as other inter-agency working groups for OSP implementation. [Comms: UNCT Retreat pic?]

In 2020, the UN developed the **2020 and 2021 Joint Workplan**. It contains numerous actions by individual agencies or jointly by multiple agencies to deliver expected OSP outputs and outcomes and, especially, to respond to COVID-19 impacts in Viet Nam. The **UN Info database** continued to be updated with both programmatic and financial information which was published through the UN Info public dashboard tool embedded on the **UNCT Website**. The UN in Viet Nam’s experience in integrating the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) and innovative tags into UN Info to capture both UN technical and financial contributions to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women was highlighted as a good example to share globally with other countries.

The UN provided significant support to the GOVN’s development of the next 10-year Socio-Economic Development Strategy (**SEDS**), the next 5-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (**SEDP**) and



#### How the UN is supporting The Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam

The UN and its partners in Viet Nam are working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: 17 interconnected and ambitious Goals which address the major development challenges faced by people in Viet Nam and around the world.

#### The Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the earth's environment and climate, and ensure that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity. These are the goals the UN is working on in Viet Nam.



**the draft IR4.0 National Strategy to 2030**, focusing on inclusive and sustainable growth, with due consideration to building forward better post-COVID-19. Through its SDG Working Group, the UN continued to enhance **SDG mainstreaming** in the new SEDS and SEDP, and sectoral development strategies and plans, including the new 10-year Education Development Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and annual plans. Further, the UN jointly supported **SDG reporting and advocacy**, and the development of the first



No.	Title	Participating UN Agencies
1	EU Justice and legal Empowerment Programme (EU JULE). PAGODA mechanism	UNDP, UNICEF
2	SAFE and FAR Realizing women migrant workers	UN Women, ILO
3	An integrated dengue early warning system driven by Earth Observations in Vietnam	UNDP, WHO
4	Data layering for disaster preparedness	UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UN Women
5	Enhancing fair and recruitment to combat modern slavery, including trafficking and forced labour, in international migrant work	ILO, IOM
6	Strengthening human rights and gender equality through climate change action and disaster risk reduction (Empower-Women for Climate Resilient Societies)	UN Environment, UN Women
7	Scaling up Forecasted Financing/Early Warning Action and Shock Responsive disaster Reliance in ASEAN (UN Women, FAO)	UN Women, FAO, UNICEF
8	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, UNESCO
9	Joint SG Fund on Social Protection and LNOB	ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP
10	Supporting Interventions to Eliminate Violence 10 against Women and Children in Viet Nam under COVID-19 Emergency	
11	Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2010 integrated 11 Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs	UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women
12	VIETNAM 12 RAPID RESPONSE, TO STORMS AND FLOODS (CER)	UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA
13	Mitigating the Socio-Economic impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam on the Most Vulnerable Groups and Supporting More Resilient Policies and Systems	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, UNAIDS
14	UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (MPTE)	UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF





National SDG Report to be launched in 2021. With regard to **SDG monitoring**, the UN supported the GOVN in important data collection and analysis. This included including support to GSO in developing Viet Nam's Statistics Development Strategy for 2021-2030.

The UN put great effort into working with the GOVN (through the UN-GOVN DaO Joint Steering Committee, high-level policy roundtables with the GOVN, and the interaction with MPI and MOFA leaders) and other stakeholders to implement **the OSP Evaluation** and to develop **the CCA and UNSDCF 2022-2026**, all of which are to be completed in 2021.

### Strategic Joint Programmes (JPs) in 2020

The UN continued to emphasize the importance of joint work and made substantive efforts to increase the number of JPs in 2020. A total of 14 JPs (USD 26.5 million) were in implementation in 2020, of which seven were new ones (USD 11.7

million), covering all four OSP strategic areas, including five JPs, supported by global funds, on social protection, INFF, mitigating socio-economic impact of COVID-19, rapid response to storms and floods, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### Joint Communication for Coherent Policy Advocacy

The UN conducted various public awareness campaigns such as a social media campaign #BeTheForceForChange on the occasion of Zero Discrimination Day and International Women's Day (convened by UNAIDS and UN Women with the participation of seven UN agencies); a UN Women-coordinated 16 days of activism campaign to advocate and strengthen the national response to eliminating gender-based violence in Viet Nam, especially in the COVID-19 context (with a reach of 8,651,500 persons); a UN Free & Equal campaign #SaferHomesforLGBTIQPeople; a UNFPA-led campaign on changing social norms toward son preference and the under valuing of girls

(with 1,500 participants directly participated in GBSS communications, with video clips reaching 6,821,009 views in a Tik Tok competition with high media coverage); and various community engagements on the rights, experiences and contributions of women migrant workers.

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the UN was a significant part of UNCT effort in 2020, utilizing the \$27,000 funding from the UN75 Secretariat. Among other initiatives, the UNCT organized a Press Briefing with Senior Editors and Journalists on Viet Nam Press Day, and an International Youth Day livestreaming with a focus on climate change and the environment, promoting the UN75 Global Survey nationwide. In October 2020, the UN Day Reception was held, which was physically attended by approximately 300 people, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, which in effect was also a celebration of the successful containment of COVID-19 in Viet Nam in 2020. The top photos from the photo contest on the 'Future I Want', another UN75 initiative, were exhibited at the UN Day Reception.

### **UN Viet Nam in Collaboration with UN Regional and Global Level.**

The UN in Viet Nam worked with the Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on climate change mitigation on a Roundtable COP26 event with the GOVN, which was hosted by the UK with useful inputs from the IBC (especially UNEP and ESCAP).

In terms of data-related work, the UN in Viet Nam had a close collaboration with ESCAP in supporting the national statistics system. The UN (led by RCO) coordinated UN support from the country, regional and HQ levels (UNDESA/UNSD), particularly in providing advice/inputs to the ongoing National Statistical Strategy. RCO, ESCAP and the WB (HQ and country level) were in initial discussion on reactivating the partnership between Viet

Nam's GSO and Development Partners. RCO also planned a discussion on support for the national statistics office in implementing some specific and important tasks such as the development of statistics services and harmonized data collection programmes (as proposed through RCO discussion with GSO) with ESCAP and UNSD.

### **UN Viet Nam Operating As One**

The UN in Viet Nam's Business Operations Strategy (BOS) for 2018-2021 was signed off by the Resident Coordinator following clearance by the UNCT in August 2020 and has since been under implementation in alignment with BOS 2.0. The UN in Viet Nam has achieved a full occupancy rate (100%) at the GOUNH, leading to significant cost-efficiency gains resulting from cost avoidance or reduction of per desk cost by almost 25% between 2018-2020. It is currently projected that the potential cost avoidance or savings under BOS 2018-2021 will be approximately USD 1.5 million. The UN in Viet Nam has renamed the GOUNH Common Services Unit (CSU) as the GOUNH Common Back Office (CBO). The CBO continued to provide high-quality service to all 15 UN entities in the Green One UN House in 2020 with efficiency and effectiveness, as evidenced by the positive results of the All-Staff survey and client satisfaction, with an average rating of 4.9 out of 5.

### 3.5. OSP EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2020, the UNCT in Viet Nam organized the final evaluation of the OSP 2017-2021 to provide important information for strengthening programming and results at the country level, specifically informing the planning and decision-making for the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026) and for improving UN coordination at the country level. The OSP evaluation also supports greater accountability of the UNCT and GOVN to OSP stakeholders by objectively verifying results achieved within the OSP framework and assessing the effectiveness of the strategies and interventions used.

The evaluation assessed OSP relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, transformational changes and conformity with the OSP cross-cutting principles. It was conducted in an inclusive manner and promoted national ownership through the meaningful engagement of relevant national partners throughout the evaluation process.

The OSP evaluation provided 19 findings and 11 recommendations. Highlights of the findings include the followings:

- **In terms of OSP design**, the OSP was formulated through a consultative process that involved both UN and national stakeholders. The OSP has been and remains relevant as it addresses the main national priorities, in line with the SDGs and other national priorities, and also has shown flexibility in responding to emerging and emergency needs of the country and its citizens. The OSP has given the UNCT opportunities for upstream work with the GOVN while building on the respective mandates and experience of the participating

UN agencies. It also enabled mainstreaming the cross-cutting themes of gender and human rights into OSP implementation and resulted in more coherent support and advocacy by the UN system on national priorities and the SDGs. The OSP has provided an added value through several elements such as provision of access to global knowledge, diversity of mandates of the participating UN agencies, joint interventions based on a multi-sectoral approach, and impartiality of the UN and convening power of UN agencies, which are highly appreciated by government partners. Nevertheless, the evaluation identified the absence of an explicit TOC, high-level OSP outcomes, numerous outcome indicators with many missing baseline and targets, and the large unfunded budget at its inception which were weakness in the OSP design.

- **In terms of OSP implementation**, the 'fit-for-purpose' OSP coordination architecture was established in line with UNDCO guidelines. In general, the OSP has contributed to improvements in the socioeconomic and governance situation in Viet Nam and to progress in the country's achievement of the SDGs. Majority of funds for the OSP were mobilized on a bilateral basis between individual UN agencies and their donors. However, it was found that the lack of GOVN participation, budget constraints, and unclear and complicated ODA procedures have partly limited smooth and timely OSP implementation.
- **In terms of OSP coordination**, the evaluators found that the 5 pillars defined in the SOPs for the DaO approach had been established. There was good coordination in the development of the OSP that led the UNCT through the programming process towards

the set of strategic result areas based on national priorities, the internationally agreed development goals, and the UN agencies' capacities and comparative advantages. The coordination for operations has been based on established requisite teams and groups such as the Programme Management Team (PMT) the Operations Management Team (OMT), as well as the Results and Thematic Groups. Nevertheless, stronger GOVN engagement and more interactions and joint programming among UN groups and agencies was recommended.

Key recommendations in the OSP Evaluation report include: having a robust Theory of Change in the next UNSDCF; emphasizing normative, capacity building and awareness raising mandates constituting major comparative advantages of the UN system; strengthening GOVN and stakeholders' engagement; improving governance and management structure; having more systematic and coherent joint programming and joint programmes with improved GOVN engagement; and enhancing monitoring and reporting.

The OSP Evaluation final report is being finalized and will be launched in 2021. The UNCT in coordination with the GOVN will also finalize the Management Response to the OSP Evaluation in the first half of 2021 with specific follow-up actions among which many have already been implemented in the development of the new UNSDCF 2022-2026.

### 3.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

#### 2020 Budget and Expenditure

In total, the UN in Viet Nam was able to mobilize approximately USD83 million, equivalent to 95 per cent of the total planned budget for 2020 of about USD88 million, which was significantly higher than the mobilized amount in each of the last three years, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Most of the UN mobilized budget (80%) came from non-core funding sources.

Outcome 1.2 on Equity in Health and Outcome 3.2 on Inclusive Labour Market mobilized more than the planned amounts. This partly reflects the UN's substantive effort in resource mobilization despite the overall decline in grant ODA in Viet Nam but is partly because of more funds available for COVID-19 response. The largest shares of the UN budget in 2020 went to Outcome 1.2 on equity in health (24.0 per cent), Outcome 4.2 on human rights protection and justice and Outcome 2.1 on low-carbon, climate, and disaster resilient development (about 20 per cent each).

With respect to expenditure, by the end of 2020, UN agencies delivered USD74.6 million, resulting in a disbursement of 89.7 per cent against the total available budget of USD83 million. This is considered a very high delivery rate despite all challenges in terms of COVID-19, complex GOVN ODA procedures and difficulties in grant ODA mobilization.

Cumulatively, in 4 years between 2017 and 2020, the UN was able to spend USD280 million out of USD302 million mobilized or achieve an average annual delivery rate of 93 per cent, accounting for roughly 66 per cent of the OSP's total five-year estimated budget of USD423 million. The UN plans to mobilize and spend about USD90

TABLE... 2020 UN FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (USD)

Focus Areas	Outcomes	2020			
		Total Required	Available	Gap	Expenditure
FA1	Outcome 1.1	4,496,810	4,179,825	316,985	3,811,624
	Outcome 1.2	18,902,683	19,925,884	0	19,113,510
	Outcome 1.3	5,676,321	4,041,810	1,634,511	3,738,586
FA2	Outcome 2.1	18,029,952	16,878,478	1,151,474	15,944,423
	Outcome 2.2	6,196,342	5,522,407	673,935	4,793,030
FA3	Outcome 3.1	7,585,382	6,178,273	1,407,109	3,163,274
	Outcome 3.2	1,526,505	1,694,140	0	1,694,140
FA4	Outcome 4.1	7,879,014	7,357,368	521,646	6,934,841
	Outcome 4.2	17,632,002	17,407,996	224,006	15,385,320
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>87,925,011</b>	<b>83,186,181</b>	<b>4,738,830</b>	<b>74,578,748</b>

million in 2021. Fully reaching the budget target of USD423 million by the end of 2021 (the OSP final year) will be challenging but the financial results in the circumstances are considered good. Notwithstanding this, the UN's added value is providing technical and advisory support, and financial targets and expenditure should not be viewed as the only or even the most important indicator to evaluate UN contributions.

By integrating the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) into the UN Joint Work Plan and the UN INFO platform, the UN has been able to track its budget to directly support gender equality and empowerment of women (GEEW). In 2020, the UN in Viet Nam invested about 23 per cent or USD20 million of its budget in GEEW. Interestingly and impressively, approximately 52 per cent of the UN COVID-response budget was allocated to gender equality, clearly showing that the UN puts women and girls at the center of its efforts in supporting the recovery from COVID-19.

### UN Viet Nam SDG Fund

The UN Viet Nam SDG Fund (SDGF) was established at the end of 2018, based on the rebranding of the One Plan Fund (OPF) and as the result of the UN in Viet Nam's consultation with the GOVN and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). This aims to provide a local pooled fund, mirroring global efforts on the Joint SDG Fund, to better support SDG acceleration and OSP implementation.

Expenditures of USD106,444 were reported as of 31 December 2020, according to official financial reporting provided by the Headquarters of the Participating UN Organizations. These funds covered contractual services and general operating expenses for those who provided coordination assistance to the UNCT and different substantive inter-agency groups (including Results Groups) supporting Viet Nam's SDG implementation and acceleration.

	Annual 2019	Annual 2020	Cumulative
<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
Contributions from donors	252,920		252,920
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,388		2,388
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations			
Refunds by Administrative Agent to contributors			
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF Other Income			
<b>Total: Sources of Funds</b>	<b>255,308</b>		<b>255,308</b>
<b>Use of Funds</b>			
Transfers to Participating Organizations			
Refunds received from Participating Organizations			
<b>Net Funded Amount</b>			
Administrative Agent Fees	2,529		2,529
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)	120,904	131,872	252,776
Bank Charges	3		3
Other Expenditures			
<b>Total: Uses of Funds</b>	<b>123,436</b>	<b>131,872</b>	<b>255,308</b>
<b>Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent</b>	<b>131,872</b>	<b>(131,872)</b>	
Opening Fund balance (1 January)		131,872	
<b>Closing Fund balance (31 December)</b>	<b>131,872</b>		
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	120,904	131,872	252,776
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	54,197	52,247	106,444
<b>Balance of funds with Participating Organizations</b>			<b>146,332</b>



# CHAPTER 4:

## UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR



In 2021, the UN's priority remains to support Viet Nam in the fight against COVID-19. The top priority is to help Viet Nam have access to significant COVID vaccines as soon as possible through the COVAX Facility and implement vaccination programmes in a timely, equal, and inclusive manner. The UN will continue to implement its **COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP)**, adapt its interventions, and mobilize further resources to ensure inclusive social protection and build up citizens' resilience against COVID's negative impacts, especially for the most vulnerable population groups. At the same time, the UN will be ready to support the GOVN in launching other humanitarian and emergency responses, particularly to natural disasters, when necessary.

Being the final year of the OSP 2017-2021 cycle, 2021 will be a critical year for the UN to **complete the OSP's outcomes** towards SDG achievement as planned although the progress of achieving all intended OSP results will probably be slowed down as a result of the uncertain COVID situation and possible physical social distancing policies in the country. Efforts for resource mobilization and partnerships will be continued as important foundation for achieving OSP results.

In preparing for the development of the next CF for 2022-2026, the UN in Viet Nam will finalize **the Common Country Analysis and the Management Response to the OSP Evaluation**. At the same time, the UN will closely cooperate with the GOVN in finalizing the CF roadmap and in **developing the new CF for the next cycle 2022-2026**. The CF is expected to be finalized and approved by the GOVN by Quarter 3/2021. Following the CF approval, the UN will establish

a relevant and efficient coordination architecture for CF implementation, monitoring and reporting, as well as the 2022 annual workplan with specific interventions for implementation. The UN in Viet Nam will retain its strategy for enhancing joint programming, joint resource mobilization, and multi-stakeholder partnership as key for CF success. A comprehensive joint resource mobilization strategy will be developed to facilitate and materialize the UN's resource mobilization targets.

The UN in Viet Nam will continue to support Viet Nam to play its **roles in the ASEAN community and in the UN Security Council**, as well as support the country's **South-South Cooperation** strategies. Given the country's current limited public resources and sharp declining share of grant ODA, the UN will continue to support Viet Nam in accessing global and regional funds, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, and leveraging resource mobilization also from the private sector. The UN, with its partnership expertise, international experience, and convening power, will continue to play a significant role in supporting Viet Nam's development efforts in important areas such as climate change, clean energy, social policy innovation, strengthening of health systems, education and skills development, social protection, poverty reduction as well as innovative financing.



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