



UNITED NATIONS
VIET NAM



ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
AND THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026





UNITED NATIONS
VIET NAM



JOINT STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE PAGE



The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the United Nations system in Viet Nam present the One Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development Cooperation between the Government of Viet Nam and the United Nations for the period 2022–2026 (Cooperation Framework, or CF, for short). The Cooperation Framework is the United Nations central framework for planning and implementing development activities at the country level. It articulates the United Nations collective framework of support to Viet Nam towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and national development priorities.

The Cooperation Framework is a commitment between the Government of Viet Nam and the United Nations to work together, and in partnership with broader society (non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector and other development partners). The goal is to contribute towards an increasingly resilient Viet Nam that embraces the wellbeing of all people – particularly the most disadvantaged, an inclusive green economy and people-centred governance systems, and where people enjoy equal rights and opportunities. At the core of the framework is our pledge to leave no one behind and to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Viet Nam.

By signing herewith, the Government of Viet Nam and the members of the United Nations in Viet Nam endorse the Cooperation Framework 2022–2026 and reaffirm their shared commitment to its strategic priorities and outcomes.

One behalf of the Government of Viet Nam

On behalf of the United Nations in Viet Nam

H.E. Nguyen Chi Dung
Minister for Planning and Investment
The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Ms. Pauline Tamesis
UN Resident Coordinator



AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN VIET NAM

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Viet Nam for the period 2022–2026 on < > 2022 in Hanoi, reaffirming their shared commitment to its priorities and results.



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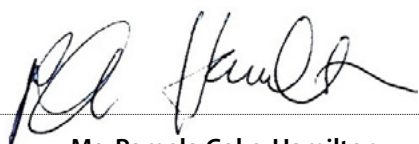
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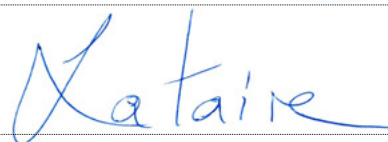
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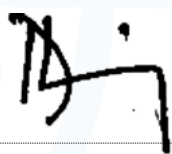
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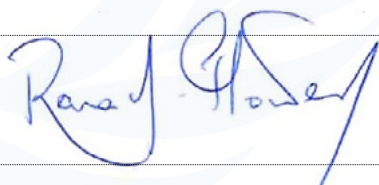
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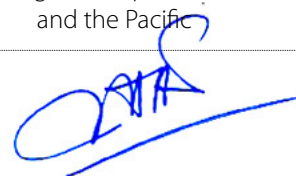
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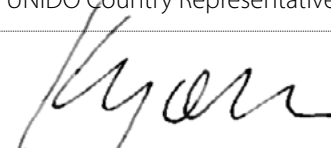
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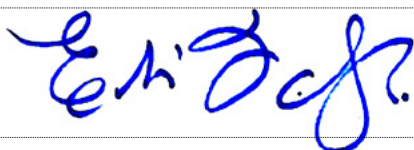
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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS



4IR	The Fourth Industrial Revolution
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CCA	Common country analysis
CF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
COVID-19	Corona virus disease
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FACE	Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign direct investment
FTA	Free trade agreements
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDP	Gross domestic product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GoV	Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
GSO	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre





UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme for HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Organization for Drugs and Crime
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
UPR	Universal periodic review
VHLSS	Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey
VSS	Viet Nam Social Security
WASH	Water sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WP	work plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) will be used to plan and guide the United Nations (UN) development system's activities at the country level. It outlines the UN development system's comparative advantages and key contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a coordinated and integrated way. The CF reflects the principles of leave no one behind (LNOB), human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, and secures a commitment to these tenets. It embodies the UN system's obligations to international standards and treaties.

The Government of Viet Nam (GoV) and the UN in Viet Nam agree to call the CF document 'One Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development Cooperation between the UN and the Government of Viet Nam for the period 2022–2026' (Cooperation Framework, or CF, for short). The CF formalizes the partnership between the GoV and UN. Additionally, it reaffirms the UN collective support to Viet Nam to achieve key SDGs and national development priorities in the period 2022–2026.

The development priorities to which the UN will lend its collective support within the CF were drawn from Viet Nam's Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) for 2021–2030 and Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for 2021–2025, sectoral strategies and plans and from the Common Country Analysis (CCA). UN support and its delivery and management mechanisms are formulated based on the UN comparative advantages as well as on lessons learned from, and the recommendations of the evaluation of the One Strategic Plan (2017–2021) conducted in 2021.

The CF development process benefitted from a cross-disciplinary approach and inclusive consultation with a range of stakeholders, despite the constraints caused by the Corona virus disease (COVID-19). The process included multi-disciplinary planning and consultation workshops that involved resident and non-resident UN entities, GoV ministries and agencies at the national and sub-national levels, as well as international and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Also participating in the workshops were local social enterprises, representative unions and associations (such as for women, the youth and trade) and other groups, development partners, international financial institutions, research institutions, academia, experts and the private sector. An online survey ensured additional participation.

Based on detailed analyses and cross-disciplinary dialogue, the UN and the GoV put priority on four development outcomes for the UN support to Viet Nam in its continued efforts to achieve sustainable development for its people, especially those at risk of being left behind. The outcomes are as follows:

- **inclusive social development**, with a focus on inclusive, gender-responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection, with the aim of moving people in Viet Nam further out of poverty in all its dimensions and empowering people to reach their full potential;
- **climate-change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability**,

shared prosperity through economic transformation, with a focus on sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work; and

- The following figure presents the agreed priority outcomes that frame the contributions of the UN system in Viet Nam towards the achievement of sustainable development objectives in the country between 2022 and 2026.

Inclusive social development

**Climate-change
response, disaster
resilience and
environmental
sustainability**

Shared prosperity through economic transformation

Governance and access to justice

11



The CF is based on a strong theory of change that demonstrates a clear pathway for the UN contribution to sustainable development in Viet Nam over the next five years. The strategic outcomes stated above are supported by outputs and interventions based on the UN comparative advantage and will be implemented with measurable clear indicators, baselines and annualized targets that help track their contributions to the outcome.

In Viet Nam the UN is committed to helping achieve the above outcomes by leveraging enablers¹ and the comparative advantage of its system. The UN will adopt approaches that support strategic innovation and technological advancements. The approaches support the generation and use of data and evidence. They integrate the priorities of capacity building while creating and nurturing strategic partnerships. They encourage and apply digitization and integrate approaches in development financing and budgeting. Additionally, the approaches advance priorities for demonstrated accountability to the UN system and the people of Viet Nam, and demonstrate a commitment to reducing all barriers to participation.

To implement the priorities set out in the CF the UN in Viet Nam will mobilize its resources at the country, regional and headquarters levels. It will pursue joint work planning, joint programmes and programme implementation, information sharing, as well as joint communication and resource mobilization strategies. Strong UN coherence will support the development of partnerships that include NGOs, mass organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and regional entities to take forward outcome priorities, implement outputs and key interventions and help achieve the SDGs.

The CF recognizes the risks that can slow progress down, among them changes in political will, access to reliable data, restrictions to public participation or fundamental rights and declines in financial

investment, and establishes strategies to mitigate such risks regularly. The continuing impact of COVID-19 and any future major shock could hamper Viet Nam's opportunities to reach its social and economic development goals, divert existing resources, exacerbate inequalities and push people further into poverty. As such, the CF is aligned with the priorities and strategies of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan of the UN in Viet Nam, and consistent with the socio-economic development goals stated in the resolution adopted by the 13th National Party Congress.

The CF is supported by guiding principles on gender equality and women's empowerment, the youth, the life-cycle approach, climate change and disaster resilience, LNOB, human rights, sustainability, social cohesion, human security and conflict sensitivity. It reflects a strong commitment to the principles of LNOB, in the Viet Nam context. As such it is inclusive of people living in poverty and extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, ethnic minorities, stateless people and persons of undetermined nationality, people with disabilities (PWD), communities affected by unexploded ordnance or Agent Orange, informal workers, internal migrants², people living in climate-change and disaster-prone areas, LGBTI persons and people affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Equally importantly, it takes into account the demographic priorities of children, the youth, women and older persons.

¹ Enablers as agreed by the UNCT are: strategic innovation, digitization, data and evidence generation, financing and budgeting, capacity building, accountability and participation, and partnerships.

² For the purpose of the CF the term 'internal migrants' refers to any person who is moving or has moved within Viet Nam for the purpose of establishing a new temporary or permanent residence or because of displacement, such as internally displaced persons, as well as persons who decide to move to a new place, such as in the case of rural-urban migration. During 2020-21, this term has been used to refer to Vietnamese nationals who had to change their place of living to cope with the impact of COVID-19. 'International migrants' in Viet Nam are persons who are residing in the country but who are not Vietnamese citizen or national. The term includes persons who moved to Viet Nam in a regular, documented, or irregular manner or are currently in irregular situation.

CHAPTER 1:

COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA



1.1 NATIONAL CONTEXT

Overall, Viet Nam's development prospects are positive, with several economic, social and political dynamics maintaining the momentum initiated by the Doi Moi reforms introduced 35 years ago. Between 2016 and 2019, Viet Nam's economic growth was impressive, fuelled by a modernized, vibrant industrial base that powered the manufacture of high-quality export products, attracting record volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and cementing the country's integration into global value chains.³ Additionally, extreme poverty continued to fall, resulting in an overall reduction of some 50 percentage points since 1992.⁴ The upward trend in economic growth has coincided with a marked increase in the delivery of and access to basic services such as health and education. The multidimensional poverty (MDP) rate (based on Viet Nam's national measurements) fell remarkably from 9 per cent in 2016 to 5.7 per cent in 2019. Viet Nam's human development indicators have also seen significant improvements and in 2019 Viet Nam ranked within the 'high human development' category, a monumental achievement for the country's level of GDP per capita.⁵ The total population has increased from 32.6 million in 1960 to 97.2 million in April 2020, which makes Viet Nam the 15th most populous country in the world. Nearly 70 per cent of the population is aged 15–64 years, which offers a unique window of opportunity in view of

the demographic dividend. The right investment and policies, particularly if implemented to benefit young people, can significantly accelerate socio-economic growth. The population is also ageing rapidly. The group of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase two-and-a-half times by 2050, posing serious challenges for the social protection system and healthcare for older persons.⁶ There are several areas where the youth face barriers in accessing basic services and economic opportunities. Even with the country's socio-economic progress over the last decade, inequalities and disparities continue to restrict young people's access to education, health care – including sexual and reproductive health care – and decent employment, as well as limiting their participation in policy development. Young people account for a large share of the labour force, with nearly half (49.5 per cent) aged 15–39 years.⁷ As it transitions to a higher-value economy, Viet Nam faces a growing challenge to generate productive and decent jobs for its young people and expanding labour force, and to provide the relevant skills to broaden the service and manufacturing sectors. Nonetheless, despite these challenges current socio-economic trends position Viet Nam to become a development model success story in the next decade or so - if international commitments on human rights are fulfilled, and environmental degradation concerns are adequately addressed.

On 1 July 2017, Viet Nam officially graduated from the International Development Association and subsequently from the Asian Development Bank's Asian Development Fund in January 2019, mechanisms reserved for poor countries or those with low creditworthiness. Additionally, the country reached the high human development

3 UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common country analysis report, executive summary. UN in Vietnam, 2021. See: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>.

4 UN in Viet Nam, September 2020. Workshop: Development of high-quality human resources for agriculture, new rural development and sustainable poverty reduction in ethnic minority and mountainous areas; Opening remarks delivered by Kamal Malhotra, UN Resident Coordinator. See: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/91510-workshop-development-high-quality-human-resources-agriculture-new-rural-development-and>.

5 <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2020.pdf>.

6 2019 Viet Nam Population and housing census. General Statistics Office (GSO) of Viet Nam. <https://www.gso.gov.vn/en/data-and-statistics/2020/11/completed-results-of-the-2019-viet-nam-population-and-housing-census/>.

7 OECD (2020) A multidimensional country review of Viet Nam. OECD: Paris.

category for the first time in 2019 according to the 2020 UNDP Human Development Report (HDR). Viet Nam has rapidly gained recognition as a strong geopolitical contributor at both the regional and global levels. In 2020, Viet Nam took on the rare twin-responsibilities of serving as a rotating non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (for 2020–2021) and Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for 2020. Such developments illustrate the continuing and significant elevation of Viet Nam's development status.

While the GoV has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable development by enhancing the management of land, soil, water and other natural resources, unsustainable business practices increasingly threaten the capacity of Viet Nam's natural environment to deliver the valuable natural resources and services essential for economic growth and livelihoods. Viet Nam's climate-change policies and strategies⁸ have led to some progress at the national and local levels. However, the country's current energy intensity, measured as energy use per unit of GDP, is the highest among major Southeast Asian economies.⁹ Over the past two decades, climate-related disasters in Viet Nam have caused an estimated average annual loss of USD 1.8 billion or 1.2 per cent of GDP, and an average of 660 deaths.¹⁰ The most frequent and damaging natural hazards in the country are recurrent storms and typhoons, floods, landslides, sea surges, drought, forest fires, heatwaves and cold spells. Large population centres and key agricultural sectors are located on Viet Nam's more than 3,000 km of coastline, which is vulnerable to climate-related risks, including increasing temperatures, sea-level rises, saltwater

intrusion and more frequent and extreme weather events, leading to losses of property and life.

The Communist Party of Viet Nam held its 13th Congress from 25 January to 1 February 2021, and elected the new political leadership for the next five years. It adopted major socio-economic development goals and targets for the next five, 10 and 15 years. Importantly, it adopted a vision for Viet Nam to become a high-income developed country by 2045. Viet Nam's overall development trajectory faces challenges in the rates of progress towards the 2030 Agenda. It is estimated that Viet Nam will achieve five SDGs by 2030 (SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals).¹¹ Viet Nam will struggle to achieve ten SDGs by 2030 (SDG 3 on healthy life and well-being, SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 on economic growth and decent work, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions).¹² Viet Nam is also unlikely to achieve two SDGs by 2030 (SDG 12 on responsible production and consumption and SDG 14 on life below water).¹³

The main identified barriers to achieving the SDGs are directly related to:

- existing inequalities in access to basic services and economic opportunities, especially among key population groups such as geographically isolated people, ethnic minorities, PWD, victims of violence, older persons, children and women;

8 Most notably the Green growth strategy, Climate change strategy, Plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions, revised Law on natural disaster prevention and control, revised Law on environmental protection.

9 Energy and development in the ASEAN region. UNESCAP. 2019.

10 Elaboration of Em-dat (<https://public.emdat.be/>) database.

11 National report 2020 on progress of five-year implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

- the negative impacts of natural disasters, environmental degradation and pollution;
- the potential 'middle-income trap';
- insufficient public participation in policy and decision-making processes;
- weak governance mechanisms and limited public administration capacities;
- challenges in strengthening the rule of law and increasing access to justice for all, and;
- lack of financial resources to implement the SDGs.¹⁴

The UN in Viet Nam will help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by putting priority on interventions across the 12 SDGs that Viet Nam will find difficult to achieve by 2030. The UN will further reinforce this by establishing internal mechanisms to assist in developing responsive and innovative joint work plans (JWPs), advocacy and resource mobilization. The mechanisms will ensure demand-driven advisory support for the integration of the SDGs into national plans, budgets, monitoring and reporting. Additionally, the UN advocates the mainstreaming of human rights-based approaches and their positioning at the core of all development strategies and plans. This will have a bearing on the achievement of the SDGs, the sustainability of development achievements and their ability to benefit all members of society.¹⁵

The impacts of climate change adversely affect progress in the realization of the SDGs. The protracted nature of the COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded such impacts, and completely re-shaped medium-term projections for Viet Nam and globally. In 2020 GDP grew by 2.9 per cent (among the highest globally), perpetuating a negative economic and social impact on the

country, especially for women, informal workers, internal migrants and people working in the tourism industry. At least two million workers are estimated to have left the labour market in 2020, the highest figure in 10 years.¹⁶ The most vulnerable Vietnamese have experienced reduced access to basic services such as health, education and social protection, mainly due to the pandemic's impact on service delivery and fear of transmission in the community.

A fourth wave of infection has brought the total number of infected people in Viet Nam to 839,662 and that of deaths to 20,555 as of 10 October 2021¹⁷, from fewer than 5,000 infected and 37 deaths before 27 April 2021 when the fourth wave began. Containment measures, lasting longer than that of April 2020, were introduced in the main cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City as well as many provinces. As transmission rates continued to necessitate strict containment measures and the vaccination rate remained low, projections foresaw a temporary increase in poverty and near-poverty with many people at risk of falling into extreme poverty, especially among internal migrant and ethnic minority households. The pandemic has also increased social problems such as domestic violence, reduced medical attention as individuals avoid seeking healthcare services, disrupted learning for children, higher school drop-out rates and a risk of increased child labour. Such impacts may further interfere with Viet Nam's efforts to achieve the SDGs. In mid-September 2021 the country launched a massive vaccination drive which made it possible to cautiously ease containment measures and gradually resume economic activity.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ See: <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/human-rights-based-approach>.

¹⁶ UN Assessment of social and economic impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam (2020), p.28.

¹⁷ <https://ncov.moh.gov.vn/>.

The impact of the pandemic on public finances¹⁸ could eventually reduce much-needed investment in efforts to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, especially in capital-intensive areas such as climate change, the environment and infrastructure. As Viet Nam's development classification warrants increasingly less official development assistance (ODA), economic transformation that brings about new revenue streams will be the main means of mobilizing sufficient domestic resources and investments for the future, while minimizing public debt. A protracted crisis in Viet Nam could have significant negative implications for key development indicators such as those that measure MDP, education, health and access to other basic public services. Even without the pandemic, Viet Nam currently faces several barriers as it seeks to achieve economic transformation through a fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and numerous free trade agreements (FTAs).¹⁹ The current workforce, which is predominantly low-skilled, lacks the skills to support 4IR and to meet the compliance requirements of FTAs. In addition to upskilling the workforce, there is a need to integrate and nurture the science, technology and innovation and education sectors better, as well as to enhance access to the digital economy and the absorption of digital capabilities that will close the current digital divide.

1.2 GROUPS AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND



Across all indicators, a broad range of people have been identified as most disadvantaged and at risk of being left behind. This grouping includes poor households, ethnic minority groups, stateless people²⁰ and persons of undetermined nationality, poor people in rural areas, women across all groups and categories, women and children who are victims or at risk of violence including gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices, PWD, communities affected by unexploded ordnance or Agent Orange, older persons, children, informal workers and internal migrants, victims of human trafficking, people living in disaster-prone areas, LGBTI persons, people who use drugs, sex workers, people affected by HIV and victims of sexual harassment and abuse. This shows the dire need for evidence-based policies and improved State capacity to tackle discrimination, negative social norms and marginalization, and protect human rights.²¹ Among the challenges that these groups face are location, including residing on forest fringes or in forests, cultural and linguistic barriers, gender identity and sexual orientation and lack of appropriate investments to mitigate the difficulties. Groups that are associated with a combination of such descriptors face the highest risk of being left behind owing to the multiple layers of vulnerability that they face.

18 See Policy Brief on the economic impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam, April 2020: p.8, 13, 15. United Nations in Viet Nam.

19 The Fourth Industrial Revolution—characterized by innovations such as artificial intelligence, automation, and bio-technology—is likely to transform existing systems of production, management and governance. See: the United Nations Development Programme 2018. Development 4.0: opportunities and challenges for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. See: https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20&%20Publications/sustainable-development/UNDP_EIU%20Development%204.0%20Report_FA%20101018.pdf.

20 A stateless person is defined as 'a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law'. See: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/52865/stateless-person-definition> and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons: https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.24_convention%20stateless.pdf.

21 UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common country analysis report, executive summary. UN in Viet Nam, August 2021. See: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>.



Poor people, ethnic minority groups, individuals whose livelihoods depend on the climate/environment, older persons, young people, women, children, PWD and people with chronic illnesses are the most exposed to the environment, climate change and disasters. For example, groups that are the most affected by MDP are also the most susceptible to COVID-19. They are also the most vulnerable to climate change, disasters, environmental degradation and pollution driven by a carbon-intensive economy that has not brought equitable benefits to all. Women, especially ethnic minority women, are highly vulnerable owing to their limited access to education, health care, information on climate change and disaster-risk reduction, and fewer opportunities to participate in non-agricultural employment. Vulnerable individuals such as women, children, PWD, older persons as well as ethnic minorities deserve separate protection, given the disproportionate impact of climate change, disasters, pollution and climate-change induced migration on such groups. There is a need for improvements to facilitate the representativeness of vulnerable people in decision-making bodies. It is important to tackle all these challenges simultaneously to ensure equitable access to basic services and economic opportunities for all, the lack of which contributes to inequality, MDP and vulnerability.

CHAPTER 2:

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA



2.1 FROM COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS TO COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES



The decision to put priority on development gaps, challenges and opportunities for the CF was the result of a consultative, participatory and iterative process that involved a number of creative instruments and modalities. The 2021 Common Country Analysis (CCA) report and the independent evaluation of the One Strategic Plan (OSP 2017–2021) served as the primary evidence base for the priorities. The independent evaluation of the OSP 2017–2021 was the product of wide consultations and deliberations within the UN system and with the GoV. Multi-stakeholder consultations contributed to the CCA's main draft findings. The Joint UN-Government Steering Committee (JSC), comprising the GoV and the UN Country Team, then refined and endorsed the emerging priorities.

INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In sharp contrast to the impressive performance across numerous economic and social indicators, increasing wealth in Viet Nam has created inequalities underpinned by growing income gaps between social groups on one hand and regions on the other.²² It has also created unequal access to social services, notably in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social protection and social care, child protection, the empowerment for older persons, and education

services.²³ Despite the huge strides made in these sectors, pockets of MDP linger across the country, even among children from non-poor households.²⁴ The concentration of MDP among specific groups necessitates a sustained focus on poverty alleviation.

Tackling such issues requires strong political commitment and a targeted development strategy grounded in gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights principles. Such endeavours should leverage local awareness, knowledge and assets, increased productivity in agriculture and the sustainable use of natural resources. This should go hand-in-hand with the building of a green industrial base that can stimulate sub-industries, cultural industries and ecologically sound tourism. Where there are vast disparities, it is crucial to prioritize and, if necessary, reposition coordinated support for social protection, nutrition, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, education and training, WASH services as well as for the reduction of unpaid care and domestic work. The CF will support GoV efforts to accelerate socio-economic development and the reduction of MDP among ethnic minorities and in mountainous areas. To this purpose the CF will focus on helping generate local innovative solutions and their large-scale application within existing national programmes and policies on MDP and ethnic minority development, as well as on enhanced data and analysis on MDP.

22 UN in Viet Nam, One UN results report 2019 (2020), pg 9. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/52299-one-un-results-report-2019>.

23 UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common country analysis report, executive summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. See: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>.

24 Leander, Sebastian Silva and Nguyen, Cuong Viet and Nguyen, Van-Anh Thi (2018): Improving measurement of multidimensional child poverty in Vietnam. Munich personal RePEc archive. Paper 105954. Online at: https://mpira.ub.uni-muenchen.de/105954/1/MPRA_paper_105954.pdf.



CLIMATE-CHANGE RESPONSE, DISASTER RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Viet Nam is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Indeed, the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks Viet Nam 13th on the list of the countries most affected by disasters and extreme weather events²⁵. Recurrent storms and typhoons, floods, landslides, sea surges, droughts, forest fires, heatwaves and cold spells are the most frequent and damaging natural hazards in Viet Nam. About 71 per cent of the population and 59 per cent of the land area are vulnerable to natural hazards, with floods and storms causing the highest number of fatalities and economic damage.²⁶ Over the last three decades, climate and extreme weather event-related disasters have caused an average estimated annual loss of 1–1.5 per cent of GDP²⁷, and an annual average of 430 deaths.²⁸ In 2020 alone, Viet Nam had to absorb the loss of over VND 33.5 billion (USD 1.5 million) as a consequence of severe storms, floods and landslides²⁹. While Viet Nam is a water-rich country, it is exposed to droughts, floods and water scarcity that cause difficulties in terms of reduced water quality and increased water pollution. Areas experiencing the greatest water scarcity include the Red-Thai Binh River basin, Dong Nai, South-east River Cluster and Mekong Delta. At Viet Nam's current energy intensity, and without changes to

its carbon-intensive growth trajectory, the country will remain a major regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter.

Recognized as one of the world's richest biodiversity centres, Viet Nam comprises various ecosystems, including terrestrial forests, inland freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems. However these are under stress owing to continued unsustainable use of natural resources and the depletion of the environment, ecosystems and biodiversity. Unchecked development investments, especially public and private infrastructure being built in hazard-prone locations, are creating new risks while exacerbating vulnerabilities to disasters and the impacts of climate change. Environmental quality in Viet Nam is under increasing pressure from a high population growth rate, rapid urbanization and industrialization as well as unsustainable practices. Moreover, environmental issues, especially air pollution and waste, wastewater and water pollution have become extremely serious and have captured the attention of the population. This has serious implications for climate change and environmental pollution, both of which contribute to premature mortality and devastating health impacts among Vietnamese people.

The severity and urgency of climate change – combined with the economic costs and damage that multiple risks of disasters and COVID-19 have caused to well-being – made it necessary to put priority on the gaps and challenges identified in this area. One top priority is the formulation of climate mitigation and adaptation actions that focus on the livelihoods, well-being, health, human rights, gender responsiveness and participation of people living in disaster-prone areas. This is necessary given the people's vulnerability to disasters, the loss of life and economic impacts arising from climate change, and the recent effects of COVID-19. Other areas of focus include the transition to low-carbon development, increased climate-change mitigation, ensuring risk-informed development

25 Global climate risk index 2021. At: <https://germanwatch.org/en/19777>.

26 Viet Nam Disaster Management Reference Handbook, December 2018.

27 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, January 2021, Disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam: status report 2020. See: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/disaster-risk-reduction-viet-nam-status-report-2020>.

28 Elaboration of Viet Nam natural disasters' data between 1990 and 2020 from the Emergency events database (EM-DAT) of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) found at: <https://public.emdat.be/>.

29 Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam.

as well as reducing environmental pollution and the associated health risks. The aim is to address multi-layered and disproportionate impacts on poor people, PWD, older persons, women, children, ethnic minorities and internal migrants fleeing the ramifications of climate change. There is a need to introduce innovative and practical risk-transfer solutions, such as disaster-risk financing and insurance to reduce the financial burden of disaster events on public resources. A focus on such matters can accelerate development across the board in Viet Nam, notably by reinforcing access to basic services for the vulnerable groups, promoting the green economy and advocating gender-responsive climate action that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable people. It is important to support equal participation and influence by women and men in climate-related decision-making processes, as well as equal access to the financial resources, climate information, technologies and services required to advance climate action.

It is also important to prioritize initiatives to strengthen biodiversity and natural resource management, including by curbing the trafficking and consumption of wildlife. Likewise, it is vital to focus on the public-good aspect of such resources and the provision of ecosystem services, the importance for food and water security, the significance of a sustainable marine economy to livelihoods and carbon sequestration, and the protection of public health. New policies and revised legislation will mainstream and prioritize durable consumption and production as well as sustainable, clean and green cities and rural areas. This includes urban planning, investments in energy-efficiency initiatives, shifts from fossil-fuel subsidies to green subsidies and gradually replacing coal-power generation with renewable energy sources.

There is a need to accelerate the mobilization of climate finance by adopting fiscal disincentives for emitters (the polluter-pays principle) and tapping into private capital. Such mobilization also involves the adoption of green technologies

and circular economy practices, including eco-industrial park approaches, as well as innovative finance mechanisms and ODA opportunities. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and specialized development partners have a role to play in mobilizing resources for climate-change action and disaster-risk reduction, given the high volume of resources required (for instance for grid enhancements) and the complexity of established and emerging fiscal instruments. There is still a need for the UN to concentrate on mobilizing resources for climate action through international climate-finance entities, such as the Green Climate Fund, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) Adaptation Fund. The UN will target a growing number of global climate-related pooled funding mechanisms within its system and provide the policy, analytical and operational expertise that it is best placed to continue offering.

SHARED PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Income inequality is rising³⁰ and may continue to do so as Viet Nam's economy becomes more integrated with the global economy, the economic structure begins to improve remuneration for medium- and high-skilled workers and becomes increasingly digital. The importance of economic empowerment for inclusive social development cannot be overstated and deserves focus. Making shared prosperity possible requires economic transformation that is sustainable, inclusive and gender responsive. The result is that all Vietnamese have an opportunity to contribute to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and reach their full potential. Policies, ecosystems and targeted support, as part of the effort to accelerate the 4IR, are critical for promoting gender-responsive growth and sustainable innovation and ensuring the growth and resilience of businesses, including

30 See: National report 2020 on progress of five-year implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and; Even it up: how to tackle inequality in Viet Nam. Oxfam, 2017. See: https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/bp-vietnam-inequality-120117-en.pdf

micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives. Policy actions will focus on increasing the adoption of more advanced and greener technologies and digital tools, which will boost productivity and competitiveness. This is expected to have spillover effects that enhance inclusion across the country, enabling the people to actively contribute to and benefit from economic transformation.

An analysis of the financing landscape in Viet Nam highlights key impediments to the effective use of resources to ensure economic transformation and achieve the SDGs.³¹ There is a lack of adequate investment focused on sustainable and inclusive economic transformation and the achievement of the SDGs. Evidence-based options and mechanisms in the public and private sectors will receive support to expand funding for cross-cutting aspects of the SDG agenda, including gender equality, to help realize the SDGs. As they implement the joint programme on Supporting Viet Nam Towards the 2030 Integrated Finance Strategy for Accelerating the Achievement of the SDGs – also referred to as the Integrated National Financing Framework – the GoV and the UN will continue to support a more inclusive, productive, green and climate-resilient economy, while taking into account the impact of the pandemic on the achievement of the SDGs.

The general well-being and rights of the workforce are also a priority in the effort to boost productivity, especially given the challenges caused by the pandemic. There is a need to reduce the high incidence of informality which often means vulnerable employment and leads to working conditions that violate the decent work agenda. Informality also creates precarious work conditions, compromising access to social protection mechanisms and promoting job insecurity which can lead to exploitation.

It is crucial to increase investments in market-

31 UNDP, 2018. Financing sustainable development in Viet Nam: a development finance assessment. UNDP: Ha Noi.

relevant tertiary skills, and vocational and management training for vulnerable groups to ensure inclusive growth as the economy shifts towards the 4IR. The promotion of decent work standards will also help increase productivity while complementing the broader environment agenda. Putting priority on enhancing the links between domestic private firms and foreign direct investment will help build the domestic private firms' productive capacity and compliance with stringent labour standards. There is also a need for regulatory reforms to improve the quality of FDIs and thereby enhance economic, social and governance outcomes. As for the digital economy, it can be relatively quickly expanded by improving institutional capacity, the participation of the private sector and e-governance capabilities.

UN interventions and advocacy for increased investments in human capital and technological upgrades that meet the needs of the 4IR and trade requirements will help strengthen labour-market institutions and industrial capability. Women of all ages, children, PWD, older persons, ethnic minorities, people living in remote areas as well as informal and internal migrant workers face significant challenges in participating in and benefiting from economic transformation. Hurdles include discrimination, lack of access and low skills which often work to suppress incomes and economic mobility. Interventions for inclusive social development will give priority to enhanced rights-based and equitable investment in human capital, given the links with education and vocational training.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

There are existing gaps in the legal framework and public participation which present major impediments to the achievement of SDGs 5, 6, 10 and 16 and will continue to be a focus area for the UN during the CF period.³² Although

32 UN in Viet Nam 2021 common country analysis report, executive summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. See: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>

much progress has been made, children, women, PWD, older persons, persons with intersecting identities such as girls and young women, women affected by HIV, internal and international migrant workers, LGBTI persons, people who use drugs, key population groups, sex workers, victims of trafficking, victims of GBV and ethnic minorities face multiple challenges which can reduce or prohibit their access to basic social services and economic opportunities.³³ Improvements are needed to better support: victims of abuse and of violence against women and children (which includes GBV and abuse of older persons, exploitation and trafficking); stateless persons and individuals of undetermined nationality; and communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange, many of whom are members of ethnic minorities. The LNOB priorities warrant additional advocacy for and raising awareness on a range of issues such as the environment, land rights and freedom of religion. Also, improvements could be made to fully maximize the contribution of citizens to Viet Nam's socio-economic development.

Although several institutional and organizational reforms have taken place since the late 1980s, there is a need to strengthen the rule of law to ensure that the independence of the judiciary, access to justice including legal services, fair trial rights, the elimination of corruption and the principle of legal certainty in legislation fully meet international norms and standards. Strengthening public participation remains a major priority. Indeed the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council have issued numerous communications on recommendations arising from the third cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Viet Nam, as well as from the Human Rights Committee.³⁴ This also applies to the fulfilment of fundamental freedoms, access to information and the legal protection of vulnerable groups. The high incidence of violence against women (especially

women with disabilities)³⁵ and children remains a concern. Meanwhile, the current definition of the child as a person under 16 does not guarantee protection for all children under 18, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To effectively develop and monitor plans, policies and budgeting systems that respond to the special needs of vulnerable groups and advance the achievement of the SDGs, it is imperative to strengthen the collection, management, analysis and use of data. This priority applies to all the outcome areas identified.

2.2 THEORY OF CHANGE FOR THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES



The design of the UN collective efforts for 2022–2026 is underpinned by the 2030 Agenda and the national planning frameworks of the GoV. The frameworks include the Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2021–2030 and Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021–2025, the 2017–2021 OSP Evaluation, Gender Equality and Disability Score Card exercises, and the CCA report for 2021. The findings of the UN Assessment of the social and economic impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam have also been taken into account, especially given the prevailing risks posed by the pandemic. A series of internal and external multi-stakeholder exercises and policy discussions on global emerging trends have informed and strengthened the CF.

The United Nation's vision towards 2030 for Viet Nam is expressed through a theory of change rooted in human rights, gender equality and

33 Ibid.

34 See: Report of the Working Group on the UPR, A/HRC/41/7. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/7>.

35 GSO, MOLISA and UNFPA (2020) A national study on violence against women in Viet Nam 2019. See: <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-study-violence-against-women-viet-nam-2019>



the empowerment of women. If inclusive social development occurs; climate change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability are prioritized across all areas of the national governance framework; shared prosperity is realized through economic transformation; and inclusive governance and access to justice are positively developed, sustainable development and the SDGs will be advanced under this CF by the year 2026.

The participation and empowerment of the people of Viet Nam are central to the effectiveness of the CF. They call for commitment to the LNOB principle, gender responsiveness, inclusiveness, access to resources, responsive institutions, the strengthening of policies and change, along with opportunity creation and participation. The four priority areas that form the outcomes of the CF align with international norms and standards, and reflect the UN comparative advantage as well as the importance of internal and external institutional partnerships.

The UN in Viet Nam is recognized by the Government as being well positioned to advocate and facilitate the participation of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and human rights, mobilize skills, knowledge, research and data, build effective partnerships, as well as convening and facilitating multi sectoral and multi-partner coordination. It is recognized that these comparative advantages apply across all outcome areas specified in the CF.

The CF vision towards 2026 and beyond is a Viet Nam where:

- People, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality **social services and social protection systems**, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential (aligning with SDGs 1 to 6).

- People, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to **a safer and cleaner environment** resulting from Viet Nam's effective, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of the circular economy, provision of clean and renewable energy and sustainable management of natural resources (aligning with SDGs 7, 11, and 13 to 15).
- People, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more **sustainable, inclusive and gender responsive economic transformation** based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work (aligning with SDGs 5, 8 to 12 and 17).
- People, especially those at risk of being left behind will benefit from and have contributed to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on **improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law, and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination**, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments (aligning with SDGs 5, 8, 10 and 16).

Quality social services and social protection systems will be achieved through UN support for: quality education and lifelong learning; strengthened health including sexual and reproductive health, WASH, nutrition, and emergency and pandemic preparedness and response systems; risk-informed, resilient and gender-responsive national social-protection and social-care systems; the reduction of unpaid care work and lowered MDP and inequality, with a focus on ethnic minorities, internal migrants, young people, people with disabilities, older persons and other particularly vulnerable groups and their rights.

Steps towards a **safer and cleaner environment**

will be achieved through UN support for: enhanced capacity and gender-responsive policy to reduce climate risks and respond to disasters; policies and measures for low-carbon development, the circular economy, environmental protection and reduced environmental pollution; the sustainable management and use of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems; and reduced negative effects of climate change and environmental degradation on human development.

A more sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive **economic transformation** will be supported by the UN with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work. Labour standards and rights for all types of workers will be improved by reforming labour-market institutions to better align with the UN guiding principles on business and human rights. Policy and strategy formulation capacities will be consolidated to support sustainable agriculture, industry and service sectors – thereby ensuring decent work – as well as enhancing business funding models, land rights and other capital assets. Economic empowerment initiatives will mainly target poor people, ethnic minorities and women who need support to alleviate the burden of unpaid and domestic work. This will involve supporting the promotion of responsible business models and practices – including MSMEs and cooperatives that increase productivity, trade, innovation and improved working conditions – and compliance. Support to strengthen the preservation of heritage and urban creativity will enhance cultural industries and promote sustainable tourism. The UN will also support the smooth and inclusive transition to the 4IR through access to and the adoption of appropriate technologies, digital tools and platforms. To ensure adequate financing for economic transformation and the SDGs, the UN will support the development of credible and practical options and mechanisms in the public and private sectors.

Improved governance, responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination will be achieved through the UN efforts to create an enabling environment for vulnerable groups to participate in national systems, strengthen the rule of law, ensure access to legal identity and nationality, expand access to justice and combat discrimination, in line with Viet Nam's international human rights commitments. UN support to enhance the social, institutional and legal environment will help accelerate gender equality and empowerment, as well as the participation of women, young people and LGBTI persons in decision making. A focus on gender-sensitive, life-cycle and socio-cultural attitudes and practices, accountability and the transformation of legal and policy frameworks will help eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence as well as all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups. Strengthening national agencies, legislation and policies will prevent trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, child labour and forced labour, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering. It will also provide better support to victims of such criminal actions. Strengthened data production, analysis and use will inform gender-responsive, evidence- and rights-based policies as well as planning and budgeting.

To realize such outcomes, the UN in Viet Nam will strengthen its commitment to the people in Viet Nam. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Guidance, the work of the UN will consider the following **guiding principles** in all its programming:

- leaving no one behind
- gender equality and women's empowerment
- the empowerment of young people
- resilience (including emergency preparedness and response, risk-informed development and shock-responsive policies)

- a human rights-based approach and life-cycle approach to development
- sustainability, and
- accountability.

In light of these priorities and principles the theory of change will rely on a number of **assumptions**. They include the notion that development approaches will be equitable, gender responsive, affordable, risk informed, integrated and multidimensional, while protecting human rights. In addition, national data systems will improve the monitoring and evaluation of interventions, the most vulnerable communities will be a priority, and domestic funding will increase as international funding decreases.

A number of identified **risks and barriers**³⁶ exist, which, if not addressed, have the potential to affect Viet Nam's development trajectory and derail its efforts to achieve the SDGs. The following risks are considered the most likely to inhibit efforts to support the attainment of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 in Viet Nam:

- There is a lack of progress in addressing: pollution, climate-change mitigation (reducing GHG emissions) and adaptation, the depletion of natural resources, the adverse effects of a carbon-intensive economy, the adoption of a green and circular economy, and the production of clean and affordable energy. There is also an increased risk of conflict over natural resources.
- Increasing impacts of climate change, disasters and environmental pollution continue to affect poor people, the most marginalized and vulnerable people.
- The COVID-19 crisis continues to exacerbate existing and new risks on health outcomes,

poverty-reduction efforts, economic stability, social cohesion and gender equality, and the long-term health, economic and social impacts remain unknown.

- The capacity of the health system will be overstretched and influence progress in tackling non-communicable diseases specifically, thereby affecting life expectancy and poverty rates.
- Inadequate investment in education and training that builds the digital and transferrable skills of children and young people may reduce Viet Nam's capacity to achieve the 4IR.
- Collective labour disputes, strikes, and lawsuits that are inconsistent with legal procedures may increase in frequency while efforts are under way to address institutional capacity gaps in the dispute settlement system.
- The reform of public administration services and fiscal constraints may affect access to infrastructure and social services for poor rural people, ethnic groups, upland and unregistered populations.
- The COVID-19 crisis could intensify the movement of internal migrants and informal workers to urban areas where they will lack access to basic services and housing.
- With the growing digital economy, weak cyber security, most notably in terms of personal data protection, fraud and harmful materials, may erode trust and the effectiveness of the digital transformation process.
- Lack of progress in efforts to increase domestic resource mobilization constrains the level of resources to invest in SDG targets, especially as the COVID-19 crisis has reduced major capital flows.
- Climate related challenges, especially marine pollution, are inadequately addressed.

36 UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common country analysis report, executive summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. See: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>.

In addition to the risks identified, a number of **bottlenecks** have the potential to negatively affect the attainment of the CF outcomes. Among other things:

- There is a lack of attention to integrated and cross sectoral/whole-of-society approaches, which UN entities and whole-of-society programme planning should address through inter- and cross-sectoral approaches.
- The mobilization of diverse financial resources, especially from domestic private sources, remains ineffective.
- There is a lack of attention to people at risk of being left behind, in terms of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the protection of human rights. Indeed certain population groups lag behind in many areas including income, health, education, water, sanitation and access to justice, in spite of widespread and sustained economic growth and social improvements.
- There is no robust system for information and data collection, management, dissemination and access. This also applies to the use of information and data for advocacy, to influence decision makers and assess progress in the realization of the SDGs and of the LNOB principle. Data gaps impede the measurement of gender disparities, including those that relate to women in the informal sector and to GBV- and gender-specific concerns and issues. They also restrict efforts to measure the vulnerabilities of certain groups, such as ethnic minorities, internal migrants, PWD, older persons, individuals affected by HIV, people who use drugs, sex workers, victims of human trafficking and LGBTI persons. The data gaps limit the ability to address critical issues such as urban disparities, long-term impacts of COVID-19, and gender-based inequality.

In order to support the achievement of the CF

outcomes, the UN development system in Viet Nam needs to build and maintain a broad range of **partnerships**, some of which are geographic or sector-specific and responsible for supporting different elements of the development process. The partnerships cover diverse areas, such as the implementation of identified services, capacity development in key areas of growth or development, technical support for institutions or institutional practices and policy development. The UN will forge partnerships to complement its comparative advantages. The partnerships will include:

- collaborating internally across UN entities to increase joint approaches to programming, knowledge-sharing and learning, mobilization of specialist resources and the joint monitoring and evaluation of results;
- collaboration with the public and private sectors, especially to nurture a labour force that is responsive to the labour market and emerging opportunities;
- further dialogue to facilitate contributions from the Vietnamese private sector in addition to public-sector partnerships, particularly in terms of responsible investments, innovative financing, renewable energy, energy efficiency, technological advancement and innovation; engagement should also foster progress across all areas of the SDGs to accelerate achievement;
- working with multilateral institutions and international financial institutions able to provide financing for large-scale high-value projects, especially on green development issues, and;
- collaborating with bilateral donors, international NGOs, social organizations, political-social organizations, and political-social-professional organizations, with community and specialized organizations

skilled in delivering services and specialized local-level responses – including specialized groups focused on ensuring the participation of the most vulnerable and marginalized people, and on development results for their benefit.

Support from the UN in Viet Nam for outcomes that respond to the theory of change will include specific strategies, programmes and initiatives that focus on those most **at risk of being left behind**. The UN, according to respective mandates, and recognising the impact that the COVID pandemic has had on economic growth and social development, will focus in Viet Nam on: poor households; women; children; unemployed people; PWD; stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality; older persons; individuals living with chronic disease and chronic health issues; internal migrants and informal workers especially women; ethnic minorities; persons affected by GBV; adolescents and young people; LGBTI persons; people affected by HIV, including individuals who use drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender women; communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange; victims of violence; child labourers; forced labourers; victims of smuggling and trafficking; victims of sexual harassment and abuse, and children without parental care.

The negative impacts of the pandemic are likely to increase reliance on public services, placing further pressure on national systems, especially in the health and social sectors which provide primary preparedness support and response. Access to quality education has also been affected by the pandemic, reducing access for the most vulnerable – notably those without digital devices and connectivity. As such, the UN maintains its focus on support for and the strengthening of national institutions, building the capacity to implement policy, and advancing innovation in a rapidly changing environment where targeting

economic growth may undermine priorities for environmental sustainability. The UN seeks to harness new ways of working, taking pilots and innovation to scale as well as advocating policy change and implementation to ensure equitable and coordinated service delivery.

The theory of change is underpinned by **global normative frameworks** that offer people the opportunity to realize as well as exercise their rights without discrimination. The UN will also act on recommendations for Viet Nam, concluded through the relevant UN human rights mechanisms. The theory of change promotes the implementation of treaties to which Viet Nam is a party – such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; UN International Security Council Resolution 1325 on Participation, Prevention, Protection, and Relief and Recovery, and; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – which is key to the achievement of all areas of the CF. The theory of change works to address the 241 recommendations Viet Nam received and accepted (partially or in full) during the third cycle of the UPR of the UN Human Rights Council. Likewise, the priorities within the theory of change tie in with the prioritized outcomes of regional and global frameworks, providing an opportunity to contribute to the delivery of results that directly contribute to these complementary development frameworks.

of the SDGs and the incorporation of the UN principles of responsible business into the sector's operations. These good practices will be backed by the Government and aim to demonstrate an expanding dialogue with new partners around the attainment of the SDGs in Viet Nam.

The UN will capitalize on its power to convene and establish different types of partnerships on climate change, clean energy, the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) policy, innovation, the strengthening of health systems as well as on innovative finance to capture domestic and foreign private finance. The UN will foster cooperation between the Government, business, academia and communities for business innovation and social impacts in all outcome areas. This will extend to forging closer partnerships with foreign and national partners, linking the public and private sectors as well as employer-employee associations. The aim is to nurture a labour force and healthy industrial relations that are responsive to the labour market and emerging economic integration opportunities, especially to identify specific skillsets for growth-enhancing sectors, technology and knowledge transfers, and effective innovation policy frameworks.

The UN will seek close collaboration with public agencies, NGOs and community-based networks to promote good governance, legal and justice reforms while tackling social challenges highlighted in the CF. Partnerships with global institutions and regional partner networks that support cross-boundary issues will be a priority, particularly those that concern the preservation of global public goods, such as climate-change action, pollution, illicit financial flows and cross-border trafficking.

The UN will work at the country, regional and headquarters levels to mobilize available **technical expertise in:** policy advocacy; international norms and standards; political,

social and economic analysis; data, monitoring and evaluation; communication and advocacy; humanitarian action, disaster-risk management; and partnerships.

The UN has identified **core and non-core financial resources** available and those to be mobilized. Financial-resource planning takes into consideration the unique role of organizations, such as the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) that mobilize volunteer resources in partnership with funded organizations and specialized agencies where core resources are not applicable. It also takes into account the role of UN entities that have multi-year funding cycles and those that must rely on annual funding processes.

The UN in Viet Nam mobilizes and maintains teams of **national and international professional staff**, with international professional staff comprising approximately 18 per cent of total staff numbers. Vitaly, the UN in Viet Nam draws on the capacity and experience of national professional staff to manage and implement programmes.

Approximately two-thirds of UN entities with programmes in Viet Nam have in-country representation, with the remaining having different modalities of representation, including: the establishment of a separate liaison office; capacity embedded within the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator; or representation through sub-regional, regional or multi country offices; and from their headquarters or through short-term technical support missions.

Strategic overview

DESIRED CHANGES/ IMPACT	PRIORITIES	LN08				
		Ethnic minorities, the poor, stateless persons & and those of undetermined nationality, women, children, Persons with disabilities, informal workers, internal migrants, people living in disaster prone areas, older persons, LGBTI Persons, communities affected by unexploded ordnance or Agent Orange, People effected by HIV, people who use drugs, people living with chronic disease and health issues, adolescents and young people, sex workers, victims of human trafficking, and victims of sexual harassment and abuse, and the unemployed.				
		Demographic focus: children, youth, women, older persons.				
OUTCOMES						
GUIDING PRINCIPLES						
CROSS CUTTING						
ENABLERS						

Reducing poverty in all its dimensions. People empowered to reach their full potential	Inclusive development	social	1. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection systems, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential.	Leave no one behind	Human rights	Human rights	1. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection systems, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential.
Safer and cleaner environment Human rights fulfilled and no one left behind	Climate-change response, disaster resilience & environmental sustainability		2. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of the circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources.	Resilience/risk mitigation			2. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of the circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources.
Sustainable, inclusive, gender responsive economic transformation Enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work	Shared prosperity through economic transformation		3. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness, and decent work.	Gender equality and women's empowerment	Sustainability		3. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness, and decent work.
Safe, just and inclusive society Strengthened rule of law Freedom from all forms of violence	Governance and access to justice		4. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments.	Accountability			4. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments.

OVERVIEW - Theory of change

CHANGE PATHWAY OVERVIEW – THEORY OF CHANGE	
By 2026 Viet Nam will have inclusive social development; climate-change adaptation, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability; shared prosperity through economic transformation; good governance and access to justice.	
SDGs 1-4, 6	1. Inclusive social development 1.1 The education system in Viet Nam provides gender-responsive, equitable, climate resilient, quality education and learning, which will equip all children, adolescents, the youth, and adults with relevant learning, and life, transferrable and digital skills, including during emergencies. 1.2 The country's health, WASH, nutrition, and emergency and pandemic preparedness and response systems are strengthened to ensure that all people – with focus on vulnerable groups – have equitable access to comprehensive, affordable, gender-transformative, climate-resilient and environmentally sensitive services, and have healthy behaviour practices. 1.3 The national social protection and social care systems are inclusive, coherent and integrated, applying life-cycle, risk informed, resilient and gender-responsive approaches with a focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people. 1.4 Evidence-based policies and innovative solutions are adopted and scaled up to reduce MDP and inequity, with a focus on ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable groups.
	2. Climate change response, disaster resilience & environmental sustainability 2.1 Enhanced capacity and gender-responsive policies to identify and reduce climate risks, respond to disasters and build resilience of vulnerable populations 2.2 Accelerated implementation of policies and measures and enhanced awareness and engagement of stakeholders for low-carbon development, circular economy, environmental protection and reduced environmental pollution 2.3 Strengthened institutional capacity and action from all stakeholders for sustainable management and use of natural resources and effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems 2.4 Improved capacity to reduce negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on human development.
SDGs 7, 11, 13 - 15	

By 2026 Viet Nam will have inclusive social development; climate-change adaptation, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability; shared prosperity through economic transformation; good governance and access to justice.

3. Shared prosperity through economic transformation

3.1 Reformed labour institutions are used to improve labour standards for all types of workers and formalize informal employment.

3.3.2 National capacities are strengthened to formulate and implement evidence-based policies and strategies, and build enabling ecosystems for inclusive, transformative and sustainable agriculture, industry and service sectors, to make decent work a reality.

3.3.3 Sustainable, inclusive and responsible business models and practices including MSMEs and cooperatives are promoted to increase productivity, trade development and innovation, and improve working conditions and compliance, with special focus on economic empowerment of poor people, ethnic minorities and women.

3.4 Heritage preservation and urban creativity are strengthened to enhance cultural industries and advance sustainable tourism.

3.5 Evidence-based options and mechanisms are promoted to expand public and private finance for the realization of SDGs.

3.6 Appropriate technologies, digital tools and platforms are accessible and adopted to facilitate a smooth and inclusive transition to the fourth industrial revolution (IR 4.0).

4. Governance and access to justice

4.1.4 An enabling environment is created for innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems that promote the participation of vulnerable groups in the sustainable development process.

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

4.3 The social, institutional and legal environment is enhanced to accelerate the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and their participation in decision-making, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, girls and LGBTQI persons:

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

4.4.5 National legislation, policies and agencies are strengthened to prevent and address trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering, and to ensure equitable access to protection systems for victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups, especially migrants, women and children.

4.6 Data production, analysis and use are strengthened to inform evidence-based and rights-based policies, planning, budgeting,



2.3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES



COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 1:

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially the poor and those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender-responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection systems, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential.

THEORY OF CHANGE AND UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Multidimensional poverty has declined, and extreme poverty has continued to fall in Viet Nam since 2015.³⁸ Although human development indicators show significant improvements, the risk of falling back into poverty is high among certain groups, and more so in view of the prevailing pandemic. The reductions in poverty

are not spread evenly across the country and inequalities exist between regions. For instance, higher levels of MDP exist in the Northern Midlands and mountainous regions and the Central Highlands, where most ethnic minorities live. Overall, women, young people, children, older persons, informal and internal migrant workers, stateless persons and people of undetermined nationality, and PWD are affected to a higher degree by MDP. While State investment in social protection has increased through established social protection systems – namely the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform (2017–2025), Master Plan for Social Insurance Reform and their action plans (2018–2030) – support is low and coverage is fragmented and constrained by the definition and selection of beneficiaries.³⁹ This adversely affects informal workers, poor people, children, older persons, young people, women, PWD, people who use drugs, sex workers, victims of human trafficking and persons affected by HIV and hampers efforts to eradicate unacceptable forms of work. While incidents of hunger and malnutrition have dropped in most provinces, Viet Nam's hunger situation is sensitive to seasons and is mainly caused by natural disasters and extreme weather, particularly in the Northern Mountainous Areas, the North Central and Central Coastal Areas, and the Central Highlands.⁴⁰ During the COVID-19 crisis, concerns about hunger spread to urban areas with the introduction of strict containment measures for several months in mid-2021.

The country has seen a decline in morbidity and mortality due to infectious diseases, which, along with strengthened primary health care has improved key health indicators over the last three decades. There is a need to eliminate barriers to affordable, quality and rights-based health services, and to concentrate on reducing maternal and child

38 Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and UNDP (2018). Multidimensional poverty in Viet Nam: reducing poverty in all its dimensions to ensure a good life for all. See: <http://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/poverty/MDPR.html>.

39 ILO, (2020). A focus on families: a short-term benefit package for the extension of multi-tiered social security coverage in Viet Nam.

40 National report 2020 on progress of five-year implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



mortality – particularly among ethnic minorities – increasing services to an ageing population and strengthening health policies, awareness and promotion. It is necessary to expand quality early-intervention and support services – including life skills and comprehensive sexuality education – to address growing concerns about mental health, especially among older persons, adolescents and the youth. Viet Nam faces an unmet need for family planning, particularly for modern contraceptives. The need is highest among ethnic minorities and migrants, where it leads to higher maternal mortality. The pandemic has affected the capacity of health care providers and constrained national resources, threatening the gains made in the health sector. There is a need to better understand and address concerns about access to health care for people with disabilities.

Viet Nam's net primary and secondary school enrolment rates⁴¹ are approaching universal. However gender, geographic location, ethnicity, poverty, disability and migrant status influence access to education, and the overall quality of education remains a concern. Ethnic minority children, children with a disability and out-of-school youth face the greatest risk of being left behind, with geography, poverty and limited place in inclusive mainstream education playing the main role in barring children, adolescents and the young from attending school.⁴² There are wide disparities in access to education for families, depending on their economic status, which has led to huge gaps in school performance.⁴³ The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a serious digital divide, which primarily impacts older persons,

students in remote, mountainous and vast ethnic minority areas.

More broadly, education is poorly aligned with the needs of the labour market, particularly in terms of digital and transferable skill development. There is a need to ensure more equitable access to relevant tertiary education and knowledge by developing and sharing open-learning resources and open public online courses. Additionally, accreditation is required for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) that addresses the skills shortages faced by Viet Nam. Older persons, especially those in rural, remote areas, face more difficulties in accessing online/digital information and services and are being left out in the digital age. This has been the case particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, as most of the information and services have mutated from their traditional forms and moved onto online and digital platforms, where older people have limited knowledge and access. It is essential to improve older people's knowledge and skills to facilitate their access to digital technology. Continuous education and lifelong learning, adaptation of equipment and software, and mentoring for older people should be developed to ensure their successful inclusion.

Access to improved drinking water has increased from 80 per cent in 2000 to 95 per cent in 2017, although geographic disparities persist⁴⁴, and 88.9 per cent of households now use hygienic toilets.⁴⁵ Nevertheless, 26 million rural people do not have access to clean water, 16 million people are without hygienic latrines and 7.7 million students do not have clean drinking water and WASH facilities at school. Ethnic minorities in rural areas lag behind and open defecation practices persist in the Mekong River Delta, Central Highlands and Northern Mountains. Low rates of handwashing with soap are further exacerbating the risk of

41 2019 Population and housing census, General Statistics Office of Vietnam. Estimates for enrolment rates at primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school at 98, 89.2 and 68.3 per cent respectively.

42 Ministry of Education and Training, UNESCO Institute for Statistics and UNICEF. 2018. Report on out-of-school children: Viet Nam country study 2016. Ha Noi. Ministry of Education and Training.

43 Young Lives (2014) - An international study of childhood poverty 2013–2014

44 UNICEF and WHO, Joint Monitoring Programme – Progress on household drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene 2000–2017. 2019, p 104.

45 Ibid.

COVID-19 transmission and reinforce the need for greater levels of expenditure in WASH, including investment in WASH promotion, urban and rural water supply – including for schools and health centres – and quality regulatory systems.

There has been significant progress in child nutrition, however, stunting rates remain high at 19.6 per cent, and disparities persist among ethnic minorities at 32 per cent.⁴⁶ Maternal nutrition and complementary feeding practices are inadequate, limiting progress in malnutrition reduction. Viet Nam faces a “triple burden of malnutrition”, notably undernutrition, micronutrient deficient and overweight and obesity. At 19 per cent, the rate of overweight and obesity among children and adolescents has more than doubled in ten years. The prevalence in urban areas is 26.8 per cent.

Overall analysis identifies four key challenges affecting the delivery of social services and social protection systems, the achievement of the SDGs, gender equality and the fulfilment of human rights: i) **significant nationwide disparities** in the delivery of quality education and lifelong learning to ensure emergency-resilient learning, and transferable, life and digital skills; ii) **unequal access to and use of health, WASH and nutrition services**, which is often exacerbated by health and environmental shocks; iii) **a social protection and social care system that is fragmented and limited in scope and coverage**, and can be improved to reach everyone in need; and vi) **improvements needed in policy development and institutional capacities to ensure that rapid reduction in MDP** – which disproportionately affects ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups – benefits all Vietnamese and reduces inequalities.

- i) There is a need to boost the quality of the education and lifelong learning systems. The UN will support this through improved local and national capacity to strengthen

gender-responsive policies, planning and finance for climate-smart, equitable, inclusive and innovative quality-learning opportunities for all. There will be a special focus on target groups (especially ethnic minorities, adolescents and the youth, and children with disabilities) and on continuity during emergencies. The UN will also concentrate on increasing equitable, gender-responsive and inclusive, innovative quality (in and out of schools) learning opportunities and life-long learning, including in life skills and comprehensive sexuality education and TVET. It will lend its support to improve learning, transferable, life and digital skills, participation and engagement for all children, adolescents and young people, especially the most vulnerable. The UN will also raise awareness and equip communities, families, parents, education professionals, caregivers and all children, adolescents and young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to help transform harmful gender and social norms.

- ii) The UN will respond to priorities for health, WASH, nutrition and emergency and pandemic preparedness and response systems through evidence- and rights-based policy and/or decision making. This will include support to enhance health-management information systems and disease surveillance and the monitoring of health trends. The UN will strengthen governance systems, including legal frameworks and regulations especially for vulnerable populations. The UN will provide technical support along with evidence-based advocacy for the development of national and subnational policies and plans focused on sexual and reproductive health care. Other areas of focus will be child, newborn and adolescent health, nutrition, integrated care for older persons, non-communicable diseases, HIV, environmental health and the health of migrants (internal and international).

46 General nutrition survey 2019–2020. Institute of Nutrition, Ministry of Health (Viet Nam).

The UN will facilitate innovation in financing mechanisms, including private sector and sub-national public funding and technologies. It will support pilot innovative interventions and capacity building to improve access to, and the use of services by vulnerable populations. The UN will respond to threats to global health security, including COVID-19, by fostering partnerships across sectors, development partners, social organizations, political-social organizations, and political-social-professional organizations, and the private sector.

- iii) National social-protection and social-care system priorities will benefit from UN support through policy advice and innovative solutions for a social protection framework that is responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and natural disaster emergencies. The UN will also promote and support

evidence-based policy reform to expand the coverage and adequacy of social protection and social insurance mechanisms. It will use advocacy, evidence-based policy advice and technical support to increase care support for vulnerable groups. It will advocate for the reduction of unpaid care work done by women. The UN will strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks for social protection programmes and social care services. It will work to improve social services' workforce and the services' ability to respond to the needs and rights of vulnerable people, as well as supporting the reform of social assistance and social care policy and frameworks. The UN will support digital transformation for beneficiary self-regulation, the management of social protection systems and service delivery to increase reach, quality and transparency. The UN will improve access to information and the

1. Inclusive social development (SDG 1-4, 6)

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender-responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection systems, will be free from poverty in all its dimensions and empowered to reach their full potential.

1.1. The education system in Viet Nam provides gender-responsive, equitable, climate-resilient, quality education and learning, which will equip all children, adolescents, the youth and adults with relevant learning and transferrable life, and digital skills, including during emergencies.

1.2. The country's health, WASH, nutrition, and emergency and pandemic preparedness and response systems are strengthened to ensure that all people – with a focus on vulnerable groups – have equitable access to comprehensive, affordable, gender-transformative, climate-resilient and environmentally sensitive services, and have healthy behaviour practices.

1.3. The national social protection and social care systems are inclusive, coherent and integrated, applying life cycle, risk-informed, resilient and gender-responsive approaches, with a focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people.

1.4. Evidence-based policies and innovative solutions are adopted and scaled up to reduce MDP and inequity, with a focus on ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable groups.

available support mechanisms, focusing on vulnerable groups.

- iv) Support from the UN to improve the national MDP reduction framework, policy, programming and budgeting will help to accelerate the curtailment of MDP. This will include strengthening the capacity to monitor and assess MDP. The UN will promote multi-stakeholder platforms that help strengthen ethnic minority and women-led businesses which generate sustainable jobs and improve livelihoods. The UN policy advice and technical assistance will introduce innovative solutions and strengthen regulatory frameworks to empower ethnic minorities and women to create and access sustainable livelihoods. It will also ensure their equitable access to services in the COVID-19 context, thereby enhancing positive social impact among ethnic minorities. The UN will advise on and advocate evidence-based and rights-based policies on the socialization of social services to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, equality and inclusiveness of their delivery.

This theory of change relies on the assumptions that: domestic funding will increase as ODA declines; national data systems will improve the monitoring and evaluation of interventions; development approaches will be rights-based; evidence-based policymaking will take place and society will be willing to change social norms and behaviours; the Government commitments remain solid and support from Government agencies will continue; commitment to advance the HIV response remains strong; and the Government's commitment to the 4IR and digital transformation remains strong.

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

OUTCOME 2:

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaption to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, the promotion of the circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy and the sustainable management of natural resources.

THEORY OF CHANGE AND UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Viet Nam is highly vulnerable to climate change and disasters, which threaten the rights and livelihoods as well as physical and social health of communities, jeopardizing the country's fragile development progress and adversely affecting the most vulnerable population groups. On the other hand, Viet Nam has significant renewable energy potential, which offers opportunities to move beyond the current heavy reliance on fossil fuels. Rapid population growth is placing increasing pressure on the environment, including through the overconsumption of natural resources and under-utilization of sources of renewable energy. Indeed, practices such as unregulated chemical use in industry and agriculture are contributing to the extinction of plant and animal species.



Viet Nam's carbon dioxide emission per unit of manufacturing value added is the highest in the region, and a rising trend⁴⁷.

Such trends are driving the need to put priority on a more mainstreamed approach to the consolidation of resilience to disaster and climate risks. Other priority areas include a sustainable ocean economy, low-carbon technological development, and durable natural resource and environmental management to meet sustainable development targets⁴⁸. At the core are efforts to prioritize the needs and rights of the focus groups including women, people with disability, children, internal migrants, ethnic minorities, stateless persons and individuals of undetermined nationality, older persons, people living with chronic disease and health issues, people living in disaster-prone areas, vulnerable people and poor people.

The analysis identified four key challenges driving Viet Nam's vulnerability to climate change and disasters, environmental degradation and the unsustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources. The challenges are: (i) **unmitigated climate-change risks and response to disasters**, leaving vulnerable populations acutely exposed, and accelerating gender and social inequality; (ii) **low awareness of and engagement** in low-carbon development, the circular economy and environmental protection that might otherwise reduce environmental pollution; (iii) **limited institutional capacity, unsustainable development investments and unsustainable management** and use of natural resources and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems; and (iv) **limited capacity to reduce** the negative impacts of climate change

and environmental degradation on human development.

- i) To strengthen the capacity and gender-responsive policies to identify and reduce climate risks, respond to disasters and build the resilience of vulnerable populations, the UN will develop an enhanced risk-transfer and insurance system. It will support risk-informed development planning and promote resilient and climate-smart agri-food systems. Additionally, the UN will consolidate gender mainstreaming, the legal gender-responsive framework, technical and management capacity and financing mechanisms. Women, older persons, ethnic minorities, children and the youth will receive support to participate in positive climate action. Meanwhile, the participation and leadership of women, especially those disproportionately affected, in decision-making processes will be prioritized. Another priority will be the coordination of activities undertaken by the Government in partnership with the UN in response to humanitarian emergencies and the promotion of resilient and green recovery through large-scale action. Early-warning systems and early action will be enhanced by the UN through improved risk assessments, the application of remote sensing and inclusive digital data and tools. Priorities will also be addressed through nature-based solutions for climate-change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction.
- ii) To accelerate the implementation of policies and enhance the awareness of stakeholders for low-carbon development, the circular economy and environmental protection, the UN will support the adoption of circular-economy practices and policies, strengthen environmental regulatory systems, and support the Government in the transition

47 See: <https://iap.unido.org/country/VNM>.

48 See: KEI 2017. Environmental Sustainability in Asia: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Series 1 - Vietnam. Chapter 2: National vision and plans and SDGs.

2. Climate-change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability (SDG 7, 11, 13-15)

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources.

2.1. Enhanced capacity and gender-responsive policies to identify and reduce climate risks, respond to disasters and build the resilience of vulnerable populations.

2.2. Accelerated implementation of policies and measures and enhanced awareness and engagement of stakeholders for low-carbon development, the circular economy, environmental protection and reduced environmental pollution.

2.3. Strengthened institutional capacity and action from all stakeholders for sustainable management and use of natural resources and effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems

2.4. Improved capacity to reduce negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on human development.

to a low-carbon economy. The UN will also support MSMEs to adopt low-emission, clean technologies and low-carbon intensive goods. It will shore up the phase-down of coal and reduce dependence on fossil fuels – paving the way for intensified renewable-energy development and lowered GHG emissions. The UN will support green, existing and new industries and the adoption of practices that promote resource- and energy-efficiency and the circular economy. It will help foster innovation around clean energy and clean production technologies, while minimizing energy and resource consumption along the value chain and during the lifetime of products. E-mobility, green transport and infrastructure, green and smart cities and eco-industrial parks will be promoted by the UN. Education and public awareness to reduce plastic production and consumption will be improved as will the promotion of effective waste management in the informal sectors. The UN

will work to establish a nationwide industrial pollution-monitoring system and strengthen regulation and enforcement for effective air, soil and water pollution-management, along with supporting the effective management of hazardous chemicals, persistent organic pollutants and general medical waste. The UN will also assist Viet Nam in achieving the objectives of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.

- iii) Sustainable management and use of natural resources and effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems will benefit from UN support. This will involve enhancing capacity, policy and mandates to support the coherent and sustainable management of biodiversity and habitats, thereby improving sustainable access to water for productive use and preventing the trafficking and consumption of wildlife. The UN will promote sustainable financing mechanisms for the

conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, and introduce innovative mechanisms to attract and durably engage the private sector in sustainable natural-resource management. The UN will devise strategies to promote co-management schemes that ensure local communities enjoy their human rights and benefit from resilient development and sustainable tourism, while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and management of natural resource.

iv) To reduce the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation on human development, the UN will increase public awareness of the priorities and boost support mechanisms for families, women and children who experience multiple impacts of COVID-19, climate change and disasters. The UN will strengthen the normative framework to realize people and children's environmental rights, strengthen capacities and improve gender-responsive climate- and disaster-resilient systems for human development and in support of climate-change adaptation. It will prioritize support for the prevention of and preparedness for the next pandemic by strengthening the One Health⁴⁹ approach and improving the management of the human-animal-environment interface.

The UN interventions are well-aligned with the Government's commitment to human rights-based climate action as illustrated by the fact Viet Nam has, since 2016, been one of the main sponsors of an annual UN Human Rights Council resolution

on human rights and climate change. The theory of change relies on the overall assumption that Vietnamese people and businesses will continue to raise concern about environmental issues, and freely and actively contribute to climate action. Another assumption is that regional and global efforts will create partnerships, and that opportunities will abound to enhance digitization and the application of new technology. It is also assumed that partnership mechanisms for engagement will promote partnerships with NGOs and social organizations, political-social organizations, and political-social-professional organizations and with the private sector.

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

OUTCOME 3:

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work.

49 Building on and expanding earlier efforts, the One Health partnership was launched in March 2016. It brings together national and international governmental and non-governmental One Health stakeholders under the leadership of the Government of Viet Nam. The overall goal of the partnership is to enhance the capacity of Viet Nam to address zoonotic infectious disease threats at the human-animal*-ecosystem interface (*including livestock, wildlife and other species).



THEORY OF CHANGE AND UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

The impressive economic growth rate that Viet Nam has seen in recent years points to the success of national planning tools which have boosted manufacturing, trade promotion and facilitation, tourism and macroeconomic prudence. However, widening income inequalities and the unintended marginalization of vulnerable groups suggest an uneven distribution of wealth and of opportunities for economic prosperity. While there is room for improvement in the agricultural sector's productivity, Vietnamese people are migrating both domestically and internationally to seek better paid opportunities. The industrial base and service economy are dominated by low-skilled, low-value addition activity and low technology contents. Dependence on FDI remains high, with limited backward linkages, while small local firms have modest capability. Amid this, industrial policies and implementation suffer from lack of coordination. In order to meet national development objectives, inclusive of labour rights and the 2030 Agenda, Viet Nam needs to increase its productive capacities across all three sectors of the economy, while fully harnessing the potential of its natural endowments.

The analysis identifies four main challenges impeding economic transformation, the achievement of the SDGs, gender equality and the fulfilment of human rights: i) **lack of integrated and well-resourced development policies** and strategies to accelerate inclusive, transformative and sustainable growth across all economic sectors, ii) a **private sector which is dominated by low-productivity** business models and practices especially among MSMEs, household businesses and cooperatives, iii) **insufficient adoption of and access** to modern technology, and iv) **lack of adequate investment** prioritizing sustainable and inclusive economic transformation, and the achievement of the SDGs. The pathway to a more

inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic transformation, which all Vietnamese people can benefit from and contribute to, requires strategic and green economic policies that promote equitable participation, innovation, productivity, resilience, the protection of all workers, the use of modern digital tools and platforms and respect for human rights.

i) To accelerate inclusive, transformative and sustainable growth across all economic sectors, national capacities need to be strengthened. This would allow them to design and implement evidence-based, inclusive and gender responsive policies and strategies and to build enabling ecosystems across all sectors. The UN strategic interventions will focus on promoting scientific, technological and innovation policies and standards to support structural transformation, including facilitating a smooth transition to the 4IR. The interventions will concentrate on devising new business models and practices which improve connectivity and the use of spatial economics. They will boost technological diffusion and adaptation, facilitate market access, upgrade business and value chains and increase economic opportunities especially for ethnic minorities, PWD and populations in geographically remote areas. They will design strategies to improve the mobility of people, goods and services and increase productivity, trade development and economic diversification. The interventions will support a comprehensive industrialization policy – which incorporates and integrates the green economy and employment, the circular economy and natural capital development – and help expand the development of enabling infrastructure. There are also specific areas where the UN will capitalize on its comparative advantage by boosting heritage preservation and urban creativity to enhance cultural industries and advance sustainable

tourism. Strategic interventions will include enhancing the institutional management capacity of heritage and cultural resources. They will reinforce city-level development strategies and encourage public-private sector dialogues. Their other focus will be on strengthening institutional capacity in governance and the financing modality for technology business incubators. The strategic interventions will build and promote linkages and synergies between food processing, handicraft, tourism and the creative industries for local economic and women's economic development. Additionally, they will consolidate integrated urban policies with interrelated socioeconomic, environmental and cultural strategies to promote national and local economic growth and prosperity.

- ii) As the engine of economic growth, the private sector plays an important role in the successful implementation of development policies and needs both support and incentives to adopt business models which reflect the main tenets of the SDGs. The UN will seek to prioritize vulnerable MSMEs, household businesses, women-owned businesses and the informal sector (especially those led by women, PWD and ethnic minorities) to help them bounce back from the impacts of COVID-19 and to enable Viet Nam to build resilience to other shocks, become greener and more resource and energy efficient. It will work to enhance domestic value addition and productivity, as well as to build domestic markets and consumer demand. The UN aims to improve access to finance, information, markets and technology, enhance firms' connection to domestic, regional and global value chains and to eliminate other bottlenecks in the growth of Viet Nam's MSMEs. The youth will receive support through labour market policies, targeted entrepreneurship and self-employment initiatives. Compliance with

international labour standards ensures a path to decent work, which is why the UN aims to help improve labour-market governance and labour standards in Viet Nam. To this purpose it will support the transition of workers and enterprises from the informal to the formal economy, help improve labour relations and promote responsible business conduct that complies with international human rights standards (such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) and with land rights. It will facilitate safe, fair and regular labour migration by supporting the implementation of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

- iii) Accelerating a smooth and inclusive transition to the 4IR requires a cultural shift in the adoption and accessibility of appropriate and new technologies, digital tools and platforms. The UN intends to provide solutions which increase access to ICT services, thereby expanding access to fourth generation technology and raising ICT capabilities among MSMEs, household businesses and cooperatives. This will, in particular focus on the economic empowerment of vulnerable groups including poor people, ethnic minorities, PWD and women. The UN will also focus on innovative approaches to improve inclusion, for instance by developing strategies to mainstream digital services across all sectors as a way of broadening the digital economy, and promoting e-commerce among MSMEs and cooperatives. It intends to build human capital and raise total factor productivity through focused vocational training and industrial skill development, and will also develop innovative platforms for children and young people, particularly girls and young women, to help them transition from school to decent and productive employment. Additionally, the UN will develop and enforce active labour-market policies as well as policies

on the re-skilling of internal migrants and informal workers, particularly female workers in a digital economy.

- iv) Finally, addressing the above challenges and the 2030 Agenda will require effective, equitable and targeted investments which go far beyond existing levels of domestic resources. Given the declining ODA flows, the UN will intervene to promote evidence-based options and mechanisms aimed at expanding gender-responsive public and private finance for the realization of the SDGs. This includes exploring innovative financing tools and modalities, private sector partnerships and pooled funds, as well as providing support services to enterprises for access to

financial and other resources. It also requires strengthening public investment management and gender-responsive budgeting. The UN will support efforts to accelerate financial and fiscal stimulus for strengthened, inclusive macroeconomic policies.

The theory of change for this outcome relies on the overall assumption that strategies target both international and internal migrants.

3. Shared prosperity through economic transformation (SDG 5, 8-12, 17)

By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equally from more sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work.

3.1. Reformed labour-market institutions are used to improve labour standards for all types of workers and to formalize informal employment.

3.2. National capacities are strengthened to formulate and implement evidence-based policies and strategies, and build enabling ecosystems for inclusive, transformative and sustainable agriculture, industry and service sectors, to make decent work a reality.

3.3. Sustainable, inclusive and responsible business models and practices including MSMEs and cooperatives are promoted to increase productivity, trade development and innovation, and improve working conditions and compliance, with a special focus on economic empowerment of poor people, ethnic minorities and women.

3.4. Heritage preservation and urban creativity are strengthened to enhance cultural industries and advance sustainable tourism.

3.5. Evidence-based options and mechanisms are promoted to expand public and private finance for the realization of SDGs.

3.6. Appropriate technologies, digital tools and platforms are accessible and adopted to facilitate a smooth and inclusive transition to the fourth industrial revolution (IR 4.0).

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

Although legal and judicial reforms are underway to encourage a more responsive and transparent governance system, the meaningful participation of focus groups in policy and decision-making could be improved especially for children, the youth, women, older persons, LGBTI, PWD, persons living with chronic disease and health issues, and ethnic minorities. The efficiency and transparency of government service delivery and its responsiveness to gender and child issues could be further strengthened, improving the overall efficacy of sustainable development policies and achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

of human rights: i) **gaps in the capacity of governance institutions** to accommodate the participation and complex needs of vulnerable groups; ii) **disparities between national standards for the rule of law and access to justice, and combatting discrimination**, compared to international human rights norms and standards; iii) **ongoing gender-based discrimination** in social, economic, political and leadership opportunities; iv) the **prevalence of violence, particularly gender-based violence**, especially against women and children as well as abuse and exploitation of and discrimination against vulnerable groups; v) **complex, cross-border criminal activities** in trafficking in persons, the smuggling of international migrants, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering; and vi) **limited disaggregated data and statistics** to inform gender-responsive, evidence-based and rights-based policies, planning and budgeting. The pathway to a more just, safe and inclusive society especially for people at risk of being left behind is through the strengthening of governance institutions and systems, the tackling of negative social norms and the eradication of harmful practices that foster discrimination and violence.

- i) The UN will focus on creating an enabling environment to foster innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems, improve the operational capacity of institutions in the state apparatus, and promote decentralization and empowerment in state management to increase participation and support vulnerable groups. UN interventions will promote the application of technology and digitalization and the full implementation of e-governance for the efficient and transparent delivery of Government services. The aim is to accelerate the implementation and monitoring of public sector reforms and support the development of participatory legislation and decision-

making processes that are evidence-based, people-centred and aligned with international standards on human rights. The UN will leverage innovative approaches to support the expansion of institutional mechanisms to provide citizens with opportunities for participation in policy design and decisions that impact their lives. The emphasis will be on children, youth empowerment, women, LGBTI persons, older persons, PWD, persons with chronic health issues, internal migrants, and ethnic minorities. The interventions will ensure the participation and empowerment of community and specialized organizations, with the private sector and communities serving as key partners for the realization of the SDGs. The interventions support the capacity of social organizations, political-social organizations, and political-social-professional organizations to represent their constituencies and participate in advocacy, legislation and decision-making processes, as well as the implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes. The interventions will focus on the adoption of e-government applications to facilitate more efficient, broader participation from marginalized groups, and innovative approaches for citizen-centric governance.

- ii) Strengthening the rule of law has serious implications for the enhancement of access to justice and the tackling of discrimination in Viet Nam. For this reason, the UN strategic support will focus on improving the independence and integrity of the judiciary and implementing recommendations accepted under international human rights mechanisms such as the UPR. Other areas of focus include improving and strengthening responsive and protective laws and policy enforcement in line with Viet Nam's international human rights commitments, and improving vulnerable groups' access to justice and legal services, including legal

aid. This will involve efforts to broaden legal awareness, access to justice and legal services for vulnerable groups. The UN will capitalize on its comparative advantage in human rights to propose innovative approaches at the Government and community levels to address deeply entrenched challenges. In particular, this concerns efforts to boost participation for organizations and individuals in decision-making processes as well as to encourage the involvement of women and marginalized groups, especially LGBTI and PWD in elected bodies. The UN will work to promote access to legal identity (including birth registration) and nationality for stateless persons and people of undetermined nationality. In particular, the UN will also support child and gender-sensitive justice system reform. Vulnerable groups being a concern, their protection will be a priority with a focus on LGBTI persons, older persons, PWD, ethnic minorities, women and children as survivors of GBV, people affected by HIV, internal and international migrants, stateless persons and people of undetermined nationality, victims of trafficking and communities affected by unexploded ordnance. Such interventions include maintaining and expanding prospects for freely chosen and productive employment for women and men through safe and regular migration. Also included are initiatives to promote UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as the national implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The UN will also support national institutions to effectively lead and manage mine-action functions and responsibilities in line with the UN Mine Action Strategy 2019–2023.

- iii) Although gender equality has improved, progress has been slow and uneven. The UN will focus on enhancing the social, institutional and legislative environment to accelerate the

achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment, participation and involvement in decision-making, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, girls, LGBTI persons and older persons, especially those in the vulnerable groups. The strategic approach will work to strengthen the capacity of the Government and the relevant stakeholders to develop and implement laws and policies that address the remaining gender gaps and discrimination. It aims to promote gender equality as well as ending harmful practices and addressing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes across the life cycle that deny girls, women and LGBTI persons the opportunity to fully participate in and benefit from public affairs. Leveraging the UN convening power, the interventions will work to reinforce the multi-sectoral Government and stakeholder coordination of policy development and implementation, accountability mechanisms and partnerships, while mobilizing digital transformation initiatives to promote basic human rights for all, and gender equality across all areas of society. The UN will also continue to promote women's role in peace and security, including in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Viet Nam, and ensure that women participate in and have equal opportunity for leadership at all levels of decision-making. The UN also works to support the documentation, testing and piloting of locally driven initiatives designed to prevent violence, promote tolerance and advance social cohesion.

- iv) To eliminate GBV and all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination against women, children and other vulnerable groups, the UN strategic intervention will seek to improve legal and policy frameworks, accountability as well as socio-cultural attitudes and practices. Among the priorities at the institutional level will be advocacy to increase commitment

and resourcing for the implementation of laws and policies, data collection on GBV, on gender-biased sex selection, violence against children, and on other forms of abuse and exploitation, including child and forced labour. Efforts to improve the capacity of essential services to the survivors of violence will feature among the priorities. The UN will also work to formulate national guidelines for frontline workers and establish a multisectoral coordinated essential services response to GBV and other forms of harmful practices and violence to ensure continuity in essential services, particularly in humanitarian and emergency situations. At the community level, the UN will support participatory, inclusive and rights-based mechanisms to eliminate stigma and discrimination, transform socio-cultural norms and attitudes to prevent GBV and gender-biased sex selection, and improve human security for communities in target areas. This will include initiating campaigns and advocacy to promote gender equality and discourage gender stereotypes. The UN will mobilize communities and individuals to address social norms and harmful attitudes and practices that encourage violent behaviours, discrimination and stereotypes. Tackling GBV and discrimination against LGBTI persons, sex workers, internal and international migrants and PWD groups can also be powerful approach to create a cultural shift in the way society views such issues. Women, children, PWD and communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange will also be a focus.

- v) Efforts to address trafficking in persons, the smuggling of international migrants, illicit drugs, trafficking in wildlife, corruption and money laundering require strengthened national legislation, policies and agencies. The UN intervention will leverage expertise in crime prevention to improve the detection

and elimination of such crimes while ensuring equitable access to protection systems for victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups, especially all migrants in vulnerable situations, women and children. The strategic intervention will build on the UN comparative advantage in coordinating cross-border matters, regional cooperation and information-sharing, all of which will work towards combatting the challenges, whose complexity dictates multilateral approaches.

vi) Weak data collection, management, analysis and use limit the effectiveness of policies, planning and budgeting that respond to the special needs of focus groups, especially women, children, adolescents and the youth, PWD, older persons, as well as survivors of GBV, Agent Orange and accidents caused by unexploded ordnance. The UN intervention will increase the availability, accessibility and disaggregated nature of data and statistics for improved monitoring and rights-based/ evidence-based policy design and budgeting.

4. Governance and access to justice (SDG 5, 8, 10, 16)

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

4.1 An enabling environment is created for innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems that promote the participation of vulnerable groups in the sustainable development process.

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

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

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

4.5 National legislation, policies and agencies are strengthened to prevent and address trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering, and to ensure equitable access to protection systems for victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups, especially migrants, women and children.

4.6 Data production, analysis and use are strengthened to inform evidence- based and rights-based policies, planning, budgeting.

At the same it will improve the participation and empowerment of NGOs, academia, the private sector and communities as key partners for achieving the SDGs. The UN strategic approach will encourage the application of responsive and protective laws, policies and statistical methodologies in line with Viet Nam's international commitments, to realize the SDGs and better capture the needs of vulnerable groups and the effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The UN will increase the availability of quality data and statistics to promote and track progress on SDG achievement, gender equality and women's empowerment, and also develop innovative approaches to advocacy and communications in order to accelerate progress in this area.

This outcome focuses on addressing the major recommendations Viet Nam received and accepted during the UPR third cycle in 2019, based on its obligations under the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and on ratified international human rights law treaties. Special attention will be

paid to recommendations on: various freedoms; violence against women; access to justice and the rule of law; the right to participate in public affairs; the protection of ethnic minorities and persons in rural areas; and the assurance of legal participation in the protection and promotion of human rights for relevant stakeholders.

The theory of change for this outcome relies on the overall assumption that there is knowledge of and respect for international law, norms and standards regarding human rights, gender equality, freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination and the means to ensure enhanced education and economic opportunities, robust social safety nets and integrated disaster-risk management.

CHAPTER 3:

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



3.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



Joint UN-Government Steering Committee

The JSC, co-chaired by the Deputy Minister for Planning and Investment and the UN Resident Coordinator, with members comprising senior representatives from central and line ministries and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), is the highest decision-making authority on the CF 2022–2026 in Viet Nam. The JSC meets annually and provides strategic oversight and direction to the CF process and ensures its alignment with the evolving country context, national, regional and international development processes, mechanisms and goals and links to other processes, such as the SDG National Voluntary Review. The JSC supports joint UN-Government resource mobilization for the CF as well as development financing opportunities. The JSC monitors progress, challenges and opportunities and steers the implementation. The JSC also monitors continued data enhancement for evidence-based monitoring. The JSC supports national ownership and leadership, as well as the effective coordination of programme delivery and the realization of the SDGs.

United Nations Country Team

The UNCT is led by the UN Resident Coordinator and comprises the heads of all resident and non-resident UN agencies and entities who operate in Viet Nam. The UNCT is the highest inter-agency coordination and joint decision-making body of the UN system at the country level, providing oversight for the implementation of the CF 2022–2026. The UNCT is guided by the UNCT Code

of Conduct and members are accountable to each other for the responsible use of resources, achievement of results, adherence to the UN guiding principles for UN development assistance, and progress in UN reform. This includes making available the financial, human and other resources needed to meet for commitments related to the achievement of CF 2022–2026 results. The UN Resident Coordinator leads the UNCT, with the assistance of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and supports the UNCT in its efforts to promote UN reform as well as coordinating the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of the CF 2022–2026. The UNCT oversees the UN Governance and Management Structure and promotes UN reform and the key principles of enhanced efficiency and effectiveness across the entire UN system. Effective coordination within the UN system will continue to ensure achievements and measurable programmes and will also apply to the inter-agency groups established by the UNCT.

UN Programme Management Team

The Programme Management Team (PMT) comprises UN agency/entity deputies and focal points from resident and non-resident UN entities and is accountable to the UNCT. The PMT is a task-based group, focusing on concrete, time-bound deliverables, including those delegated to the PMT by the UNCT. The PMT provides strategic advice and quality assurance on the CCA, CF design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The PMT also provides strategic advice to the UNCT on UN entry points and interventions, and to facilitate the integration of SDGs. Additionally, the PMT oversees two of its sub-groups, including the UN SDG Task Force (SDGTF) and the UN Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Group, and provides strategic advice to them. The two sub-groups report to the PMT but also directly to the UNCT/Resident Coordinator when required. The two sub-groups are empowered to make decisions on their technical areas, following



consultation with the PMT.

UN Operations Management Team

The UN Operations Management Team (OMT), comprising key operations management personnel across UN entities, will develop the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to align with the programmatic priorities of the CF and to enhance opportunities for increased efficiency and quality in programme delivery. The connection between the PMT and the OMT will increase awareness of programme implementation and resourcing needs and increase efficiencies in multi-year programme delivery. The OMT will work with the PMT to ensure that the monitoring cycles of the CF and BOS are aligned so that programming needs, priorities and challenges that feature in annual CF monitoring cycles can influence the OMT in its cyclical monitoring and work planning of the BOS. The OMT reports to the UNCT in Viet Nam.

UN SDG Task Force

The UN SDGTF provides demand-driven advisory support to the UNCT and PMT to ensure the coherence of UN support and advocacy for the integration of SDGs into national plans, budgets, monitoring and reporting. The responsibilities of the SDGTF also focus on cross-cutting topics of SDG integration into national plans, budgets, monitoring and reporting, such as whole-of-government and whole-of-society governance, integrated planning and budgeting, integrated monitoring and reporting and their related SDG data collection and usage, in line with the UN SDG guidelines and experiences in Viet Nam. As such, the SDGTF will contribute to the coherence of, but not engage in, agency-specific and Results-Group specific intervention areas and topics.

UN Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group

The UN MEL Group will be established to provide technical advice and support to the UNCT, PMT,

UN Results Groups and relevant UN working groups on all aspects of CF monitoring, review, reporting and evaluation, in close collaboration with the GoV. The MEL Group will be responsible for supporting the UNCT, in consultation with the PMT, to establish monitoring and evaluation (M&E) multi-agency mechanisms, tools, processes and procedures, to ensure that the UNCT's contributions to the CF outcomes and outputs are tracked in a timely and efficient manner and reviewed in line with the UNSDG guidance and the six UN Guiding Principles.⁵⁰ This will engage all the relevant stakeholders, including Government agencies, NGOs, mass organizations, the private sector, businesses, development partners, researchers and academia, communities and the population.

UN Results Groups

UN Results Groups will be established for each of the four CF outcomes to improve UN internal coordination and ensure a coherent UN system-wide approach to analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring. The Results Groups report to the UNCT and develop annual UN joint work plans which promote complementarity and synergies, and reduce overlaps and gaps within and across outcome areas. The Results Groups are accountable for coordinating, monitoring, reviewing and reporting the implementation of UN interventions and the UN contribution to CF outputs and outcomes. As such, they contribute to the MEL Group and the PMT's reporting to the UNCT regarding the attainment of CF results. The Results Groups, in coordination with other UN inter-agency groups, Government and other relevant stakeholders, will actively identify opportunities for joint programmes, joint advocacy and joint-resource mobilization, and engage with Government counterparts on joint-

⁵⁰ Leaving no one behind is a human rights-based approach to development, gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience, sustainability and accountability.

work planning, implementation and monitoring of agreed indicators.

The Results Groups are co-chaired by two members of the UNCT, comprising experts from all UN entities, both resident and non-resident, and are aligned with Government-led technical working groups and partnership groups.

UN Thematic Groups

The UNCT will establish UN Thematic Groups to work on a number of prioritized cross-cutting issues, such as gender, the empowerment of adolescents and young people, and human rights. The Thematic Groups, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator or a UNCT member, will play an important role in facilitating the UN coherent approach and action on issues across all UN interventions and the CF Results Groups. They will support the UNCT in incorporating the issues into CF workplans, interventions, monitoring and reporting. The Thematic Groups, in close collaboration with the Results Groups and others, are also the mechanism that will coordinate and facilitate information sharing and learning, joint analysis, common advocacy messages and joint interventions regarding the cross-cutting issues.

UN Communications Group

The UN Communications Group will, on behalf of the UNCT in Viet Nam, prepare and implement a communications strategy for the CF to highlight and promote the UN contribution to the realization of the SDGs. Among other things, the UN Communications Group's dissemination strategies will target broad access and outreach by taking into account ease of access, formats, language, literacy and cultural differences.

3.2 RESOURCING THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



Implementation of the CF relies on the availability of funding and resources mobilized at the country level and through other funds.

The signing of the CF will precede the development of the Funding Framework. This is the financial planning and management tool for the implementation of the CF and incorporates the costed results (outcomes and outputs) of the CF – including for operations and communications – for the full programme cycle. Clearly defined interventions that support the implementation of outputs will inform the Funding Framework. The CF Funding Framework, prepared by Results Groups in line with joint work plans, is a tool used by the UNCT to guide joint resource mobilization, including that undertaken in collaboration with Government and other partners.

In line with the guidance, the Funding Framework will be two-tiered: 1) a multi-year funding framework covering the full duration of the CF; and 2) annualized funding frameworks continuously monitored and updated as part of the Joint Workplans. The Funding Framework will be supported and informed by a financial landscape analysis. These elements form the basis for the resource-mobilization strategy of the CF, and will inform any UN-Government funding discussions with other stakeholders that also promote the 'Decade of Action' for investment in SDGs and the sustainable funding of the CF. Where the resource mobilization strategy identifies funding gaps, joint UN approaches, UN-Government approaches and discussions with other stakeholders will include opportunities to raise funds to support joint programming.



The UNCT will leverage available joint funds that respond to the Funding Framework and JWPs, building on successful resource mobilization from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and the Joint SDG Fund. The UNCT will encourage innovative and catalytic financing and Government-led financing mechanisms that support the realization of the SDGs in Viet Nam.

3.3 DERIVING UN AGENCY/ ENTITY COUNTRY PROGRAMMING INSTRUMENTS FROM THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The programming instruments of UN entities have been developed in line with the strategic approach presented in this CF. The CF strategic planning process has benefited from consultation with Government and parallel consultations concerning the planning of respective country programmes. UN agency/entity programmes have been defined and shaped around the priorities and strategic interventions designed within the framework and will correspond with JWPs. To ensure strong alignment, the submission of the Country Programme Document has taken into account the CF outcomes and outputs. All UN entities without Country Programme Documents will derive their entity-specific country programming instruments from the CF planned results.

3.4 JOINT WORKPLANS

The CF will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of Viet Nam's Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Government coordinating authority for specific UN-system agency/entity programmes. UN-system entities and their implementing partners will implement programme activities. The CF will be made operational through the development of JWPs⁵¹ and entity-specific work plans as necessary, which will describe the specific expected results. As far as possible, the UN system entities and their implementing partners will use either the signed CF and CF JWPs or entity-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. As necessary and appropriate, project documents will be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the CF and JWP joint or entity-specific work plans⁵².

The JWPs present the planned programmatic outputs and resource contributions of each UN agency/entity to CF outcomes. They will serve to reduce fragmentation, prevent duplication and ensure the coherence and synergy of UN agency/entity collective programming in the country.

All UNCT members, both resident and non-resident, will participate in preparing JWPs that

51 As per the UNSDG CF guidance.

52 In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government cooperating agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the "Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" (SBAA). Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a principal implementing partner will be identified who will have the responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the implementing partners identified in the workplan, to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

will come up for discussion within and across Results Groups to identify gaps, overlaps and the potential for synergy and joint programmes, and respond as appropriate. The JWPs will capture the CF outcomes, outputs, funding framework and resources, SDG targets and indicators, gender equality and human rights, disability inclusivity and any other system-wide markers⁵³, with each UN agency/entity's contributions (outputs and resources) to the CF outcomes clearly aligned to the CF theory of change.

The JWPs will be prepared online through the UN INFO platform. The UNCT will integrate key emergency response plans as relevant, such as the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan, into the CF JWPs and track their progress through UN INFO. Additionally, the formulation of the JWPs will mainstream the principles of the LNOB, gender equality, human rights and other cross-cutting themes, for both programmes as well as for prioritizing resource allocation and partnerships.

The JWPs will be endorsed by the UNCT and serve as the basis for the Results Groups' Annual Performance Review, to ensure that these respond to the evolving country context and directly support the preparation of the annual UN country results report to the Government.

3.5 BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



Following the development and endorsement of the BOS 2017–2021, the UN in Viet Nam has implemented the UN Global BOS to ensure the cost effectiveness and quality of UN operations. This includes services deriving from a Common Back Office within the Green One UN House that have a direct impact on the goals achieved through UN joint programming. The OMT is responsible for overseeing the BOS development, implementation, annual monitoring and work planning. This will allow the OMT to continue exploring and recommending innovative business models and levels of collaboration across UN entities, to support the efficient and effective implementation of the CF and common business operations in Viet Nam.

53 For example, the UNCT Gender Equality Marker will be used as a tool for tracking UN contributions to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.



Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5	Outcome 6
Common procurement practices	Common human resources management practices	Common financial operations	Common ITC services	Common logistics and transportation services	Common Green One UN House services

Business Operations Strategy 2017–2021 common service lines

The next generation BOS will be developed, in accordance with UN guidance, to take account of the new operational demands of the CF 2022–2026 and any new or revised partnerships, innovative practices or means of operation. The UNCT Gender Equality Marker links to the BOS to support gender responsive human resources and broader business operations.

3.6 FUNDS MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING HARMONIZED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS

The UN system entities that implement the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (namely UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) will provide support for the development and implementation of activities within the CF. These may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training and staff support. Non-governmental organizations may receive part of the support from the UN system entities as agreed within the framework of

individual work plans and project documents.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the UN system (as stated in circulars from the International Core Steering Committee).

Additional global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized support may offer access to UN agency/entity-managed information systems – including rosters of consultants and providers of development services – and to support provided by the network of UN entities. The UN system entities will appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance and for monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the CF, the UN development system agency/entity's funds will be distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the CF. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the UN joint work plans. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system agencies/entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies/entities for specific interventions may be re-allocated to other equally worthwhile programme activities.

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise the funds required to meet the needs of the Cooperation Framework. It will cooperate with the UN system agencies in encouraging potential donor governments to provide the UN system agencies with the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme. It will endorse the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Viet Nam. The Government will also accept contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Viet Nam to support this programme, which will be tax exempt for the donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

3.7 UPDATES OF THE UN COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS

The CCA will be updated through annual reviews and in response to any major changes in national circumstances (including conflict, political crises, the changing human rights context, pandemics and disasters). The UNCT may also find it necessary to initiate periodic 'horizon scanning' or trend analysis between annual updates. Where relevant, CCA updates will also be informed by other strategic assessments, to maximize the capacity and availability of information. An analysis of the groups of people at risk of being left behind will be integrated into each of the updates of the CCA, through a review of the latest data and evidence, as well as consultations with the people concerned. Where possible, special efforts will be made to provide analyses on the situation of PWD, and to ensure that the updates/revisions include: (a) analyses of the situation of PWD in

at least one thematic area; or (b) analyses of the situation of PWD in the majority of the CCA's thematic areas, and (c) data and analyses of the situation of PWD. In addition, gender analyses will be updated across all sectors of the CCA, including the underlying causes of gender inequality and discrimination. Particular attention will be given to non-traditional focus areas such as nature, energy and climate change. Consistent sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data will continue to be strengthened in the CCA when available and with a focus on the most vulnerable groups.

With its heavy data emphasis, the CCA will be migrated onto and kept updated on the digital platform that is being established by the UN Development Coordination Office as an online repository of automated country analytics, data sources and datasets. The RCO and UN agency/entity focal points, comprising key programme and policy staff, will lead the CCA process, ensuring that the CCA is updated periodically and can serve as a relevant source of information on an ongoing basis in the evolving country context.

CHAPTER 4:

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



Monitoring and evaluation of the CF is the responsibility of the UN and the GoV in line with their joint responsibility for the implementation of the CF. The UN and the GoV will fully utilize the JSC mechanism to ensure that adequate capacity is in place to support CF monitoring, review, reporting and evaluation, and that there is continued enhancement of evidence-based data for monitoring purposes. The M&E of the CF is informed by good M&E practices and the recommendations made in the independent evaluation of the OSP 2017–2021.

Monitoring of the CF indicators uses verifiable national data sets in order to align CF monitoring to national monitoring instruments and processes, including those which monitor results that contribute to the achievement of SDG targets set for Viet Nam.

UN joint monitoring systems link and help strengthen the Viet Nam SDG (VSDG) monitoring and reporting framework and other national and sectoral data and information systems. Innovative monitoring mechanisms, including big data and real-time data, will be explored and applied by the UN in Viet Nam in collaboration with national mechanisms, whenever possible.

4.1 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING PLAN

The MEL Group will develop a multi-year MEL Plan on behalf of the UNCT for the full CF period, identifying key MEL actions to be conducted by the UNCT and UN entities in collaboration with the Government, with clear objectives, timelines and the entities concerned.

The MEL Plan will be executed in conjunction with Results Groups to track progress towards planned results, monitor risks and assumptions, identify challenges and opportunities and reflect learning to inform decisions and course correction in Viet Nam's evolving country context.

UN agency/entity-specific monitoring plans will be derived from, inform and support the MEL Plan. Essential linkages will be established with GoV monitoring activities, inclusive of surveys, censuses, voluntary national reviews and studies, which will provide the data and evidence that highlight the UN contribution to development changes.

The MEL Plan will establish clear timelines for the adoption of UN INFO – the online and interactive planning, implementation and monitoring platform of the UNSDG – to operate the CF and its joint work planning, monitoring and reporting processes. UN INFO, which is integrated within the UNCT website, allows for the tracking of output and outcome indicators, UN and agency-specific results, common budgetary frameworks, gender and human rights markers, and joint and agency-specific activities.

4.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK MONITORING

Monitoring of the CF ensures that the UNCT delivers on its commitment to achieve the results set out in the CF Results Framework. Monitoring of the CF will be aligned, to the extent possible, with national monitoring systems, instruments and processes, including those that monitor results towards the achievement of VSDGs, in order to promote national ownership and mutual accountability for results by the UN and national partners.

Monitoring will be undertaken through a set of CF outcome and output indicators. Outcome indicators, as part of the CF Results Framework, have been selected primarily from the National SDG Indicator Framework (VSDG indicators), with available, transparent and official baselines, targets and data sources supporting the monitoring. Proxy indicators have been identified where no VSDG or SDG indicator exists. Outcome indicators meet the UNCT's obligations under the sector-wide approaches and programmes' gender scorecard Action Plan and the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy's Action Plan. To the extent possible, the UNCT will remain committed to the disaggregation of CF indicators by disability, sex and age. CF Output Indicators will be identified within CF joint work plans in line with VSDG indicators.

Government entities are responsible for producing official data related to CF outcome and output indicators and collaborating with the UN in CF monitoring and reporting, as set out in the MEL Plan.

Monitoring of the Cooperation Framework will be implemented through the following key mechanisms:

- i) UN Results Groups' JWP planning, review and reporting, with a focus on joint UN contributions, agreeing on course correction regarding the JWPs, and flagging any coordination and programmatic issues to the UNCT;
- ii) UN agency/entity monitoring, focusing on monitoring, reporting, and learning from specific projects and programmes that contribute to CF results;
- iii) UN agency/entity monitoring of joint programmes or joint development interventions with a common geographic or sector focus;

- iv) JSC review – setting CF strategic direction, discussing national circumstances and priorities, and agreeing on course correction regarding the CF; and
- v) other UN inter-agency group planning, review and reporting – providing supplementary information on UN contributions.

Monitoring of development risks and opportunities

The CF identifies a range of risks and assumptions, a number of which are considered universal and represent relevant threats to the realization of CF outcomes and therefore require continuous monitoring and dialogue between partners.

The first is the current global COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a significant impact on Viet Nam's socio-economic advancement, the availability of resources, the availability of personnel and the rollout of programmes. The pandemic threat may continue to put pressure on available resources and intensify the need to divert them and to nuance or change programme priorities. There may be a need to adjust policy commitments, meanwhile policy development processes may continue to encounter disruptions, and thereby require sustained monitoring and time spent in UN-Government dialogues to discuss and adjust plans accordingly.

The pandemic has also exacerbated existing vulnerabilities linked to the geopolitical situation, the macroeconomic framework and social service delivery capacities. While the UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan and other supporting measures will respond to and mitigate risks, such challenges will have an impact on development results in the longer term.

Modified Government systems and reduced political may curtail the ability of the UN system to work towards CF outcomes in collaboration with the Government and potentially deprive it of

important technical collaboration with ministries and Government agencies. Aligned programming, an active JSC, regular sectoral planning processes and integrated planning and monitoring cycles are measures that have been put in place to mitigate risk in this area.

Lack of access to or limited use of verifiable data caused by disruption to statistical institutions, national SDG monitoring or changes to Government institutions could hurt the credibility and validity of evidence-based policy development, programming and monitoring. This can be mitigated by sustainable practices in data management and storage and building trust in data sharing.

Overall, the CF will benefit from adaptive measures taken to jointly analyse and respond to situations emerging in the course of the implementation of this programmatic framework, including by tapping into the regional and global tiers of the UN system. CF monitoring cycles will be set up along with governance structures designed for the CF. They will be fully used to ensure cyclical approaches to the review, monitoring and adjustment of the CF, which will include the design of intervention strategies, as needed.

Monitoring of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers

With regard to the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (also see Annex 2) implementing partners agree to cooperate with UN system agencies to monitor all activities supported by cash transfers. The implementing partners will facilitate access to the relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by UN system agencies. To that effect, implementing partners agree to the following:

1. periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate,

and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with UN system agencies;

2. programmatic monitoring of activities following UN system agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring, and;
3. special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to the audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.3 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND COUNTRY RESULTS REPORTING



Under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, each Results Group will conduct an annual performance review with its stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned in the last quarter of each year of CF implementation. UN INFO reports will be an important basis for the review. Based on the review and the evolving country context, the Results Groups will propose ways in which the UNCT can amend the Cooperation Framework and/or the following year's JWP to keep the UN support to the country relevant and effective.

The UN INFO reports, annual performance reviews and CCA updates will feed into the mandatory annual UNCT Results Report, which will capture



the full footprint of UN entities in supporting the GoV to advance towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The UN entities' Annual Results Reports and mid-term reviews (if available) will also be taken into account to inform the progress of the CF in terms of programmatic results. The UNCT Results Reports will inform the JSC's annual CF performance reviews and receive the JSC's endorsement for wide dissemination.

The JSC annual performance review will take place in the first quarter of each year to discuss the evolving country context of the previous year, CF achievements, challenges, opportunities, lessons learned, priorities and adaptations required to implement the CF.

a formal management response to the evaluation, responding to each recommendation and establishing follow-up actions that determine the relevant actors and timeframes.

4.4 EVALUATION

An independent evaluation of the CF, scheduled for 2025 (the penultimate year of the CF), will launch the strategic planning process for the new programming cycle. Independent consultant(s) commissioned by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office will carry out the evaluation. Its terms of reference will ensure an independent, impartial, inclusive and participatory approach involving all stakeholders, in line with UN Evaluation Group's norms and standards. Multiple data-collection methods will be used to allow for the triangulation of findings, comprising past annual monitoring reports, focus group discussions, online surveys, facilitated participatory workshops and in-depth interviews. The UN Development Coordination Office will bring guidance, support and quality assurance to the evaluation.

The independent evaluation will draw on individual UN agency/entity country programme evaluations and present its findings through the JSC mechanism. Additionally, the JSC will develop

ANNEX

ANNEX 1 – RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2022–2026



CF RESULTS FRAMEWORK

IMPACT

National development priorities

Overall objectives of Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2021–2030: Strive to make Viet Nam, by 2030, a developing country with modern industry and an upper middle-income status. Endow it with modern, competitive, effective and efficient management institutions. Enable its economy to develop in a dynamic, rapid and sustainable, independent and autonomous manner on the basis of science and technology and innovation, through improved efficiency in external affairs and international integration. Kindle aspiration for the country's development, built on the entire nation's creative capability, will and strength. Build a prosperous, democratic, fair, civilized, orderly, disciplined and safe society, and ensure the people's peaceful and happy life. Continuously improve the people's life in all facets. Firmly defend the Fatherland, the peaceful and stable environment for the country's development. Uplift Viet Nam on the international arena. Strive to become a developed high-income nation by 2045.

Regional frameworks: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Charter, 2008

VSDGs and VSDG targets: The CF contributes to the implementation and achievement of all 17 SDGs, with a focus on the following targets: 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.4, 4.8, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 7.3, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.7, 8.8, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.B, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7, 11.5, 12.4, 13.1, 13.2, 14.5, 15.1, 16.2, 16.5, 16.6 and 17.19.



Assumption statement:

Domestic funding will increase as ODA declines; national data systems will improve the monitoring and evaluation of interventions; development approaches will be rights based; evidence-based policy making will become a reality, society will accept to change social norms and behaviours; Government commitments will remain high and support from Government agencies will continue; commitment to advance the HIV response remains high; and Government's commitment to the 4IR and digital transformation remains high.

UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UNWOMEN and WHO.

Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/means of verification
1.1 Proportion of schools and other education facilities with access to: (a) the Internet for pedagogical purposes, (b) computers for pedagogical purposes, (c) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, by education level (VSDG 4.8.1)	2019 (VSDG report 2020) Pre-primary: (a) Internet:10%; (b) computers: 10%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 5% Primary: (a) Internet: 82.7%; (b) computers: 79.1%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 27.9%; Lower secondary: (a) Internet: 88.1%; (b) computers: 87.9%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 20.7%; Upper secondary: (a) Internet: 85.5%; (b) computers: 88%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 13.8%	2025 (VSDG roadmap/MOET decision 2257/2019) Pre-primary: (a) Internet: 20%; (b) computers: 20%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 9% Primary: (a) Internet: 85%; (b) computers: 85%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 65% Lower-secondary: (a) Internet: 100%; (b) computers: 95%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 65% Upper-secondary: (a) Internet: 100%; (b) computers: 95%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure:65%	Annual MOET report
1.2. Percentage of schools which provide basic education programmes about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention and HIV-related knowledge [VSDG 4.7.2]	School year 2019–2020 (MOET) Kindergarten: 9.8% Primary: 68.8% Lower secondary: 72.7% Upper secondary: 67.8%	90% (2025–2026, MOET)	Annual MOET report

Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/means of verification
1.10. Proportion of married women aged 15–49 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (VSDG 3.6.1)	72.8% (2020, SDGCW survey)	75% (2025, SDGCW survey)	SDGCW survey (2025) and the Annual MICS Plus
1.11. Viet Nam human development index	0.704 (2019)	Human development index maintained at above 0.7 or placement among countries with a high human development index by 2030 (SEDS 2021–2030)	Global HDR, UNDP
1.12. Multidimensional poverty rate by national standard (VSDG 1.1.1)	4.8% (2020, GSO Viet Nam Household living standards survey (VHLSS) report)	Decrease of 1–1.5% annually until 2026 (VSDG roadmap)	VHLSS (GSO)
1.13. Multidimensional child poverty rate (total, area, sex, ethnicity and disability status (VSDG 1.1.3))	Total: 14.5% Urban: 5%; Rural: 18.6%; Kinh/Hoa: 6.8%; Ethnic minority: 46.4% children with disabilities: 43.0% (2018) Male: 14.8% Female: 14.2% (2018, GSO-UNICEF Report)	Decrease of 1–1.5% annually. (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	National report on multi-dimensional child poverty, GSO and UNICEF



Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/means of verification
1.14. Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/ systems (SDG indicator 1.3.1)	<p>(1) 32.6% (or 15.03 million) of the labour force participates in social insurance, of which 1.07 million participate in voluntary social insurance (2020, VSS);</p> <p>(2) 90.85% health insurance coverage rates (2020, VSS)</p> <p>(3) 13.27 million workers (or 26.82% of the labour force) participate in unemployment insurance (2020, VSS)</p> <p>(4) 3,041.731 million or 3,41% of the population receive monthly social allowances (2020, VSS)</p> <p>(5) 4.9 million people at retirement age (42.8%) received pension or social insurance allowances and social pensions (Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs [MOLISA] 2020)</p>	<p>(1) 45% of the workforce participates in social insurance (2025, Resolution No. 28 / NQ-TW);</p> <p>(2) 95% of the population is covered by health insurance (2025, Resolution No. 28 / NQ-TW);</p> <p>(3) 35% of the work force participates in unemployment insurance (2025, VSDG roadmap);</p> <p>(4) 3.5% of the population are beneficiaries of monthly social allowances (2025, VSDG roadmap);</p> <p>(5) About 55% people at retirement age receive pension or social insurance allowance and social pension (2025, Resolution No. 28 / NQ-TW)</p>	<p>1- Government's annual report on the socio-economic situation (Government portal and GSO website)</p> <p>2- Labour trends report, periodically (Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs, MOLISA)</p> <p>3- National SEDP report (every 5 years)</p> <p>4- National report on VSDG implementation</p>
1.15. Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (VSDG 5.4.1)	<p>Male 8.9 hour/week</p> <p>Female 18.9 hour/week, 2.1 times as compared with that of the male counterpart (2019 Labour force survey (LFS)/VSDG report 2020)</p>	Reduce the average number of hours spent by women in unpaid housework and family care work, as compared to the spent by men, to 1.7 times by 2025 and 1.4 times by 2030 [National strategy on gender equality]	LFS (GSO)

Outcome 3. Shared prosperity through economic transformation			Assumption statement
<p>By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work.</p> <p>VSDGs/SDGs: 5, 8–12, 17</p> <p>UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNWOMEN and WHO.</p>			Strategies relate to both international and internal migrants.
Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/means of verification
3.1 GDP per capita (in USD, current price) (VSDG 8.1.3)	USD 2,779 (2020, GSO)	Sustain the annual growth rate of 4–4.5% (2026, VSDG Roadmap)	GSO
3.2 Proportion of informal employment, by sex (VSDG 8.3.1)	Total: 56.2%; female: 51.1%; male: 60.5% (2020, GSO) Vulnerable employment: 54.1% (2019, Global HDR)	Decreased proportion of informal employment (2026); A proportion of vulnerable employment of 51.5% by 2025, 50.9% by 2026, decreasing about 1% per year (UNDP estimated target)	LFS (GSO); Global HDRs (UNDP)
3.3 Unemployment rate (VSDG 8.5.2)	2.48% (2020, GSO)	Remained less than 3% in 2025 (VSDG Roadmap)	LFS (GSO)
3.4 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries (VSDG 8.8.1)	8,000 cases, of which 1,000 deaths and nearly 2,000 severely injured 2019 (2020 National report on five years implementation of VSDG)	Annual decline of (a) occupational accidents: 5%; (b) fatal occupational accidents: 5%; (c) non-fatal occupational accidents: 5% (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	MOLISA report (by Labour Inspector)
3.5 Labour productivity (VSDG 8.2.1)	USD 5,081 per labour (2020, GSO)	Annual growth rate of 6.5% until 2030 (SEDS 2021–2030)	GSO's Annual socio-economic report
3.6 Proportion of female directors/owners of enterprises and cooperatives (VSDG 5.5.5)	24% (2019, LFS)	27% (2025, National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021–2030)	LFS (GSO)
3.7 Proportion of population using the Internet (SDG 17.8.1)	68.7 % (2019, ITU World telecommunication/ICT Indicators database)	80% by 2025, 100 % by 2030 (Strategy on the fourth Industrial Revolution towards 2030)	ICT indicators database

ANNEX 2 - LEGAL ANNEX



Whereas the Government of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following relationships:

- a) With the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Viet Nam on 27 January 1978.
- b) With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), there is a Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for the period 2019–2025 agreed with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and endorsed by the 127th session of the IFAD Executive Board in September 2019.
- c) With the International Labour Organization (ILO), an Agreement on the establishment of an ILO office in Hanoi was concluded on 4 February 2002.
- d) With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Cooperation Agreement Memorandum of understanding was signed with the Government on 19 August 2010 (which replaced the previous memorandum of understanding dated 26 September 1991).
- e) With the International Trade Centre (ITC), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to ITC.
- f) With the United Nations Joint Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to UNAIDS.
- g) With the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to UNCTAD.
- h) With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a basic agreement (the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement) to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country was signed by the Government and UNDP on 21 March 1978. This Cooperation Framework, along with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of the Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a “project document” as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
- i) With the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2025) and the associated Programme of Work (2022–2023) approved by the United Nations Environment Assembly in the first session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.1) in February 2021.
- j) With the United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) the agreement concerning the establishment of a UNESCO office in Hanoi was signed with the Government on 13 September 1999.



- k) With regard to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNFPA.
- l) With UN-Habitat the organization has been operating under the administration of UNDP since 18 October 2008.
- m) With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement was concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 12 February 1979.
- n) With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNIDO.
- o) With the United Nations Organization for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNODC.
- p) With the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to the RCO.
- q) The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) has been operating under the administration of UNDP since 11 September 2003.
- r) With UN Women, a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UN Women.
- s) With the World Health Organization (WHO), a Basic Agreement was concluded between the Government and WHO on 6 February 1980.

For all agencies

Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

The Cooperation Framework will – in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing – be read, interpreted and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraphs a)-s) on the Basis of the relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the agencies' property, funds and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from

operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and a particular agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

- (a) Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement.
- (b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any institutional contract or any undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

ANNEX 3 – HARMONIZED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS



All cash transfers to an implementing partner are based on the work plans¹¹ agreed between the implementing partner and the UN system agency/entity.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in joint work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. cash transferred directly to the implementing partner:
 - a. prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. after activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner, and;
3. direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners.

Where cash transfers are made to [the national institution], [the national institution] shall transfer such cash promptly to the implementing partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months, with exceptions of up to six months consistent with each UN agency/

entity's guidelines. Reimbursements for previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the implementing partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the implementing partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government implementing partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹² implementing partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the implementing partner shall participate. The implementing partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the implementing partner of the amount approved by the UN



system agencies and shall disburse funds to the implementing partner in [here insert the number of days as per UN system agency schedule].

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner – or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners – the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within [here insert the number of days as agreed by the UN system agencies].

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the implementing partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agencies provide cash to the same implementing partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard funding authorization and certificate of expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by implementing partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The implementing partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The implementing partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details as well as to request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the implementing partner.

Cash transferred to implementing partners should be spent exclusively for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the WPs.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO implementing partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency's financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGOs, organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with the Government's rules and regulations and inter-governmental organizations acting as implementing partners, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each implementing partner receiving cash from [UN organization] will provide the UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the UN, and;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the implementing partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the implementing partner and [UN organization]. Each implementing partner will furthermore:

- receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors;
 - provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organization] that provided cash (and where the supreme audit institution [SAI] has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include the statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UN organization], and;
 - undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.
5. programmatic monitoring of activities based on UN system agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring, and;
 6. special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

- Where no assessment of the public financial management capacity has been conducted, [or such an assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the supreme audit institution]: the UN system agencies will commission audits to be undertaken by private audit services.
4. periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with UN system agencies;

ANNEX 4 – ESTIMATED CF BUDGET

No.	Agency	Total	Estimated Core Resources available	Estimated Non-core resources available	Resources to be mobilized
1	FAO	\$26,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$23,000,000
2	IFAD	\$65,000,000		\$50,000,000	\$15,000,000
3	ILO	\$35,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$19,000,000
4	IOM	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$9,500,000	\$15,500,000
5	ITC	\$1,960,000	\$0	\$560,000	\$1,400,000
6	UNAIDS	\$7,020,000	\$3,770,000	\$2,500,000	\$750,000
7	UNCTAD	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,800,000
8	UNDP	\$115,300,000	\$7,000,000	\$50,300,000	\$58,000,000
9	UNEP	\$6,300,000	\$300,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
10	UNESCO	\$10,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,200,000	\$7,300,000
11	UNFPA	\$26,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$10,000,000	\$6,000,000
12	UN-Habitat	\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$3,000,000
13	UNICEF	\$74,220,143	\$17,405,000	\$18,837,143	\$37,978,000
14	UNIDO	\$28,938,450	\$1,268,500	\$1,169,950	\$26,500,000
15	UNODC	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0
16	UNV	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	UNWOMEN	\$11,636,700	\$4,335,400	\$4,321,300	\$2,980,000
18	WHO	\$70,300,000	\$17,500,000	\$0	\$52,800,000
	TOTAL	\$525,975,293	\$71,578,900	\$180,388,393	\$274,008,000

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